

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, POSTMODERN)

- 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*

The Poems

The Tyger by William Blake is from Songs of Innocence and Experience written in rhyming couplets. Blake wrote this poem of experience as a contrast to the innocence portrayed in *The Lamb*. He explores the harsh realities of adulthood.

The Mask of Anarchy by Percy Bysshe Shelley is a British political poem, following the Peterloo Massacre. Written in rhyming couplets, it is perhaps a statement on the principle of non-violent resistance.

To Toussaint L'Ouverture by William Wordsworth is a sonnet. In this poem, Wordsworth acknowledges the accomplishment of political change.

Ode to a Nightingale by John Keats an Ode written in eight stanzas. Keats looks closely at the mortality of human life; the transience of life and the tragedy of old age.

England in 1819 by English Romantic poet Percy Bysshe Shelley, a political sonnet. Throughout this poem, Shelley uses metaphors to break down views of a political system. Yet he stills concludes with optimism.

Darkness by Lord Byron is written in blank verse (pentameter). Byron's poem opens as a dream and imagines the end of the world through a series of natural, social, and possibly supernatural events.

The Destruction of Sannacherib by Lord Byron is written in rhyming couplets. Death and war are key themes of this poem with God's power demonstrated through nature.

Summer by John Clare is written in rhyming couplets. This poem explores feeling through the portrayal of nature.

Digging by Seamus Heaney is written in free verse. Heaney writes about his father and grandfather before him and, using imagery and sound, he can metaphorically follow in their footsteps.

Nettles by Vernon Scannell is written in a single stanza and has alternately rhyming lines. The use of emotive language explores a parents impulse to protect a child.

Possible layouts/types of text

Speech (text only)

- a clear address to an audience
- effective/fluently 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
- 3rd person
- 50 % description with zooms
- Don't 'chat' to the reader
- A 'small' story – make the ordinary extraordinary

Grammar

Compound-complex sentence

A sentence which has at least 2 main clauses and at least 1 subordinate clause (a compound bit and a complex bit)

Noun phrase

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...

Adverb: describes a verb, adjective or another adverb.

- Manner adverb**, e.g. I walk **slowly**.
- Time adverb**, e.g. I will walk **tomorrow**.
- Frequency adverb**, e.g. I walk **often**.
- Degree adverb**, e.g. I agree **completely**.
- Place adverb**, e.g. I walk **there**.

Stretch yourself

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

Poetic Techniques

- Alliteration
- Assonance
- Caesura
- Enjambment
- Meter
- Onomatopoeia
- Personification
- Rhyme / Rhyming Couplets
- Rhythm
- Stanza
- Free Verse
- Simile
- Metaphor

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.