

Romantic Period (1798-1830)

Brief Overview

The Romantic Period **began with the publishing of Lyrical Ballads (1798) by William Wordsworth and Samuel Taylor Coleridge**. This was one of the first collections of poems that strayed from the more formal poetic diction of the Neoclassical Period.

Why is it called Romantic age?

The term 'Romanticism', as defined in this chapter, **refers predominantly to the eighteenth- and nineteenth-century concept of an era informed by the profound experience of momentous political, social and intellectual revolutions**. The term also has its own history, which calls for a short introduction.

What is the concept of romantic period?

The romantic period is **a term applied to the literature of approximately the first third of the nineteenth century**. During this time, literature began to move in channels that were not entirely new but were in strong contrast to the standard literary practice of the eighteenth century.

What is Romantic movement in English literature?

Romanticism (also known as the Romantic movement or Romantic era) was an artistic, literary, musical, and intellectual movement that originated in Europe towards the end of the 18th century, and in most areas was at its peak in the approximate period from 1800 to 1850.

Central features of the Romantic era include:

- Emotion and passion.
- The critique of progress.
- A return to the past.
- An awe of nature.
- The idealization of women.
- The purity of childhood.
- The search for subjective truth.
- The celebration of the individual.

What are 3 themes of the Romantic Period?

Key themes of the Romantic Period

- Revolution, democracy, and republicanism. ...
- The Sublime and Transcendence. ...
- The power of the imagination, genius, and the source of inspiration. ...
- Proto-psychology & extreme mental states. ...
- Nature and the Natural.

What was the key element of Romanticism?

To reflect deep interest in both nature and in thoughts and feelings of the individual.

What are the five characteristics of Romanticism?

- Interest in the common man and childhood.
- Strong senses, emotions, and feelings.
- Awe of nature.
- Celebration of the individual.
- Importance of imagination.

10 Key Characteristics of Romanticism in Literature:

Glorification of Nature. ...

Awareness and Acceptance of Emotions. ...

Celebration of Artistic Creativity and Imagination. ...

Emphasis on Aesthetic Beauty. ...

Themes of Solitude. ...

Focus on Exoticism and History. ...

Spiritual and Supernatural Elements. ...

Vivid Sensory Descriptions.

What are the major themes of Romanticism?

The four major themes of Romanticism are emotion and imagination, nature, and social class. Romantic writers were influenced greatly by the evolving and changing world around them.

Who is the father of Romanticism?

Jean-Jacques Rousseau

First is **Jean-Jacques Rousseau**, who is often considered the father of Romanticism.

What are the three branches of Romanticism?

This philosophical movement placed an importance on imagination, emotion, nature, and individuality. This period also had three major branches: **Transcendentalism**, **Dark/Gothic Romanticism**, and Sentimentalism.

Father of Romantic Poetry:

William Wordsworth was one of the founders of English Romanticism and one its most central figures and important intellects.

What are the characteristics of romantic poetry?

Characteristics of English Romantic poetry

- The Sublime. The Sublime is considered one of the most important concepts in Romantic poetry. ...
- Reaction against Neoclassicism. ...
- Imagination. ...
- Nature poetry. ...
- Melancholy. ...
- Medievalism. ...
- Hellenism. ...
- Supernaturalism.

What was a Favourite theme of the Romantic poets?

A major theme in Romantic poetry is the relationship between humans and their emotions and the natural world. The Romantic poets felt that humans' internal lives and the exterior, natural world had a lot in common: they could both be mysterious, open and vast, wild and free, and sometimes a little bit terrifying.

The grouping together of the so-called Lake poets (Wordsworth, Coleridge, and Southey) with Scott, Byron, Keats, and Shelley as the romantic poets is late Victorian, apparently as late as the middle 1880s. And it should be noted that these poets did not recognize themselves as "romantic," although they were familiar with the word and recognized that their practice differed from that of the eighteenth century.

The romantic writers turned back to their own native traditions. The Medieval and Renaissance periods were ransacked for new subject matter and for literary genres that had fallen into disuse. The standard eighteenth-century heroic couplet was replaced by a variety of forms such as the ballad, the metrical romance, the sonnet, ottava rima, blank verse, and the Spenserian stanza, all of which were forms that had been neglected since Renaissance times. The romantic writers responded strongly to the impact of new forces, particularly the French Revolution and its promise of liberty, equality, and fraternity. The humanitarianism that had been developing during the eighteenth century was taken up enthusiastically by the romantic writers. Wordsworth, the great champion of the spiritual and moral values of physical nature, tried to show the natural dignity, goodness, and the worth of the common man.

The combination of new interests, new attitudes, and fresh forms produced a body of literature that was strikingly different from the literature of the eighteenth century, but that is not to say that the eighteenth century had no influence on the romantic movement. Practically all of the seeds of the new literary crop had been sown in the preceding century.

The romantic period includes the work of two generations of writers. The first generation was born during the thirty and twenty years preceding 1800; the second generation was born in the last decade of the 1800s. The chief writers of the first generation were Wordsworth, Coleridge, Scott, Southey, Blake, Lamb, and Hazlitt. The essayist Thomas De Quincey, born in 1785, falls between the two generations.

Keats and Shelley belong to the second generation, along with Byron, who was older than they were by a few years. All three were influenced by the work of the writers of the first

generation and, ironically, the careers of all three were cut short by death so that the writers of the first generation were still on the literary scene after the writers of the second generation had disappeared. The major writers of the second romantic generation were primarily poets; they produced little prose, outside of their letters. Another striking difference between the two generations is that the writers of the first generation, with the exception of Blake, all gained literary reputations during their lifetime. Of the writers of the second generation, only Byron enjoyed fame while he was alive, more fame than any of the other romantic writers, with perhaps the exception of Scott, but Keats and Shelley had relatively few readers while they were alive. It was not until the Victorian era that Keats and Shelley became recognized as major romantic poets.

Acknowledgement: Notes have been compiled from various open sources