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**Written at the Close of Spring** By Charlotte Smith's

Charlotte Smith's admiration of nature in her poetry compels the reader to really digest and analyze the meaning behind her beautiful arrangements of words, and descriptions of the nature that is all around us. Her elegiac sonnet, "Written at the Close of Spring" sports a main theme of the wonders of nature's creations, placing great emphasis on it's beauty and elegance. Though the poem was written in traditonal sonnet form, Smith's poem particularly interested me because of how she personified the flowers in the sonnet giving them futher meaning and significance. This literary technique was  very typical of romantic authors. Smith begins her poem with "The Garlands fade that Spring so lately wove, Each simple flower, which she had nursed in dew," (page 1398). Smith personified the season of Spring giving it a motherly role to the flowers and garlands, which caused me to make an assumption that Spring's relationship with the flowers was possibly symbolizing the roles woman of Charlotte Smith's time were expected to uphold. Smith later mentions in the poem "Ah! poor Humanity! so frail, so fair, Are the fond visions of thy early day," (page 1398). Smith seems to be saddended that humanity cannot renew itself the way the flowers in her poem could, reflecting the "emotional flourish" many romantics of her time incorporated in their writing. It appears that Smith is pitying humanity because we can not renew and bloom again like the flowers, as in the poem she descibes the detoriation of a flower which in actuality is symbolizing the youth growing old. She states on page 1398 on line 11, "Till tyrant passion, and corrosive care, Bid all thy fairy colors fade away!" Smith inventively took a stab at humanity and our selfish tendencies by comparing the exterior fading of a beautiful flower's color to the interior well being and youth of an individual wasting away as a person grows older. Charlotte Smith's insistence on the faithful rendering of detail within the poem caused me to re-read it and search for further meaning and depth within her carefully chosen words. Her last sentence of the poem seemed to intrigue me the most with it's mournful quality closing the poem with "Ah! why has happiness- no second Spring?" (page 1398). This quotation seemed to have mulitple meanings to me, both revealing the unavoidable truth that as humans the life we live will at some point come to an end. Smith questioned the reader with this ending line, by addressing the fact that since humans cannot renew as flowers can why not everyone get the equal opportunity at happiness? The affections and emotions Charlotte Smith associated with nature in this poem demonstrated her own idea and opinion of the mindset that many possessed in her time.

Charlotte Smith's "Sonnet Written at the Close of Spring" is a romantic poem about nature written in the traditional form of a sonnet. It shows that nature and humanity are interconnected and uses human traits in the non-human world. The sonnet starts off discussing the wonders of spring, and talks about many flowers that bud and bloom in the spring: anemonies, primrose, hare-bells, violets, and purple orchis. Every spring, these beautiful flowers come alive again. Smith appreciates the beauty of nature and how it renews itself each spring, but is saddened that humans cannot do the same. "Ah, poor humanity! so frail, so fair, Are the fond visitors of thy early day, Till tyrant passion, and corrosive care, Bid all thy fairy colours fade away!" In these lines, Smith is speculating about youth and growing old. She feels sorry for humanity because unlike flowers, we age until our colors fade away, and then we never see those youthful, vibrant colors of our personalities ever again. At the end of the sonnet, Smith asks "Why has happiness no second spring?" Since humans are most happy when they are young and vibrant, she is basically asking, "Why don't humans have a second spring?" In a way, Smith is saying that nature is far better off than humans are, because nature has the ability to start over and become vibrant over and over again.