

William Wordsworth

A founder of English Romanticism, William Wordsworth is chiefly known for his poetry. Although during the course of his career he occasionally wrote essays on poetics, philosophy, and politics, it is his poetry that stands as Wordsworth's enduring legacy. Wordsworth's body of work celebrates the beauty and power of nature and decries all things artificial and urban. His collaboration with poet Samuel Taylor Coleridge on the volume *Lyrical Ballads* is often pointed to as the beginning of English Romanticism, and his autobiographical poem *The Prelude*, published posthumously in 1850, is considered one of its finest achievements.

Wordsworth was born on April 7, 1770, at Cockermouth, in Cumbria, England--in the same Lake District that would become so intertwined with his poetry that he, Samuel Taylor Coleridge, and Robert Southey would later be referred to as the "Lake Poets." His parents were John and Ann Cookson Wordsworth. Tragically, Wordsworth would have little time to know them. Ann died when Wordsworth was eight years old, and John died just five years later. Although these deaths separated Wordsworth from his beloved sister Dorothy, he was able to attend school with his brothers. Wordsworth also found solace in writing poetry, which he began to do while still in grammar school.

References

- "Lake poets" <https://www.oxfordreference.com/view/10.1093/oi/authority.20110803100048273>
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- "William Wordsworth" <https://www.poetryfoundation.org/poets/william-wordsworth>
- "William Wordsworth (1770-1850)" http://www.bbc.co.uk/history/historic_figures/wordsworth_william.shtml