


# William Wordsworth Worksheets

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

## Poet Laureate




In 1843, after the death of his colleague, Robert Southey, Wordsworth became the only Poet Laureate to write no official verses. Can you write a short biographical narrative about him?





PERSONAL LIFE

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

## Literary Movements



Literary movements are categorized by shared traits of style, genre and subject. Research marked the influence of poets such as Wordsworth. Can you complete the project with additional research for this activity.


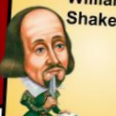


LITERARY STYLE	EXAMPLES
<b>RENAISSANCE</b> 	_____
<b>ENLIGHTENMENT</b> 	_____
<b>ROMANTICISM</b> 	_____
<b>VICTORIAN</b> 	_____

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

## Poetry Card



Poetry is one of the most enduring forms of literature in history. Given the poetry cards, choose a pattern (vertical, diagonal, horizontal) and tell us something about it.

 William Wordsworth	 William Shakespeare	 John Donne
 Oscar Wilde	 Edgar Allan Poe	 John Keats
 Emily Dickinson	 Lord Byron	 Mark Twain

# William Wordsworth **Facts**



William Wordsworth was a leading Romantic poet at the end of the 18th century. His epic autobiographical poem, *The Prelude*, is considered one of the remarkable achievements of English Romanticism.

## Early Life

- ★ William Wordsworth was born on April 7, 1770, in Cockermouth, Cumberland, England. He was the second child of John Wordsworth and Ann Cookson. At the age 13, William and his four siblings became orphans. Despite their misfortune, he attended the Hawkshead Grammar School where he first fell in love with poetry. After a few years, he entered St. John's College in Cambridge until he graduated in 1791.

# William Wordsworth **Facts**



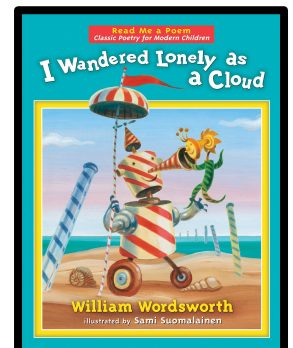
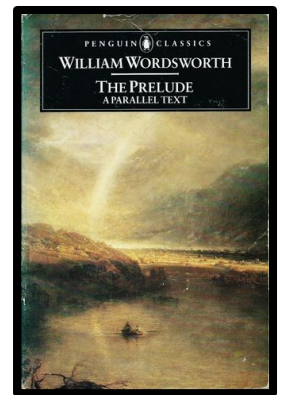
***On July 14, 1789, the Storming of the Bastille ignited the French Revolution***

- ★ In 1790, amidst the French Revolution, Wordsworth visited France. He witnessed the power of poetry and ideals of politics. In addition, Wordsworth also visited Switzerland and Italy.
- ★ While in France, Wordsworth became interested in the struggles and language of the common people. He also met and fell in love with Annette Vallon, with whom he had a daughter, Caroline, out of wedlock. By 1793, the two separated after the declaration of war between England and France. That same year, his earliest poetry was published in the collections, *An Evening Walk and Descriptive Sketches*.
- ★ By 1802, Wordsworth returned to France with his sister Dorothy. He finally met his daughter, Caroline. Later that year, he married Mary Hutchinson, another French woman, with whom he had five children.

# William Wordsworth Facts

## William Wordsworth's Literary Career

- ★ In 1795, he met poet Samuel Taylor Coleridge. They became friends and worked together to publish *Lyrical Ballads* (1798). Their collection of poetry included Coleridge's *Rime of the Ancient Mariner* and Wordsworth's *Tintern Abbey*.
- ★ Wordsworth tried to use language that the common people would understand. He emphasized the existing social hierarchy of those times.
- ★ After the publication of *Lyrical Ballads*, he started writing *The Prelude*. *The Prelude* is an autobiographical poem in blank verse that depicts one's love for nature and spiritual life. It consisted of 14 books that were revised several times and published posthumously. Many believed that it gave birth to a new genre of poetry.
- ★ In 1796, Wordsworth wrote his only play, *The Borderers*. The tragedy was set during King Henry III's reign, when Scottish rovers were in conflict with England's north.
- ★ Wordsworth, Coleridge and Dorothy travelled to Germany in 1798. Despite homesickness, he was able to write *The Lucy Poems*. After a year, he went back to England with his sister. At the Lake District, Coleridge and Wordsworth met another poet, Robert Southey. They came to be known as the Lake Poets.
- ★ By 1803, he wrote *I Wandered Lonely as a Cloud* and *Ode: Intimations of Immortality*, which were published in 1807, as part of his *Poems in Two Volumes*.



# William Wordsworth **Facts**

- ★ Following the death of two of his young children in 1812, Wordsworth produced works that moved one's emotions. The successive deaths of his colleagues, William Green (1823), Samuel Taylor Coleridge and Charles Lamb (1834), and James Hogg (1835), added to the deep melancholy of Wordsworth. The main themes of his works encompassed death, separation and abandonment.
- ★ In 1818, Wordsworth's philosophical maturity began to emerge, as he became a supporter of the conservative Tories.
- ★ By 1838, the University of Durham gave Wordsworth an honorary doctorate degree in Civil Law. After a year, the University of Oxford did the same.
- ★ The sudden death of his daughter, Dora, in 1847, devastated him and he lost the will to write anymore.

## Death and Legacy

- ★ On April 23, 1850, William Wordsworth died of pleurisy at his home at Rydal Mount, Westmorland, England. He was buried at St. Oswald's Church, Grasmere.
- ★ Several months after his death, his widow, Mary, published *The Prelude*, also known as *Poem to Coleridge*.
- ★ In 1843, he became the only Poet Laureate to write no official verses.



## **Gravestone of William Wordsworth in Grasmere**

- ★ Some of his poems include *Upon Westminster Bridge* (1801), *Miscellaneous Sonnets* (1807), *The Excursion* (1814), *Peter Bell* (1819), *The River Duddon* (1820), *Yarrow Revisited* (1835), and *The Recluse* (1888).

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

# Poet Laureate



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## PERSONAL LIFE

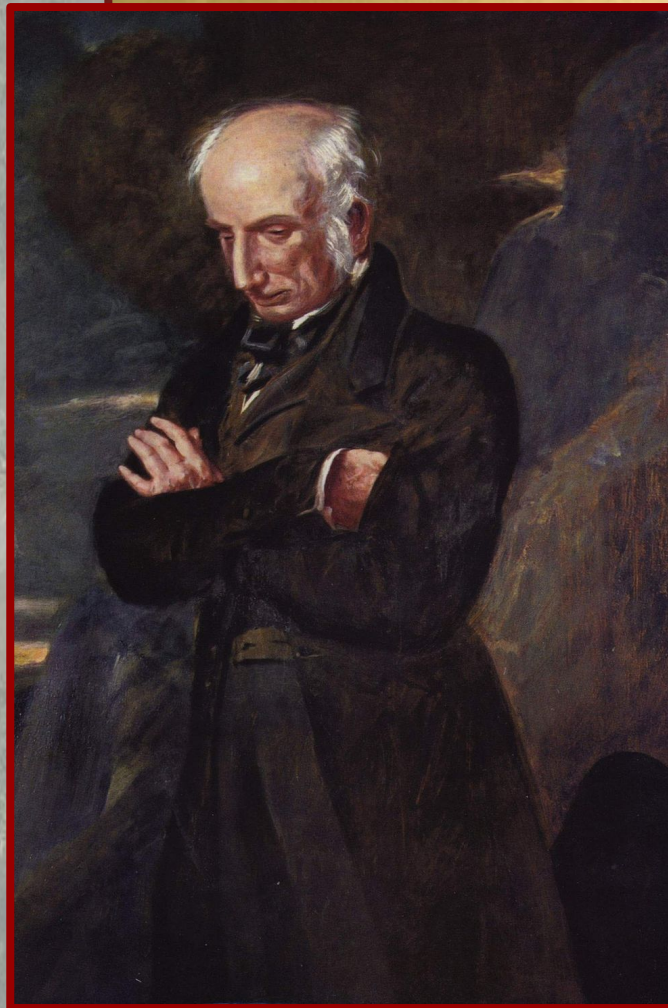
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*John Dryden was the first British Poet Laureate, in 1668, appointed by Charles II.*

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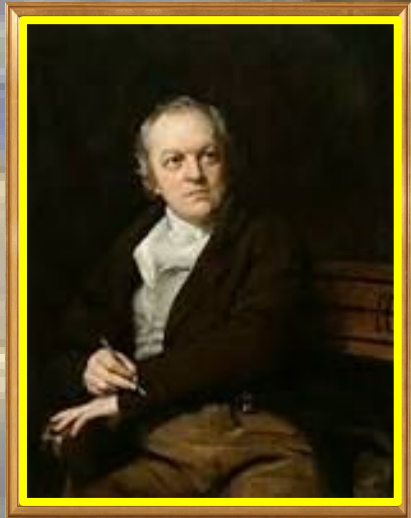
## LITERARY CAREER

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

# Fellow Romantics



William Wordsworth was one of the English poets who launched the Romantic era of literature in Europe. Can you name the others?



**JOHN KEATS**  
**WILLIAM BLAKE**  
**LORD BYRON**  
**PERCY SHELLEY**  
**SAMUEL TAYLOR**  
**COLERIDGE**  
**WILLIAM**  
**SHAKESPEARE**

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

# Literary Movements



Literary movements are categorized through the shared traits of style, genre and subject. Romanticism marked the influence of poets such as William Wordsworth. Can you complete the profiling? Do additional research for this activity.

## LITERARY STYLE

## EXAMPLE

### RENAISSANCE

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### ENLIGHTENMENT

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### ROMANTICISM

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### VICTORIAN

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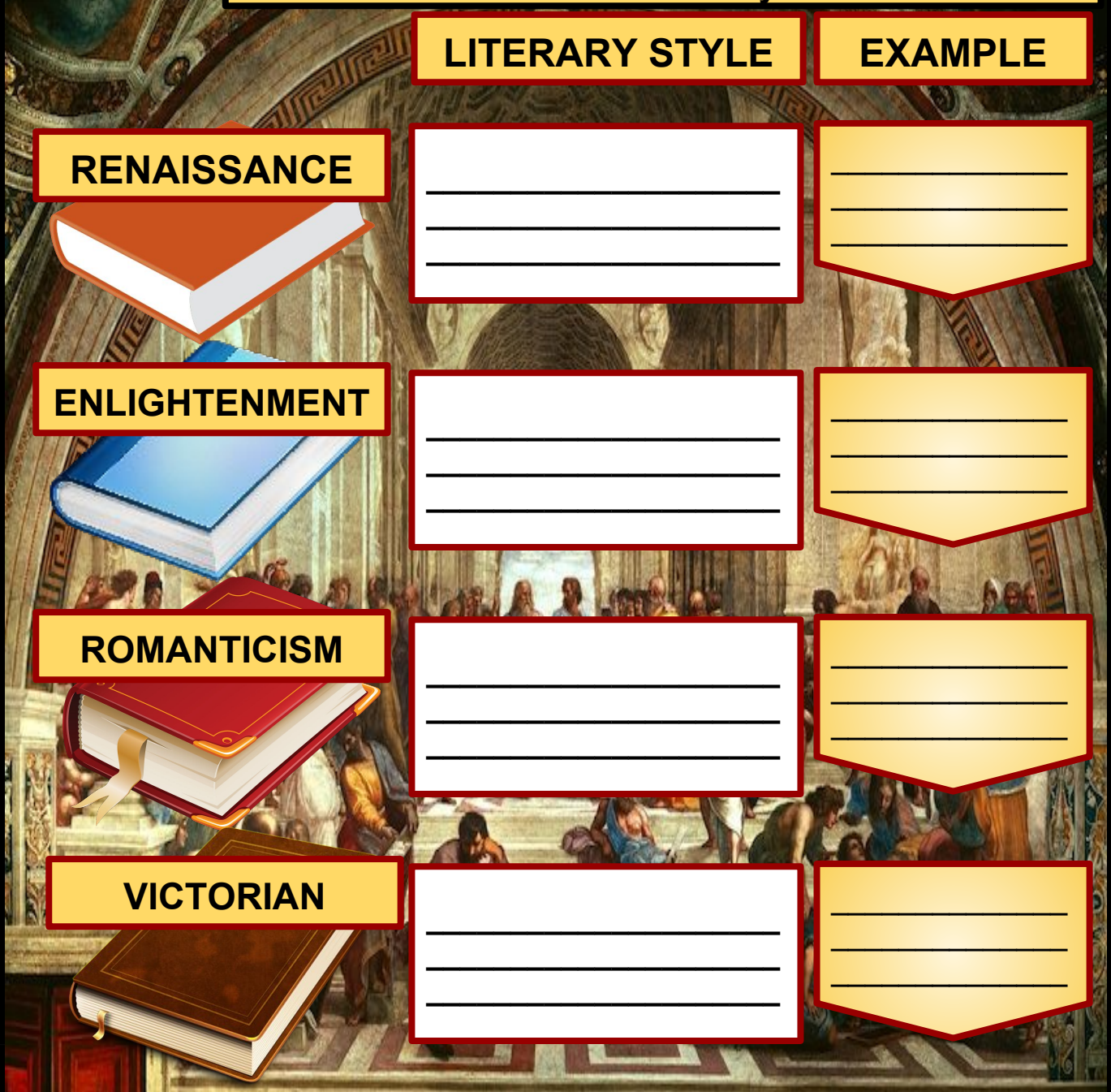
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Name: \_\_\_\_\_

# French Revolution



Wordsworth's first trip to France opened his eyes to political philosophies and maturity in poetry. Briefly describe what happened in the events pictured below.

A



The Storming of the Bastille

B



Reign of Terror

C



The Tennis Court Oath

D



Women's March on Versailles

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

# Words Worth



What are the words worth? Give meaning to important terms related to the literary career of William Wordsworth.

MEANING

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

ROMANTICISM

MEANING

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

POETRY

MEANING

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

AUTOBIOGRAPHY

MEANING

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

POET LAUREATE

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

# Photo Clues



Also known as *Daffodils*, *I Wandered Lonely as a Cloud* was written by Wordsworth from 1804 to 1807. It was inspired by his journey to Europe. Complete the lines using the photo clues.

I wandered lonely as a \_\_\_\_\_ 



That floats on high o'er vales and \_\_\_\_\_,



When all at once i saw a \_\_\_\_\_



A host, of golden \_\_\_\_\_;



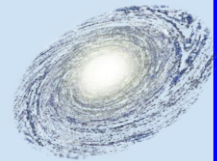
Beside the lake, beneath the \_\_\_\_\_,

Fluttering and \_\_\_\_\_ in the breeze.



Continuous as the \_\_\_\_\_ that shine

And twinkle on the \_\_\_\_\_,

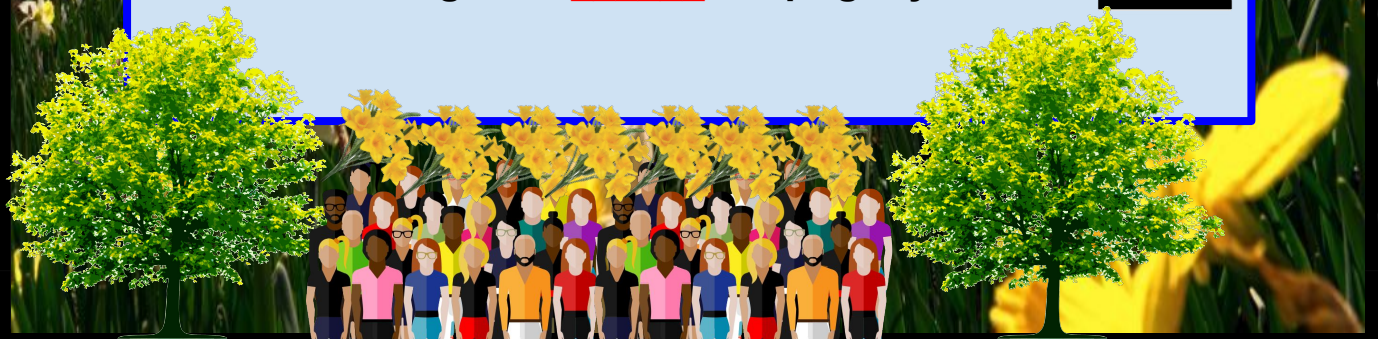


\_\_\_\_\_ The stretched in never-ending \_\_\_\_\_

Along the margin of a bay

Ten thousand saw I at a glance,

Tossing their \_\_\_\_\_ in sprightly dance.



Name: \_\_\_\_\_

# The Prelude: Emotions



*The Prelude* was an autobiographical poem written in blank verse. It revealed much about Wordsworth's life. Posthumously, it was published by his widow, Mary. Read the initial parts of *The Prelude* and look for emotions mentioned. Use the link below for an online copy.

1. \_\_\_\_\_
2. \_\_\_\_\_
3. \_\_\_\_\_
4. \_\_\_\_\_
5. \_\_\_\_\_
6. \_\_\_\_\_
7. \_\_\_\_\_
8. \_\_\_\_\_
9. \_\_\_\_\_
10. \_\_\_\_\_

D I S C O U R A G E D  
P S C G P G H N R P T  
A H A V P J O Y A L Y  
T Y R D R A A B T E U  
I Z E W E A R Y E A G  
E N D R S R F D F S A  
N A D F S D A S U E S  
T C H E E R F U L D F  
D G W R D Q R S A D E  
A L O N G I N G F T A



A blank verse is a type of poem without rhyme but has iambic pentameter.

<http://www.bartleby.com/145/ww287.html>

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

# Figures of Speech

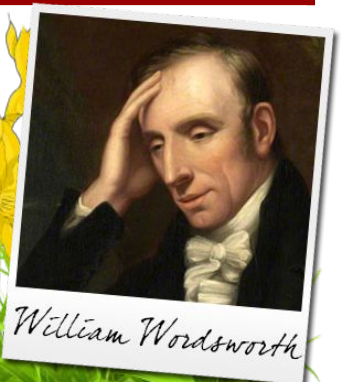


William Wordsworth was known for using figures of speech in his poems. Can you complete the fact table below? Do additional research of his works for this activity.

Figure of Speech	Description	Example Lines
1 _____	_____ _____	<i>"I wandered lonely as a cloud"</i>
2 Personification	_____ _____	_____ _____ _____
3 _____	Uses extreme exaggeration	_____ _____ _____
4 Alliteration	_____ _____	_____ _____ _____



A figure of speech conveys meaning by comparing one thing to another.



William Wordsworth

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

# Poetry Card



Poetry is one of the most enduring forms of literature in history. Given the poetry cards, choose a pattern (vertical, diagonal, horizontal) and tell us something about it.



William Wordsworth

William Shakespeare



John Donne



Oscar Wilde



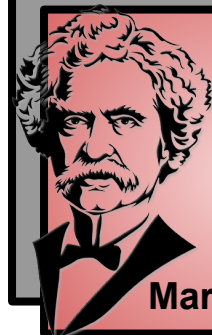
Edgar Allan Poe

John Keats



Emily Dickinson

Lord Byron



Mark Twain

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

# In Memory Of



Later in Wordsworth's life, he produced works with gloomy and sad themes after the death of his children and several friends. Can you compose a free verse poem remembering a loved one you have lost?

picture

About you

