

A decorative border with intricate floral and scrollwork patterns surrounds the text. The border is composed of a central horizontal line with diamond-shaped ornaments, and vertical lines with similar ornaments at the corners and midpoints, all embellished with delicate floral designs.

William Cullen Bryant was born in Massachusetts in 1794 to a doctor and his wife, descendants of Puritan immigrants. During his life, which stretched more than eighty-three years, the country moved from its early days as a young nation to booming days of factories and industry.

Always a lover of books, it is said by some that William knew the entire alphabet before he was two years old. He read and studied extensively and was a published poet by the time he was a teenager.

He studied law and practiced as a lawyer for almost ten years but never found joy in the job. He turned his attention to literary pursuits and moved to New York with his wife, Frances Fairchild, and took a job as the coeditor of the *New York Review*. Two years later he became the editor of the *Evening Post* and held the job until his death in 1878.

He is remembered for his love of nature and his poetry of the countryside including “Thanatopsis” which he wrote when he was seventeen, and “To a Waterfowl.”

On the following pages you will find a timeline of William Cullen Bryant’s life and a notebooking page. Do some research into the life and work of William Cullen Bryant and record your observations as you look more closely at the life of this famous author.

William Cullen Bryant

Timeline

William Cullen Bryant was born	1794
	1808
	1815
	1817
	1821
	1829
	1870
	1871
	1878

Married Frances Fairchild

Translation of the *Iliad*

“The Embargo”

Became editor in chief of *New York Evening Post*

“Thanatopsis” published in *The North American Review*

Admitted to the bar

Died in New York City, N.Y.

Translation of the *Odyssey*

Answer Key

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Translation of the <i>Iliad</i>	1870
1871	Translation of the <i>Odyssey</i>
Died in New York City, N.Y.	1878