

William Wordsworth (1770–1850)

William Wordsworth is one of the pioneers of English romanticism in the History of English Literature. He is a poet of Nature, emotion, and the common human experience. He writes his poems in the language of common people. He is also known as a theorist for romanticism critical texts. Born in Cockermouth, England, he experienced the immense pleasure of Nature and spent his life in Daffodils, mountains and meadows. He is known as one of the best friends to Samuel Taylor Coleridge with he contributed a lot in poetry. We also know him a poet from the lake District and Poet laureate of England in 1843. His most famous works are as follows: *Tintern Abbey*, *The Prelude*, *Lines Written in Early Spring*, *I Wandered Lonely as a Cloud*, *Ode: Intimations of Immortality*, *The Solitary Reaper* and *Michael*. In the above poems. Wordsworth focused on peasants, shepherds, farmers, and ordinary people. He believed their lives show pure emotions and moral strength. He opposed heroic and aristocratic subjects. He has used simple, direct, conversational language, used of blank verse, put trong imagery drawn from nature and deep philosophical reflection.

Delving into Wordsworth's poetic faculty, we come out with some assumptions that his poetic language is simple or lineage of common people. He is especially known as blending emotion over reason and inculcating a living experience in nature. He talks in his poetry an individual experience and imagination by rejecting artificial language of Neoclassical poetry.

Being deeply associated with ST Coleridge he coauthored *Lyrical Ballads* (1898) which also marked a debate on the language of the poetry. This is how the beginning of the Romantic Movement started in the History of English literature.

Key Ideas from the Preface:

- Wordsworth wrote the Preface (1800), which became a manifesto of Romantic poetry.
- Poetry is the “spontaneous overflow of powerful feelings”.
- Poetry takes its origin from emotion recollected in tranquillity.
- The poet is a man speaking to men.
- Use of simple language of common people, especially rural life.

Concept of Nature

Nature is central to Wordsworth's poetry.

- Nature is a teacher, guide, and healer.
- It shapes moral values and spiritual growth.
- Nature offers comfort in times of sorrow and confusion.

Theory of Poetry

According to Wordsworth:

- Poetry is rooted in emotion, not logic.
- Strong emotions are first experienced, then reflected upon calmly, and finally expressed as poetry.
- The poet has greater sensibility and imagination than ordinary people.

Treatment of Childhood

- Childhood is a sacred and divine stage of life.
- Children are closer to nature and spiritual truth.
- Famous idea: “The Child is the father of the Man.”

Common Man and Rural Life

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- He believed their lives show pure emotions and moral strength.
- Opposed heroic and aristocratic subjects.