

William Wordsworth

He considered nature as a living structure from which he derived his feelings.

He was born in 1770 in Cockermouth on the Lake District. He sympathized with the revolutionary movement (he was in France around 1791) but he became conservative when he saw that the French Revolution turned into tyranny. One of his best friends was Coleridge with whom he decided to publish the "Lyrical Ballads" in 1798. In the preface of the edition published in 1800 he explained his poetical theory. The Preface was enlarged in the edition of 1802. He led an uneventful life till his death in 1850. He was made Poet Laureate in 1843.

Nature attracts Wordsworth in the beauty of the countryside, which is the place in

which man can feel strong emotions in front of the rural landscape. In fact in his poetry Wordsworth uses a simple language similar to the one used by men in contact with nature. Nature is also a source of feelings over which the poet throws his imagination to make a poem. "Poetry takes its origin from emotions recollected in tranquillity", as he says. The poet is "a man speaking to men"; he feels a lot of emotions (more than a common man) and explains them to other people. We can understand that for Wordsworth child and childhood are very important. In that state man can widely use his imagination and is closer to the "ideal state of nature", also on Rousseau's opinion. Adult men can't feel all Nature's splendour.

Wordsworth's vision of child is different from Blake's one, who saw in the child the weak or the oppressed. But Blake and Wordsworth's visions of life are very similar for the interest in nature and imagination.