

Year 8: Poetry - The Romantics

Key Vocabulary

- Injustice:** unfairness and inequality often in society
- Sublime:** a sense of fear, awe and wonder at the natural world
- Melancholy:** a feeling of pensive sadness
- Philosophy:** a theory or attitude that acts as a guiding principle for behaviour
- Context:** the circumstances/events that influenced the production of a literary text
- Anguish:** intense pain and suffering often psychological
- Anarchy:** chaos and revolution
- Massacre:** slaughter and mass killing





Terminology:

- Imagery:** language that uses vivid description
- Simile:** a comparison that uses as or like
- Metaphor:** a direct comparison that states one thing is another
- Emotive Language:** word choices that produce a emotional responses
- Symbolism:** images that represent an bigger idea
- Theme:** the big idea within a poem
- Tone:** the feeling or attitude within a poem
- Semantic Field:** words that are linked by meaning
- Perspective:** the viewpoint of the persona/poet
- Intention:** the purpose behind the poem
- Zoomorphism:** when a human is given animal qualities.

Poetic Structure and Form

- Caesura:** a piece of punctuation in the middle of a line creating a pause in rhythm
- Enjambment:** a sentence which continues with no punctuation into the line below
- Iambic pentameter:** a line of writing that consists of ten syllables in a specific pattern
- Repetition:** a repeated word, phrase or image – usually used to emphasise importance
- Rhyme:** words that sound the same at the end
- Stanza:** two or more lines of poetry that form a division in a poem (paragraphs)
- Sonnet:** a fourteen line poem in iambic pentameter and (usually) regular rhyme.

Key themes

	The beauty of the natural world.
	The primordial force of nature/ the sublime
	Heightened emotions, loss and melancholy
	Injustice, suffering and power

Context

- What?** Romanticism was a literary movement that focused individual experience, human emotions, the power of nature and celebrated the common man.
- When?** The movement began in the late 18th century, ending around the middle of the 19th century (roughly 1790 to 1850)
- Why?** It was a reaction to the Enlightenment which focused on facts and reason. The Romantics rejected this and felt that imagination and emotion were the most important creative faculties.

Who: Key Romantic Figures in this unit

William Blake: 1757 – 1827

An early Romantic poet, he was strongly spiritual but hated organised religion. Was horrified by the impact of the Industrial Revolution. Famous for *Songs of Innocence and Experience*. Poem in this unit *The Chimney Sweeper*.



William Wordsworth: 1770 – 1850

Known as one of the Lake Poets. He grew up in the Lake District. He believed that nature was the 'the great universal teacher'. Famous for *Lyrical Ballads* and *The Prelude*. Poem in this unit *Daffodils*



Lord Byron: 1778 – 1824

'Mad, bad and dangerous to know,' Byron was famous for his scandalous love affairs. He lived much of his life and died of fever in 1824. Famous for *Don Juan*. Poem in this unit *When We Two Parted*.



Percy Bysshe Shelley: 1792 – 1822

Expelled from university for his atheist views, Shelley was a radical thinker who hated tyranny and oppression. Famous for *The Masque of Anarchy*. Other poem in this unit *Love's Philosophy*.



Mary Shelley: 1797 – 1851

Daughter of radical thinkers William Godwin and Mary Wollstonecraft, Mary Shelley eloped with Shelley to the continent. Most famous for writing *Frankenstein*.



Walt Whitman: 1819 -1892

Late American Romantic who believed in the 'common man' and was champion of democracy. Most famous for *Leaves of Grass*. Poem in this unit *Patrolling Barnegat*.

