

# Lake Poets & Romantic Poets of England

—

Darius Bermudez

# William Wordsworth

- His sister was Dorothy Wordsworth
- While Poet Laureate of England, he never published a single work
- Wrote *Lyrical Ballads* with Samuel Taylor Coleridge
- Most Famous Work: “I Wandered Lonely as a Cloud”
  - Saw a field with daffodils, originally with Dorothy
- Last poem of the first *Lyrical Ballads* was “Tintern Abbey”
  - Five year time lapse / Addressed to his “dear, dear sister Dorothy”
- “The Prelude” was an autobiographical work published post mortem by his wife Mary
- Other Works: Ode to Intimations of Immortality / World is Too Much With Us / Lucy Poems

# Samuel Taylor Coleridge

- Published “Rime of the Ancient Mariner” in the first *Lyrical Ballads*
  - Albatross / Death and Life-in-Death / four by fifty men / game of dice / water everywhere
- Had a crippling addiction to opium which hindered his relationship with Wordsworth
- Wrote “Kubla Khan” after having an opium dream
  - Spoke of the land of Xanadu / Interrupted by a Person from Porlock
- Had a set of “Conversation Poems”
  - Eolian Harp: addressed to “my pensive Sara”
- Never finished poem “Christabel”
  - Geraldine, Sir Leoline, Raynald

# William Blake

- *Songs of Innocence*
  - The Lamb (Symbol for Jesus)
  - The Chimney Sweeper
- *Songs of Experience*
  - The Tyger (Did he who made the Lamb make thee?)
  - The Chimney Sweeper
- “The Marriage of Heaven and Hell” / Great Red Dragon and the Woman  
Clothed in the Sun
- Had many prophetic, Biblical visions: “The Four Zoas
- Illustrated Milton’s “Paradise Lost”
- Other Works: The Sick Rose / Build a Hell in Heaven’s Depsite / The Poison  
Tree / The Clod and the Pebble / Milton / London



# Lord Byron

- Wrote the lengthy poem of “Don Juan”
  - A Spaniard who gets seduced by many women instead of vice versa
- Wrote “She Walks in Beauty”
  - “A Heart whose love is innocent”
- Other Works: Destruction of Sennacherib / We’ll Go No More A Roving / Childe Harold’s Pilgrimage / Epitaph to a Dog (Boatswain
- Ex-Lover Lady Caroline Lamb described him as “mad, bad, and dangerous to know”
- Had an affair with Mary Shelley’s step sister
- His daughter Ada Lovelace was the first computer programmer
- Self-exiled from England and became a hero in Greece for funding their war of independence

# John Keats

- Specialized in writing Odes (Romantic after all)
- “Ode to a Grecian Urn”
  - “Beauty in Truth, truth in beauty” / “Unravished bride of quietness”
- Ode to a Nightingale
  - “Thou wast not born for death, Immortal Bird” / “Was it a vision or a waking dream?”
- Some More: Ode to Indolence / Ode to Melancholy / Ode to Psyche
- Died of tuberculosis / Wanted his epitaph to read “One Whose Name is Written in Water”
- Byron said that Keats was snuffed out by an article criticizing him
- Percy Shelley wrote the poem “Adonais” about his death
- Even more works: Endymion / Hyperion / On First Looking into Chapman’s Homer / Eve of St. Agnes / Bright Star / La Belle Dame sans Merci

# Percy Shelley

- His first wife was Harriet Westbrook / ran off with Mary Shelley
- In Adonais, he compares Keats's soul to a star that "beacons from the abode where the Eternal are"
- He drowned suddenly after his ship (Don Juan) got wrecked in a storm
- "Ode to the West Wind"
  - "If Winter comes, can Spring be far behind?"
- "To a Skylark"
  - "Hail to thee, blithe Spirit!"
- "The Masque of Anarchy"
  - Inspired from Peterloo Massacre by Castlereagh, Lord Eldon, and Sidmouth / "Murder, fraud, and hypocrisy"
- "Ozymandias" : Statue of Egyptian Pharaoh, "King of Kings"