

# "The Lake Poets"

"LAKE POETS", term loosely applied to three English poets, Robert Southey, Samuel Taylor Coleridge, and William Wordsworth (and sometimes Thomas De Quincey), who lived in the Lake District of England. The works of these poets had little relationship to one another, although each exemplified romantic principles in poetry.

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**Thomas De Quincey (1785-1859),**  
English writer, born in Manchester.

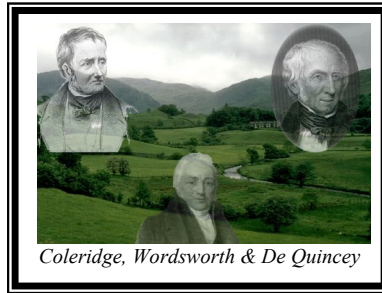
At the age of 17 he ran away from school to Wales and from there to London. Later, however, he studied at the University of Oxford. In 1809 he settled in Grasmere, where he joined the literary circle of the poets Samuel Taylor Coleridge, William Wordsworth, and Robert Southey and edited the Westmorland Gazette. Returning to London in 1820, he wrote *Confessions of an English Opium-Eater* (1821), a vivid description of his own experiences as an opium addict.

**Samuel Taylor Coleridge (1772-1834),**

English poet, critic, and philosopher, who was a leader of the romantic movement (see Romanticism). The highly imaginative and vivid images of his poems along with their varied rhythms and strange settings evoke the mysterious atmosphere of a fairy tale or nightmare.

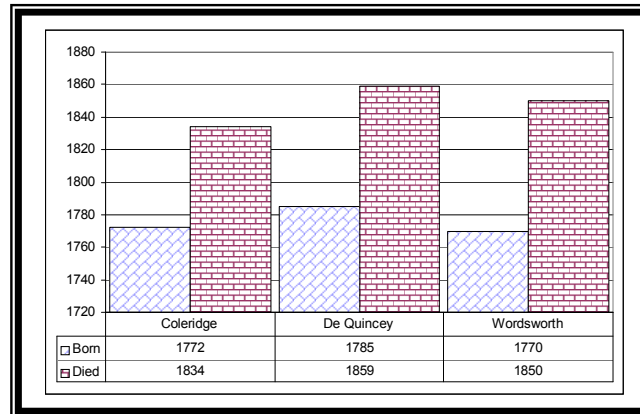
Coleridge was esteemed by some of his contemporaries and is recognised today

as a lyrical poet and literary critic of the first rank. His poetic themes range from the supernatural to the domestic. His treatises, lectures, and compelling conversational powers made him perhaps the most influential English literary critic and philosopher of the 19th century.



Coleridge, Wordsworth & De Quincey

**William Wordsworth (1770-1850),**  
English poet, one of the most accomplished and influential of England's romantic poets, whose theories and style created a new tradition in poetry.



Wordsworth was born on April 7, 1770, in Cocker-mouth, Cumberland, and educated at Saint John's College, University of Cambridge. He developed a keen love of nature as

a youth, and during school vacation periods he frequently visited places noted for their scenic beauty. In the summer of 1790 he took a walking tour through France and Switzerland. After receiving his degree in 1791 he returned to France, where he became an enthusiastic convert to the ideals of the French Revolution (1789-1799).