

WELCOME

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SOCIAL AND CULTURAL HISTORY OF BRITAIN:II

MODULE I-AGE OF TRANSITIONS

II BA ENGLISH COMPLEMENTARY PAPER

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TOPIC:ROMANTIC REVIVAL-WILLIAM
BLAKE


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Romantic Revival

- ❖ Romantic Revival movements began in 1798.
- ❖ The term Romanticism is a literary movement which took place in Britain and throughout Europe between 1770 and 1848.
- ❖ Romanticism began to take root as a movement following the French Revolution.
- ❖ Politically it was inspired by the revolutions in America and France

- ❖ Imagination, emotion and freedom are certainly the focal points of Romanticism.
- ❖ Love of and worship of nature.
- ❖ Concern with the particular experience.
- ❖ The value of the individual human being
- ❖ The value of freedom.
- ❖ Believed in the natural goodness of humans.

- ❖ With the publication of the Ballads but is not a sudden outburst. But the result of long and gradual growth and development.
- ❖ Wordsworth and Coleridge with the publication of the Lyrical Ballads, break away with the neo-classical tendencies in poetry.
- ❖ Lyrical Ballads sought to reject Neo-classicism.
- ❖ The elements of a new type of poetry. It is based on the “real language of men” and which avoids the poetic diction of much 18th Century poetry.

- ❖ The romantic poets were deeply interested both in life and art.
 - ❖ Liberalism in nature.
 - ❖ Romantic poets see nature-and the human sources of strength and happiness they believe it nourishes-as threatened with extinction.
 - ❖ Against enlightenment ideas, feeling began to be considered more important than reason, both in literature and in ethics.
 - ❖ Individual approach to life and literature.
 - ❖ Romanticism a movement across the arts.
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- ❖ They hoped to find a way of changing the social order by their writing.
- ❖ They believed in literature being a sort of mission to be carried out in order to reach the wisdom of the universe.
- ❖ More consideration given to the poets inner life.
- ❖ Poetry seen as the expression of the soul.
- ❖ Language rich in common words.

- ❖ Romantics used symbolism to derive different meanings from a single expression.
- ❖ Love and worship of nature and dislike of urban life is one of the chief characteristics of Romantic poetry.
- ❖ The Romantics have love for the supernatural and the mystical.
- ❖ Romantics used common language of ordinary people.
- ❖ Romantics used Hellenism: the love, commitment and fascination for the antiquated society, values and individuals of Greeks, various allusions, to the art, literature and culture Greeks.

- ❖ Romanticism arises as a response to social changes.
- ❖ It was called Age of Transition, because the drift of poetry of this period was towards Romanticism.
- ❖ Rebellion against the classical domination.
- ❖ Shortest major era in English literary history.
- ❖ The Romantic revival in English Literature of the 18th Centuries can be divided into three periods: the Early Romantics, the lakists and the Later Romantics.

- ❖ The lakists is represented by Samuel Coleridge and William Wordsworth.
- ❖ They both escaped from the evils of big cities and settled in the quietness of country life in the purity of nature, among country-Folk. Living in the Lake country of Northern England, they were known as the Lakists.
- ❖ Romantic writers based their theories on the intuition and the wisdom of the heart..

- ❖ Romanticism continued to grow in reaction to the effects of the social transformation caused by the Revolution.
- ❖ Important romantic poets : William Wordsworth, S.T Coleridge
Lord Byron, William Blake, P.B Shelly, Robert Southey.
- ❖ They are shared the same view of the French Revolution as it being the beginning of a change in the current ways of society.
- ❖ Helping to improve the lives of the oppressed.
- ❖ Romantic poetry is a revolt against the artificial and pseudo classical poetry.
- ❖ Romantic poetry is subjective, individualism of the poet.

- ❖ The most important English Romantic poets are usually grouped in to two generations.
- ❖ The first generation included Wordsworth and Coleridge (Lakists or Lake poets).
- ❖ The second generation were Keats, Shelly and Byron. These writers were responsible for a far –reaching revolution in literary taste.
- ❑ Idealization of women and children.
- ❑ Interest in past (especially Medieval age).

William Blake (1757- 1827)

- ❖ One of the first writers of the Romantic Period.
- ❖ He wrote many works such as “ Songs of Innocence”.
- ❖ He believed in equality for women.
- ❖ He was highly critical of slavery and child labour.
- ❖ Blake supported the French Revolution and American Revolution.
- ❖ He was very mystical man.

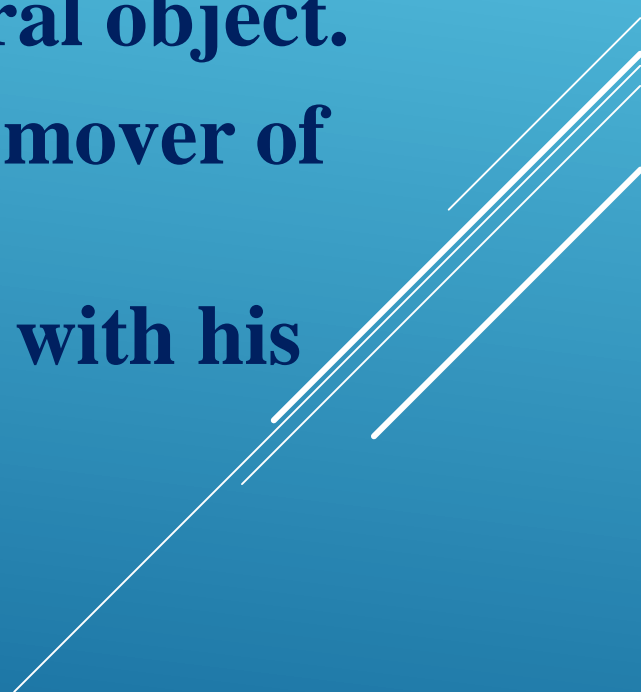
- ❑ He wrote many works such as “Songs of Innocence”.
- ❑ He is not a traditional Romantic, but holds some of their views.
- ❑ Biblical and mythological imagery in his work.
- ❑ He was against science, preferring instead the creative spirit to rationality.
- ❑ Blake thinks that we are all born innocent and in God’s image, it is society that corrupt us.
- ❑ He holds a special place for children for this reason.

- ❖ Blakes earlier work is primarily rebellious in character .
- ❖ In 1784 Blake composed his unfinished manuscript “*An Island in the Moon*”.
- ❖ *The French Revolution* is a poem written by William Blake in 1791.
- ❖ In this poem Blake describes the problems of the French monarchy, the problems of the feudal system. And the corruption and decay of the French monarchy and Church.

- ❑ He believed in equality for women.
- ❑ He was highly critical of slavery and child labour.
- ❑ Blake supported the French and American Revolutions and the overthrow of corrupt power.
- ❑ His writing style influenced so many writers and artist.
- ❑ William Blake was a major poet and original thinker.
- ❑ Blake's first collection of poems = *Poetical Sketches*

Important works : ‘ Songs of Innocence, Songs of Experience, The Marriage of Heaven and Hell and Jerusalem.

William Wordsworth (1770- 1850)

- **Major themes : The power of human mind, childhood, nature.**
 - **Main interest was the poets response to a natural object.**
 - **William Wordsworth is the pioneer and prime mover of Romanticism.**
 - **He glorifies the spirit of man, living in armony with his natural environment**
 - **Wordsworth developed a love of nature.**
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- ❑ He is remembered as a poet of spiritual and epistemological speculation.
- ❑ Wordsworth developed a love of nature, a theme reflected in many poems.
- ❑ Wordsworth deep love for the “beauteous forms” of the natural world.
- ❑ Wordsworth is best known for *Lyrical Ballads*.
- ❑ Chronologically and logically follows the composition of most of the poems.

- ❑ Wordsworth demonstrated is immense love and reverence for nature, though his observations and perceptions about nature were in opposition to an earlier famous nature-influenced poet
- ❑ Wordsworth expressed his love for outer appearance of nature, like colours, beauty, form etc...
- ❑ this can be seen in the concluding poem of the first edition of the Lyrical Ballads.
- ❑ Wordsworth indicated how dearly he yearned for the peace he found in observing nature

- ❑ The biggest contribution William Wordsworth made to romantic poetry.
- ❑ Is to give perceptions of seeing, observing, and understanding nature.
- ❑ Wordsworth propagated simple living, away from the hustle and bustle of cities.
- ❑ William Wordsworth is the Father of Romanticism,
- ❑ Wordsworth captured emotions distinctively, personifying them with various elements of nature, making each of them purely romantic.

- ❑ Almost all the great poets of the Romantic Age either directly or indirectly influenced by Wordsworth works,.
- ❑ Wordsworth's first poetic works = An Evening Walk and Descriptive Sketches published in 1793.
- ❑ He attended sessions of the National Assembly and the Jacobin club.

- ❖ William Wordsworth was rightfully considered “ the Father of Romanticism”.
- ❖ Wordsworth was also very much a believer that he was put here to teach people with his works of art.
- ❖ He wanted readers of his works to learn about life ,beauty , and death.
- ❖ He interpreted many things, such as the idea that humans need to find themselves.
- ❖ Because of Wordsworth’s spread of romanticism to America, the movement became way bigger.

- ❖ According to him poetry could in fact penetrate the realism of the “ elementary feelings” experienced by common country people which were more easily understood on a universal scale so that anyone could sympathise with them.
- ❖ Wordsworth’s first poetic works- *An Evening Walk* *descriptive Sketches* were published in 1793.
- ❖ Wordsworth’s magnum opus is the prelude, a semi-autobiographical poem of his early years that he revised and expanded a number of times.

- ❑ Wordsworth began writing poetry as a young boy in grammar school.
- ❑ Wordsworth's passion for democracy as is clear in his "Letter to the Bishop of Liandaff" is the result of his two youthful trips to France.
- ❑ His experiences in revolutionary France strengthened and developed his convictions.
- ❑ The prelude extremely personal work and reveals many details of Wordsworth's life.
- ❑ Lyrical Ballads a collection of poems it was the result of the collective effort of Coleridge and Wordworth.

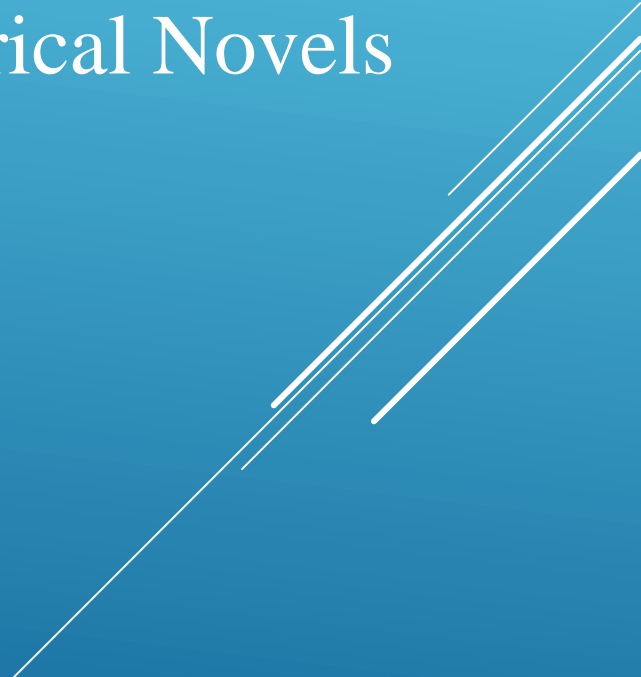
- ❑ Preface of this book the poets object was to choose incidents and situations from common life and to relate and describe them
- ❑ In a selection of language was the key note of his writings.
- ❑ It was one of the best known and most influential works of the Romantic Movement.

Sir Walter Scott (1771-1832)

- He was a poet, playwright and novelist .
- Scottish historical novelist.
- Scott was the first English language author to have a truly international career his lifetime.
- His interest in the older border tales and ballads .
- Very popular during his lifetime and over the world.
- Many of his works remain classics of both English –language literature and of Scottish literature.

- ❖ His historical novels changed attitudes towards the past .
- ❖ He made the world aware of Scotland.
- ❖ His novel struck the reader with their epic quality.
- ❖ In the mid-1790s Scott became interested in German Romanticism, Gothic novels, and Scottish border ballads.
- ❖ His first published work : The Chase
- ❖ Another important work William and Helen. It was a translation of two ballads by the German Romantic balladeer G.A .Burger.

- ❖ The work made Scott's name known to a wide public, and he followed up his first success with full length narrative poem, *The Lay of the Last Minstrel* (1805).
- ❖ The poem's clear and vigorous storytelling, Scottish regionalist elements, honest pathos, and vivid evocations of landscape.
- ❖ were repeated in further poetic romances, including *Marmion*, *The Lady of the Lake* .
- ❖ At the age of 25 he began to write professionally translating works from German.

- ❖ Novels that reconstruct a past age, often when two cultures are in conflict .
 - ❖ Fictional characters interact with historical figures in actual events.
 - ❖ Sir Walter Scott is considered the Father of Historical Novels (The Waverly Novels).
 - ❖ Genres : Visionary Poetry.
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- ❖ Developed an intense love of Scottish history and tradition.
- ❖ Whose favorite subject was his native Scotland.
- ❖ Scott wrote twenty –seven historical novels.
- ❖ Scott expanded the range of the novel as a literary form.
- ❖ His Historical novels changed attitudes towards the past,
- ❖ He made the world aware of Scotland .
- ❖ His novel struck the reader with their epic quality.

- ❖ Still very young ,he suffers from poliomyelitis.
- ❖ Many of the tales and legends which characterize much of his work, becoming interested in the history of Scotland.
- ❖ Scott from Poet to Novelist.
- ❖ He published his most popular work , Ivanhoe set in 12th c-England.
- ❖ Quentin Durward was written on different subject. Set in 15th c France .
- ❖ The Talisman , set in Palestine during the Crusades.
- ❖ Scott had a profound influence on other European and American novelists, and he is often credited with inventing the historical novel.

Jane Austen(1775-1817)

- ❖ Jane Austen's was an English Novelist whose works of romantic fiction, set among the landed gentry, earned her a place as one of the most widely read writers in English Literature.
- ❖ Austen's distinctive literary style relies on a combination of parody, mockery, irony, free indirect speech, and a degree of realism.
- ❖ Irony is one Austen's most characteristic and most discussed literary techniques.
- ❖ To describe the characters she dislikes.

- ❖ New ideas (French Revolution).
- ❖ Imaginative element in writing: Gothic novels.
- ❖ Individuality.
- ❖ Interest in legend and History (Sir Walter Scot).
- ❖ Noted for her witty studies of early -19th Century English Society.
- ❖ Her work combine romantic comedy with social satire and psychological insight.

- ❖ Women writer of the 19th Century.
- ❖ Father was a clergyman and mother was from a wealthy upper class family.
- ❖ Jane's brother Henry helped her negotiate with a publisher and her first novel *Sense and Sensibility*.
- ❖ Her next novel *Pride and Prejudice* .
- ❖ In her novels she expresses the feminist feelings of her time.
- ❖ Austen lived a quiet and uneventful life.

- ❖ Jane Austen's novels were first published anonymously. Her name does not appear as author until after her death.
- ❖ Another important works= *Mansfield Park*
Emma, Northanger Abbey, Persuasion
- ❖ Emma was dedicated to the prince regent an admire of her work.

- ❖ *Northanger Abbey* and *Persuasion* – both published Posthumously.
- ❖ She also left behind three volumes of Juvenile writings in Manuscript .
- ❖ A short epistolary (in the form of letters).
- ❖ Novel *Lady Susan and another* unfinished novel '*The Watson*'.

- ❖ Jane Austen was the first English writer who gave the novel its distinctly modern character through her treatment of ordinary people in everyday life.
- ❖ She vividly depicted English middle-class life during the early 19th century.

THANK YOU.....

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