

English Language and Literature

Derwentwater Independent Hostel is located in the Borrowdale Valley, 3 miles south of Keswick. The hostel occupies Barrow House, a Georgian mansion that was built for Joseph Pocklington in 1787. There are interesting references to Pocklington, Barrow House, and Borrowdale by Wordsworth, Coleridge, and Southey.

Borrowdale and Keswick have been home to Coleridge, Southey and Walpole.

Writer	Born	Selected work	Places to visit
John Dalton	1709	Poetry	Whitehaven, Borrowdale
William Wordsworth	1770	Poetry: The Prelude	Cockermouth (National Trust), Dove Cottage (Wordsworth Trust) in Grasmere, Rydal Mount, Allan Bank (National Trust) in Grasmere
Dorothy Wordsworth	1771	Letters and diaries	Cockermouth (National Trust), Dove Cottage (Wordsworth Trust), Rydal Mount, Grasmere
Samuel Taylor Coleridge	1772	Poetry	Dove Cottage, Greta Hall (Keswick), Allan Bank
Robert Southey	1774	Poetry: The Cataract of Lodore	Lodore Falls and the Bowder Stone (Borrowdale), Dove Cottage, Greta Hall, grave at Crosthwaite Church
Thomas de Quincey	1785	Essays	Dove Cottage
John Ruskin	1819	Essays, poetry	Brantwood (Coniston)
Beatrix Potter	1866	The Tale of Squirrel Nutkin (based on Derwent Water)	Lingholm (Derwent Water), St Herbert's Island (Owl Island in the <i>Tale of Squirrel Nutkin</i>), Hawkshead, Hill Top (National Trust), Armit Library in Ambleside
Hugh Walpole	1884	The Herries Chronicle (set in Borrowdale)	Watendlath (home of fictional character Judith Paris), Brackenburn House on road beneath Cat Bells (private house with memorial plaque on wall), grave in St John's Church in Keswick
Arthur Ransome	1884	Swallows and Amazons	Coniston and Windermere
Norman Nicholson	1914	Poetry	Millom, west Cumbria
Hunter Davies	1936	Journalist, broadcaster, biographer of Wordsworth	
Margaret Forster	1938	Novelist	Carlisle (Forster's birthplace)
Melvyn Bragg	1939	Grace & Mary (novel), Maid of Buttermere (play)	Words by the Water Festival (March)

Resources and places to visit

- Words by the Water Festival: March: Theatre by the Lake in Keswick: <http://www.wayswithwords.co.uk/festivals>
- Maryport Literature Festival: November: Senhouse Museum in Maryport: <http://www.senhousemuseum.co.uk/Events-LiteraryFestival.htm>
- Wordsworth Trust: Wordsworth Museum, The Jerwood Centre and Reading Room, and Dove Cottage (former home of Wordsworth and De Quincey) in Grasmere: <https://wordsworth.org.uk/learn.html>
- Allan Bank: former home of Wordsworth on the edge of Grasmere: <http://www.nationaltrust.org.uk/allan-bank-and-grasmere/>
- Brantwood: former home of John Ruskin on the shore of Coniston Water: <http://www.brantwood.org.uk/>
- Greta Hall: former home of Coleridge and Southey in Keswick. We can arrange guided tours of the house: <http://www.gretahall.net/>
- Mirehouse (near Keswick on the A591 to Bassenthwaite): Mirehouse Poetry Competition; strong literary connections with Tennyson, Carlyle, Wordsworth, and Edward Fitzgerald (collections of their letters); school visits welcomed: <http://mirehouse.com/>
- Armit Library in Ambleside: <http://www.armitt.com/>

9. Keswick Museum and Art Gallery: 15 volumes of Hugh Walpole's diaries; manuscripts of Walpole, Wordsworth, and Southey's work: <http://keswickmuseum.webs.com/>
10. Hugh Walpole in Cumbria: <http://www.visitcumbria.com/hugh-walpole/>
11. Robert Southey's poem *The Cataract of Lodore*: http://www.keswick-launch.co.uk/places_lodore.htm
12. The Lodore Falls: 20 minute flat walk from Derwentwater Independent Hostel
13. Watendlath: 1 hour walk from Derwentwater Independent Hostel or a 10 minute drive (National Trust car park)
14. John Dalton's poem *A Descriptive Poem, Addressed to Two Ladies, at their Return from Viewing the Mines, near Whitehaven*: <http://www.en.utexas.edu/Classes/Moore/picturesque/poetry/Dalton-467.pdf>
15. William Wordsworth's poem *The River Derwent*: <http://www.poetryatlas.com/poetry/poem/1646/>
16. A Wordsworth Rap, filmed in the Lake District: <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=VXbrSALG684>
17. Beatrix Potter's *A Tale of Squirrel Nutkin*: <http://www.gutenberg.org/files/14872/14872-h/14872-h.htm>
18. Beatrix Potter in Cumbria: <http://www.golakes.co.uk/beatrixpotter/locations.aspx>
19. JMW Turner's illustrations of Rogers' poems: <http://www.tate.org.uk/art/artworks/turner-keswick-lake-for-rogerss-poems-d27698>
20. Shakespeare on screen at The Alhambra Cinema in Keswick: <http://www.keswick-alhambra.co.uk/>
21. Outdoor Shakespeare at Brougham Hall, near Penrith: July/August: <http://www.shakespearesglobe.com/theatre/whats-on/globe-theatre>
22. Theatre by the Lake: <http://www.theatrebythelake.com/>
23. Literary tours: Zoë Dawes: <http://www.thequirkytraveller.com/contact-quirky-traveller/>
24. Arthur Ransome Trust: <http://www.arthur-ransome-trust.org.uk/>
25. Transcripts of Grand Tours/Guides to the Lakes: <http://www.geog.port.ac.uk/webmap/thelakes/>
26. Grevel Lindop's *A Literary Guide to the Lake District*: <http://grevel.co.uk/>

Some writing topics inspired by Borrowdale

1. The history of Derwent Island (German miners, Pocklington, National Trust)
2. Castlerigg Stone Circle (myths and legends)
3. The origin of the fell names
4. Mountain rescues
5. Experiences of flooding
6. The geological history of the landscape
7. Beatrix Potter characters
8. Nuclear waste disposal
9. Keswick-Penrith Railway Proposal
10. Attractions for tourists in Cumbria – writing for different audiences
11. Farming
12. Slate and Graphite (wad) Mining
13. The Grand Tour writers: William Gilpin, Thomas Gray, Thomas West
14. The development of language – the Norse origins of many place names in Borrowdale