



## A Bird's eye-view of William Wordsworth's *The Prelude*

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### Abstract

**Aims:** *The main aim of this paper is to critically observe this poem that how it tells the story of Wordsworth's life, how Wordsworth became mature and what are his philosophies of nature and life. This poem's plot reflects Wordsworth story that how he struggled in his growing up years being an orphan in this cruel world and how he developed as a good writer by portraying his story and also he shares his deep and unbreakable bond with nature, that how nature (rivers, mountains, frozen lakes) were his best friend in childhood, as Wordsworth is called poet of nature.*

**Methodology and Approaches:** *The main methodologies and approaches applied in this research paper are the critical interpretation and writing techniques of two major literary critics Wordsworth and Coleridge. Wordsworth and Coleridge's writing techniques in their poems gave the best writing methodology to write this research paper.*

**Outcome:** *The outcome of this research paper is that it gives clarity of Wordsworth's childhood experiences and how it positively impacted his life and he became a mature poet.*

**Conclusion and Suggestion:** *The Conclusion of this research paper is that nature and life of a human being are interrelated and nature can positively change any human's life and Suggestion of this research paper is that everyone should be peaceful like nature and should learn to live with unity and harmony.*

**Keywords:** Childhood, Love, Nature, University, Harmony, Peace, Lifestyle.

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Prelude is like an autobiography because it reflects Wordsworth's journey from childhood to becoming a poet. This poem also reflects how nature played a significant role in shaping his mind. The title "Prelude" means that the poem showcases Wordsworth's ability to write about his childhood and nature and how it helped him to become a poet. The poet explores his own life's ups and downs, personal experiences and memories in the poem. His relationship with his father was difficult, as a result he was left with the option to rely self-centred relatives for financial support, after his parents died during his adolescence. The poem highlights the important role of parents in a teenager's life. He also shares memories of Northern England's Lake District and the emotional bonding he formed for the 4 seasons. Wordsworth also cherished sweet memories with his sister Dorothy, such as playing, eating, and doing skating with her on frozen lake.

Wordsworth discovers himself as a true poet, son of nature. He also discovers that he can grow into a more positive person under the guidance of Mother Nature. He compares nature to his real mother, who was societal betrayal. When she passed away, he found maternal love and affection in nature, considering it his second mother. When he was leaving for university, he initially felt lost as he left his heart in the Lake District of Northern England. As the time passed he learned to accept gradually changes can lead to new experience in life.

The title “Prelude” signifies the life’s journey of Wordsworth because prelude means a pre-event before any main/special event and Wordsworth life’s pre-events were childhood good and bad experiences because of which he was emotionally and mentally disturbed at his adolescent. Wordsworth mind was immature in childhood but when he took admission in 1787 at Cambridge University he started viewing life and nature from a different and positive point of view which was the main event of his life. Wordsworth had faced a lot of difficulties and problems in childhood as his parents died in teenage and he had to live with his selfish relatives. He lost his mother when he was just 8 year’s old. His poem “Prelude” was originally published by his wife after his death. His childhood journey to adulthood was not genuine like other kids, troubles were part of his life from which he learned and became positive. Difficulties and problems made him emotionally and mentally strong, since he was missing his homeland (Northern England) he was not able to focus on his studies in Cambridge University. Further, he experienced that nature is the best teacher of the human , a phrase he formed in his mind which is applicable to every human being is “Let nature be your teacher” . He became friends with Samuel Taylor Coleridge who was also studying in Cambridge University, this friendship brought happiness in Wordsworth’s life. Wordsworth completely focused on reading books in his University’s library which made his life joyful and peaceful, most importantly because of this habit he forgot his all the sadness. Books became

his best friend and most important priority due to which the hidden poet inside him was awaked. The pains inside him resulted in the golden words of poetry. Wordsworth accepted changes in life, he devoted his time in reading and the good company of his friend Coleridge, these qualities made his literary career successful.

Wordsworth's suffered a lot during his childhood years. He was during his childhood years. He was very immature and as a result, he did not understand the gravity of life during the early days. In fact, it is Nature that helped him to overcome his trauma, another interesting point about Wordsworth is that he wanted to help people about the real beauty of nature. According to Wordsworth, it is the almighty who created both man and nature. In fact, Wordsworth wanted man to get freed from the clutches of city life. Wordsworth calls nature his friend, philosopher and guide. In fact, Wordsworth's rebellions nature against artificialities of society is pretty evident in his poetry. Wordsworth's call to fellow beings, 'return to nature' is a clear indication that he is against the existing norms of society. Prelude traces the evolution of the poets mind right from his childhood years. He talks about his childhood experiences in book 1. Wordsworth was a poet of preservation: nature's primitive and exquisite beauty is beautifully ordained in his works. The Lake poet defines poetry as the "spontaneous overflow" of "powerful feelings "from "emotion recollected in tranquillity". Nature thus became Wordsworth's apt medium, through the expression of which he pronounced the hidden mechanisms of his heart. Wordsworth's Prelude is therefore a systematic study of the impact that nature had on the poet's nascent mind. Wordsworth expresses his gratitude through his work, but more importantly, he tries to give back to nature what he had resourced from it: the inspirational and imaginative flow, or the 'Life Force' (Shaw) of sustenance.

The epic 'Prelude' is an autobiographical poem. It was published by Wordsworth's wife after the death of Wordsworth in 1850. The epic traces the

growth of poet's mind. This epic is a landmark work in English Literature. In fact, one can understand the influence of Nature on Wordsworth through this epic poem. This work echoes the inner voice of Wordsworth considered to be one of the greatest poets in English Literature. Wordsworth's contribution to English Literature through poetry is immense. Whatever the critics say about Wordsworth, his literary reputation as a great poet is cemented because of his immense contribution. This Prelude is another feather in the cap of William Wordsworth.

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