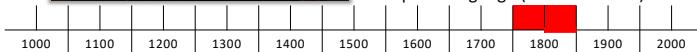
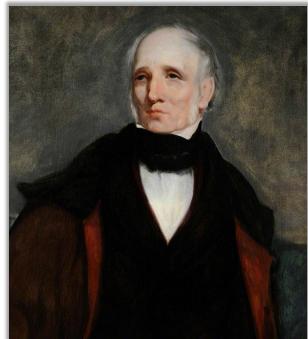
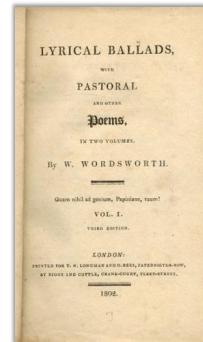


## ☞ William Wordsworth (1770-1850)



- born in the English Lake District; took a degree at Cambridge
- spent his young adulthood walking around Europe, including revolutionary France, which deepened his interest in politics
- shared a home with his sister Dorothy, who influenced his work
- co-authored with Coleridge *Lyrical Ballads* (1798), which departed from the poetry of the 18thC to deal with common life in plain language (NAEL D314-16)

## 📖 Wordsworth, *Lyrical Ballads* (1798)



- landmark poetry collection (1798) by William Wordsworth and Samuel Taylor Coleridge considered to represent the beginning of the Romantic movement
- second edition (1800) includes Wordsworth's famous Preface, considered to be a manifesto of Romanticism
- contains Coleridge's famous "The Rime of the Ancient Mariner" and Wordsworth's famous "Tintern Abbey" (Wikipedia)

## 📖 Wordsworth, *Lyrical Ballads* (1798)

### lyric

- a short poem or song expressing the personal thoughts and feelings of a single speaker
- one of the three subgenres of poetry, among *narrative* and *dramatic* (Baldick 206-07)

### ballad

- a short poem or song telling a story (i.e., relating a *narrative*) using simple, straightforward, but compelling language
- part of the *narrative* subgenre of poetry (Baldick 35)

### lyrical ballad

- a *hybrid* of the lyric and the ballad (i.e., a blend of two seemingly disparate things), combining the emotional expressiveness of the *lyric* with the narrative action of the *ballad*

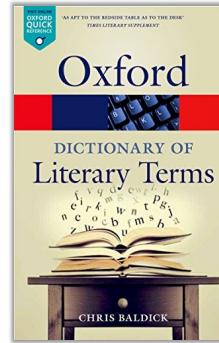
## 📖 Wordsworth, Preface to *Lyrical Ballads* (1802)

The principal object, then, proposed in these Poems was to choose incidents and situations from common life, and to relate or describe them, throughout, as far as was possible in a selection of language really used by men, and, at the same time, to throw over them a certain colouring of imagination, whereby ordinary things should be presented to the mind in an unusual aspect.... Humble and rustic life was generally chosen, because, in that condition, the essential passions of the heart find a better soil in which they can attain their maturity, are less under restraint, and speak a plainer and more emphatic language; because in that condition of life our elementary feelings coexist in a state of greater simplicity, and, consequently, may be more accurately contemplated, and more forcibly communicated.... (NAEL D339)

## 📖 Wordsworth, Preface to *Lyrical Ballads* (1802)

- A New Experiment in Poetry (338-39)
- A Reassessment of Predecessors (339)
- Common Events, Common Language (339)
- Low and Rustic Life (339-40)
- Spontaneous Overflow of Powerful Feeling (340-41)
- The Human Imagination (341)
- Literature is Restorative (341-42)
- No Difference Between Poetry and Prose (342-44)
- The Poet: A Definition (344-48)
- Poetry: A Definition (348-49)

## topographical poetry



- a poetical description of a particular landscape
- characteristics include retrospection, meditation, nostalgia, elegiac regret
- also known as “local poetry,” “loco-descriptive poetry,” “prospect poetry” (360-61)
- **return poem:** a poem inspired by a poet’s return to a particular landscape after a period of time has passed, to meditate on the extent to which that landscape has changed

## 📖 Wordsworth, “Tintern Abbey” (1798)



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## 📖 Wordsworth, “Tintern Abbey” (1798)

section	rhetorical structure			line nos.
1 the present	the poetic persona describes the scene and indicates why it is so important to him			(1-60)
2 the past	the poetic persona reviews his life from childhood to adulthood and reflects on how he has changed over time	childhood	(68-75)	(61-114)
		adolescence	(75-86)	
		adulthood	(86-105)	
3 the future	the poetic persona expresses his hope that his companion can be similarly inspired by the landscape			(115-63)

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