

**1798**

**SHE WAS A PHANTOM OF DELIGHT**

**William Wordsworth**

**Wordsworth, William (1770-1850) - English poet who, along with Samuel Taylor Coleridge, was an early leader of English Romanticism. He is best known for his worship of nature and his humanitarianism. She Was a Phantom of Delight (1798) - A poem written "from the heart." Opening lines: She was a phantom of delight / When first she gleam'd upon my sight; ...**

## PHANTOM OF DELIGHT

SHE was a phantom of delight  
 When first she gleamed upon my sight;  
 A lovely apparition, sent  
 To be a moment's ornament;  
 Her eyes as stars of twilight fair;  
 Like twilight's too, her dusky hair;  
 But all things else about her drawn  
 From May-time and the cheerful dawn;  
 A dancing shape, an image gay,  
 To haunt, to startle, and waylay.

I saw her upon nearer view,  
 A spirit, yet a woman too!  
 Her household motions light and free,  
 And steps of virgin liberty;  
 A countenance in which did meet  
 Sweet records, promises as sweet;  
 A creature not too bright or good  
 For human nature's daily food;

For transient sorrows, simple wiles,  
 Praise, blame, love, kisses, tears, and smiles.

And now I see with eye serene  
 The very pulse of the machine;  
 A being breathing thoughtful breath,  
 A traveller between life and death;  
 The reason firm, the temperate will,  
 Endurance, foresight, strength, and skill;  
 A perfect woman, nobly planned,  
 To warn, to comfort, and command;  
 And yet a spirit still, and bright  
 With something of angelic light.

**THE END**