

## *Romantic Era in English Literature*

### *Time Period*

- 1798-1837
- Begins with the publication of *Lyrical Ballads* (1798) by William Wordsworth and Samuel Taylor Coleridge
- Ends around the beginning of the Victorian Age

### *What is Romanticism?*

Romanticism was a literary and artistic movement that reacted against the Industrial Revolution and the rigid rules of Neoclassicism. It emphasized emotion, imagination, nature, and individual freedom.

### *Main Characteristics of Romantic Literature*

1. *Love for Nature*
  - Nature seen as alive, spiritual, and healing
  - Example: Wordsworth's nature poems
2. *Emphasis on Emotion and Imagination*
  - Feelings are more important than reason
  - Imagination is the source of creativity
3. *Individualism*
  - Focus on personal experience and inner life
  - The poet's own emotions matter
4. *Simple Language*
  - Ordinary, common language instead of classical diction
  - Poetry for common people
5. *Interest in the Past & Supernatural*
  - Medievalism, folklore, mystery
  - Example: Coleridge's supernatural elements
6. *Freedom of Thought and Expression*

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- *Rebellion against social, political, and literary rules*

*Major Romantic Poets*

**1. William Wordsworth (1770-1850)**

- *Poet of nature and common life*
- *Believed poetry is the "spontaneous overflow of powerful feelings"*
- *Works:*
  - *Tintern Abbey*
  - *Ode: Intimations of Immortality*

**2. Samuel Taylor Coleridge (1772-1834)**

- *Master of supernatural and imagination*
- *Works:*
  - *The Rime of the Ancient Mariner*
  - *Kubla Khan*

**3. Lord Byron (1788-1824)**

- *Poet of rebellion and passion*
- *Created the Byronic Hero*
- *Works:*
  - *Childe Harold's Pilgrimage*
  - *Don Juan*

**4. Percy Bysshe Shelley (1792-1822)**

- *Revolutionary and idealist poet*
- *Themes: freedom, love, social justice*
- *Works:*
  - *Ode to the West Wind*
  - *Prometheus Unbound*

**5. John Keats (1795-1821)**

- *Poet of beauty and sensuousness*

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- Believed “Beauty is truth, truth beauty”
- Works:
  - *Ode to a Nightingale*
  - *Ode on a Grecian Urn*

*Romantic Prose Writers*

- *Charles Lamb - Essays of Elia*
- *William Hazlitt - literary criticism*
- *Thomas De Quincey - Confessions of an English Opium-Eater*

*“What are the main features of Romanticism?”*

*Write:*

- *Nature*
- *Emotion over reason*
- *Imagination*
- *Individualism*
- *Simple language*
- *Supernatural elements*