

# The Romantic Period



[http://www.wwnorton.com/college/english/nael/romantic/topic\\_1/guide.htm](http://www.wwnorton.com/college/english/nael/romantic/topic_1/guide.htm)

- Time: late 18th century to the mid-19th century
- The Augustan Writers vs. the Romantic Writers: Reason/Objectivity vs. Imagination/Individuality
- Prominent Genre: Lyric Poetry, Novel

# Revolutions

- The American Revolution
- The French Revolution
- The Industrial Revolution



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# Question

- What has the changing time to do with the need for heightened individuality and creativity?

# The Solitary Poet

- Sublime
- Sensibility
- The Romantics and the Augustans



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# William Wordsworth

- *The Lyrical Ballads* (1798)
- Language: “really used” by people
- Subject Matter: “humble and rustic life”
- Spontaneous Feelings
- Nature vs. Society
- Coleridge, William Blake, Percy Shelley, and John Keats



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# Lord Byron

- Satirist
- Byronic Hero:  
Heathcliff from Emily  
Brontë's *Wuthering  
Heights* (1847), Satan in  
Milton's *Paradise Lost*
- Sensitivity and  
Humanity



[http://www.wwnorton.com/college/english/nael/romantic/topic\\_5/illustrations/mwestall.htm](http://www.wwnorton.com/college/english/nael/romantic/topic_5/illustrations/mwestall.htm)

# Jane Austen

- Impassioned Individualism vs. Good Sense & Self-restraint
- *Pride and Prejudice*



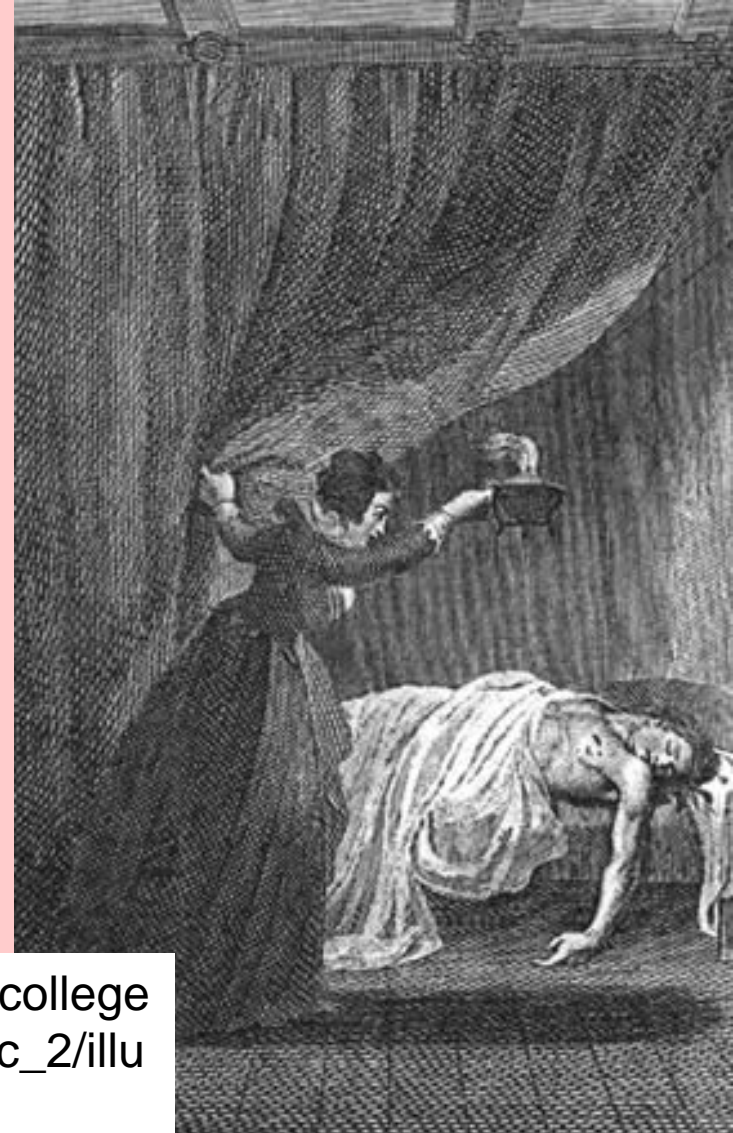
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# Gothic Novels

- Denouncement against the outmoded ideals of chivalry and Catholicism for middle-class, Protestant readers.
- Ann Radcliffe's *The Mysteries of Udolpho* (1794)

[http://www.wwnorton.com/college/english/nael/romantic/topic\\_2/illustrations/imvol4.htm](http://www.wwnorton.com/college/english/nael/romantic/topic_2/illustrations/imvol4.htm)



# William Blake

- 1757-1827
- *Songs of Innocence*
- *Songs of Experience*
- Speaks always for the primacy of the individual and the imagination

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# *Songs of Innocence* (1789)

- An Imaginative picture of the state of innocence
- Reflection of the growing Romantic fascination with childhood and a supposed primitive condition of human perfection in inn



[http://www.wwnorton.com/college/english/nael/victorian/topic\\_1/illustrations/imsweep.htm](http://www.wwnorton.com/college/english/nael/victorian/topic_1/illustrations/imsweep.htm)

# *Songs of Experience* (1794)

The actual of the suffering mankind. About the inhumanity and injustice attendant upon fallen man. The soul may pass through the apparent horrors into a fuller, more active life in the Creative Imagination.



- “Sensation and Thought have too often led men to a dualism (God versus Satan, right versus wrong, light versus darkness).... Blake intuited a unified universe wherein the apparently warring elements are actually different aspects of a divine fitness. What is frequently termed evil is really power and energy, mistakenly condemned by the unimaginative and the unilluminated.” (Day)



# “The Marriage of Heaven and Hell”

- Good  $\neq$  passivity
- Evil  $\neq$  energy
- Warring of Reason and Imagination



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# Question

- How would you define the English Romanticism? Can you cite examples to support your explanation?