**William Wordsworth**

**(1770-1850)**

\* Mom died when he was 8 yrs. old

\* He and 3 brothers sent off to school, sister to live w/relatives, didn’t see sister again until he was 17 (right before he went to Cambridge University)

\* Dad died when W. was 13

\* did get a degree but not interested in careers open to him (man w/no title, wealth or business head), such as church

\*decided to take a longer “walking tour” of Europe, esp. France and experience the language and French Revolution – called his 10 years of painful growth as he searched to find himself.

\* eventually found self as POET, w/VERY clear ideas of duties and responsibilities of poet

\* *Lyrical Ballads* w/Coleridge

\* By his 40s, life centered on family; married and kids, decent job as government official

\* continued to write, eventually turning less revolutionary and more conservative

\* England’s POET LAUREATE (official poet) in 1843

\* wrote much about the DUALITY of experience and memory

\* INNER EYE (inward eye) = the memory and imagination with its power to create

\* very ROMANTIC view = delight in experience itself and the mind’s instinctive capacity to shape everyday experience into something lasting and poetic (EFFECT of MEMORY and IMAGINATION)

\* poetry = spontaneous overflow of powerful feelings

\* VERY influential in the lives of other poets, even many years later

\* died at age 80