**ROMANTICISM**

“It was my heart that counseled me to do it, and my heart cannot err.”

ROMANTICISM = a new intellectual movement
1. Emerged at end of 18th cent
2. Challenged enlightenment thinking
3. Sources of knowing – intuition, feeling, emotion, and imagination
4. The heart is more important than the head

**CHARACTERISTICS OF ROMANTICISM**

- The misunderstood youth
- Individualism
  1. Go your own way/follow inner drives
  2. Reject conformity
  3. Rebel against middle class values – long hair, beards, crazy clothes
- Stress on the heroic
  1. The hero was a solitary genius
  2. Defy the world/sacrifice for great causes
  3. Transform society
- Passionate interest in the past
- The bizarre, unusual, and grotesque

**The Spirit of the Age (1790-1850)**

- A sense of a shared vision among the Romantics.
- Early support of the French Revolution.
- Rise of the individual → alienation.
- Dehumanization of industrialization.
- Radical poetics/politics → an obsession with violent change.

**ROMANTICISM: The Artistic Expression of Liberalism**

By: Susan M. Pojer
Horace Greeley HS  Chappaqua, NY

**ROMANTIC POETS AND THE LOVE OF NATURE**

PERCY SHELLEY
WILLIAM WORDSWORTH
JOHN KEATS
LORD BYRON

Love of nature
1. Nature was raw and untamed
2. Nature could get you in touch with the divine
3. Pantheism = god is everywhere/in everything

**The World Is Too Much With Us**

By William Wordsworth 1770–1850

The world is too much with us; late and soon,
Getting and spending, we lay waste our powers;—
Little we see in Nature that is ours;
We have given our hearts away, a sordid boon!
This Sea that bares her bosom to the moon;
The winds that will be howling at all hours,
And are up gathered now like sleeping flowers;
For this, for everything, we are out of tune;
It moves us not. Great God! I'd rather be
A Pagan suckled in a creed outworn;
So might I, standing on this pleasant lea,
Have glimpses that would make me less forlorn;
Have sight of Proteus rising from the sea;
Or hear old Triton blow his wreathèd horn.
The ROMANTICS REJECTED

1. COLD CALCULATING RATIONALISM OF THE ENLIGHTENMENT
2. MATERIALISM
3. SCIENCE WAS POTENTIALLY DANGEROUS
4. EMERGING INDUSTRIALIZATION = DEHUMANIZING AND ALIENATING

ROMANTICISM IN ART

1. Artistic expression = reflection of artist’s inner feelings
2. Rejection of the restraint of classicism
3. Emphasized warmth, emotion, movement

PAINTERS –
CASPAR DAVID FRIEDRICH
J.M.W. TURNER
EUGENE DELACROIX

ROMANTICISM IN MUSIC

• 18th century = Classicism
• 19th century = Romanticism
  1. Ludwig van Beethoven
     a. 9 symphonies
     b. piano works – Moonlight Sonata, the Appassionata, the Pathetique
  2. Hector Berlioz
     a. French romantic composer
     b. Symphony Fantastique

A Growing Distrust of Reason

Enlightenment ———— Romanticism

Society is good, curbing violent impulses

• The essence of human experience is subjective and emotional.
• Human knowledge is a puny thing compared to other great historical forces.
• "Individual rights" are dangerous efforts at selfishness → the community is more important.

The Romantic Movement

• Began in the 1790s and peaked in the 1820s.
• Mostly in Northern Europe, especially in Britain and Germany.
• A reaction against classicism.
• The "Romantic Hero:"
  ➢ Greatest example was Lord Byron
  ➢ Tremendously popular among the European reading public.
  ➢ Youth imitated his haughtiness and rebelliousness.
Characteristics of Romanticism

The Engaged & Enraged Artist:
- The artist apart from society.
- The artist as social critic/revolutionary.
- The artist as genius.

Caspar David Friedrich – “Man and Woman Contemplating the Moon”

Characteristics of Romanticism

The Individual/ The Dreamer:
- Individuals have unique, endless potential.
- Self-realization comes through art.
  - Artists are the true philosophers.

2. The “Rugged” Individual

Wandering Above the Sea of Fog
Caspar David Friedrich, 1818

Lady Macbeth – Henry Fuseli, 1794
3. The Power & Fury of Nature

Characteristics of Romanticism

Glorification of Nature:

- Peaceful, restorative qualities [an escape from industrialization and the dehumanization it creates].
- Awesome, powerful, horrifying aspects of nature.
  - Indifferent to the fate of humans.
  - Overwhelming power of nature.
The Deluge
Francis Danby, 1840

Tree of Crows
Caspar David Friedrich, 1822

The Wreck of the Hope (aka The Sea of Ice)
Caspar David Friedrich, 1821

Shipwreck—Joseph Turner, 1805

The Raft of the Medusa
Théodore Géricault, 1819

The Eruption of Vesuvius
John Martin
4. Science Can Be Dangerous!

Dr. Frankenstein’s Adam & Eve??

5. The “New” Technology Is Dehumanizing

J. M. W. Turner: “The Fighting Téméraire tugged to her last Berth to be broken”

Rain, Steam, and Speed
Joseph Mallord William Turner, 1844
Rain, Steam, & Speed
(details)

The Slave Ship
Joseph Mallord William Turner, 1842

6. Romanticizing Country Life

Flatford Mill – John Constable, 1817

The Corn Field
John Constable, 1826
7. The Gothic: “Romanticizing” the Middle Ages

Characteristics of Romanticism

Revival of Past Styles:
- Gothic & Romanesque revival.
- "Neo-Gothic" architectural style.
- Medieval ruins were a favorite theme for art and poetry.

Salisbury Cathedral from the Bishop’s Ground
John Constable, 1825

Salisbury Cathedral from the Meadows
John Constable, 1831

Hadleigh Castle
John Constable, 1829
Characteristics of Romanticism

The Supernatural:

- Ghosts, fairies, witches, demons.
- The shadows of the mind—dreams & madness.
- The romantics rejected materialism in pursuit of spiritual self-awareness.
- They yearned for the unknown and the unknowable.
Manfred and the Witch of the Alps
John Martin – 1837

Witches Sabbath
Francisco Goya, 1798

Procession of Flagellants on Good Friday
Francisco Goya, 1793

Saturn Devours His Son
Francisco Goya, 1819–1823

Greece on the Ruins of Missolonghi
Eugène Delacroix, 1827

9. Nationalism
Liberty Leading the People
Eugène Delacroix, 1830

Detail of the Musket Bearer
Delacroix, himself

The Rise of the Carthaginian Empire
Joseph Turner, 1815

His Majesty’s Ship, "Victory"
(Trafalgar) – John Constable, 1806

An Officer of the Imperial Horse Guard
Théodore Géricault, 1814

Napoleon at the St. Bernard Pass
David, 1803
The Shooting of May 3, 1808
Francisco Goya, 1815

Pandemonium – John Martin, 1841

10. Interest in Exotic Foreign Lands

Characteristics of Romanticism

Exoticism:
- The sexy “other.”
- A sense of escape from reality.
- A psychological/moral justification of imperialism?

Grand Canal, Venice
Joseph Mallord William Turner, 1835

Massacre of Chios – Eugène Delacroix, 1824
The Fanatics of Tangiers
Eugène Delacroix, 1837–1838

The Sultan of Morocco and His Entourage
Eugène Delacroix, 1845

Women of Algiers in Their Apartment
Eugène Delacroix, 1834

The Turkish Bath
Jean Auguste Ingres, 1852–1863

The Bullfight
Francisco Goya

Charge of the Mamelukes, May 2nd, 1808
Francisco Goya, 1814
THE REVIVAL OF RELIGION IN THE AGE OF ROMANTICISM

- Revival of Protestantism in Europe in the late 18th-early 19th cent -> “the great awakening”

1. Methodism in Britain
2. Pietism in Germany
**The Great Age of the Novel**

- **Gothic Novel:**
  - Jane Eyre - Charlotte Bronte (1847)
  - Wuthering Heights - Emily Bronte (1847)

- **Historical Novel:**
  - Ivanhoe - Sir Walter Scott (1819)
  - Les Miserables - Victor Hugo (1862)
  - The Three Musketeers - Alexander Dumas (1844)

- **Science Fiction Novel:**
  - Frankenstein - Mary Shelley (1817)
  - Dracula - Bram Stoker (1897)

- **Novel of Purpose:**
  - Hugh Trevar - Thomas Holcroft (1794)
1. Novel written by Johann Wolfgang von Goethe
2. Werther becomes a hero and model of the Romantics
3. Young misunderstood truth seeking – girl he loves rejects him and he commits suicide

Other Romantic Writers

Jacob and Wilhelm Grimm
- *Grimm's Fairy Tales* (1814-1816)

Johann Wolfgang von Goethe
- *Faust* (1806-1832)

The Romantic Poets

- Percy Bysshe Shelley
- Lord Byron (George Gordon)
- Samuel Taylor Coleridge
- William Wordsworth
- John Keats
- William Blake

George Gordon's (Lord Byron) Poem
- *The Prisoner of Chillon*

Mary Shelley
- *Frankenstein*
Sir Walter Scott

Ivanhoe

William Wordsworth’s Poem,

Tintern Abbey

Samuel Taylor Coleridge’s Poem,

The Rime of the Ancient Mariner

Romanticism:
The Great Paradox

The Political Implications

- Romanticism could reinforce the greatest themes of political liberalism or political conservatism.
- Contributed to growing nationalist movements:
  - The concepts of the Volk and the Volkgeist.
  - The uniqueness of cultures was emphasized.

Bibliographic Sources

- CGFA: A Virtual Art Museum.
  http://cgfa.sunsite.dk/fineart.htm
- “Romanticism” on Archive.
  https://archive.com/archive/romanticism.html