



Percy Bysshe Shelley (1792- 1822)

Beauty
Imagination
Expression
Love

http://www.wwnorton.com/college/english/nael/romantic/topic_3/illustrations/imshelley.htm

“A Defense of Poetry” (1820, 1840)

- Poetry and society
- How does Shelley define poetry?
- How does Shelley define a poet?

“Ode to the West Wind” (1819, 1820)

- Terza rima (first used by Dante)
- ABA BCB CDC DED EE
- Iambic pentameter
- The west wind: the rising wind operates as an external stimulus for the revivification of the natural world and the poet’s spirit
- Shelley’s belief that regeneration follows destruction

“To a Skylark” (1820)

- First four lines: trochaic trimeter
- The fifth line: iambic hexameter
- The skylark: pure poetic expression and inspiration

“Ozymandias” (1817)

- A sonnet
- Iambic pentameter
- ABABACDCEDEFEF
- Emptiness of tyranny and mere pomp

“England in 1819” (1819, 1839)

- A sonnet
- ABABABCDCDCDD
- iambic pentameter
- King: King George

“Hymn to Intellectual Beauty” (1816)

- ABBAACCBDDDEE
- iambic pentameter + iambic hexameter + iambic tetrameter
- Reflection on the ineffable but omnipotent power of the imagination in apprehending the eternal forms of beauty and truth
- Shelley’s emotion conversion to Platonic or neo-Platonic idealism

Question

- How does the structure of “Ode to the West Wind” reflect its theme of cyclic regeneration? (What does each of the five stanzas say?)

Question

- In what sense is poetry a moral exercise for its readers?

Question

How does Shelley define poetry and the poet?

Question

- Compare the different attitudes towards nature among Blake, Wordsworth, Coleridge, Shelley, and Keats.

Question

- Compare the difference views about poetry (and the poet) among Wordsworth, Coleridge, and Shelley.

Question

- What is romanticism? Can you explain the term citing examples from the poets we have covered thus far?