Chronology

1770  Born April 7 at Cockermouth in Cumberland.
1778  Death of mother, Ann Wordsworth.
1779  Enters school near Esthwaite Lake in the lake country.
1783  Death of father, John Wordsworth.
1787–1791  Attends St. John’s College, Cambridge University.
1790  Walking tour of France, Germany, and Switzerland.
1791  Walking tour of North Wales, where he ascends Mount Snowdon.
1791–1792  Residence in France, where he associated with moderate faction of the revolutionists. Love affair with Annette Vallon. Birth of their daughter, Anne Caroline.
1793  Publication of An Evening Walk and Descriptive Sketches.
1795  Death of college friend Raisley Calvert, whose legacy enables Wordsworth to devote himself to poetry.
1795–1798  Settles with his sister, Dorothy, first at Racedown, then at Alfoxden. In 1797–1798, he is constantly in the company of Samuel Taylor Coleridge.
1798  In September, Lyrical Ballads is published.
1798–1799  Winters with Dorothy at Goslar in Germany.
1799  Moves with Dorothy to Dove Cottage, Grasmere, where he writes The Prelude in its first version, in two parts.
1800  Second edition of Lyrical Ballads, with “Preface” added.
1802  Marries Mary Hutchinson.
1805  Death of his brother John Wordsworth in a shipwreck in February. The Prelude, in thirteen books, is finished, but the poet chooses not to publish it.
1807  Publishes *Poems in Two Volumes*.
1810–1812  Rift with Coleridge; subsequent friendship is never the same.
1814  Publishes *The Excursion*.
1843  Becomes poet laureate.
1850  Dies April 23 at Rydal Mount. *The Prelude*, in fourteen books, is published posthumously.