“There Was a Boy”

1. What meanings does the poem suggest if we argue that the poet and the “Boy” are the same person? From this point of view, speculate on how / why he “dies”?

2. “Winander” is an old fashioned name for a small town (Windermere) and a lake (Lake Windermere) in the Lake District. Why is it significant that it is the Cliffs and Islands of Winander that “knew him well”? Do you get a sense of anyone or anything else that knew him?

3. The poem explains that one his favorite pastimes was to “converse” with nature.
   A. How did he do that? What are the implications of the fact that he has these conversations?
   B. What varying reactions would he get?

4. What is the “sublime”? How is this poem about sublime occurrences and images? (If you don’t know what the sublime is, or want more information, read pages 134-7 in our textbook.)

5. What meanings would this poem take on if you analyzed it as a poem about the creative process? From this point of view, what significance would the images about echoing and mimicking take on?