

# Year 8 – Romantics (Term 3)

## 1792 – 1837

*Why do we call them "Romantics," then, if these guys weren't, you know, romantic? Well, because they were really into emotions: happiness, sadness, joy, loneliness...you know the drill. They got especially emotional about Nature (capital N!) They were coming off the heels of the Enlightenment, when folks decided to value reason over emotion, & they were not cool with it.*

### How did the Romantics challenge of everything develop our literature?

#### How do we see the fight for individualism in today's society & literature? (BOUNCE FORWARD – VICTORIAN, MODERN, CONTEMPORARY)

- ☐ It gets tiring living in a culture that's always putting pressure on us to conform & we begin to question ourselves: are we *weird* for not wanting to dress like that? For not wanting to behave in that way?
- ☐ Byronic heroes were cooked up by the "mad, bad, & dangerous to know" Lord Byron. A Byronic hero is an antihero of the highest order. He (or she) is typically rebellious, arrogant, anti-social or in exile, & darkly, enticingly romantic.
- ☐ Byronic heroes everywhere: Dorian Gray, Sherlock Holmes, Mr. Darcy, & Gatsby

#### How does Romanticism link back to other literary periods? (BOUNCE BACK – GREEK, NEO-CLASSICAL.)

- ☐ Romanticism was a reaction against neo-classicism, a change in the literary movement to a more introspective viewpoint & stance.
- ☐ The Romantics really dug-up stuff: vases from ancient Greece, old statues, & ruined buildings. They used all this junk—er, treasure—as a way to reflect on time, & the passing of time.

#### What are other key features of the Romantic period?

- ☐ Romanticism – ‘the spontaneous overflow of powerful feeling.’
- ☐ Individualism – the Romantics explored the idea of self & the importance of self within society.
- ☐ Nature & the sublime plays a key role in Romantic poetry.
- ☐ Romanticism was inspired by the French revolution.
- ☐ Romantic Writers – William Blake, John Keats, William Wordsworth, John Clare, Samuel Taylor Coleridge, Lord Byron, Percy Shelley, Mary Shelley.

#### What are the features of a Gothic novel?

- ☐ Gothic fiction was a reaction to Romanticism; it sought to explore the darker side of human nature & the theme of the supernatural.
- ☐ Travel & Scientific Progression
- ☐ Doppelganger (someone's double) & the Byronic hero (see above)
- ☐ The Uncanny (something strangely familiar)
- ☐ Characters in moral or ethical turmoil (huge confusion)

#### How have gender roles been presented in texts over time?

- ☐ Mary Wollstonecrafts' *A Vindication of the Rights of Women* (1792) as a response to Paine's *Rights of Man* (1791).
- ☐ Education of women is distasteful – Perigold & the concept of 'virtue'
- ☐ Germain Greer – *The Female Eunuch*
- ☐ Carol Ann Duffy – *A World's Wife*

### Reading skills: how do you express analysis of language/ structure/ form?

FOR EXAMPLE: When Wordsworth writes, "I wandered lonely as a cloud", the dreamy simile appears to be a little sad, yet his comparison of the speaker to a cloud implies freedom also.

### Writing skills: understand that planning, drafting proof-reading & editing transforms writing

- ☐ Planning – deciding key ideas & their order before writing
- ☐ Drafting – returning to a piece of writing in order to improve it
- ☐ Proof-reading – reading through your work in order to spot & correct errors
- ☐ Editing – to take out unnecessary sections in order to improve writing
- ☐ You cannot do all four of these in an exam situation – only planning & proof-reading are possible in the time you have. The other two skills make you become a better writer by thinking deeply about your own writing.
- ☐ Alfred Hitchcock said, "Drama is life, with the dull parts cut out."

### Reading tasks

A fiction analysis & a non-fiction analysis

### Writing tasks

A narrative prose piece & a persuasive speech

### Possible layouts/types of text

#### Speech (text only)

- ☐ a clear address to an audience
- ☐ effective/fluent linked sections to indicate sequence
- ☐ rhetorical indicators that an audience is being addressed
- ☐ a clear sign off e.g. 'Thank you for listening'.

#### Narrative Writing

- ☐ The story takes place within one hour
- ☐ Maximum 3 characters
- ☐ Maximum 3 sentences of direct speech
- ☐ Show not tell
- ☐ Minimum 1 adjective per sentence
- ☐ Minimum 5 senses
- ☐ Maximum 1 exclamation mark
- ☐ 3<sup>rd</sup> person
- ☐ 50 % description with zooms
- ☐ Don't 'chat' to the reader
- ☐ A 'small' story – make the ordinary extraordinary

### Grammar

#### Compound-complex sentences

- Sentences which have at least 2 main clauses and at least 1 subordinate clause (a compound bit and a complex bit)

#### Noun phrases

A phrase which has a noun as its main word (head) and determiners and adjectives with all relate to the noun. e.g. *The really tall kid in our class...*

#### Noun phrases in apposition

2 noun phrases next to each other, which both relate to the same person or thing. e.g. *One of the teachers, Miss Murphy...*

#### Past continuous tense

An action which took place in the past but is expressed as an ongoing action. e.g. *I was walking to school. Made from –ing form of verb plus 'was or were'*

#### Present continuous tense

An ongoing action which is taking place now, in the present. e.g. *I am walking to school. Made from –ing form of verb plus 'is, are or am'*

### I AM A FORESTER

### Stretch yourself

Look up other female writers. What do they all have in common? Read *Frankenstein*, or just a bit of it!

### Looking forward to next term....

*Next stop – the Victorians. The story goes that Victorians were so prudish they even covered piano legs with little pantalettes. Even saying the word "leg" at all was sometimes considered scandalous. So, okay, the idea we have of Victorians isn't too flattering: stiff, proper, old-fashioned. But that's not how they saw themselves.*

Imperative verbs

Address the reader

Modal verbs

Alliteration

Figurative lang.

Opinion

Repetition

Emotive lang./ exaggeration

Statistics

Triadic structure

Expert opinion

Rhetorical q.