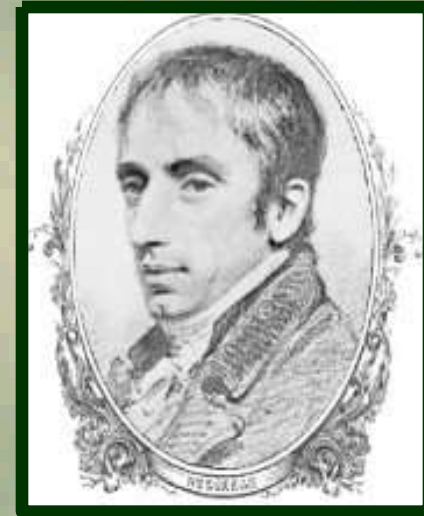


*"I wandered lonely as a  
cloud  
That floats on high o'er  
vales and hills,  
When all at once I saw a  
crowd,  
A host, of golden  
daffodils;  
Beside the lake, beneath  
the trees,  
Fluttering and dancing in  
the breeze."*

# *Who Was William Wordsworth?*





# The Wordsworth House

Today, Wordsworth's childhood home is a popular tourist attraction. The fine Georgian home has been restored and refurnished to its original 18<sup>th</sup> century beauty. Visit <http://www.wordsworthhouse.org.uk/> to take an online tour of the Wordsworth House.



# The Wordsworth House

Wordsworth refers to his home at Cockermouth in his poem, *Guilt and Sorrow*:

## XXIV

"A little croft we owned ~ a plot of corn,  
A garden stored with peas, and mint, and thyme,  
And flowers for poises, oft on Sunday morn  
Plucked while the church bells rang their earliest chime.  
Can I forget our freaks at shearing time!  
My hen's rich nest through long grass scarce espied;  
The cowslip-gathering in June's dewy prime;  
The swans that with white chests upreared in pride  
Rushing and racing came to meet me at the waterside."

# Wordsworth in Nature

The beautiful landscape of the Lake District inspired the young Wordsworth; nature is a common theme that can be found in many of his poems.





# The Rainbow

*My heart leaps up when I behold*

*A rainbow in the sky;*

*So was it when my life began;*

*So is it now I am a man;*

*So be it when I shall grow old,*

*Or let me die!*

*The Child is father of the Man;*

*I could wish my days to be*

*Bound each to each by natural piety.*

*William Wordsworth*

# The Wordsworth Household

William was the second of five children. After his mother's death in 1778, he was sent to Hawkshead Grammar School; this is where his love for poetry was first established. Five years later, his father died.

# Wordsworth & the “Common Man”

In 1790, Wordsworth quit school at St. John's in Cambridge to partake in a walking tour of Europe. This experience heightened Wordsworth's interest in the life, troubles and speech of the "common man," which is another common theme in his works.



# Early Works

In 1793, Wordsworth's first works, *An Evening Walk* and *Descriptive Sketches*, were published but received little notice.

“Where, bosom'd deep, the shy Winander peeps  
Mid' clust'ring isles, and holly-sprinkl'd steeps;  
Where twilight glens endear my Esthwaite's shore,  
And memory of departed pleasures, more.”

From *An Evening Walk*

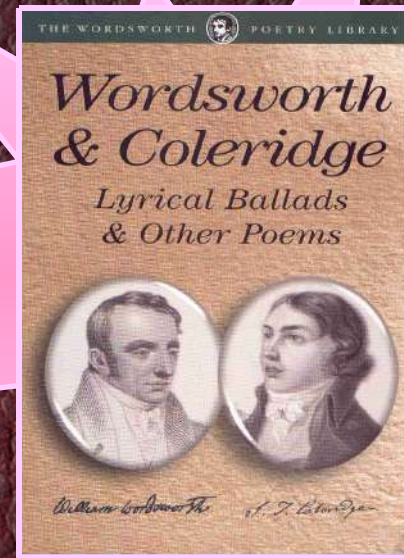
# “We Were Three Persons With One Soul.”

In 1794,  
Wordsworth was  
reunited with his  
sister, Dorothy;  
shortly after, he met  
another poet, Samuel  
Taylor Coleridge, and  
they became close friends.



# *Lyrical Ballads*

Wordsworth and Coleridge saw the poetry of the Neo-classical period as stale and unrelatable to the public. The two Poets initiated the Romantic era with their collaborative creation, *Lyrical Ballads*, Which contained old forms and new subjects.



# *Lyrical*

Old forms brought  
back to poetry:

The Nursery Rhyme

Biblical/Scriptural

The popular ballad

# *Ballads*

New subjects for  
poetry:

Children and women

Common folks and peasants

Psychological aberrations  
and altered mental states

Idiocy and madness

The nature and purpose of  
poetry itself

The Gothic

# *Lyrical Ballads*

--From Coleridge's poem, *The Rime of the Ancient Mariner*

“God save thee, ancient Mariner!

From the fiends, that plague thee thus!—

Why look'st thou so?—With my crossbow

I shot the Albatross.”

“For I have learned

To look on nature, not as in the hour

Of thoughtless youth; but hearing oftentimes

The still, sad music of humanity,

Nor harsh nor grating, though of ample power

To chasten and subdue.”

--From Wordsworth's poem, “Tintern Abbey”

## Quote from *Lyrical Ballads*

"Poetry is the breath and finer spirit of all knowledge; it is the impassioned expression which is in the countenance of all Science."

William Wordsworth

# Dove Cottage

Wordsworth and his family called this place home from 1799 to 1807; it is another main tourist attraction in Cumbria.



# Mr. and Mrs. Wordsworth

In 1802,  
Wordsworth  
married Mary  
Hutchinson in the  
Brompton Church.

She was the  
inspiration for his  
poem, “She Was A  
Phantom of Delight.”



*“She was a Phantom of delight  
When first she gleamed upon my sight;  
A lovely Apparition, sent  
To be a moment's ornament;  
Her eyes as stars of Twilight fair;  
Like Twilight's, too, her dusky hair;”*



# Wordsworth in Sorrow

By 1810, they had five children; however, two of their deaths in 1812 caused Wordsworth great sorrow. His poem, "Surprised By Joy," reflects his anguish.



“...That thought's return  
was the worst pang that sorrow ever bore,  
save one, one only, when I stood forlorn,  
knowing my heart's best treasure was no more;  
That neither present time, nor years unborn  
could to my sight that heavenly face restore.”

# Rydal Mount and Beyond

Shortly after, Wordsworth and his family settled at Rydal Mount where he continued to write poetry for the remainder of his life. In 1843, he became England's poet laureate. He died on April 23, 1850, and is buried at St Oswald's Church in Grasmere.



# Conclusion

It was Wordsworth's emotional power, rather than his range of intellect, that made him famous and influential. He defined poetry as "the spontaneous overflow of powerful feelings arising from "emotion recollected in tranquility." To him, poetry was an overflowing of emotion onto paper backed up by the refusal to conform to the "rules" of society. This belief, along with his inspirations, allowed his talent and emotions to run free.

"Our birth is but a sleep and a forgetting:  
The soul that rises with us, our life's star,  
Hath had elsewhere its setting,  
And cometh from afar.  
Not in entire forgetfulness,  
And not in utter nakedness,  
But trailing clouds of glory, do we come  
From God, who is our home."

*From Intimations of Immortality*