



# The Prelude: Newly Edited from the Manuscripts and Fully Illustrated in Color

*By William Wordsworth*

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The Prelude, William Wordsworth's masterful autobiographical work, composed in blank verse, is generally considered the poem at the heart of the Romantic movement and one of the great poems in the English language. In this fully illustrated and annotated edition, it finally receives the treatment it deserves. Inspired by his dear friend, Samuel Taylor Coleridge, the poem charts the development of the author's mind, from childhood to Cambridge, London, the Alps, and France, touching on subjects ranging from leisure to literature, nature to imagination, and everything in between. A meditation on the self, this work still stands as a masterpiece of English literature, and is here complemented and enhanced by 200 contemporary color plates that both illuminate and elucidate the text. Scrupulously selected and edited from the definitive manuscripts in existence, the marginal notes and glosses provide an extra touch that makes this a truly enlightening reading experience.

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**The Prelude: Newly Edited from the Manuscripts and Fully Illustrated in Color** By William Wordsworth **Bibliography**

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### **Editorial Review**

#### Review

It was therefore with startled joy that I encountered the glorious new edition of *The Prelude* by my Harvard colleague James Engell, working in collaboration with the independent scholar Michael D. Raymond (who sought out the invaluable illustrations). Handsomely produced by David Godine in a broad horizontal format (twelve by nine and a half inches), the volume is illustrated on almost every other page by paintings or drawings contemporaneous with the poem itself.

These offer to the American reader's eye an array of scenes indispensable to an understanding of Wordsworth's world--lakes, crags, nocturnes, ships at sea, the Alps, Stonehenge, Revolutionary France, Cambridge, London. At last--with Engell's eloquent and succinct introduction, helpful marginal glosses, notes, a chronology, and maps--American readers and students have a *Prelude* of their own. --Helen Vendler, *The New York Review of Books*

Set in a handsome, hardbound edition that equally fits in a coffee table display or upon a scholar's desk, this new edition is appropriate for the amateur and expert alike...There are no faults to be had with this book. It is aesthetically pleasing, intellectually rigorous, and completely satisfying. --*The News and Times*

A marvelous book--the great poem magnificently illustrated with 130 full-color paintings, drawing, maps and other visual aids contemporaneous with its writing. --WBUR & NPR's *The ARTery*

#### About the Author

William Wordsworth (1770-1850) was a preeminent English Romantic poet whose Lyrical Ballads, jointly published with Samuel Taylor Coleridge, helped to launch the Romantic movement in English literature. The author of such beloved works as *I Wandered Lonely as a Cloud*, Wordsworth was Britain's Poet Laureate from 1843 until his death in 1850.

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**Christine Flint:**

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