

English Romanticism

Legacy

- Influence on art, music, and literature.
- Shaped modern views on nature and individualism.
- Paved the way for Victorian and modernist literature.

Key Figures

- William Wordsworth**: Nature, simplicity, emotion.
- Samuel Taylor Coleridge**: Imagination, supernatural, the sublime.
- Lord Byron**: Heroic individualism, rebellion, exoticism.
- John Keats**: Sensual imagery, melancholy, beauty.
- Percy Bysshe Shelley**: Radical politics, nature, idealism.
- William Blake**: Social criticism, mysticism, imagination.

Main Branches

- Nature**
 - Reverence for nature's beauty and power.
 - Nature as a source of inspiration and solace.
 - Examples**: Wordsworth's "Lines Composed a Few Miles Above Tintern Abbey".
- Emotion & Imagination**
 - Emphasis on individual feelings, intuition, and imagination.
 - Exploration of intense emotions such as melancholy, love, and awe.
 - Rejection of rationalism from the Enlightenment period.
 - Examples**: Coleridge's "Kubla Khan", Keats' "Ode to a Nightingale".
- The Sublime**
 - Fascination with the sublime, the beautiful, and the terrifying aspects of nature and human experience.
 - Experiencing the overwhelming power of nature and the universe.
 - Examples**: The rugged landscapes in works by Wordsworth and the supernatural in Coleridge's "The Rime of the Ancient Mariner".
- The Individual & The Common Man**
 - Focus on the individual's personal journey and experience.
 - Celebration of the common man and rural life over aristocracy and urban life.
 - Examples**: Blake's depiction of social inequality in "Songs of Innocence and of Experience".
- Medievalism & The Supernatural**
 - Romantic fascination with medieval themes, folklore, and gothic elements.
 - Exploration of the supernatural, mystical, and mysterious.
 - Examples**: Mary Shelley's "Frankenstein", Coleridge's "The Rime of the Ancient Mariner".
- Critique of Industrialization**
 - Reaction against the Industrial Revolution and its impact on nature and humanity.
 - Nostalgia for a pre-industrial past and critique of urbanization.
 - Examples**: Blake's "London" and the pastoral settings in Wordsworth's poetry.