

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.
- 1813–1842** Becomes a government tax collector for Westmoreland. Lives at Rydal Mount, near Ambleside.
- 1814** Publishes *The Excursion*.
- 1843** Becomes poet laureate.
- 1850** Dies April 23 at Rydal Mount. *The Prelude*, in fourteen books, is published posthumously.