

William Wordsworth

William Wordsworth

- Birth: April 7, 1770 at Cockermouth, Cumberland
- Death: April 23, 1850
- Father: John Wordsworth
- Mother: Ann Cookson
- Wife: Mary Hutchinson
- Sister: Dorothy Wordsworth

Biography

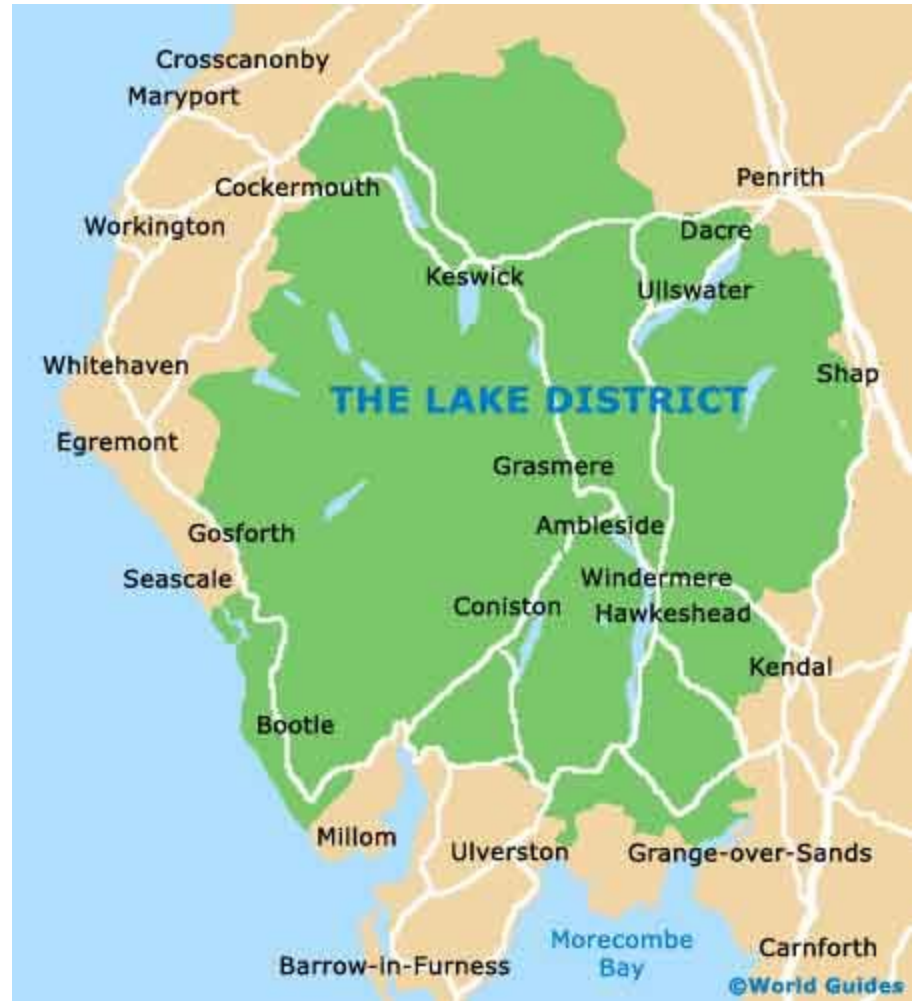
He was the second of the five children of John Wordsworth and Ann Cookson.

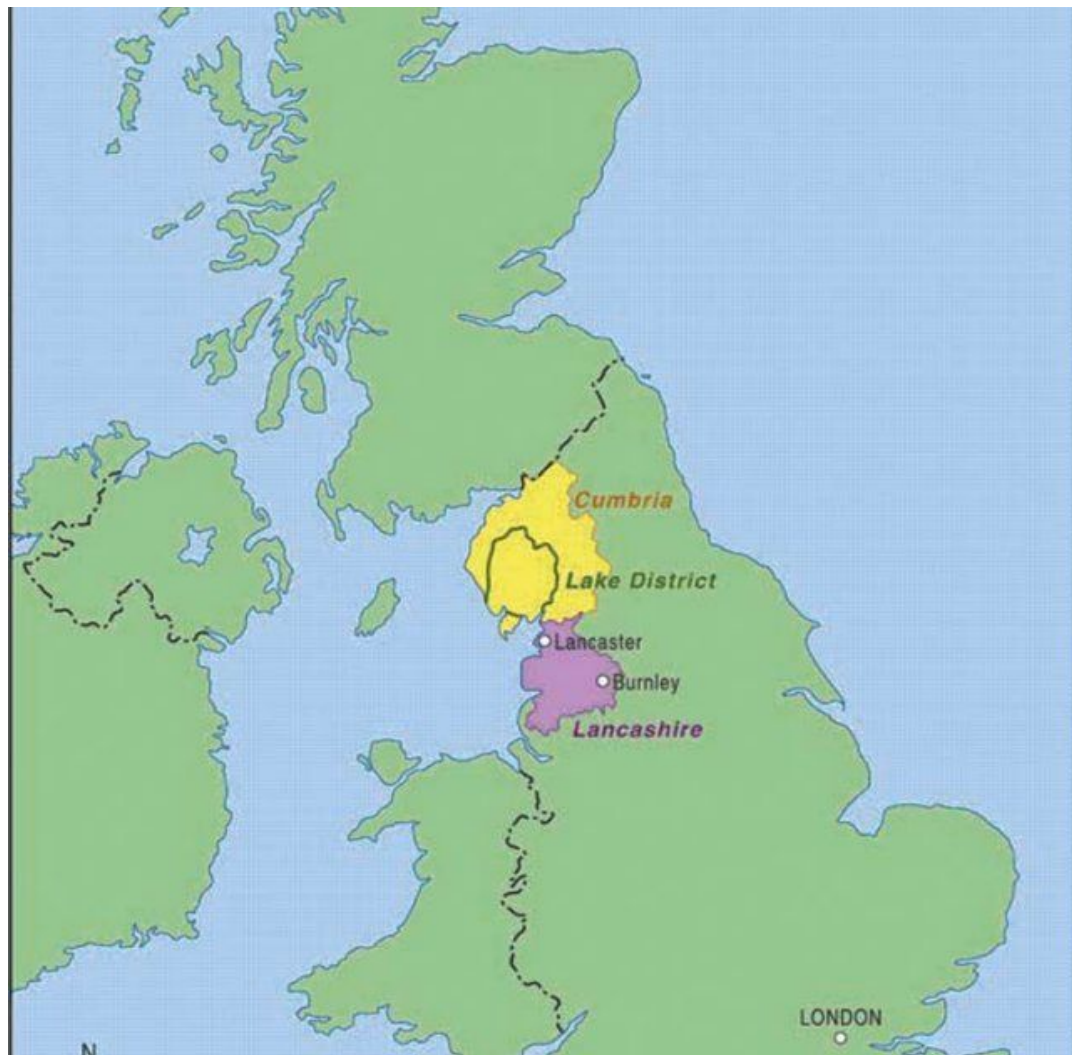
His mother died when he was eight years old.

Joined St. John's College at the University of Cambridge in 1887

William Taylor, his teacher inspired him to compose poems.

Lake districts always inspired him and with Coleridge and Robert Southey, he was known as a Lake Poet.





Ingredients of Romanticism in Wordsworth

- Wordsworth is the most figure in Romantic poetry. The publication of the Lyrical Ballads in 1798 marks the beginning of Romanticism.
- Romantic elements in 19th century poetry- subjectivity, love of supernatural, love of nature, melancholy, dignity and nobility of an individual, simplicity, spontaneity, a revolt against artificiality.
- Wordsworth's poetry buzzes with all these characteristics of romantic poetry.

Why is Wordsworth called a Romantic poet

- Wordsworth along with his friend S.T. Coleridge revolted against the pseudo-artificial diction of neo-classical poets represented by Alexander Pope.
- He revolted against '*gaudiness and inane phraseology*' employed in the 18th century poetry.
- Nature was the centre of Wordsworth's poetry.
- Man was not merely a member of society for him but an individual with a personality of his own

Why is Wordsworth called a Romantic poet

- Imagination made him a romantic poet of high order.
- Wordsworth gave more importance to feelings than thoughts
- His adoption of various lyric forms like ode and sonnet, use of blank verse, distance from conventional subjects and manner constructed the structure of Romanticism in his poetry

Important works-

1. **Lyrical Ballads**- A collection of 23 poems, 19 by Wordsworth and 4 by Coleridge. He added the famous '**Preface**' to the second edition in 1800. An '**Appendix on Poetic Diction**' was added to the Third edition in 1802.
2. He penned more than 500 sonnets
3. **The Prelude** in 14 books was published after his death
4. Poems in two volumes including **Ode : Intimations of Immortality from recollection of Childhood**.