

Teachers' notes



Subject	English 122
Topic	Poetry
Title	Romantic Poetry
Grade(s)	11-12
Cross-curricular link(s)	History
Prior knowledge	Literary Devices/Figurative Language
Intended learning outcome(s)	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• To respond personally and critically to a range of texts• To apply their understanding of language, form, and genre• To analyze thematic connections
Recommended usage	Introduce and teach a Romantic Poetry unit

The Romantic Era

Textbook - Our Literary Heritage

Read P.231 - P.234 and answer the questions.



1. Which dates are generally associated with the Romantic Period of English literature? (P. 229)
2. Why is it difficult to confine The Romantic Period to these dates?
3. Why is this period of time, the late 18th century to the early 19th century, labeled The Romantic Period?
4. To what kinds of writings does this term, "romantic", refer?
5. Explain what the term, "romantic", meant in the 17th century.
6. How did this meaning change in the 18th century?
7. What was added to the meaning in the late 18th century?
8. Give the short definition.
9. What are eight things romantic writers believe in? (briefly summarize - in point form)
10. The Romantic Period is one of the great ages of English poetry. Briefly sum up the inspirations of the following poets: William Wordsworth, Samuel Taylor Coleridge, Sir Walter Scott, Lord Byron, Percy Bysshe Shelley, and John Keats.
11. Which prose author alone stands out for this period? 
12. Other than the novels of this author, what was the typical "Romantic" novel like?
13. Which three great historical events influenced the writers?
14. How did each one affect their views?
15. Sum up the last paragraph on P. 234 in one sentence. 

Watch Video from the library - Romanticism: The Revolt of the Spirit (808.8 Rom)

We're going to look at 5 poets - a little about their lives and writing styles plus a sample of their works.

***Be sure to take notes on these poets...for exam reference.**

Poets covered -

William Blake

William Wordsworth

Percy Bysshe Shelley

John Keats

Samuel Taylor Coleridge



**"If the doors of perception were
cleansed everything would appear
to man as it truly is - infinite."**

William Blake



William Blake (1757 - 1827)



**Poet &
Engraver**

**William
Blake**

For I dance
And drink & sing;
Till some blind hand
Shall brush my wing.



- true romantic in thought and style
- born in Soho, London
- religious...saw visions as a boy
- 14, apprenticed to an engraver
- engravings are of high artistic quality
- began to write poetry as a boy
- wrote, engraved, and printed most of his own work
- poor and neglected
- rebel...friend of French and American Revolutions



Blake's Writing Style -

- early - simple childlike lyrics
- later - obscure and symbolic rhyming chants, more like prose

Songs of Innocence/ Songs of Experience

Theory- innocence must pass through and comprehend the world of experience before reaching a third or higher state.



Blake's Engravings...

P. 9



The Great Red Dragon

P. 10



The Great Dragon
and the Woman
Clothed With the Sun

by Blake



P. 11



Whirlwind of Lovers

P. 12





Read "The Lamb" (P. 223)

- a) quietly
- b) I'll read



Read "The Tyger" (P. 225)

- a) quietly
- b) I'll read

Exercise - see sheet



The Tyger - Pair work

P. 15

1. In a group of two, decide who will be the recorder and the presenter.
2. Reread "The Tyger".
3. Answer the following -
 - Describe the imagery in each stanza of the poem. Explain the connection between the images. Why did Blake use these images?
 - How are each of the stanzas similar?
 - Compare and contrast "The Lamb" and "The Tyger".



You have 15 minutes to complete this activity

5. Report findings to the class.



P. 16

William Wordsworth

(1770 - 1850)



Facts -

P. 17

- born at Cockermouth
- son of an attorney
- formally educated...college
- spent a year in France after graduation
- fell in love with Annette Vallon
- returned to England/war broke out against France
- child born out of wedlock
- depression followed
- nature restored his spirits
- friends with Coleridge
- married Mary Hutchison in 1802



His Style -

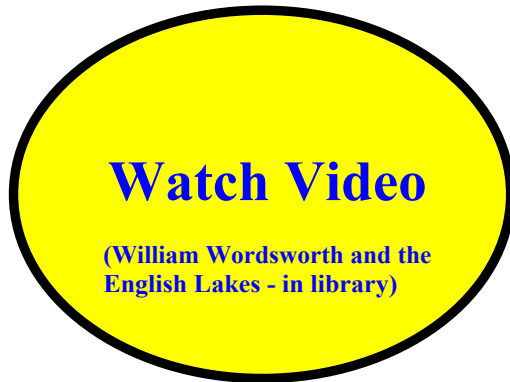
P. 18

- wrote of feelings, memories, and observations
- found wonder in ordinary humans
- wrote feelingly of the beauties of the natural landscape
- discarded formal poetic diction of the 18th century
- wrote simply and naturally
- blank verse, unlined rhymes of 10 syllables
- rhymed stanzas, the sonnet



I Wandered Lonely as a Cloud

by William Wordsworth



Activity (Time - 20 minutes)

P. 20

1. In groups of 3-4, choose a leader, recorder, and presenters.
2. Read the poem, "I Wandered Lonely as a Cloud".
3. Compile the following information:
 - one sentence summary of each stanza
 - poetic devices
 - connections (self to text, text to text, or world to text)
4. Decide on a theme and support your decision with examples from poem.

Next - Present your findings to the class.





Percy Bysshe Shelley

(1792 - 1822)

Percy Bysshe Shelley

1792-1822

**'Nothing of him that doth fade
But doth suffer a sea-change
Into something rich and strange'**

P.B. Shelley is buried in the Protestant Cemetery in Rome, though his heart lies in St Peter's Churchyard, Bournemouth, Dorset, England. (**John Keats** is also buried in the protestant cemetery in Rome.) (See [map...ref. no 9](#) and [map...ref. no 14](#)).

Shelley was drowned in the Gulf of Spezzia while sailing to meet Leigh Hunt. Shelley's body washed ashore several days later and was cremated on the beach at Via Reggio with **Lord Byron**, **Leigh Hunt** and Edward Trelawny in attendance. His heart, which refused to burn, was first passed to Hunt who later gave it to Mary Shelley.

When Shelley's body was found, a copy of Keats' poetry was discovered in his pocket - doubled back - as though it had been put away in a hurry.



Facts -

- born at Field Place, Sussex, England
- educated at Eton and Oxford
- very well off financially
- expelled from university for writing atheistic pamphlet (1811...19 yrs. old)
- fell out with his father...no money until his 21st birthday
- married 16 yr. old Harriet Westbrook
- left her 3 yrs. later and ran off with Mary Godwin to Italy (Harriet was pregnant and had a small child at the time)
- Harriet drowned herself in 1816
- lost custody of his 2 children because of his adherence to the notion of free love
- drowned off the coast of Spain on July 8, 1822 shortly before his 30th birthday

Writing Style -

- most purely lyrical of all romantics**
- verse has poignant intensity, soaring, lilting quality**
- speed of his verse is partly due to active verbs, partly hyphenated words, partly by many images of nature in motion (floating clouds, dancing waves, driving winds)**



Beliefs -

- idealist, believing love and beauty were the supreme powers in the universe**
- if man were free he would naturally choose these values, but he is distracted by corrupt social forces**
- like most idealists he was often plunged into melancholy by a failure of reality to match his ideals**



Ozymandias (P. 291)

Read the poem silently.
I'll read it.
A student will read it.

Respond in writing to the following questions:

1. Why do you think this is considered a Romantic poem?
2. What is the meaning of this passage:
"Round the decay/ of that colossal wreck, boundless and bare/
The lone and level sands stretch far away," ("Ozymandias" 12-14)
3. Give one characteristic of the poet, Shelley, based on this poem.
4. Write the theme of "Ozymandias". First think about the subject, then decide what the author is saying about that subject.



I met a traveler from an antique land who said:

Ozymandias
Percy Bysshe Shelley

*Two vast and trunkless legs of stone
Stand in the desert... near them, on the sand,
half sunk, a shattered visage lies, whose frown,
and wrinkled lip, and sneer of cold command,
tell that its sculptor well those passions read
which yet survive, stamped on these lifeless things,
the hand that mocked them, and the heart that fed.*

And on the pedestal these words appear:

*"MY NAME IS OZYMANDIAS, KING OF KINGS:
LOOK ON MY WORKS, YE MIGHTY, AND DESPAIR!"*

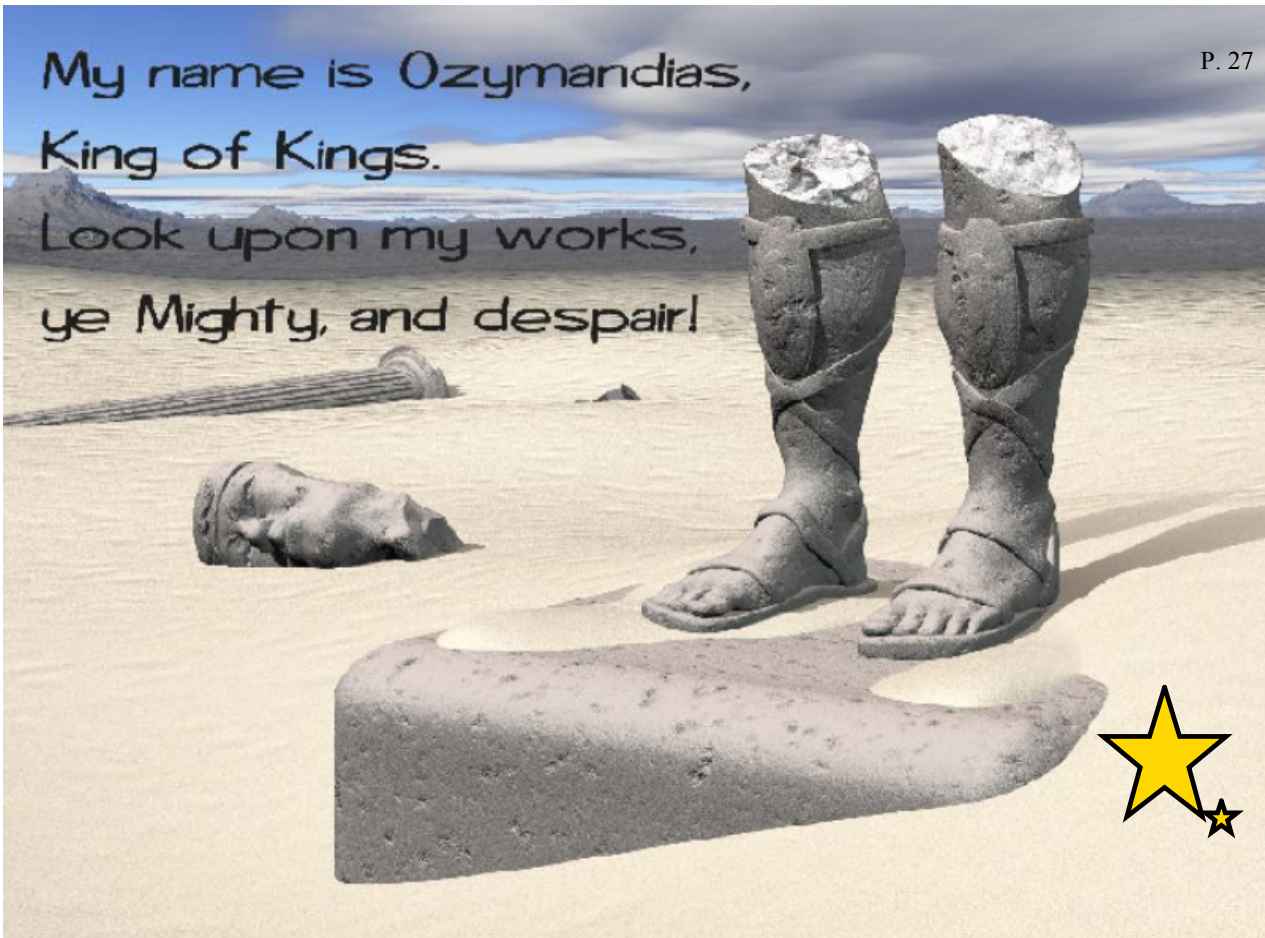
*Nothing beside remains. Round the decay
of that colossal wreck, boundless and bare,
the lone and level sands stretch far away.*



My name is Ozymandias,
King of Kings.

Look upon my works,
ye Mighty, and despair!

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John Keats (1795 - 1821)

P. 28

John Keats is buried in the Protestant Cemetery, Rome. His grave is in a quiet corner close to the Pyramid. (**Shelley** is also buried in this cemetery.)
(See map...ref no. 13)

Keats left England in 1820, on the advice of his doctors, and headed for Italy. He was in the final stages of consumption. He arrived at Naples and then proceeded to Rome where he died on the 23 February, 1821. He was 25 years of age.

Keats requested that only the phrase:

Here lies One Whose Name is writ in Water

be inscribed on his headstone. However, his two close friends Joseph Severn and Charles Brown, who cared for him during his illness, decided to add the following:

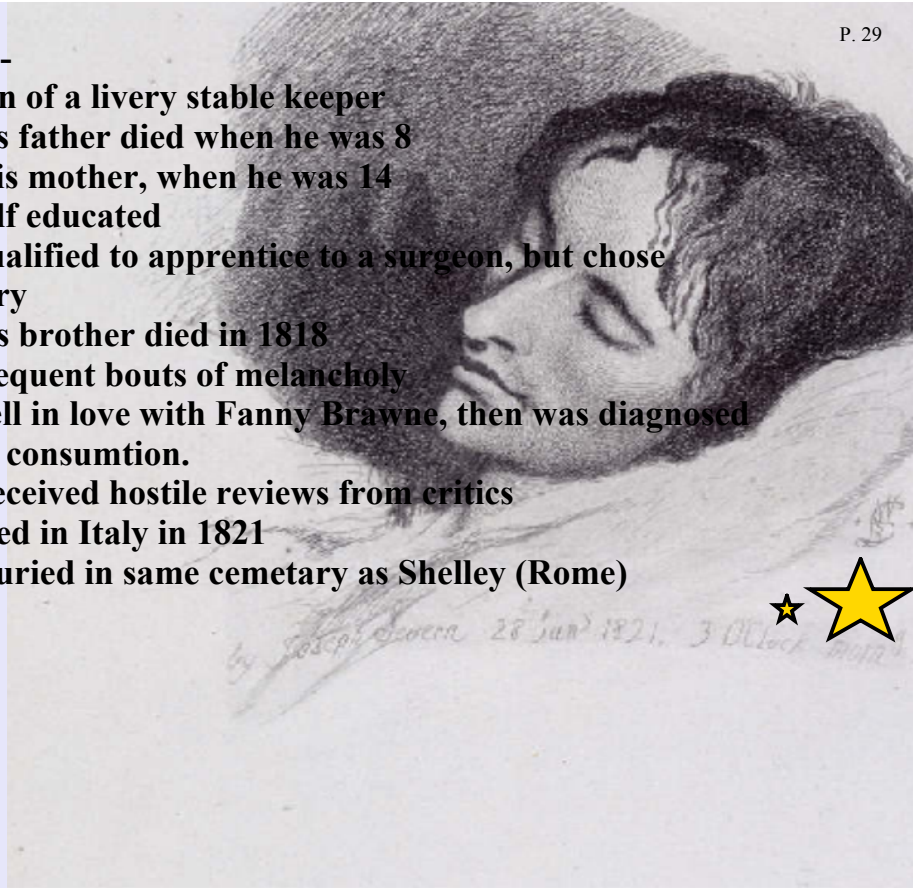
This Grave contains all that was mortal, of a YOUNG ENGLISH POET, who on his Death Bed, in the Bitterness of his heart, at the Malicious Power of his enemies, desired these words to be Engraven on his Tomb Stone

Brown and Severn felt that Keats had been badly treated by the critics and his family. However, both men later regretted adding their own words to the headstone.



Life -

- *son of a livery stable keeper
- *his father died when he was 8
- * his mother, when he was 14
- *self educated
- *qualified to apprentice to a surgeon, but chose poetry
- *his brother died in 1818
- *frequent bouts of melancholy
- * fell in love with Fanny Brawne, then was diagnosed with consumption.
- * received hostile reviews from critics
- *died in Italy in 1821
- * buried in same cemetery as Shelley (Rome)

**John Keats' Style**

***Keats is the most concrete and sensuous of the Romantics**

***his verse loiters to take in all the sensuous details of a scene**

***his odes are the finest in English language**



Read "To Autumn" by John Keats (P. 312)

P. 31

1. "To Autumn" by John Keats is:
 - a. a ballad
 - b. a song
 - c. a lyric
 - d. an ode
2. The phrase, "to autumn" is a good example of:
 - a. metonymy
 - b. hyperbole
 - c. personification
 - d. apostrophe
3. The mood of the second stanza is:
 - a. freedom and rebellion
 - b. relaxation and freedom
 - c. relaxation and patience
 - d. patience and rebellion
4. "Abundance" best characterizes which of the following:
 - a. stanzas I & III
 - b. stanza I
 - c. stanzas II & III
 - d. stanza III
5. The overall message here is:
 - a. take time to smell the roses
 - b. everything has its own individual value
 - c. take time to notice the music of everything
 - d. autumn is better than spring



Samuel Taylor Coleridge (1772 - 1834)

P. 32

- *son of a vicar
- *youngest of 13 children
- *father died when he was 9
- *good formal education
- *married Sara Fricker at 23
- *wrote lyrical ballads with Wordsworth
- *was secretary to the British governor in Malta
- *returned with an illness
- *for last 19 years of his life he lived with his doctor
- *opium was a major part of his life



***sometimes pictured as a weakling who took drugs, wrote a few brilliant fragments of verse, and spent most of his life in idleness**

***wrote "Lyrical Ballads" with Wordsworth**

***wrote a small amount of poetry, but what he did write was of high quality**

***wrote a tremendous amount of prose...essays, plays, and critical reviews**

***distinguished by its atmospheric power, melodic subtlety, and strong imagery**



The Rime of the Ancient Mariner by Samuel Taylor Coleridge (P. 256)



albatross - 1. Any of several large web-footed birds, chiefly of the oceans of the Southern Hemisphere. 2.a. A constant worrisome burden. b. An obstacle to success.

After reading "The Ryme of the Ancient Mariner" as a class, students brainstorm together on essay topics. Then each student plans and writes an essay.

Topics:

1. Discuss how Coleridge appeals to the senses in the poem, "The Ryme of the Ancient Mariner", and give an example of something that appeals to our senses in present day society. Remember, if you say it, prove it.
2. Discuss the supernatural elements in "The Ryme of the Ancient Mariner", and give examples of how people in present day society are susceptible to supernatural beliefs. Remember, if you say it, prove it.
3. Discuss the impact that the Mariner's actions have on his life and how it applies to your own life. Remember, if you say it, prove it.