

University of Global Village (UGV)

Department of English

Course Outline

The Romantic Poets



Md. Ziaul Haque
Head, Dept. of English, UGV

Serial no	Name of the content	Content details
1	Course Code	ENG 0232-2109
2	Course Title	The Romantic Poets
3	Semester	5th
4	Course Type	Theory
5	Academic Session	Winter-2025
6	Course Teacher	Md. Ziaul Haque
7	Prerequisite	N/A
8	Credit value	3
9	Contact hours	42 Hours
10	Total marks	150

After completing this course, students will be able to

CLO 1	Define romanticism, and its formal qualities, such as imagery, symbolism, and use of language.	Remember
CLO 2	Understand the Romantic Movement based on historical, philosophical, and cultural context, including its response to industrialization and political revolutions.	Understand
CLO 3	Apply the theory of Romanticism to later literary movements and modern ideas.	Apply
CLO 4	Analyze the poetic texts of different poets through the lenses of Romanticism.	Analyzing
CLO 5	Evaluate the themes and ideas within a broader socio-cultural framework.	Evaluate
CLO 6	Create distinguished critical interpretation for the artistry and innovations of Romantic poets.	Create

Assessment Pattern

Total Marks	Per Credit 50 Marks
3 Credits Course	150 Marks
2 Credits Course	100 Marks
CIE	60%
SEE	40%

Assignment:

The topic or case studies will be given as assignments during the class which they have to prepare at home and will submit on or before the due date. No late submission of assignments will be accepted. Students will have to do a presentation on the given topic.

Quizzes:

One Quiz Test will be taken during the semester, this test will be taken after midterm. No makeup quiz test will be taken. Students are strongly recommended not to miss that test.

Viva-Voce:

At the end of the semester, the students must appear before a board of faculty from their course, who will assess them on topics they have covered. The department may invite external faculty to assess the students.

CIE- Continuous Internal Evaluation (90 Marks-60%)

Bloom's Category Marks (Out of 90)	Test (105)	Assignment (15)	Quizzes(15)	External Participation in Curricular/Co- Curricular Activities (20)
Remember	10		5	Attendance : 10 Viva-Voce : 10
Understand	10	5	5	
Apply	5	5		
Analyze	10			
Evaluate	5			
Create	5			

SEE- Semester End Examination (60 marks-40%)

Bloom's Category	Tests
Remember	15
Understand	5
Apply	10
Analyze	10
Evaluate	5
Create	10

Evaluation

Grades will be calculated as per the university grading structure and individual students will be evaluated based on the following criteria with respective weights.

1.	1. Quiz	10%
2.	2. Group Assignments	10%
3.	3. Class Participation	10%
4.	4. Term Examination	70%

Textbook & Learning Resources

Selection from Norton Anthology



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Topics to be covered

SN	Topics	Teaching-learning Strategies	Assessment Strategy	Alignment to CLO
Week-1	Romantic Movement, Contemporary Socio-economic and Cultural History, Contemporary literary history, Feature of romantic poetry	Lecture, Students' feedback	Oral Question-answer	CLO-1
Week-2	Early romantic age, William Blake, Blake society, Blake's biography, writings.	Group Open Discussion, Peer Work.	Individual short presentation	CLO-1
Week-3	William Blake's selected poems from Song of Innocence: The Lamb and The Tiger	Lecture, Group discussion	Assignment and presentation	CLO-3
Week-4	William Wordsworth's biography, his contemporaries, and contemporary society. Poetry: Tintern Abbey	PPT, Showing Diagram.	Quiz Test	CLO-4

Topics to be covered

SN	Topics	Teaching-learning Strategies	Assessment Strategy	Alignm ent to CLO
Week-5	Poetry: Tintern Abbey: Reading, explanation of Man and Nature, Religious implication, stages of life	Lecture, Pair work	Oral Presentation	CLO-4
Week-6	Class test, Presentation	Quiz	Presentation	
Week-7	Poetry: Imitation of Immortality: Reading, explanation: Reading, explanation of Man and Nature, Religious implication, stages of life	Lecture, Students will create a model or diagram	Asked to explain in class	CLO-3
Week-8	S T Coleridge: biography, his contemporaries, and contemporary society. Poetry The Rime of the Ancient Mariner	Lecture, Discussion	Quiz test: MCQ	

Topics to be covered

SN	Topics	Teaching-learning Strategies	Assessment Strategy	Alignm ent to CLO
Week-9	S T Coleridge: Poetry The Rime of the Ancient Mariner Narrative technique, religious, moral, supernatural implications	Lecture, Students' feedback	Oral Question-answer	CLO-4
Week-10	P B Shelley: biography, his contemporaries, and contemporary society. Poetry: Ode to West Wind	Group Open Discussion, Peer Work.	Individual short presentation	CLO-6
Week-11	P B Shelley: biography, his contemporaries, and contemporary society. Poetry: Ode to West Wind	Lecture, Group discussion	Assignment and presentation	CLO-6
Week-12	John Keats Poetry: Ode to Grecian Urn, theme, style and philosophy	PPT, Showing Diagram.	Quiz Test	

Topics to be covered

Week-13	John Keats Poetry: Ode to Nightingale, theme, style and philosophy	Lecture, Pair work	Oral Presentation	CLO-5
Week-14	John Keats: theme, style and philosophy of Keats's poetry	Lecture, Students will create a model or diagram	Asked to explain in class	CLO-5
Week-15	Lord Byron: Poem: She Walks in a Beauty, Don Juan	Lecture, Students will discuss issues	Quiz test	CLO-4
Week-16	Revision and Problem solving	Problem solve	Discussion	
Week-17	Class test, Presentation and Viva-voce	PPT	Quizz	



Course Title: The Romantic Poets

Course Code: ENG-0232-3118

5th Semester

Background and Feature of Romanticism

Week-1, Slide: 15-30

Md. Ziaul Haque

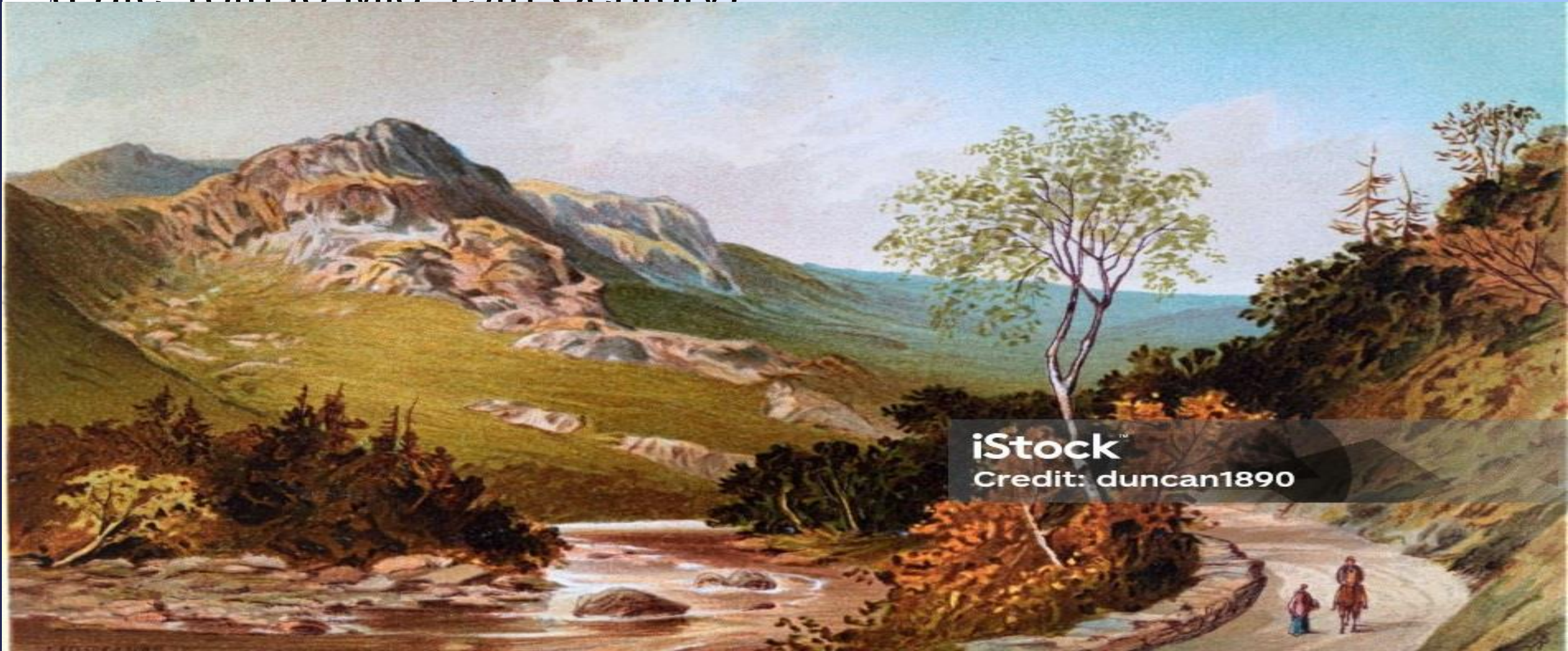
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Socio-political Features of the Romantic Age

A Look into the Social and Cultural Dynamics of the Romantic Era
(Late 18th to Mid-19th Century)



Introduction to the Romantic Age

Spanned late 18th to mid-19th century.

Reaction against the Industrial Revolution and Enlightenment rationalism.

Reaction against the Industrial Revolution and Enlightenment rationalism.

Industrial Revolution and Urbanization

Rise of factories led to mass urbanization.

Harsh living conditions for the working class.

Romanticism reacted against mechanization and urban sprawl.



Impact of the French Revolution

Inspired ideas of liberty, equality, and fraternity.

Early Romantic thinkers admired revolutionary zeal. Later Romantics critiqued the violence of the Revolution.

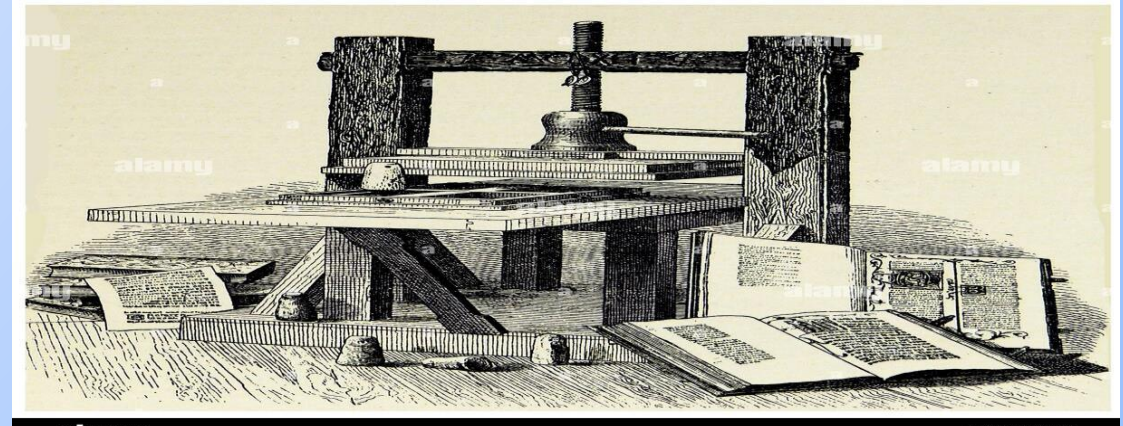
Rise of the Middle Class

Growth of the middle class due to industrialization.

Increased literacy and access to education.

Expansion of print culture

(books, newspapers, and magazines).



Role of Women in Romantic Society

Women began to assert their voices through writing (e.g., Mary Shelley, Jane Austen).

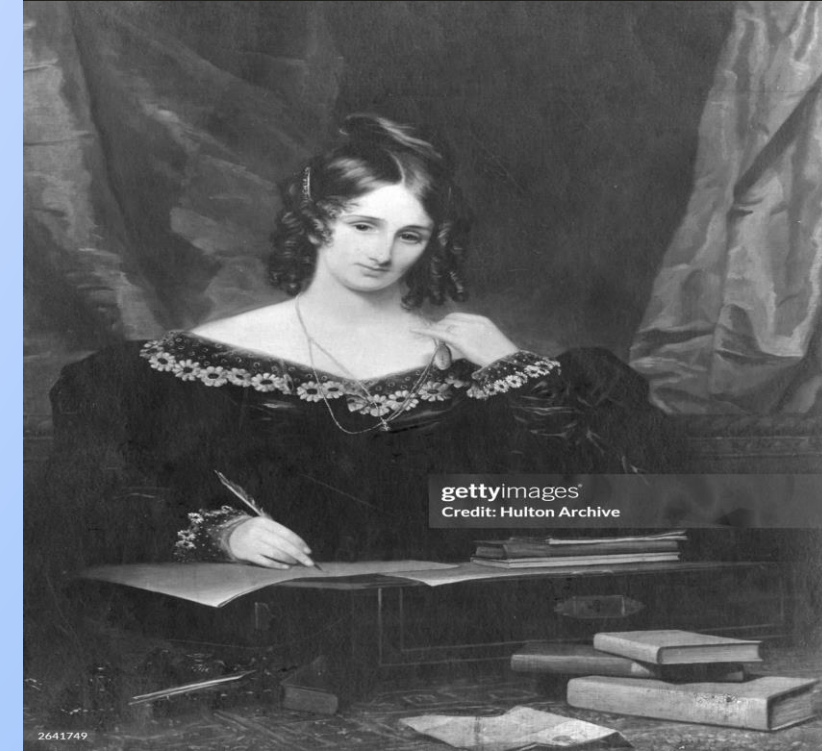
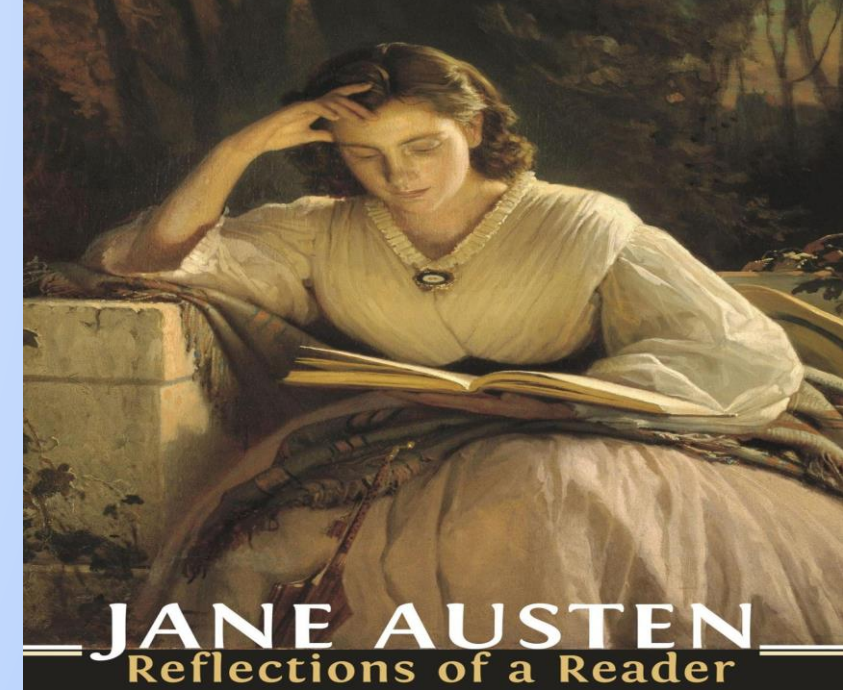
Advocated for gender equality, though progress was slow. Emergence of female readership.

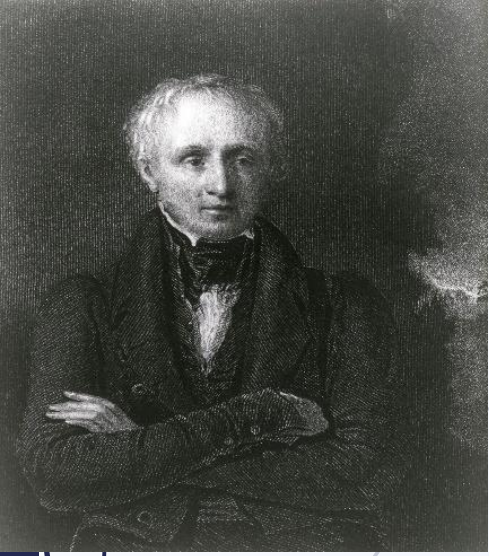
Conclusion

Romantic Age was a period of cultural and social transformation.

Emphasis on emotion, nature, and individuality shaped art and society.

Reaction to industrialization and Enlightenment continues to inspire today.





Romantic Movement

Roles of *Lyrical Ballads* in the Romantic Movement

The Romantic Movement, which emerged in the late 18th and early 19th centuries, was an artistic, literary, and intellectual movement that emphasized emotion, individualism, nature, and the imagination over reason and classical ideals. It originated as a reaction against the Industrial Revolution, Enlightenment rationalism, and the constraints of neoclassicism.

The publication of *Lyrical Ballads* (1798) by **William Wordsworth** and **Samuel Taylor Coleridge** is considered a defining moment in the Romantic Movement, marking its official beginning in English literature. It served as a manifesto for Romantic ideals, reshaping the poetic tradition and establishing new principles for poetry.



Romantic Movement

Roles of *Lyrical Ballads* in the Romantic Movement

Focus on Ordinary Life and Language: Wordsworth emphasized using the language of everyday people, moving away from the elevated and ornate diction of earlier poetry.

Poems celebrated the lives of common people and rural settings, making poetry more accessible.

Emotion and Imagination: The collection prioritized emotion as the foundation of poetry. Wordsworth famously defined poetry as "the spontaneous overflow of powerful feelings."

It emphasized the importance of imagination in transforming ordinary experiences into something profound.

Nature: Central theme of Romanticism



Aspects of Romanticism

Lyrical Ballads highlighted the Romantic fascination with nature as a source of inspiration, solace, and moral truth. Nature was often depicted as a spiritual force, influencing and reflecting human emotions.

Rejection of Neoclassicism: The collection broke away from the rigid forms and intellectual focus of neoclassicism, advocating for creativity, emotion, and personal expression.

Exploration of the Supernatural: Coleridge's contributions, such as *The Rime of the Ancient Mariner*, incorporated the supernatural and mysterious, blending the everyday with the extraordinary. This reflected the Romantic interest in the sublime and the otherworldly.

Neoclassicism

#Imitation of Classical literature

#Emphasis on Reason and Logic

#Formality and Decorum

#Social Commentary and Satire

#Didacticism

#Universalism

Aspects of Romanticism

Philosophical Reflection:

The preface to the second edition (1800) outlined Wordsworth's views on the purpose and function of poetry, asserting that it should reflect a deep understanding of human nature and experience.

Impact: *Lyrical Ballads* redefined the nature of poetry and laid the groundwork for the Romantic Movement.

It inspired subsequent Romantic poets like Byron, Shelley, and Keats, influencing their focus on personal emotion, individuality, and the celebration of nature and imagination. The work remains a cornerstone in the history of English literature.

Features of Romanticism

1. Emphasis on Emotion and Imagination

Romantic poetry celebrates intense emotions such as love, longing, sorrow, and awe.

The imagination is seen as a powerful force for creating art and interpreting life.



2. Reverence for Nature

Nature is a central theme, often depicted as a source of inspiration, healing, and moral guidance. Romantic poets saw nature as a reflection of human emotions and a spiritual force.



Features of Romanticism

3. Love for Beauty: The love for beauty is a central theme in Romanticism, a cultural, literary, and artistic movement that emerged in the late 18th century and reached its height in the 19th century. Romanticism celebrated the aesthetic, emotional, and spiritual dimensions of beauty, often portraying it as a transcendent force that connects the individual to nature, imagination, and the sublime.

4. Interest in the Supernatural and the Mystery

Romantic poets often incorporated elements of the supernatural, fantastical, or otherworldly, reflecting their fascination with the unknown. This is evident in works like Coleridge's *The Rime of the Ancient Mariner*.



Features of Romanticism

3. Common Man and Everyday Life

Romantic poetry elevated the lives and experiences of ordinary people, breaking from the elitist traditions of earlier poetry. Simple language was often used to make poetry accessible to everyone.

4. Escape from reality

Escapism is a key theme in Romanticism, reflecting the movement's reaction against the industrialization, rationalism, and societal constraints of the 18th and early 19th centuries. Romantic artists, poets, and writers sought solace in alternative realities, emotional depth, and imaginative landscapes to escape the harsh realities of their time. Below are ways escapism manifested in Romanticism:



Features of Romanticism

5. Glorification of the Past and Nostalgia

Many Romantic poets expressed nostalgia for medieval times, folklore, and ancient myths, which they viewed as more authentic and imaginative.

6. Exploration of the Sublime

Romantic poetry frequently evokes the sublime – moments of awe and wonder, often inspired by nature's grandeur, that overwhelm the senses. This can be seen in Wordsworth's *Lines Composed a Few Miles above Tintern Abbey*.



Features of Romanticism

7. Themes of Melancholy and Mortality

Many Romantic poets expressed a fascination with death, loss, and the fleeting nature of life, often blending these themes with beauty and reflection.

8. Focus on the Individual and Subjectivity

The poet's personal thoughts and feelings take precedence. Themes often explore the self solitude, and the individual's connection to the universe.



Features of Romanticism

9. Freedom of Form and Style

Romantic poets rejected the strict rules of classical poetry, experimenting with forms and structures.

They favored lyric poetry for its personal and emotional expression.

10. Critique of Industrialization

Romantic poets were critical of the industrial revolution, which they saw as a force alienating humanity from nature and spiritual fulfillment.



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5th Semester

Romantic Poets and their Ideals

Week-2, Slide: 30-38

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Notable Romantic Poets



William Blake: Focus social injustice, human innocence and experience

William Wordsworth: Focused on nature and emotion (*I Wandered Lonely as a Cloud*).

Samuel Taylor Coleridge: Known for supernatural and mystical themes
(*Kubla Khan*).

John Keats: Celebrated beauty and explored mortality (*Ode to a
Nightingale*).

Percy Bysshe Shelley: Advocated for personal freedom and rebellion
(*Ozymandias*).

Lord Byron: Romantic hero and themes of passion and adventure



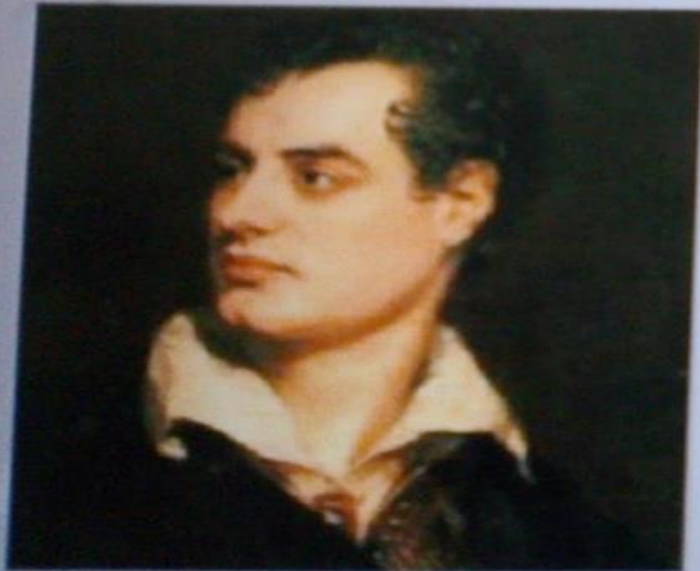
William Blake



Percy Bysshe Shelley



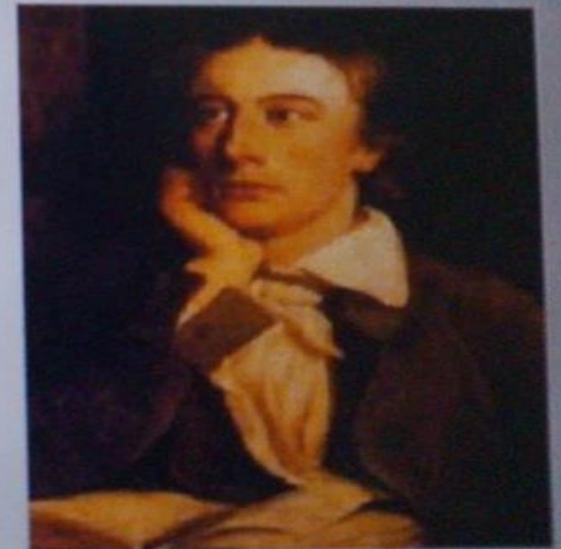
Samuel Taylor Coleridge



George Gordon, Lord Byron



William Wordsworth



John Keats

First Generation (Early Romanticism)

Time Period: Late 18th century to early 19th century
(approximately 1789–1820)

Key Features:

Focus on Nature: Nature is idealized as a source of spiritual and moral guidance. Poets often depicted its beauty and tranquility.

Ordinary Life and Language: Poets celebrated common people and rural life, using simple, accessible language (e.g., Wordsworth).

Rebellion Against Tradition: This phase marked a conscious departure from the rigid structures of Neoclassicism and Enlightenment rationality.



First Generation (Early Romanticism)

Time Period: Late 18th century to early 19th century
(approximately 1789–1820)

Key Features:

Philosophical Reflections: The poetry often explored deep philosophical ideas, such as the connection between humanity and the natural world.

Major Writers:

William Wordsworth: Emphasized nature, emotion, and the beauty of ordinary life (*Tintern Abbey*, *I Wandered Lonely as a Cloud*).

Samuel Taylor Coleridge: Incorporated the supernatural and mystical (*The Rime of the Ancient Mariner*, *Kubla Khan*).

Robert Burns: Celebrated Scottish rural life and folk traditions (*To a Mouse*).

William Blake: Blended spirituality, mysticism, and social criticism (*Songs of Innocence and Experience*).

Second Generation (Later Romanticism) Time Period: **Early 19th century to mid-19th century (approximately 1820–1850)**

Key Features:

- 1. Individualism and Passion:** Later Romantic poets were more focused on intense emotions, personal freedom, and the rebellious spirit.
- 2. Fascination with the Supernatural and Exotic:** These poets often explored themes of mystery, adventure, and the sublime.
- 3. Themes of Mortality and Transience:** Their works frequently reflected a melancholic tone, exploring themes of mortality, beauty, and the fleeting nature of life.

Second Generation (Later Romanticism) Time Period: **Early 19th century to mid-19th century (approximately 1820–1850)**

Key Features:

4. Political Radicalism and Social Critique: Poets like Shelley expressed revolutionary ideals and challenged social norms.

Major Writers:

Lord Byron: Famous for the Byronic hero—passionate, rebellious, and flawed (Childe Harold's Pilgrimage, Don Juan).

Percy Bysshe Shelley: Advocated for liberty, idealism, and the power of imagination (Ozymandias, Prometheus Unbound).

John Keats: Focused on beauty, art, and the transient nature of life (Ode to a Nightingale, To Autumn).

Comparison with previous age:

Themes: The first generation was more grounded in nature and rural life, while the second generation emphasized passion, imagination, and the exotic.

Tone: The first generation was contemplative and serene, while the second generation was intense, dynamic, and often melancholic.

Style: Later Romantics were more experimental in form and style, delving into personal, philosophical, and political themes

Aspect	Neoclassicism	Romanticism
Time Period	1660–1780	1780–1850
Focus	Reason, logic, order	Emotion, imagination, nature
Philosophy	Tradition and societal ideals	Individualism and personal freedom
Themes	Universal truths, morality, decorum	Nature, emotion, the sublime, the supernatural
Nature	Controlled and idealized	Revered as spiritual and inspiring
Style	Structured, formal	Free, experimental



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5th Semester

William Blake's poetry

Week-3, Slide: 40-50

Md. Ziaul Haque

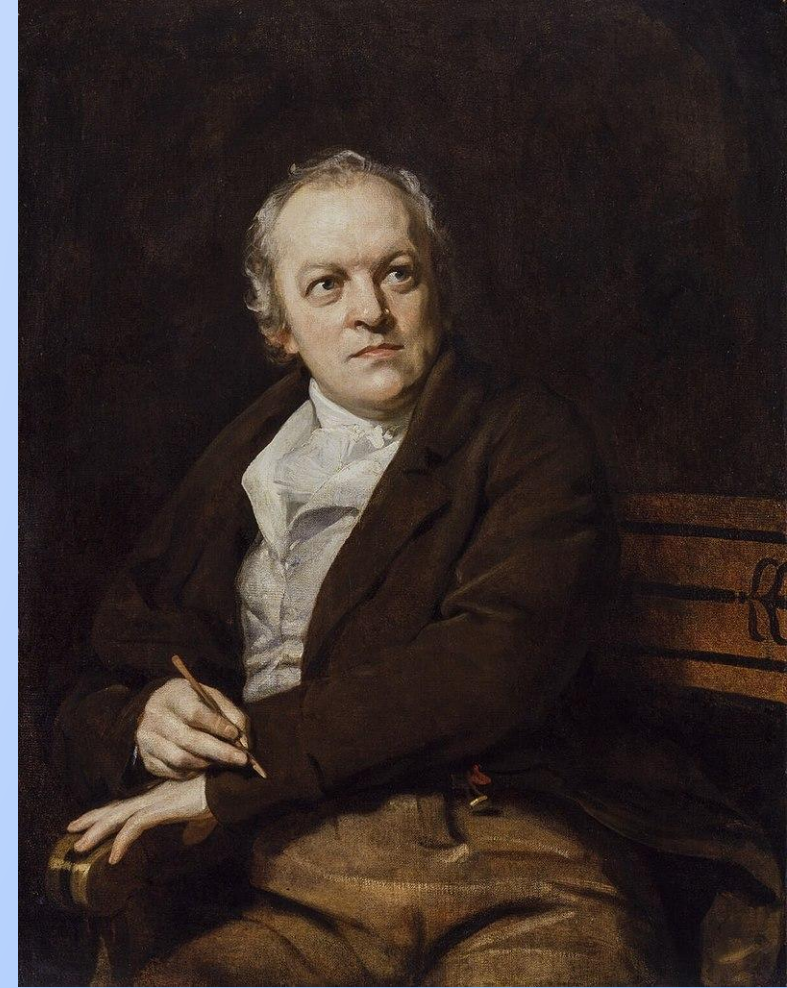
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William Blake

William Blake (28 November 1757 – 12 August 1827) was an English printmaker, painter and poet. Largely unrecognized during his lifetime, Blake is now considered a seminal figure in the history of the poetry and visual arts of the Romantic Age. He saw the arts in all their forms as offering insights into the metaphysical world and his broader aims were primarily theological and philosophical.



The Lamb

Little Lamb who made thee
Dost thou know who made thee
Gave thee life & bid thee feed,
By the stream & o'er the mead;
Gave thee clothing of delight,
Softest clothing wooly bright;
Gave thee such a tender voice,
Making all the vales rejoice;
Little Lamb who made thee
Dost thou know who made thee

Little Lamb I'll tell thee,
Little Lamb I'll tell thee;
He is called by thy name,
For he calls himself a Lamb:
He is meek & he is mild,
He became a little child:
I a child & thou a lamb,
We are called by his name.
Little Lamb God bless thee.
Little Lamb God bless thee.



Key points of the poem

The poem explores themes that reflect the simplicity and purity of childhood as well as spiritual and theological ideas. Below are the key points of its themes:

- 1. Innocence and Purity:** The lamb symbolizes the innocence and purity of childhood. The gentle tone and childlike simplicity of the poem mirror the untainted nature of children.
- 2. Creation and Divine Presence:** The poem reflects on the act of creation, asking the lamb who made it. It emphasizes that the Creator (God) imbued the lamb with its gentleness and innocence, linking it to divine grace.
- 3. Christ as the Lamb:** The lamb is a symbol of Jesus Christ, often referred to as the "Lamb of God" in Christian theology. The poem draws parallels between the physical lamb and Christ's qualities of meekness, selflessness, and purity.

Key points of the poem

4. Harmony in Nature: The poem celebrates the unity between the Creator, nature, and its creations. The lamb's existence is portrayed as harmonious with the natural world, reflecting a divine order.

5. Duality with The Tyger

As part of Blake's broader work, *Songs of Innocence and Experience*, "*The Lamb*" contrasts with "*The Tyger*" (from Songs of Experience).

While "*The Lamb*" symbolizes innocence and divine love, "*The Tyger*" explores themes of power, experience, and the complexity of creation.

6. Childlike Faith

The speaker (possibly a child) demonstrates a pure and unquestioning faith in the Creator.

The simple language and repetitive structure reinforce the theme of a child's wonder and trust.

Summary of Themes:

Innocence and purity

Creation and divine love

Christ and spiritual symbolism

Harmony in nature

Contrasts with experience

Blake uses "The Lamb" to highlight the beauty of innocence and the presence of divine love in both humanity and nature.

Tyger Tyger, burning bright,
In the forests of the night;
What immortal hand or eye,
Could frame thy fearful symmetry?

In what distant deeps or skies.
Burnt the fire of thine eyes?
On what wings dare he aspire?
What the hand, dare seize the fire?

And what shoulder, & what art,
Could twist the sinews of thy heart?
And when thy heart began to beat.
What dread hand? & what dread feet?

What the hammer? what the chain,
In what furnace was thy brain?
What the anvil? what dread grasp.
Dare its deadly terrors clasp?

When the stars threw down their spears
And water'd heaven with their tears:

Tiger Tiger

*Tiger Tiger, burning bright,
In the forests of the night;
What immortal hand or eye,
Could frame thy fearful symmetry ?*

*In what distant deeps or skies
Burnt the fire of thine eyes ?
On what wings dare he aspire ?
What the hand, dare seize the fire ?*

*And what shoulder, & what art,
Could twist the sinews of thy heart ?
And when thy heart began to beat
What dread hand ? & what dread feet ?*

*What the hammer ? what the chain,
In what furnace was thy brain ?
What the anvil ? what dread grasp,
Dare its deadly terrors clasp ?*

*When the stars threw down their spears
And water'd heaven with their tears:
Did he smile his work to see ?
Did he who made the Lamb make thee ?*

*Tiger Tiger burning bright,
In the forests of the night;
What immortal hand or eye,
Dare frame thy fearful symmetry ?*



Did he smile his work to see?
Did he who made the Lamb make thee?
Tyger Tyger burning bright,
In the forests of the night:
What immortal hand or eye,
Dare frame thy fearful symmetry?

Summary

The Tyger by William Blake yields many interpretations. However, its strong, resonating rhyming drives the key concept in the reader's mind efficiently.

'The Tyger' by William Blake slowly and gradually leads to some troubling questions.

The poet asks the tiger about its creator and his traits. Each stanza poses specific questions with a vague subject in consideration.

The poem primarily questions the existence of God and his metaphysical attributes, referring to the tiger's multiple corporeal characteristics as purely a work of art.

The poet wonders how the creator would have felt after completing his

Summary

In *'The Tyger'*, Blake creates a mesmerizing duality, making us question creation itself. For me, the tiger symbolizes both beauty and terror—nature's power, framed as something majestic yet unsettling.

Blake's choice to contrast this “fearful symmetry” with *'The Lamb'* suggests that creation isn't purely gentle or purely violent but intertwined with both qualities. I'm struck by Blake's imagery of fire, hammer, and anvil, evoking industrial power as both progressive and destructive.

The repeated question, “*Did he who made the lamb make thee?*” drives home a haunting inquiry: can a creator embody both innocence and ferocity in equal measure?

A Devine image

Cruelty has a human heart,
And Jealousy a human face;
Terror the human form divine,
And Secresy the human dress.

The human dress is forged iron,
The human form a fiery forge,
The human face a furnace sealed,
The human heart its hungry gorge.

The Devine image

TO Mercy, Pity, Peace, and Love
All pray in their distress;
And to these virtues of delight
Return their thankfulness.

For Mercy, Pity, Peace, and Love
Is God, our Father dear,
And Mercy, Pity, Peace, and Love
Is man, His child and care.

For Mercy has a human heart,
Pity a human face,
And Love, the human form divine,
And Peace, the human dress.

Then every man, of every clime,
That prays in his distress,
Prays to the human form divine,
Love, Mercy, Pity, Peace.

And all must love the human form,
In heathen, Turk, or Jew;
Where Mercy, Love, and Pity dwell
There God is dwelling too.

Central Idea of the poem

1. Virtues as Divine Qualities

The poem emphasizes four virtues—**Mercy, Pity, Peace, and Love**—as the essence of both God and humanity.

These virtues are portrayed as divine attributes embodied in human nature, bridging the connection between God and mankind.

2. Unity of God and Man

Blake suggests that God resides within humans through these virtues, presenting the idea of divinity being accessible and inherent in everyone.

Humanity becomes a reflection of the divine, highlighting a reciprocal relationship between God and man.

3. Universal Brotherhood

The poem advocates for universal love and compassion, suggesting that all humans, regardless of race, creed, or nation, share the same divine qualities.

This theme promotes the idea of global unity and equality.

Central Idea of the poem

4. Innocence and Idealism

As part of *Songs of Innocence*, the poem reflects an optimistic and idealistic view of humanity, emphasizing the potential for goodness in every individual.

5. Moral Guidance

Blake suggests that practicing Mercy, Pity, Peace, and Love is the way to live in harmony with divine principles.

These virtues serve as moral guidelines for a virtuous and fulfilling life.

6. Contrast with "The Human Abstract"

"*The Divine Image*" contrasts with its counterpart, "*The Human Abstract*", from **Songs of Experience**, where virtues are depicted as distorted by selfishness and societal corruption.

Together, these poems explore the duality of innocence and experience in human nature.



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5th Semester

William Wordsworth's poetry

Week-4, Slide: 52-60

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William Wordsworth

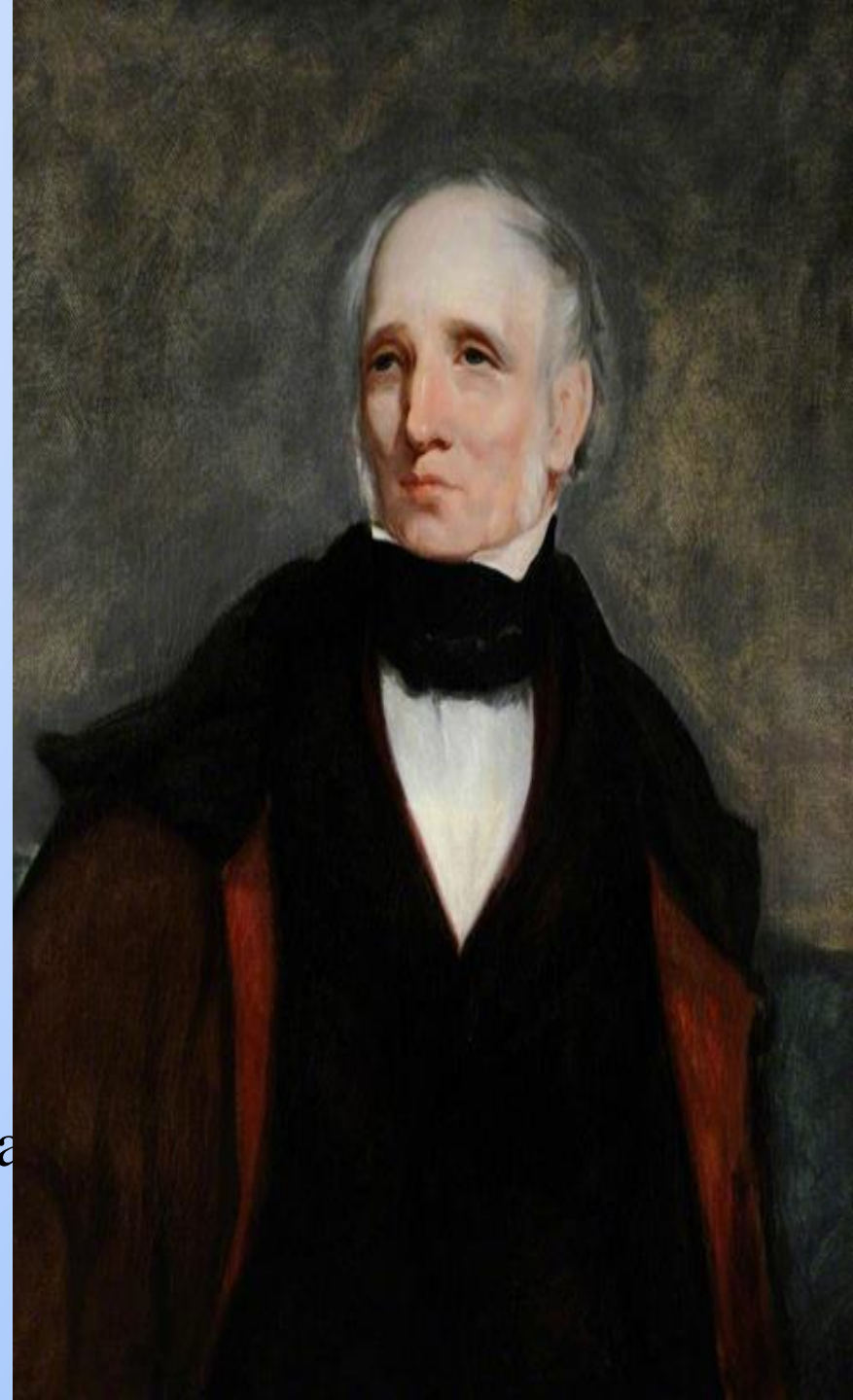
William Wordsworth was an English Romantic poet who, with Samuel Taylor Coleridge, helped to launch the Romantic Age in English literature with their joint publication *Lyrical Ballads*.

Born: April 7, 1770, Cockermouth, United Kingdom

Died: April 23, 1850 (age 80 years),

Rydal Mount and Gardens, Rydal, United Kingdom

Influenced by: Samuel Taylor Coleridge, William Shakespeare



Wordsworth and Lyrical Ballads

William Wordsworth's contributions to *Lyrical Ballads* (1798), co-authored with Samuel Taylor Coleridge, played a pivotal role in shaping Romantic poetry and redefining the literary landscape.

Purpose of *Lyrical Ballads*

Wordsworth sought to move away from the rigid, formal conventions of Neoclassical poetry. The collection aimed to depict ordinary life and emotions in simple, accessible language.

Wordsworth and *Lyrical Ballads*:

Preface to *Lyrical Ballads* (1800 Edition)

Wordsworth wrote the famous preface to the second edition, outlining his poetic philosophy. He described poetry as "the spontaneous overflow of powerful feelings" arising from "emotion recollected in tranquility."

He emphasized the importance of portraying common people, rural life, and everyday experiences.

Wordsworth and Lyrical Ballads

Key Poems by Wordsworth in *Lyrical Ballads*

"Tintern Abbey": Explores memory, nature, and the passage of time, reflecting Wordsworth's philosophy of nature's enduring influence.

"We Are Seven": Depicts a child's innocent perception of death and highlights the Romantic ideal of childhood.

"Lines Written in Early Spring": Celebrates the harmony of nature while lamenting humanity's disconnection from it.

Wordsworth focused on depicting ordinary life and rural settings, while Coleridge explored supernatural and mystical themes (e.g., "*The Rime of the Ancient Mariner*").

Together, they balanced the real and the imaginative, a hallmark of Romanticism.

Collaboration with Coleridge

Influence on Romantic Poetry

Lyrical Ballads marked the beginning of the Romantic movement in English literature. Wordsworth's focus on individual emotions, nature, and simplicity became central to Romanticism. The collection rejected the Neoclassical emphasis on reason and order, instead celebrating imagination, intuition, and individuality.

Key Themes in Wordsworth's Contributions to Lyrical Ballads:

Nature and spirituality: Nature as a moral teacher and source of emotional growth. Childhood and innocence: The purity and wisdom of childhood experiences.

Ordinary life:

Depiction of everyday people and rural life with dignity and significance. Emotion over intellect: Emphasis on feelings and personal experiences.

Dorothy Wordsworth

Dorothy Wordsworth was William Wordsworth's closest confidante and an important figure in his life. She was a keen observer of nature and shared a deep connection with her brother, often accompanying him on walks and sharing her own reflections on the landscapes they encountered. Dorothy's journals and letters provide valuable insight into the nature of their relationship and the inspiration behind much of William's work.

Her observations of the natural world and her thoughts about life in the Lake District often influenced William's poems. In her diary entries, Dorothy expressed profound thoughts on the natural world, and her writings often reflect a deep emotional and spiritual bond with nature, which influenced William's own poetic vision.



Dorothy's Influence on Wordsworth's Poetry:

Dorothy's vivid descriptions of nature, her reflective journals, and the shared walks they took are seen as foundational to many of Wordsworth's ideas about nature and the poetic imagination. It is often believed that Dorothy's own diaries, particularly her observations of the countryside and her intimate reflections on everyday life, were a direct influence on William's more well-known works.

Wordsworth's Poetic Reflections on Nature

The Wye River, and more generally the Lake District, was central to Wordsworth's vision of nature as a source of solace, inspiration, and spiritual renewal. Wordsworth's poetry emphasizes the idea that nature is not just an external environment but an internal force that shapes human emotions and thoughts. In "*Tintern Abbey*," he describes how the natural landscape provides him with comfort and guidance, offering a way to reconnect with his past self and evolve spiritually.

The Wye River

The Wye River is located in the borderlands between England and Wales, and it holds particular significance in Wordsworth's poetry, especially his poem "Lines Written a Few Miles Above Tintern Abbey". In the summer of 1798, Wordsworth and Dorothy traveled to the Wye Valley, where they spent time exploring the natural beauty of the region. This trip inspired many of Wordsworth's works, including the famous "Tintern Abbey. " "Lines Written a Few Miles Above Tintern Abbey" reflects Wordsworth's experience of returning to the Wye River area after five years. The poem meditates on the passage of time, the changing relationship with nature, and the power of memory. Dorothy's influence is evident in how Wordsworth reflects on their shared experiences and the impact of nature on the soul.



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Credit: Tony Murtagh

Wye River and Dorothy and Tintern Abbey

"Tintern Abbey" (officially titled Lines Written a Few Miles Above Tintern Abbey) is one of William Wordsworth's most famous poems, reflecting his deep connection to nature, memory, and personal experience. The poem is directly tied to the Wye River and Dorothy Wordsworth, and their roles in shaping Wordsworth's reflections on time and the natural world are significant. Here's how these elements interconnect:

1. The Wye River and Tintern Abbey. The Wye River flows through the Wye Valley, which stretches along the border between England and Wales. Wordsworth visited the region several times and took a particular trip in 1798, which inspired "Tintern Abbey." Tintern Abbey, a historic ruin on the banks of the Wye River, serves as the central image in the poem. It is a place where Wordsworth had once visited five years earlier, and now, he returns to it with his memories of the past shaping his experience

Wye River and Dorothy and Tintern Abbey

Tintern Abbey" and the Wye River

In the poem, the **Wye River** is not just a scenic backdrop, but a symbol of continuity and change. Wordsworth reflects on how the landscape has remained largely the same, yet his perception of it has evolved over time. He returns to the river after five years and notes how his relationship with nature has deepened. While in the past, he experienced nature primarily through physical presence and sensory pleasure, now he engages with it through memory and inner vision. This shift in perspective reflects the passage of time and the changes it brings to a person's emotional and spiritual life.

Dorothy's Role in the Poem

In the closing lines of "*Tintern Abbey*," Wordsworth expresses his hope that the beauty and serenity of the natural world will have a lasting effect on his sister Dorothy, just as it has had on him. He imagines that she will also find solace and spiritual sustenance from the landscape in their shared connection with nature.

Dorothy is seen as a key part of Wordsworth's reflections, and he anticipates that she will continue to find peace in nature as they grow older together.



Course Title: The Romantic Poets

Course Code: ENG-0232-3118

5th Semester

Tintern Abbey by Wordsworth

Week-5, Slide: 62-68

Md. Ziaul Haque

**Associate Professor and Head
Department of English, UGV**



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Credit: Tatyana Davydova

Tintern Abbey

1. The Setting

The poem is set near **Tintern Abbey**, a medieval ruin located on the banks of the **River Wye** in the borderland between England and Wales. The poet first visited the area five years earlier and returns to it in the poem. The physical setting—the natural landscape surrounding the Abbey—serves as the backdrop for his reflections on the passage of time and the power of nature.

First name of the poem

**Lines Composed a Few Miles above Tintern Abbey,
On Revisiting the Banks of the Wye during a Tour.**

July 13, 1798



Tintern Abbey

2. Reflection on Memory and Time

The central theme of the poem is the **relationship between memory and nature**. Wordsworth reflects on how his earlier, more physical engagement with nature has evolved into a more spiritual, emotional, and reflective relationship. In his youth, he experienced nature with enthusiasm and physical vigor. However, after five years of absence, he revisits the same landscape and recalls his earlier feelings, realizing that his connection to nature has deepened over time. He contrasts his youthful, passionate perception of nature with his more mature understanding of its role in providing solace, peace, and spiritual renewal.

3. Nature as a Source of Spiritual Comfort

Nature is portrayed as a **source of solace, healing, and spiritual nourishment**. Wordsworth believes that nature is not just a physical phenomenon, but a **moral and spiritual teacher** that can shape the human soul.

The poem suggests that nature's influence remains constant even as the poet ages, and it continues to offer emotional and spiritual sustenance. For Wordsworth, nature is a source of wisdom and strength, and it plays a central role in his philosophy of life.

The Three Stages of Life in *Tintern Abbey*

Youth (Active, Sensory Engagement): Wordsworth's youthful engagement with nature is characterized by a physical, instinctive connection. Nature is experienced as something that brings immediate joy and excitement.

Mature Reflection (Memory and Spirituality): As an adult, Wordsworth returns to the same natural landscape and reflects on how his relationship with nature has deepened. The joy of nature is now experienced through memory, reflection, and spiritual connection.

Hope for the Future (Legacy and Peace): In the final stage, Wordsworth looks ahead with hope, desiring that nature's calming and spiritual influence will continue to provide peace and solace for himself and his sister in the years to come.

These stages reflect Wordsworth's evolving understanding of nature, from physical enjoyment to reflective spirituality and a lasting connection that transcends time.

Man and Nature relation in Tintern Abbey

In "*Tintern Abbey*," William Wordsworth explores the relationship between **man and nature** through various stages, emphasizing its transformative power.

Nature as a Source of Initial Joy:

In his youth, Wordsworth experienced nature with intense sensory pleasure, seeing it as a source of joy, freedom, and vitality.

The natural world was primarily **a physical experience** that provided immediate satisfaction.

"I bounded o'er the mountains... / Wherever nature led."

Nature as a Spiritual and Emotional Nourishment:

Over time, Wordsworth's relationship with nature evolves into something more profound. Nature becomes **a source of spiritual sustenance**, offering comfort and emotional support. Nature helps him maintain inner peace and offers solace in difficult times.

"Nature never did betray / The heart that loved her."

Man and Nature relation in Tintern Abbey

Memory as a Bridge Between Past and Present:

Wordsworth relies on his **memories of nature** to provide guidance and support, even when he is not physically in nature. His earlier experiences with nature have become an integral part of his inner life, and he draws strength from these memories.

"These were my choicest dreams... / And now with joy I see..."

Imagination as the Key to Nature's Lasting Impact:

Through **imagination**, Wordsworth maintains a deep connection to nature even after leaving it behind physically. Nature's influence continues through his **inner vision**, even when the natural world is no longer in sight.

"With an eye made quiet by the power / Of harmony, and the deep power of joy..."

Nature as a Teacher and Moral Guide:

Nature is depicted as a moral teacher that shapes the soul and provides ethical guidance. Wordsworth sees nature as embodying divine truths, offering an ethical and spiritual model for humans to follow. Nature is both a refuge and a teacher, nurturing the human spirit and providing a deeper sense of connection to the divine.

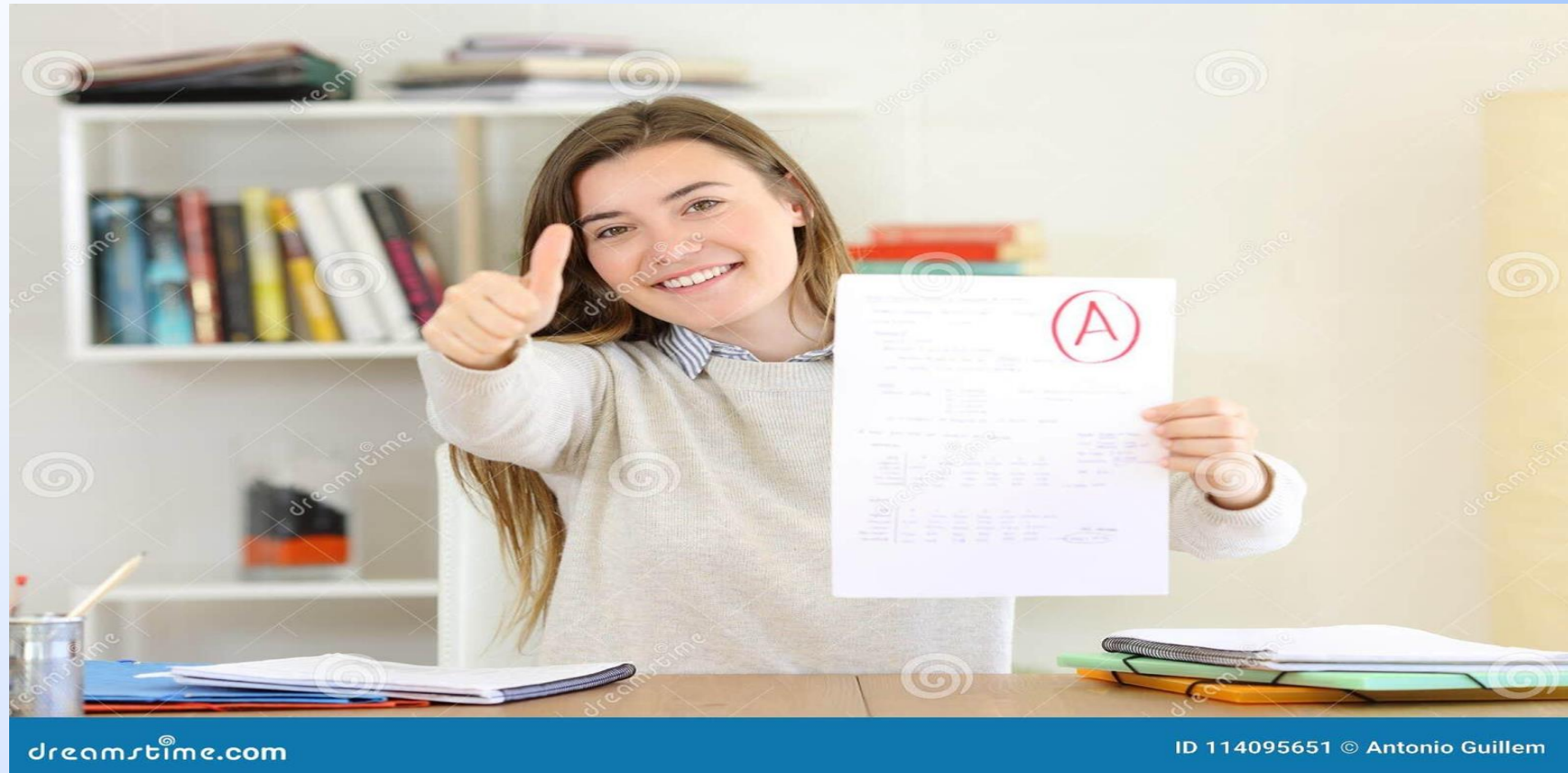
Nature's Timeless Influence:

Nature's influence is seen as eternal and unchanging. The human experience changes over time, nature remains constant, providing a stable source of inspiration. Wordsworth contrasts the temporary nature of human life with the eternal, unchanging qualities of nature. "The landscape with the quiet of the sky.

"Hope for Future Generations:

Wordsworth hopes that his sister, Dorothy, will continue to find solace and inspiration in nature as they grow older. He envisions nature as something that transcends time and provides peace for future generations. "I have learned / To look on nature..." Summary: In "Tintern Abbey," Wordsworth explores how nature plays a vital role in shaping human emotion, spirituality, and inner peace. Initially experienced as a source of joy and freedom, nature becomes, over time, a moral guide and a spiritual sustainer. Through memory and imagination, nature's influence remains constant, providing strength and comfort in both youth and old age. The relationship between man and nature in the poem is one of deep connection, renewal, and continuity across time.

Department of English, UGV
Course Title: The Romantic Poets
Course Code: ENG-0232-3118
5th Semester
Week-6



Class test, Presentation



Course Title: The Romantic Poets

Course Code: ENG-0232-3118

5th Semester

Immortality Ode by Wordsworth

Week-7, Slide: 70-79

Md. Ziaul Haque

**Associate Professor and Head
Department of English, UGV**



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Credit: Tatyana Davydova

Ode:
Intimations Of
Immortality From
Recollections Of Early
Childhood



William Wordsworth



Ode: Intimations of Immortality from Early Childhood" (commonly referred to as "Ode to Immortality")

This poem is one of William Wordsworth's most famous and profound poems. Written in 1804 and published in 1807, this poem reflects on the themes of memory, childhood, and the spiritual dimension of human experience. It expresses Wordsworth's belief in the idea of **immortality** and the **continuity of the soul**, as well as the power of childhood memories to connect us to higher, divine truths.

1. Personal Background

Written after the death of Wordsworth's parents: Wordsworth had faced significant personal loss by the time he wrote this ode. His **mother** passed away when he was just eight years old, and his **father** died when he was 13. The absence of his parents left him with a sense of spiritual and emotional longing.

Influence of Childhood Experience: Wordsworth often looked back to his childhood as a source of **innocence, purity**, and a closer connection to the **divine**. In his early years, he believed that children were closer to the spiritual world, with an intuitive understanding of the divine that adults lose over time.

Ode: Intimations of Immortality from Early Childhood" (commonly referred to as "Ode to Immortality")

Loss of Idealism in Adulthood: Wordsworth's adult life, marked by **disillusionment** and the struggles of age, led him to reflect on the purity and clarity of his childhood perceptions, particularly the sense of awe and wonder he once had about nature and life. The poem expresses his desire to recapture those "intimations" or glimpses of the divine that he felt in childhood.

2. The Influence of Romanticism

Wordsworth was a central figure in the **Romantic movement**, which emphasized emotion, nature, and the individual experience. In line with Romantic ideals, "**Ode to Immortality**" explores the idea that nature and childhood are vital sources of spiritual and emotional insight. The poem is also rooted in the Romantic belief in **the power of imagination**, as well as the belief that **children** possess a special connection to the divine or transcendent truths that adults lose as they grow older.

3. Thematic Exploration

Memory and the Loss of Innocence: A central theme in the poem is the idea of **memory** and how it helps keep alive the connection to the spiritual and transcendent experiences of childhood. Wordsworth suggests that though we lose the direct experience of childhood innocence as we age, the memory of it continues to provide us with an “intimation” of something beyond the physical world.

Immortality and the Soul's Continuity: Wordsworth reflects on the belief in the **immortality of the soul**—the idea that our spiritual essence continues even after physical death. He explores the notion that, as children, humans are more in tune with this sense of immortality, and they carry it with them into adulthood through memory.

Nature as a Spiritual Teacher: Nature is seen as a powerful force that can lead one back to these divine “intimations.” Nature is viewed not only as a source of beauty and peace but as a reflection of the divine, helping the speaker reconnect with childhood experiences and with a larger spiritual reality.

Publication Context Written in 1804:

The poem was written in the early 1800s, during a period of personal reflection and philosophical inquiry for Wordsworth. It was published in 1807 in the collection titled *Poems in Two Volumes*, where it received both praise and some criticism for its spiritual and metaphysical content. Revisions: Wordsworth revised the poem in 1815, further developing his ideas about memory and the afterlife, making the poem even more reflective and philosophical.

Conclusion: "Ode to Immortality" is a deeply spiritual and philosophical work that blends Romanticism's reverence for nature and childhood with an exploration of memory, the continuity of the soul, and the divine. Wordsworth's reflections on the loss of innocence and his hope to reconnect with the purity and insight of childhood resonate with the Romantic belief in the power of imagination and nature as pathways to spiritual enlightenment.

Immortality in spiritual and philosophical sense.

The poem explores the idea that there is a connection between the **human soul** and an eternal, divine essence, which is more accessible in **childhood** and gradually fades as one ages. However, Wordsworth suggests that the **memory** of this divine connection can continue to provide **spiritual guidance** throughout life. Below are the key aspects of the theme of **immortality** in the poem:

1. Childhood as a Time of Spiritual Clarity

Wordsworth believed that **children** are more attuned to the **spiritual realm** and have a clearer connection to the divine or immortal essence. He refers to childhood as a time when the soul is closest to its **pre-existence** or **immortal state**, before it becomes bound by the physical world. In the poem, the speaker reflects on the "**intimations of immortality**" that he felt as a child. These are fleeting, yet profound moments of connection to a higher, eternal truth, which children experience naturally but adults gradually lose as they grow older.

2. Loss of the Direct Experience of Immortality in Adulthood

As the speaker grows older, he feels a **loss** of the direct, **innocent perception** of immortality that he experienced in childhood. The clarity and vividness of the child's connection to the divine world begin to fade with age, and adulthood brings a sense of **spiritual distance** from that experience. The poem reflects this **loss of innocence** and the yearning for a return to the purity and wonder of

2. Loss of the Direct Experience of Immortality in Adulthood

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The poem reflects this **loss of innocence** and the yearning for a return to the purity and wonder of childhood.

3. The Role of Memory in Preserving Immortality

Despite the fading of direct access to immortality in adulthood, Wordsworth argues that **memory** preserves these "intimations of immortality." The memory of the spiritual experiences and the sense of divine presence from childhood can continue to guide the adult.

Wordsworth suggests that while the **direct experience** of immortality may be lost, the **power of memory** allows the adult to access glimpses of that divine connection. In this way, the soul's continuity and its connection to the eternal remain intact.

4. The Role of Nature in Reconnecting with Immortality

Nature plays a central role in the poem as a **source of spiritual renewal**. Wordsworth believes that nature can help restore the lost sense of immortality, as it reflects the divine and eternal order. By observing the natural world, the poet is able to reconnect with the **transcendent** and **immortal** aspects of existence. The beauty and majesty of nature become symbols of the **divine presence** that exists beyond the physical world, and they offer a way for the poet to access the deeper truths he once knew in childhood.

Nature: Source of spiritual renewal and Divinity



5. The Comfort of Immortality

As Wordsworth matures, he finds comfort in the thought that the **soul is immortal**. This belief helps him come to terms with the passage of time and the inevitable loss of youthful innocence. In adulthood, he acknowledges that while direct contact with the divine may be more difficult to feel, the **soul's immortality** provides a sense of peace and **spiritual assurance**.

The poem suggests that the **memory of childhood's spiritual clarity** continues to provide a sense of **hope**, even if the vividness of that experience is no longer accessible.

6. The Eternal Nature of the Soul

A key message of the poem is that the **soul is immortal** and **unchanging**, and its connection to the divine persists beyond the physical changes of life. Wordsworth suggests that the **immortal soul** retains a link to the divine realm, even as the body ages and the mind loses its earlier clarity.

The soul's connection to the divine is a **fundamental part of human existence**, and this link transcends the physical world and the passage of time.

Themes of Immortality in the Ode

Childhood's Connection to the Divine: Wordsworth believes children experience a closer connection to immortality and spiritual truths than adults.

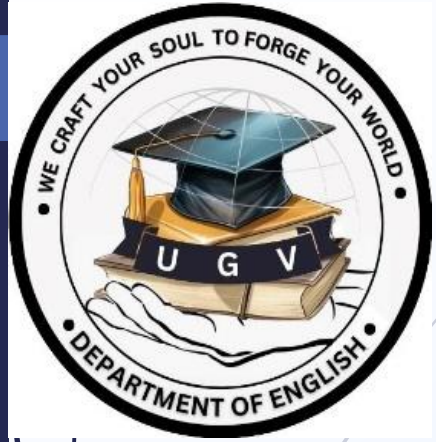
Loss and Longing: As people grow older, they lose direct access to this spiritual awareness, but the memory of it remains a source of guidance.

Memory as a Bridge: The power of memory helps adults retain "intimations" of immortality and keep in touch with the divine essence.

Nature's Role: Nature helps restore the spiritual connection to the immortal, offering glimpses of the eternal.

Comfort in Immortality: The poem reflects on how the idea of the soul's immortality provides solace and hope, even as one ages.

The Continuity of the Soul: Ultimately, Wordsworth emphasizes that the soul is eternal, and its connection to the divine persists beyond the physical world.



Department of English, UGV
Course Title: The Romantic Poets
Course Code: ENG-0232-3118
5th Semester
Week-8
(Slide 81- 86)

Samuel Taylor Coleridge

Samuel Taylor Coleridge

Samuel Taylor Coleridge was an English poet, literary critic, philosopher, and theologian who was a founder of the Romantic Movement in England and a member of the Lake Poets with his friend William Wordsworth. He also shared volumes and collaborated with Charles Lamb, Robert Southey, and Charles Lloyd.

Born: October 21, 1772, Ottery Saint Mary, United Kingdom

Died: July 25, 1834 Highgate, London, United Kingdom

Influenced by: William Shakespeare, John Milton, Immanuel Kant

Siblings: James Coleridge, Francis Coleridge, Edward Coleridge.

Children: Hartley Coleridge, Sara Coleridge, Derwent Coleridge, Berkeley Coleridge



Rime of the Ancient Mariner



Rime of the Ancient Mariner

This poem is a celebrated poem written by Samuel Taylor Coleridge, first published in 1798 as part of the collection *Lyrical Ballads*, co-authored with William Wordsworth. It is a foundational work of English Romantic poetry and showcases themes of nature, guilt, redemption. It is Coleridge's one of the most famous narrative poems in English literature. The poem stands as a hallmark of Romanticism, with its emphasis on emotion, imagination, the supernatural, and the natural world, and the supernatural.

"The Rime of the Ancient Mariner" begins with an old sailor (the Ancient Mariner) stopping a wedding guest to recount his harrowing tale. The Mariner describes a sea voyage where his ship, initially blessed by a guiding albatross, faces disaster after he shoots the bird. This act brings misfortune to the ship and its crew, as supernatural forces curse them. The crew dies, leaving the Mariner alone to endure suffering and guilt. He wanders the seas, tormented by thirst, isolation, and ghostly visions.

The Mariner's curse begins to lift only after he appreciates the beauty of the sea creatures he once scorned. He prays, and the dead crew is supernaturally reanimated to sail the ship home. Upon reaching land, the Mariner confesses his tale to a holy hermit, and his penance is to forever wander, sharing his story as a warning.

The poem ends with the wedding guest, now "sadder and wiser," leaving with a newfound understanding of humanity's need to respect all life and live in harmony with nature.

Story of the Ancient Mariner

The Story of the Ancient Mariner is a haunting tale of adventure, sin, punishment, and redemption, narrated by the Ancient Mariner to a wedding guest. Below is a detailed account of the poem's story:

The Beginning: The Wedding Guest

The poem begins with an old, weathered sailor (the Ancient Mariner) stopping a guest on his way to a wedding. Despite the guest's reluctance, the Mariner compels him to listen to his tale with his mesmerizing gaze. The guest becomes entranced as the Mariner begins recounting his story.

The Voyage and the Albatross

The Mariner's tale begins with his ship departing on a long voyage. The journey initially goes smoothly until the ship is caught in a terrible storm that drives it southward to the icy, desolate regions of the Antarctic. Here, the crew encounters an albatross, a large seabird, which they view as a good omen. The bird follows the ship, and the ice begins to crack, allowing the vessel to move forward.

However, in an impulsive and senseless act, the Mariner shoots the albatross with his crossbow, killing it. The crew is initially horrified, recognizing the bird as a symbol of nature's harmony. They blame the Mariner for bringing bad luck upon them.

Story of the Ancient Mariner

The Curse

After the bird's death, the ship is cursed. The wind ceases, and the ship becomes stranded in the middle of a vast, lifeless sea. The sun blazes overhead, and the sailors suffer from extreme thirst. They begin to blame the Mariner for their plight, and in their anger, they hang the dead albatross around his neck as a mark of his guilt.

The situation grows worse as supernatural forces descend upon the ship. A ghostly vessel appears, carrying two figures: **Death** and **Life-in-Death**. They are casting dice for the souls of the sailors. Death wins the lives of the crew, while Life-in-Death claims the Mariner, condemning him to a fate worse than death—eternal suffering and isolation. One by one, the crew dies, leaving the Mariner alone on the ship, surrounded by their corpses.

The Turning Point:

The Mariner remains adrift, haunted by guilt and tormented by his loneliness. He cannot pray and feels completely abandoned. One night, as he gazes upon the sea, he notices the beauty of the water snakes (sea creatures) gliding through the waves. In a moment of spiritual awakening, he feels a sudden love and appreciation for the creatures. At this point, he is able to pray, and the albatross falls from his neck, symbolizing the lifting of part of his curse.

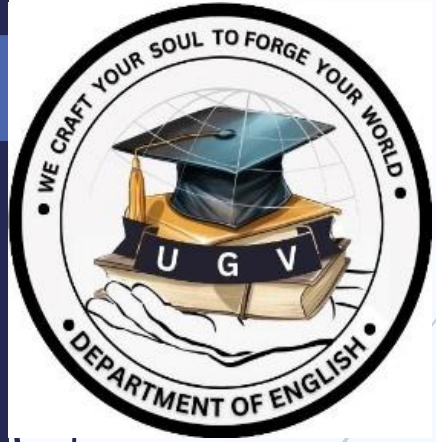
The Supernatural Redemption

Following his prayer, the Mariner begins to experience a series of supernatural events. The dead sailors rise, not as humans but as spirits, and they begin to crew the ship, which moves forward without the wind. The Mariner hears heavenly voices discussing his redemption, acknowledging that he has begun to atone for his sin. As the ship approaches his homeland, it is struck down by supernatural forces and sinks. The Mariner is saved by a small boat carrying a holy hermit, a pilot, and the pilot's boy. The hermit listens to the Mariner's confession, and the Mariner feels a sense of relief. However, the Mariner is not fully absolved. His punishment is to wander the earth, compelled to retell his story to those who need to hear it. The wedding guest is one such person, chosen by fate to hear the tale and learn its moral.

The story of the Ancient Mariner is a powerful allegory about humanity's relationship with nature, the consequences of sin, and the path to spiritual redemption. It blends adventure, the supernatural, and profound moral teachings, making it one of Coleridge's most enduring works.

The Moral of the Tale

The Mariner concludes by imparting a lesson: one must love and respect all of God's creatures because all life is interconnected. He states: "He prayeth well, who loveth well Both man and bird and beast." The wedding guest leaves, deeply moved by the story. He becomes "sadder and wiser," his perspective on life forever changed.



Department of English, UGV
Course Title: The Romantic Poets
Course Code: ENG-0232-3118
5th Semester
Week-9
(Slide 88- 93)
Samuel Taylor Coleridge

Rime of the Ancient Mariner Theme

The central themes of "**The Rime of the Ancient Mariner**" by Samuel Taylor Coleridge revolve around nature, spirituality, human responsibility, and redemption. These themes are woven throughout the poem, offering moral lessons and profound insights into humanity's relationship with the natural and spiritual world. Below are the primary themes:

1. Sin, Guilt, and Redemption: The Mariner's killing of the albatross symbolizes a grave sin against nature and the divine. This act disrupts the harmony of the world, bringing upon him guilt and suffering. His journey becomes a spiritual odyssey as he seeks redemption through penance and suffering. His ultimate salvation is found in understanding and respecting the sanctity of all life. Key Lesson: Redemption requires acknowledgment of one's sins, repentance, and a deeper appreciation of life's interconnectedness.

2. Respect for Nature: Nature is portrayed as a powerful, mystical force, interconnected with humanity and the divine. The albatross serves as a symbol of harmony with nature, and its death triggers chaos. The Mariner's curse is lifted only when he blesses the sea creatures, recognizing their beauty and worth. This shift reflects the Romantic belief in the sanctity of nature and its central role in human existence. Key Lesson: Humanity must respect and live in harmony with the natural world, as all life is interconnected and sacred.

Rime of the Ancient Mariner Theme

3. The Supernatural and the Divine: The poem is imbued with supernatural elements, such as the ghostly ship, the curse on the Mariner, and the spectral figures of Death and Life-in-Death. These elements reflect the Romantic fascination with the mysterious and the spiritual, emphasizing that unseen forces govern human lives and that transgressions against them have profound consequences. Key Lesson: The poem explores the presence of divine justice and the mysterious forces that balance human actions with consequences.

The Rime of the Ancient Mariner is a religious poetry

Sin and Transgression:

The Mariner's killing of the albatross symbolizes a sinful act against God's creation. His act disrupts the harmony between humanity, nature, and the divine.

Mankind: Way of Salvation



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Credit: shuang paul wang

The Rime of the Ancient Mariner is a religious poetry

Guilt and Consequences:

The Mariner faces severe consequences for his sin, including isolation, suffering, and the burden of guilt.

The albatross hung around his neck becomes a symbol of his sin and spiritual burden.

Divine Punishment and Justice:

The supernatural forces (Death and Life-in-Death) reflect divine justice, emphasizing that actions have spiritual consequences.

The prolonged suffering of the Mariner serves as a penance for his wrongdoing.

Redemption through Prayer:

The Mariner's turning point comes when he blesses the sea creatures and experiences genuine love and respect for God's creation.

His ability to pray after this moment signifies the beginning of his spiritual redemption.

Respect for God's Creation:

The poem emphasizes the sanctity of all life, reflecting the Christian belief in the divine presence within all creatures.

Key line: *“He prayeth best, who loveth best / All things both great and small.”*

4. Isolation and Alienation: The Mariner is condemned to isolation as punishment for his sin. Both physical (adrift at sea) and emotional (shunned by others), his isolation reflects the loneliness that comes with guilt. Even after his redemption, the Mariner remains an outcast, compelled to retell his story as a form of penance. Key Lesson: Alienation can be a consequence of sin, and reconciliation with the world requires an internal transformation.

5. Interconnectedness of All Life: The poem underscores the idea that all creatures, great and small, are part of a divine plan. This is expressed in the Mariner's newfound reverence for the sea creatures he once scorned. The Mariner's spiritual enlightenment comes when he recognizes the unity and beauty of all living things. Key Lesson: Respecting the interconnectedness of life leads to spiritual fulfillment and harmony.

6. Moral and Spiritual Growth: The Mariner's journey is not just physical but also psychological and spiritual. Through his suffering and penance, he gains a deeper understanding of himself, nature, and the divine. The poem teaches the importance of humility, reverence for life, and the consequences of one's actions. Key Lesson: True growth comes through learning from one's mistakes and recognizing higher truths.

7. The Power of Storytelling: The act of retelling his tale serves as a form of therapy and penance for the Mariner. It is also a way to pass on moral lessons to others, particularly the Wedding Guest, who leaves the encounter "sadder and wiser." The theme underscores the transformative power of storytelling in shaping moral understanding and evoking empathy.

Confession and Penance:

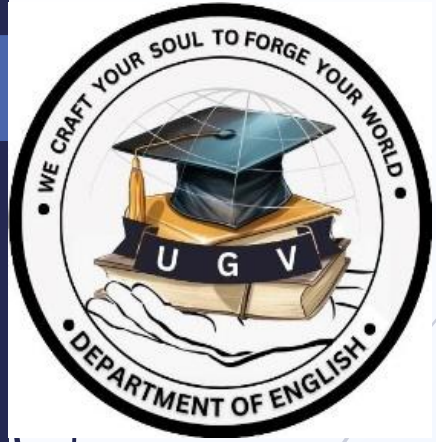
The Mariner's confession to the Hermit and his lifelong compulsion to retell his story reflect the Christian concepts of penance and repentance.

Sharing his tale serves as both a moral warning to others and a means of his own spiritual atonement.

Moral and Spiritual Enlightenment:

The Mariner gains deeper spiritual understanding through his suffering and redemption, aligning with the Christian journey toward salvation.

The poem ends with a moral lesson about love, respect, and harmony with all of God's creation.



Department of English, UGV
Course Title: The Romantic Poets
Course Code: ENG-0232-3118
5th Semester
Week-10
(Slide 95- 98)
Percy Bysshe Shelley

Percy Bysshe Shelley (4 August 1792 – 8 July 1822)

He was an English writer who is considered one of the major English Romantic poets. A radical in his poetry as well as in his political and social views, Shelley did not achieve fame during his lifetime, but recognition of his achievements in poetry grew steadily following his death.

He became an important influence on subsequent generations of poets, including Robert Browning, Charles Swinburne, Thomas Hardy, and W. B. Yeats.

American literary critic Harold Bloom describes him as "a super craftsman, a lyric poet without rival, and surely one of the most advanced sceptical intellects ever to write a poem



Ode to West wind

"Ode to the West Wind" by Percy Bysshe Shelley is a lyrical poem that celebrates the power and transformative potential of nature, personified in the West Wind. The poem consists of five stanzas, each exploring different aspects of the wind's influence on the natural world and the poet's inner thoughts.

1. The Wind as a Destroyer and Preserver

In the first stanza, the West Wind is described as both a destroyer and a preserver. It scatters dead leaves and seeds, symbolizing death and rebirth. The poet admires the wind's ability to bring about change, clearing away the old to make way for the new.

2. The Wind and the Sky

The second stanza focuses on the wind's impact on the sky. The wind drives clouds, which bring storms and rain, symbolizing chaos and the power of nature. The poet is in awe of the wind's strength, which can move even the vast heavens.



Ode to West wind

3. The Wind and the Sea: The third stanza shifts to the sea, where the wind creates waves and stirs the underwater life. The poet marvels at how the wind influences all elements of nature, from the earth to the sky and the ocean.

4. The Poet's Plea: In the fourth stanza, the poet expresses a personal longing to be as free and powerful as the wind. He wishes the wind could carry him, like leaves or clouds, and use him as an instrument to spread his ideas and emotions.

5. The Poet's Hope for Renewal: In the final stanza, the poet asks the wind to inspire and uplift him, comparing his words to scattered ashes and sparks. He envisions himself as a prophetic voice, calling for renewal and revolution. The famous concluding line, "*If Winter comes, can Spring be far behind?*" expresses hope for renewal and a brighter future.

Nature's Power: The wind is a force of destruction and renewal, symbolizing the cyclical nature of life.

Ode to West wind

Change and Transformation: The poem highlights the inevitability of change and the potential for new beginnings.

Art and Inspiration: The poet identifies with the wind's creative force, wishing to harness it for artistic and social renewal.

Optimism and Hope: The closing line reflects a belief in the cyclical nature of life, where hardship (winter) is followed by growth and renewal (spring).

West wind is Destroyer and preserver.

The West Wind in Shelley's "Ode to the West Wind" is a destroyer because it scatters dead leaves, clearing away decay and making space for new growth. It sweeps away the old and lifeless elements of nature. Simultaneously, it is a preserver because it carries seeds to fertile ground, planting the potential for new life to emerge in spring. This duality symbolizes the natural cycle of death and rebirth, where destruction becomes necessary for renewal and transformation.

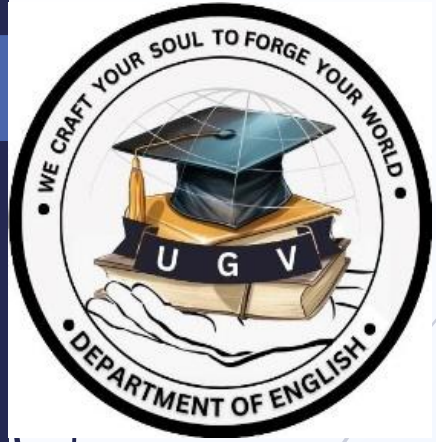
West wind is Destroyer and preserver.

Vision of prophecy: The vision of prophecy in Shelley's "*Ode to the West Wind*" emerges in the final stanzas, where the poet expresses a deep desire for the wind to use him as a vessel to spread his ideas and inspire change. Shelley envisions himself as a prophetic voice, calling for renewal and revolution in both nature and society. Key aspects of this vision include:

The Poet as a Harbinger of Change: Shelley wants the wind to scatter his words like "ashes and sparks," igniting transformation in people's minds. His vision is not just personal but universal, aiming to awaken humanity to new possibilities.

Symbolism of the Wind: The West Wind is seen as an agent of both destruction and renewal, symbolizing the power to sweep away outdated systems and plant the seeds of progress.

Hope for a Better Future: The prophetic vision culminates in the famous line, "*If Winter comes, can Spring be far behind?*" This expresses optimism for a brighter future, where the hardships of the present (winter) lead to renewal.



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5th Semester
Week-11
(Slide 100-105)
Percy Bysshe Shelley

To A Skylark

To a Skylark" is a poem completed by Percy Bysshe Shelley in late June 1820 and published accompanying his lyrical drama *Prometheus Unbound* by Charles and James Ollier in London.

It was inspired by an evening walk in the country near Livorno, Italy, with his wife Mary Shelley, and describes the appearance and song of a skylark they come upon. Mary Shelley described the event that inspired Shelley to write "To a Skylark": "In the Spring we spent a week or two near Leghorn (Livorno) ... It was on a beautiful summer evening while wandering among the lanes whose myrtle hedges were the powers of the fireflies, that we heard the carolling of the skylark."



To a Skylark is a lyric poem by Percy Bysshe Shelley, written in 1820. It celebrates the beauty, joy, and inspiration embodied by a skylark—a bird that soars high in the sky and sings melodiously. The poem uses the skylark as a symbol of poetic inspiration and an ideal of pure, unbounded joy. The poem consists of 21 stanzas and is addressed directly to the skylark. Shelley reflects on its song, flight, and the emotions it evokes, contrasting the bird's divine qualities with the limitations of human existence.

To a Skylark is a meditation on the nature of joy, creativity, and the transcendent power of inspiration. Shelley's longing to emulate the skylark's unbounded happiness and purity of expression reveals his romantic ideals of striving for beauty, truth, and spiritual elevation.

Key issues of the Poem

Skylark as a Divine Spirit:

Shelley begins by describing the skylark as a "blithe spirit" that soars high and sings, unseen but felt everywhere. The bird's presence seems ethereal, transcending the physical world.

Unbounded Joy:

The skylark's song represents pure, unadulterated joy. It is compared to a poet, a maiden in love, and a glow-worm, all of which reflect the bird's luminous and inspiring nature.

Symbol of Inspiration:

The skylark becomes a metaphor for artistic and creative inspiration. Its song is untainted by sorrow, unlike human art, which is often shaped by suffering and loss.

Contrasts Between the Skylark and Humans:

Shelley contrasts the skylark's joyous song with human life, which is filled with pain, sorrow, and unfulfilled desires. Humans' happiness is always mingled with sadness, unlike the bird's.

Desire for Understanding:

The poet longs to learn the secret of the skylark's pure joy and wishes for a similar ability to inspire humanity. He imagines that if humans could possess even a fragment of the skylark's happiness, their creativity and influence would be boundless.

Desire for Understanding:

transcendence: The skylark symbolizes the ideal of transcending earthly limitations and achieving a higher, spiritual form of existence.

Famous Lines

“Hail to thee, blithe Spirit! / Bird thou never wert.”

“We look before and after, / And pine for what is not.”

“Our sweetest songs are those that tell of saddest thought

Nature and Inspiration: The skylark, a creature of nature, serves as a source of inspiration for the poet, symbolizing the harmony and beauty found in the natural world.

Joy and Sorrow: The poem explores the contrast between the skylark's pure joy and the mingled joy and sorrow of human life.

Creativity and Idealism: Shelley presents the skylark as an ideal of creative perfection, inspiring the poet to transcend human limitations in his art.

Critical Commentary

If the West Wind was Shelley's first convincing attempt to articulate an aesthetic philosophy through metaphors of nature, the skylark is his greatest natural metaphor for pure poetic expression, the "harmonious madness" of pure inspiration. The skylark's song issues from a state of purified existence, a Wordsworthian notion of complete unity with Heaven through nature; its song is motivated by the joy of that uncomplicated purity of being, and is unmixed with any hint of melancholy or of the bittersweet, as human joy so often is.

The skylark's unimpeded song rains down upon the world, surpassing every other beauty, inspiring metaphor and making the speaker believe that the bird is not a mortal bird at all, but a "Spirit," a "sprite," a "poet hidden / In the light of thought."

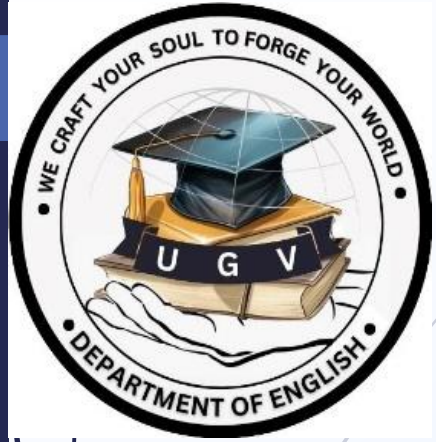
In that sense, the skylark is almost an exact twin of the bird in Keats's "Ode to a Nightingale"; both represent pure expression through their songs, and like the skylark, the nightingale "wast not born for death." But while the nightingale is a bird of darkness, invisible in the shadowy forest glades, the skylark is a bird of daylight, invisible in the deep bright blue of the sky.

Critical Commentary

The nightingale inspired Keats to feel “a drowsy numbness” of happiness that is also like pain, and that makes him think of death; the skylark inspires Shelley to feel a frantic, rapturous joy that has no part of pain. To Keats, human joy and sadness are inextricably linked, as he explains at length in the final stanza of the “Ode on Melancholy.” But the skylark sings free of all human error and complexity, and while listening to his song, the poet feels free of those things, too.

Structurally and linguistically, this poem is almost unique among Shelley’s works; its strange form of stanza, with four compact lines and one very long line, and its lilting, songlike diction (“profuse strains of unpremeditated art”) work to create the effect of spontaneous poetic expression flowing musically and naturally from the poet’s mind.

Structurally, each stanza tends to make a single, quick point about the skylark, or to look at it in a sudden, brief new light; still, the poem does flow, and gradually advances the mini-narrative of the speaker watching the skylark flying higher and higher into the sky, and envying its untrammelled inspiration—which, if he were to capture it in words, would cause the world to listen



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Week-12
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John Keats

John Keats

John Keats (31 October 1795 – 23 February 1821) was an English poet of the second generation of Romantic poets, along with Lord Byron and Percy Bysshe Shelley.

His poems had been in publication for less than four years when he died of tuberculosis at the age of 25. They were indifferently received in his lifetime, but his fame grew rapidly after his death. By the end of the century, he was placed in the canon of English literature, strongly influencing many writers of the Pre-Raphaelite Brotherhood; the *Encyclopædia Britannica* of 1888 called one ode "one of the final masterpieces".

Keats had a style "heavily loaded with sensualities", notably in the series of odes. Typically of the Romantics, he accentuated extreme emotion through natural imagery.



Ode to a Nightingale

John Keats



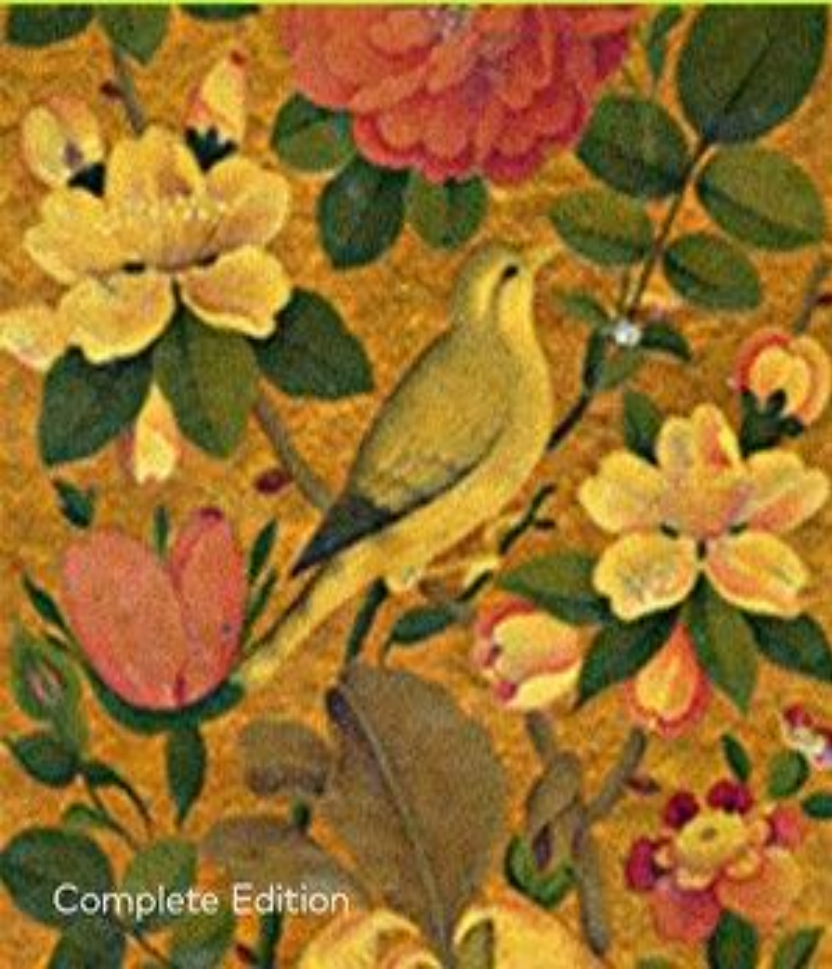
Ode to a Nightingale" is a poem by John Keats written either in the garden of the Spaniards Inn, Hampstead, London or, according to Keats' friend Charles Armitage Brown, under a plum tree in the garden of Keats' house at Wentworth Place, also in Hampstead.

According to Brown, a nightingale had built its nest near the house that he shared with Keats in the spring of 1819. Inspired by the bird's song, Keats composed the poem in one day. It soon became one of his 1819 odes and was first published in *Annals of the Fine Arts* the following July. The poem is one of the most frequently anthologized in the English language.

Ode to a Nightingale was written between 26 April and 18 May 1819, based on weather conditions and similarities between images in the poem and those in a letter sent to Fanny Brawne on May Day.

Ode to a **Nightingale**

John Keats



Complete Edition

The poem was composed at the Hampstead house Keats shared with Brown, possibly while sitting beneath a plum tree in the garden. According to Keats' friend Brown, Keats finished the ode in just one morning:

"In the spring of 1819 a nightingale had built her nest near my house. Keats felt a tranquil and continual joy in her song; and one morning he took his chair from the breakfast-table to the grass-plot under a plum-tree, where he sat for two or three hours. When he came into the house, I perceived he had some scraps of paper in his hand, and these he was quietly thrusting behind the books. On inquiry, I found those scraps, four or five in number, contained his poetic feelings on the song of the nightingale.

Brown's account is personal, as he claimed the poem was directly influenced by his house and preserved by his own doing.

The Poet's Despair and Longing: Keats opens the poem by expressing a feeling of numbness, as though he is overwhelmed by an intoxicating sadness. He envies the nightingale's carefree and eternal joy.

The Nightingale as a Symbol of Immortality: The bird's song represents timeless beauty and immortality, transcending the pains and struggles of human life. Keats contrasts the bird's eternal voice with his own mortal existence.

Desire for Escape: The poet longs to escape the burdens of life, such as suffering, aging, and death. He imagines fleeing through wine or the power of imagination to join the nightingale in its eternal realm.

Imaginative Flight: Through the power of his imagination, Keats temporarily escapes his earthly troubles and soars into an ideal world where he is free from sorrow.

Mortality and Transience: Despite the nightingale's seemingly eternal song, Keats reflects on the fleeting nature of human life. He contemplates death and considers it as a possible release, yet the bird's song reminds him of the enduring beauty of life.

The Eternal Song: The nightingale's song is portrayed as eternal, resonating across generations and connecting the present with the past. It becomes a symbol of the enduring power of art.

Return to Reality: As the nightingale flies away, its song fades, and Keats is left alone. He feels disoriented, unsure whether his experience was a dream or reality. The return to reality emphasizes the transience of human joy and imagination.

Themes

Mortality vs. Immortality: The nightingale represents immortality through its timeless song, while the poet is acutely aware of his own mortality and the inevitability of death.

Transcendence through Art and Imagination: Keats explores the idea that art (symbolized by the bird's song) can provide a temporary escape from life's sorrows and a glimpse of eternity.

Nature and Beauty: The nightingale symbolizes the beauty and purity of nature, offering solace and inspiration to the poet.

Fleeting Joy: The contrast between the bird's eternal joy and the poet's transient happiness reflects the bittersweet nature of human experience.

Conflict between Imagination and Reality in Ode To Nightingale

Imagination: The Realm of Escape

1.The Nightingale as a Symbol of Imagination: The nightingale's song represents an ideal, eternal beauty, untainted by the suffering and decay of human life. Its song allows Keats to momentarily escape from the realities of mortality, pain, and despair.

The poet longs to flee into the bird's world, wishing to transcend human limitations and exist in a state of pure joy and timelessness.

1.Imaginative Flight: Keats uses his imagination to transport himself to a dreamlike realm where he is free from life's burdens. Through wine ("the viewless wings of Poesy"), he seeks to escape to the bird's carefree existence, envisioning a utopia filled with lush nature and eternal beauty.

2.Temptation of Death: Keats's imaginative journey leads him to contemplate death, which he romanticizes as a peaceful release. In the presence of the nightingale's eternal song, death seems alluring and almost beautiful.

Conflict between Imagination and Reality in Ode To Nightingale

Reality: The Harshness of Human Existence

The Inevitability of Mortality: The poet is painfully aware of the brevity and suffering of human life. He contrasts the immortality of the bird's song with the transient joys and sorrows of human existence. His imagination provides only a temporary escape from the reality of aging, death, and despair.

Return to Reality: As the nightingale flies away, its song fades, and the poet is pulled back to the real world. The imaginative flight is fleeting, and he is left disoriented, wondering whether the experience was real or a dream.

Theme of Isolation

1. Emotional Isolation

- The poet begins by expressing a feeling of numbness and despair, saying his heart aches and his senses feel "drowsy numb."
- He contrasts his troubled human existence with the carefree joy of the nightingale, highlighting his alienation from happiness and vitality. His longing to escape life's sorrows reflects a sense of being trapped in the hardships of human existence.

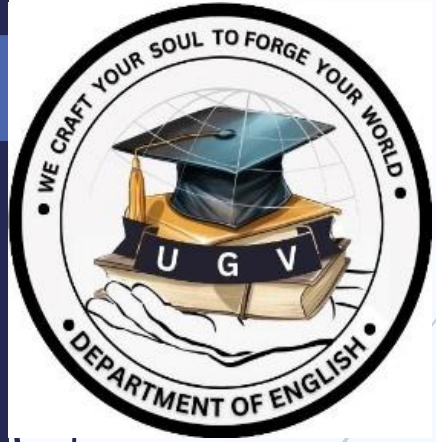
Theme of Isolation

2. Existential Isolation: Keats reflects on the fleeting nature of human life, marked by suffering, aging, and death. He feels separated from the timeless beauty represented by the nightingale's song, which he perceives as eternal and transcendent. The poet's awareness of mortality deepens his sense of isolation, as he recognizes the limits of human existence in contrast to the bird's seemingly immortal presence.

3. Isolation through Imagination: Although imagination offers a temporary escape, it also isolates the poet from the physical world. When he envisions joining the bird in its ideal realm, he feels disconnected from his own reality. The act of poetic creation itself is a solitary endeavor, placing the poet in a unique but isolated position as he engages with his inner thoughts and dreams.

4. Return to Reality and Solitude: When the nightingale's song fades, Keats is left alone, unsure whether his experience was real or a dream. This abrupt return to reality underscores his isolation, as the imaginative escape proves fleeting and he is left to face his mortal condition once again. The final lines express his lingering solitude:

"Was it a vision, or a waking dream? / Fled is that music:—Do I wake or sleep?"



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Ode to Grecian Urn

About the poem

About the Urn

Key Aspects of the poem

Subject matter

Poet's Philosophy



By John Keats.

Ode to Grecian Urn

"This Poem is written by the English Romantic poet John Keats in May 1819, first published anonymously in *Annals of the Fine Arts for 1819*^[1] (see 1820 in poetry).

The poem is one of the "Great Odes of 1819", which also include

"Ode on Indolence",

"Ode on Melancholy",

"Ode to a Nightingale",

"Ode to Psyche".

He was inspired to write the poem after reading two articles by English artist and writer Benjamin Haydon. Through his awareness of other writings in this field and his first-hand acquaintance with the Elgin Marbles, Keats perceived the idealism and representation of Greek virtues in classical Greek art, and his poem draws upon these insights.

Ode to Grecian Urn

The poem "*Ode on a Grecian Urn*" by John Keats is one of his most celebrated works. It reflects on the timeless beauty and permanence of art as contrasted with the transient nature of human life. Below is a brief summary:

1. Introduction to the Urn: Keats addresses the Grecian urn, calling it an "unravished bride of quietness" and a "foster-child of Silence and slow Time." The urn is described as a storyteller, silently preserving the scenes painted on it. It serves as a symbol of eternal beauty and a connection to the past.

2. Scenes on the Urn: The poet describes the images on the urn, including lovers frozen in time and musicians playing unheard melodies. These images represent idealized beauty, untouched by the passage of time or human suffering. The lovers, though unable to consummate their love, are forever young and passionate, while the music, though silent, is imagined to be sweeter than anything real.

The poet addresses an ancient Grecian urn, calling it a timeless and silent storyteller, untouched by the changes of time. The urn, with its intricate carvings, depicts scenes from life—lovers in pursuit, musicians playing, and people celebrating. These images are frozen in an eternal moment, never aging or fading.

The poet reflects on one scene of a young man chasing a woman. Although he will never catch her, his passion and her beauty will never fade. In another scene, musicians play instruments, their melodies imagined as sweeter because they are silent and unchanging.

Ode to Grecian Urn

Keats contrasts this immortality with human life, which is fleeting and filled with decay. While the urn's scenes remain perfect forever, they lack the vibrancy and fulfillment of real life. The urn serves as a symbol of enduring art, preserving beauty and moments that humans cannot hold onto.

In the closing lines, the poet reflects on the philosophical meaning of the urn, concluding with its eternal message: "*Beauty is truth, truth beauty.*" This suggests that the beauty captured by art reveals profound truths about existence, providing a sense of permanence and solace in a transient world.

Key Themes and Subject Matter

Timelessness of Art:

The urn, as an artifact, is unchanging and eternal. Its images remain unaffected by time, in contrast to the transient nature of human life and emotions. Keats highlights how art can preserve beauty and moments for eternity.

Frozen Moments:

The scenes on the urn depict lovers, musicians, and celebrations, all frozen in time. The lovers are forever in the moment before consummating their love, symbolizing both eternal passion and unfulfilled longing.

Key Themes and Subject Matter:

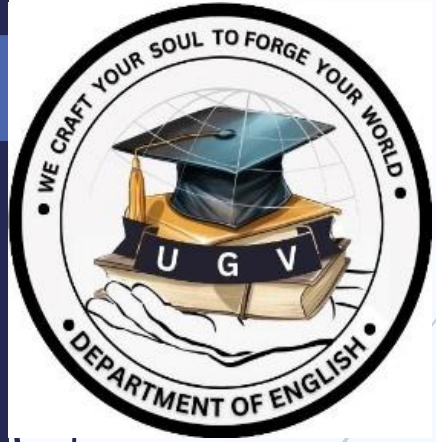
Frozen Moments: The scenes on the urn depict lovers, musicians, and celebrations, all frozen in time. The lovers are forever in the moment before consummating their love, symbolizing both eternal passion and unfulfilled longing.

Contrast Between Life and Art: While art is immortal and unchanging, life is dynamic and fleeting. The urn represents perfection and permanence, but it lacks the warmth, vitality, and imperfection of real life.

Philosophical Inquiry: The poem delves into the meaning of beauty and truth. The famous conclusion, "Beauty is truth, truth beauty," suggests that art encapsulates eternal truths about existence, but its meaning is left open to interpretation.

Imagination and Interpretation: The silent images on the urn evoke questions and engage the viewer's imagination. They tell stories without words, leaving room for individual interpretation, which highlights art's power to inspire and provoke thought.

In summary, the subject matter of the poem is the exploration of art's capacity to transcend time, its limitations in fully capturing life's vibrancy, and the philosophical musings on the nature of beauty and truth. The Grecian urn becomes a timeless metaphor for art's enduring presence in a transient world.



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Week-14
(Slide 123-130)
John Keats

Keats's View of Beauty

John Keats's view on beauty is central to his poetry, especially in works like "Ode on a Grecian Urn" and "Ode to a Nightingale." For Keats, beauty is both a tangible experience and a profound concept tied to art, nature, and emotion. His perspective on beauty can be understood through several key ideas:

1. Beauty as a Source of Truth: Keats famously declares in "Ode on a Grecian Urn": "Beauty is truth, truth beauty, —that is all Ye know on earth, and all ye need to know." In this statement, Keats suggests that beauty and truth are inseparable. Beauty reveals deeper truths about life and existence. He believed that experiencing beauty in art or nature could lead to a greater understanding of the world, offering wisdom and insight. This connection reflects Keats's Romantic belief in the power of beauty to transcend the mundane and touch upon universal truths.

2. Beauty as Transcendent and Eternal: For Keats, beauty is eternal, especially when captured in art. In "Ode on a Grecian Urn," the urn's images of frozen scenes symbolize timeless beauty that is untouched by the passage of time. Beauty, in this sense, becomes a way to escape the limitations of human life, such as aging, suffering, and death. Keats often contrasts the fleeting

Keats's View of Beauty

3. The Ephemeral Nature of Physical Beauty: Keats celebrates the lasting power of beauty in art, he also acknowledges that physical beauty is transient. In poems like "Endymion," Keats explores the idea that youthful beauty is fleeting, yet it holds profound significance during its moment of existence. He often intertwines beauty with the themes of mortality and the passage of time, suggesting that we should appreciate beauty while it lasts because it is a reminder of life's fragility.

4. Beauty as a Means of Escape and Immortality: In "*Ode to a Nightingale*," Keats contrasts the immortal, eternal beauty of the nightingale's song with the painful reality of human suffering. The bird represents an idealized form of beauty that is beyond the reach of mortal constraints. Keats uses the bird's song as a symbol for the kind of pure, untouchable beauty that offers escape from the hardships of life.

How beauty and Truth are interconnected according to Keats

The famous lines, "*Beauty is truth, truth beauty*," encapsulate Keats's belief that beauty conveys profound truths about life and existence. For Keats, experiencing beauty—whether in art, nature, or imagination—provides a glimpse into deeper, universal truths.

How beauty and Truth are interconnected according to Keats

1. Beauty as a Path to Truth: For Keats, the experience of beauty—whether in art, nature, or poetry—offers a glimpse into deeper, universal truths. Beauty has the power to transcend the ordinary and bring people closer to understanding the eternal and immutable aspects of life. For example, the Grecian urn, through its timeless beauty, communicates enduring truths about love, joy, and mortality.

2. Truth in the Essence of Beauty: Keats believed that true beauty goes beyond mere appearances. It reflects something genuine, profound, and eternal. The scenes depicted on the urn are beautiful because they encapsulate truths about the human condition—love, longing, celebration, and the inevitability of time.

3. Art as the Union of Beauty and Truth: Keats sees art, like the Grecian urn, as a medium that immortalizes the interconnectedness of beauty and truth. While life is transient, art preserves idealized moments forever. The urn's silent and unchanging beauty conveys eternal truths about existence that cannot be expressed in words.

How beauty and Truth are interconnected according to Keats

4. Philosophical Reflection on Mortality: The connection between beauty and truth also arises from Keats's awareness of human mortality. The fleeting beauty of life is a truth everyone must face. However, art and imagination have the power to elevate this fleeting beauty into something eternal, making it a truth that transcends time.

5. Imagination Bridges the Two: For Keats, imagination is the key to understanding how beauty and truth are intertwined. The silent images on the urn inspire the viewer to imagine their stories and contemplate their meanings, connecting them to broader truths about human existence.

Theme of Imagination and Reality

1. Imagination as an Escape from Reality

In many of Keats's poems, imagination offers a means of transcendence and a way to escape the pain and limitations of everyday life. His imagination is not simply fantasy, but a way to connect with idealized beauty, timeless art, and eternal truths.

Theme of Imagination and Reality

- In "*Ode to a Nightingale*", the nightingale represents an idealized beauty that is beyond the reach of human suffering. The speaker wishes to escape his own reality, filled with pain and impermanence, and enter the timeless, carefree world of the nightingale's song. However, even though the nightingale's song offers an alluring escape, the poet realizes that true escape is impossible—he must eventually return to the reality of his human condition.
- In "*Ode on a Grecian Urn*", the urn serves as a symbol of timeless beauty and the eternal nature of art. The scenes on the urn—frozen in time—offer a permanent, idealized reality that contrasts with the fleeting, imperfect nature of human life. The urn's images present an imaginative world that transcends the passage of time, but ultimately, the speaker acknowledges the paradox: the beauty of the urn is eternal, but it is also static and devoid of the complexities and joys of real life.

2. The Tension Between Imagination and Reality

Keats often explores the tension between the imagination's idealized visions and the harshness of reality. The imagination can create beautiful, perfect worlds, but reality is always more complex, and it often brings pain and imperfection.

Theme of Imagination and Reality

In "*Ode to a Nightingale*", the contrast between the immortal beauty of the nightingale's song and the suffering inherent in human life is a key theme. The speaker begins by imagining himself flying away with the bird, escaping the suffering of the world. However, as he contemplates the bird's eternal song, he is forced to confront the limits of his own imagination—he cannot fully escape mortality or the "damp of the earth" (his human reality). The tension between the imaginative world of the nightingale and the harshness of human existence is ultimately resolved by the speaker's recognition that both imagination and reality have their place.

In "*Endymion*", Keats presents the conflict between the idealized beauty of nature and the imperfections of human experience. Endymion's quest for the divine, unattainable love of Cynthia (the moon goddess) reflects the Romantic ideal of seeking perfection through imagination.

3. Imagination as a Source of Truth

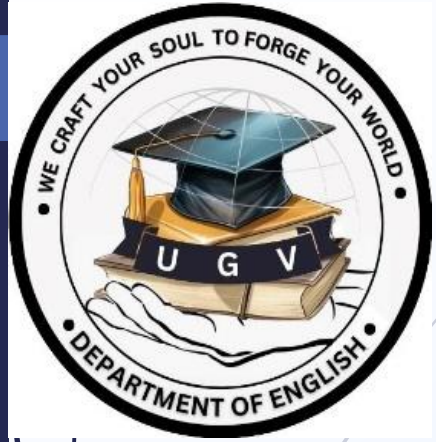
For Keats, imagination is a means of accessing deeper truths that cannot be fully expressed in the material world. Through the imagination, the poet can touch upon universal beauty, love, and meaning. This transcendent beauty and truth exist beyond the confines of physical reality.

In "*Ode on a Grecian Urn*", the urn itself is an object of art that captures an idealized, eternal moment—suggesting that art and imagination have the power to convey truths about life that go beyond the tangible, transient world. The urn's beauty, though "frozen," offers an insight into a deeper reality that is inaccessible to human beings in their fleeting, physical form.

4. The Role of Suffering in the Relationship Between Imagination and Reality: Keats often reflects on how imagination offers solace from the sufferings of reality, but also acknowledges that suffering is a part of the human experience.

In "*Ode to a Nightingale*," the poet contrasts the fleeting joys of human life with the eternal beauty of the nightingale's song. The nightingale, a symbol of eternal beauty, does not experience suffering or death. This contrast leads the speaker to reflect on the transient nature of human life and the inevitability of suffering, which imagination can offer some relief from, but not eliminate entirely. However, Keats does not present suffering as purely negative—it is through confronting reality's difficulties that we can appreciate beauty and truth.

5. The Imagination as an Artist's Tool: Keats's own poetic imagination was a key tool in his artistic creation. He believed that poetry, as a product of the imagination, could elevate the ordinary world into something transcendent. For Keats, the act of creation—whether in poetry, art, or nature—allowed one to experience beauty in a way that was beyond reality, and yet this beauty spoke to deeper truths about life.



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5th Semester
Week-15
(Slide 131-136)
Lord Byron

Lord Byron

George Gordon Byron, 6th Baron Byron, (22 January 1788 – 19 April 1824) was a British poet and peer. He is one of the major figures of the Romantic movement, and is regarded as being among the greatest of British poets. Among his best-known works are the lengthy narratives *Don Juan* and *Childe Harold's Pilgrimage*; many of his shorter lyrics in *Hebrew Melodies* also became popular.

Byron was educated at Trinity College, Cambridge, before he travelled extensively in Europe. He lived for seven years in Italy, in Venice, Ravenna, and Pisa after he was forced to flee England due to threats of lynching. During his stay in Italy, he would frequently visit his friend and fellow poet Percy Bysshe Shelley.

Later in life, Byron joined the Greek War of Independence to fight the Ottoman Empire, for which Greeks revere him as a folk hero. He died leading a campaign in 1824, at the age of 36, from a fever contracted after the first and second sieges of Missolonghi.

His one child conceived within marriage, Ada Lovelace, was a founding figure in the field of computer programming based on her notes for Charles Babbage's Analytical Engine.^{[10][11][12]} Byron's extramarital children include Allegra Byron, who died in childhood, and possibly Elizabeth Medora Leigh, daughter of his half-sister Augusta



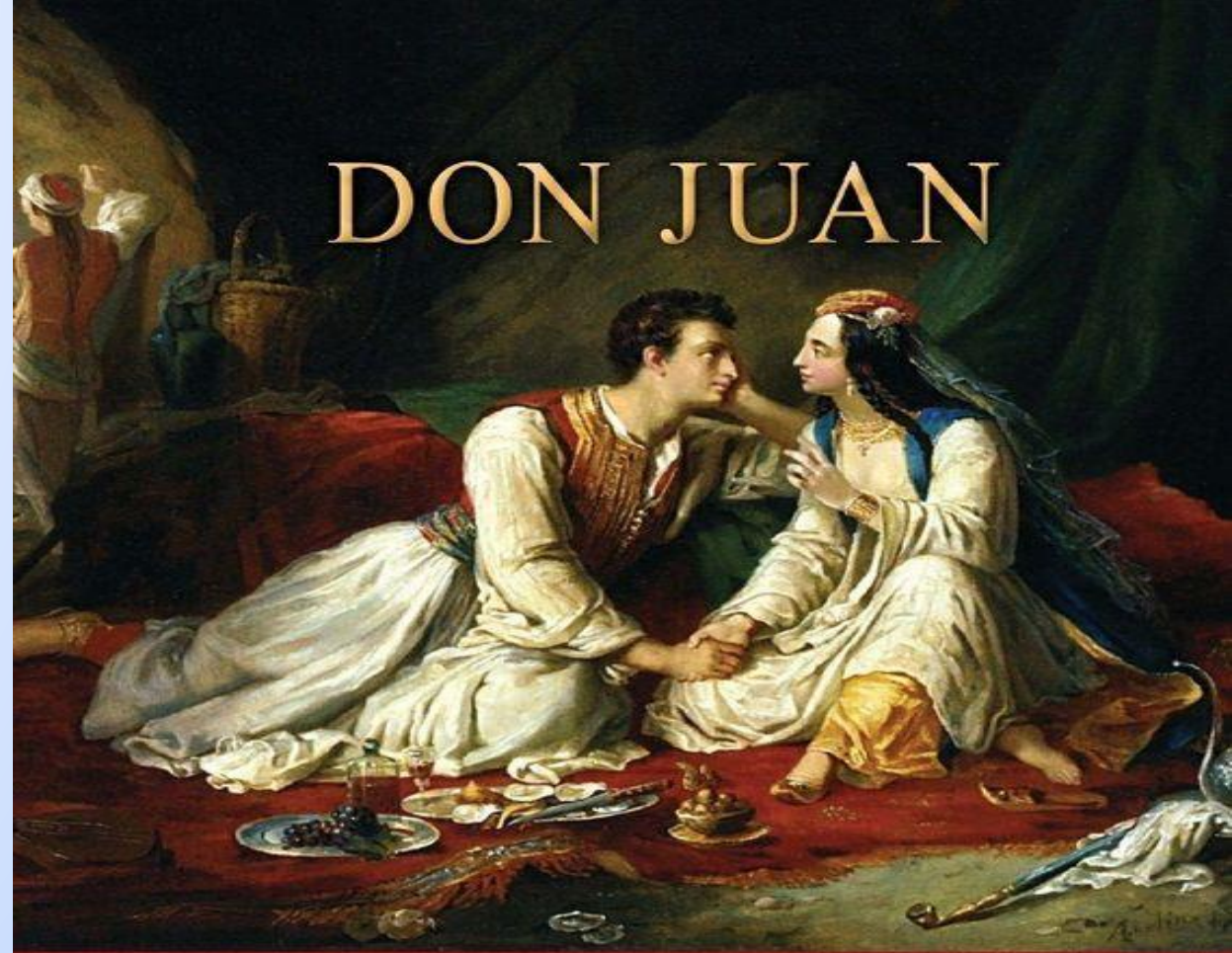
Lord Byron

1788 - 1824

Poet

Don Juan

Don Juan is a satirical epic poem written by Lord Byron, one of the great Romantic poets. It was first published in 1819 and left incomplete at the time of Byron's death in 1824. The poem is a humorous, ironic, and unconventional retelling of the story of Don Juan, a legendary character from European literature who is traditionally depicted as a libertine and womanizer. Byron, however, subverts this traditional portrayal and presents Don Juan as a naïve, charming, and passive figure who becomes the target of women's affections.



DON JUAN

LORD BYRON

PLAZA
EDITORIAL

Colección Clásicos

Don Juan

Story Summary: Don Juan is born in Seville to a wealthy family. His strict, intellectual mother, Donna Inez, ensures he receives a rigorous education. At 16, Don Juan has an affair with Donna Julia, a married woman. When the scandal is revealed, he is sent away from Spain to avoid disgrace. Don Juan embarks on a sea voyage but is shipwrecked. Stranded at sea, the survivors resort to cannibalism. Don Juan ultimately survives and washes ashore. Don Juan is rescued by Haidée, the beautiful daughter of a pirate. They fall in love, but their happiness is short-lived as her father discovers their relationship and Don Juan is captured.

Don Juan is sold into slavery and becomes a favorite of Gulbeyaz, a sultana in Constantinople, who desires him. He escapes from this predicament and continues his travels. Don Juan ends up in Russia, where he distinguishes himself in military service. He catches the attention of Empress Catherine the Great, who becomes romantically interested in him. Don Juan is sent to England on a diplomatic mission.

He mingles with high society, where Byron uses the setting to satirize British aristocracy and morality. Don Juan navigates flirtations and social intrigue in this new environment.

Important Aspect of Don Juan

1. Satire on Society and Hypocrisy

- Byron critiques European society's hypocrisy, corruption, and pretensions, particularly the aristocracy and institutions like marriage, religion, and politics.
- The poem highlights the double standards of moral behavior, exposing the contrast between public virtue and private vice, especially in love and relationships.
- Byron uses humor and irony to lampoon societal norms, often breaking into digressions that comment on contemporary events and figures

2. Love, Lust, and Desire

- Love and lust are central themes in *Don Juan*. The poem explores the complexities and absurdities of romantic and sexual relationships.
- Don Juan is portrayed not as a seducer but as someone who is seduced or swept up in the desires of others, often becoming the object of women's passions.
- Byron examines the idealized notions of love and the more carnal realities, presenting a cynical but often humorous take on romance.

3. The Role of Women

- Women play a dominant role in Don Juan's life. They are often portrayed as powerful, intelligent, and assertive figures who drive the narrative.
- Through characters like Donna Julia, Haidée, and Gulbeyaz, Byron challenges traditional gender roles and societal expectations of women, highlighting their agency and complexity.

4. Human Nature and Flaws

- The poem reflects on the universal flaws of human beings—greed, lust, pride, and hypocrisy. Byron uses Don Juan's adventures to show the follies of individuals and society as a whole.
- Don Juan's naivety and innocence contrast with the manipulative and self-serving behavior of those around him, emphasizing human imperfections.

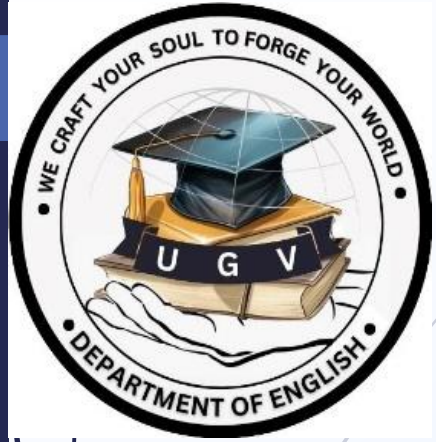
5. Adventure and Exploration: *Don Juan* is also a narrative of travel and adventure, taking the protagonist across different cultures and settings, including Spain, Greece, Russia, and England. These journeys serve as a framework for Byron to explore cultural differences and critique the behaviors and values of different societies.

6. Morality and Immorality: Byron examines the tension between societal morals and personal desires. While society enforces rigid moral codes, many characters in the poem act hypocritically, pursuing their own pleasures while condemning others. The poem questions whether conventional morality is valid or whether it is simply a construct used to control human behavior.

7. The Nature of Heroism: Byron subverts the traditional heroic epic by presenting Don Juan as an anti-hero. Rather than being a bold, deliberate seducer or conqueror, Don Juan is passive, naïve, and often a victim of circumstance. This challenges readers' expectations and offers a more realistic and humorous portrayal of human weakness.

8. Freedom and Individualism: Byron's Romantic ideals of personal freedom and individualism are evident throughout the poem. Don Juan's adventures symbolize a rejection of societal constraints and a pursuit of self-discovery, even as he is swept along by the whims of others.

9. Cynicism and Humor: The poem's overarching tone is one of cynicism and irony, with Byron using humor to critique the world's absurdities. The digressions and playful language highlight Byron's skepticism about lofty ideals, presenting a more pragmatic and often comical view of life.

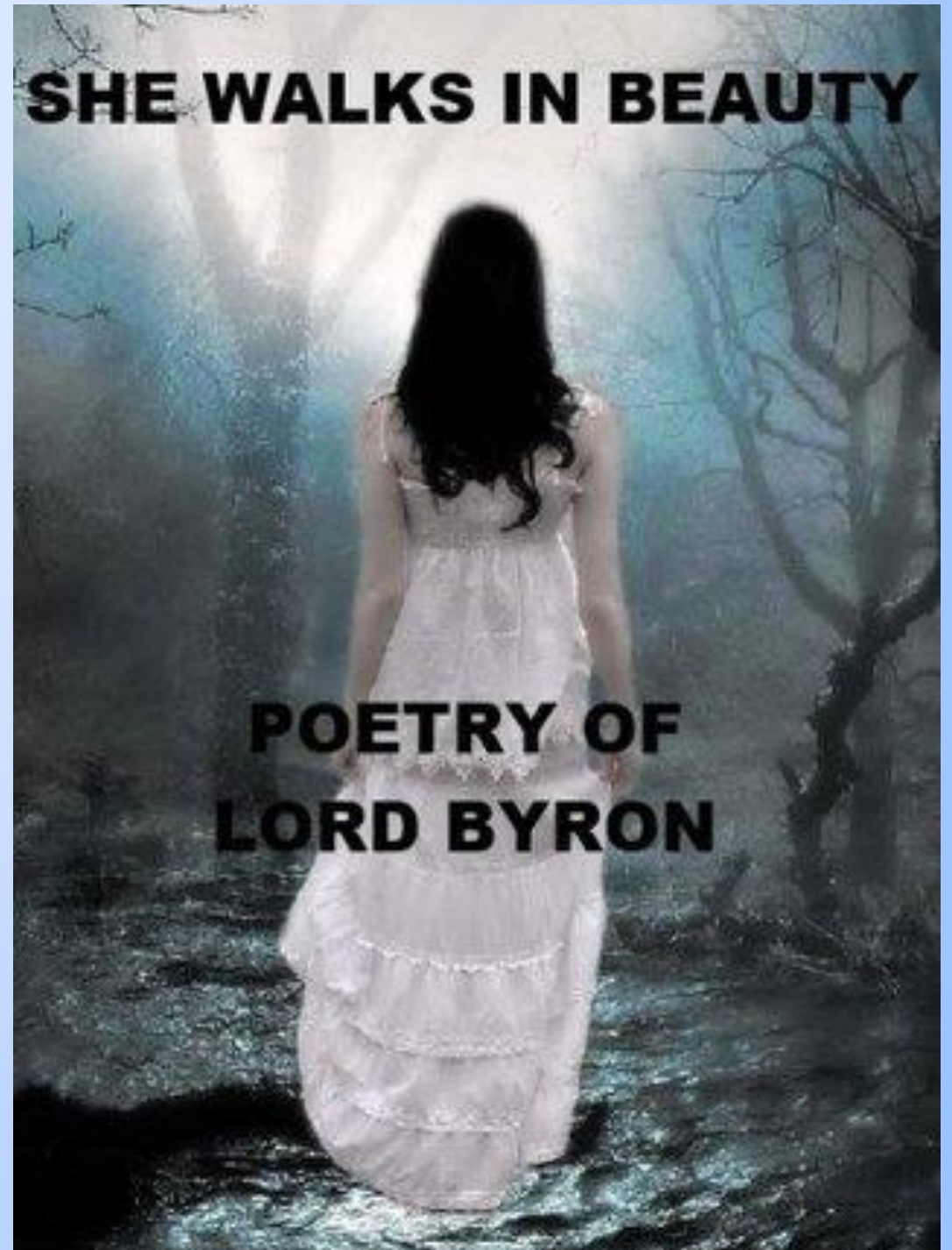


Department of English, UGV
Course Title: The Romantic Poets
Course Code: ENG-0232-3118
5th Semester
Week-16
(Slide 137-141)
Lord Byron

She walks in beauty, like the night
Of cloudless climes and starry skies;
And all that's best of dark and bright
Meet in her aspect and her eyes;
Thus mellowed to that tender light
Which heaven to gaudy day denies.
One shade the more, one ray the less,
Had half impaired the nameless grace
Which waves in every raven tress,
Or softly lightens o'er her face;
Where thoughts serenely sweet express,
How pure, how dear their dwelling-place.
And on that cheek, and o'er that brow,
So soft, so calm, yet eloquent,
The smiles that win, the tints that glow,
But tell of days in goodness spent,
A mind at peace with all below,
A heart whose love is innocent!

SHE WALKS IN BEAUTY

**POETRY OF
LORD BYRON**



Background of the Poetry

She Walks in Beauty is a short lyrical poem in iambic tetrameter written in 1814 by Lord Byron, and is one of his most famous works.

It is said to have been inspired by an event in Byron's life. On 11 June 1814, Byron attended a party in London. Among the guests was Mrs. Anne Beatrix Wilmot, wife of Byron's first cousin, Sir Robert Wilmot. He was struck by her unusual beauty, and the next morning the poem was written.

It is thought that she was the first inspiration for his unfinished epic poem about Goethe, a personal hero of his. In this unpublished work, which Byron referred to in his letters as his magnum opus, he switches the gender of Goethe and gives him the same description of his cousin.

Theme of the poem

The poem **"She Walks in Beauty"** by **Lord Byron** explores several key themes, with the most prominent being **beauty, the relationship between inner and outer beauty, and the transcendence of physical beauty.**

1. The Nature of Beauty

The central theme of the poem is the idea of beauty, particularly the beauty of the woman being described. Byron presents her beauty as something extraordinary, almost divine. He compares it to the serene and calm qualities of nature, such as the night sky or the moonlight. Her beauty is not just physical but emanates from her inner qualities as well, which create a harmonious balance between her appearance and her character.

Byron's use of nature imagery—describing her beauty as "like the night of cloudless climes and starry skies"—suggests that her beauty is as pure and eternal as nature itself.

Theme of the poem

2. The Balance of Inner and Outer Beauty

The poem contrasts **external beauty** with **inner virtues**. While the woman's physical beauty is captivating and graceful, Byron also emphasizes the purity and goodness that radiate from within her. The second stanza particularly highlights how her beauty reflects her soul, suggesting that her external appearance mirrors her inner goodness.

This connection between inner and outer beauty is key to the woman's overall allure. Byron implies that her beauty is not superficial but stems from a balance of the physical and the moral or spiritual.

3. The Transcendence of Beauty

Byron suggests that the woman's beauty transcends mere physical appearance. While her beauty is indeed remarkable and captivating, the poem elevates it beyond the ordinary. Her beauty seems to encompass an ideal, a perfect harmony that evokes admiration and awe, as though it is a reflection of something divine or otherworldly.

This transcendent beauty gives the woman a sense of mystery and allure, inviting the viewer to admire not just her looks but her essence, which seems to be part of something grander and more profound.

4. Purity and Peacefulness:

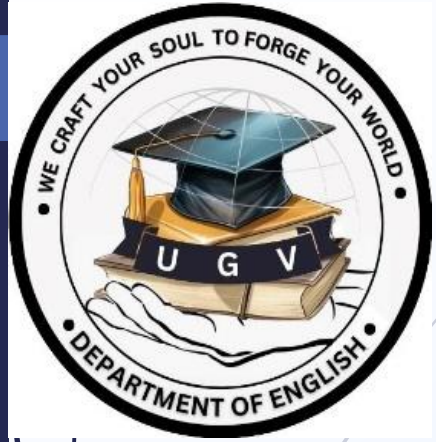
Byron associates the woman's beauty with purity and peacefulness, making it a calming and serene presence. Her beauty is not just dazzling but also possesses an element of quiet grace. The imagery of "cloudless" and "starry skies" suggests that her beauty brings a sense of peace and tranquility, unaffected by the turbulence of the world. There is also an implied sense of innocence in the poem, as the woman's beauty is likened to the natural world before it is tainted by the complexities of human life.

5. The Sublime:

The beauty of the woman in the poem has a sublime quality—it evokes a sense of awe, admiration, and even reverence. The woman, as portrayed by Byron, has a beauty that is awe-inspiring, and the admiration it elicits is not just superficial but almost spiritual. This sublime quality draws a connection between the woman's beauty and the majesty of nature, where physical and spiritual beauty meet.

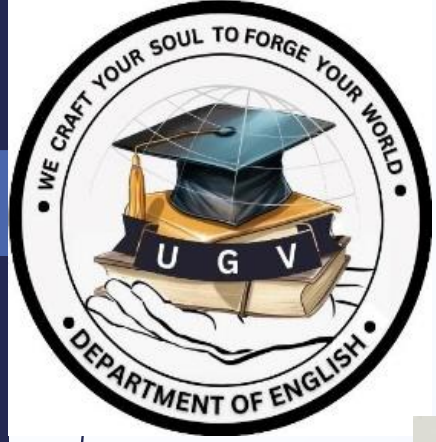
Conclusion:

In "She Walks in Beauty", Lord Byron explores beauty as a harmonious blend of inner virtue and outward appearance. The poem reflects a celebration of the woman's physical and inner beauty, which is pure, peaceful, and transcendent. Through nature imagery and the connection between inner and outer beauty, Byron elevates the subject of the poem to an almost divine level, suggesting that true beauty is a reflection of goodness and grace.



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Revision and solve Class



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