

ABSTRACT

This thesis deals with the theme of nature as a sanctuary in selected poems of William Wordsworth. The purpose of this thesis is to investigate such aspects of Wordsworth's writings that portray the outdoors as a shelter, where one can escape from the industrial, urbanised society in order to reach a tranquil state of mind and through meditation and introspection find wisdom. The main features of Wordsworth's interpretation of a sanctuary that this thesis discusses are nature as a source of serenity, nature as a teacher and the superiority of nature over the city.

This thesis also provides a factual background and insight into the life of the poet in order to investigate the motivations behind the choice of nature as the main subject in his writings.

The thesis begins with the introduction of the romantic movement as a whole. In this part of the document, romanticism will be introduced and discussed by commenting on and contrasting works of other writers of that era with the works of William Wordsworth with the primary focus being on the theme of nature in order to establish the poet's position within the movement. The theoretical part also deals with the childhood and adolescent life of Wordsworth as a primary motivator for portraying the topics mentioned above in his poetry through studying *The Prelude* as well as biographies by other authors.

The following part of the text discusses individual poems in Wordsworth's repertoire that focus on the theme of nature as shelter while also introducing and contextualising each work by the backgrounds of its origin.

KEYWORDS

nature, poetry, romanticism, escapism, lake district, lake poets, sanctuary, the industrial revolution