

ROMANTICISM



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ROMANTICISM

The Name

- Mysterious origin and difficult meaning
- The term 'Romantic' was used first in pejorative sense in a newspaper to describe Victor Hugo's novels.
- No association with 'Romance'.
- Later on glorified

Romanticism

Definition:

A movement of the eighteenth and nineteenth centuries that marked the reaction in literature, philosophy, art, religion, and politics to the formalism of the preceding (Neoclassic) period. The Neoclassic period valued reason, formal rules, and demanded order in beauty.

Classical and Romantic

Classical	Romantic
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Objective• Collective• Reason as the dominant Principle• Law/Rules/Norms• Proportion as the artistic principle	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Subjective• Individual• Emotion as the dominant Principal• Opposition to Law/Rules/Norms• Excess as an artistic principle

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.

Beginning

- Romanticism was not a collective movement
- Individual movement
- Arose independently in different parts of Europe at different periods
- Formal beginning in England in 1798 with the publication of the Lyrical Ballads by Wordsworth and Coleridge

Romanticism

- Victor Hugo called Romanticism “liberalism in literature.” It freed the artist and writer from restraints and rules.
- Walter Pater thought the addition of strangeness to beauty defined the Romantic movement.
- A current definition: a psychological desire to escape from unpleasant realities.

Romanticism

Characteristics:

- The predominance of imagination and emotion over reason and formal rules
- Primitivism
- Love of nature
- An interest in the past
- Mysticism

Romanticism

Characteristics: (Contd)

- Individualism
- Idealization of rural life
- Enthusiasm for the wild, irregular, or grotesque in nature
- Enthusiasm for the uncivilized or “natural”

Romanticism

More Characteristics:

- Interest in human rights
- Sentimentality
- Melancholy
- Interest in the **gothic**

Characteristics of Romanticism

1. The Engaged & Enraged Artist:

- The artist apart from society.
- The artist as social critic/revolutionary.
- The artist as genius.



*Wandering
Above the Sea
of Fog*

Caspar David
Friedrich,
1818

2. Romanticizing Country Life

The Hay Wain - John Constable,



3. The Gothic: "Romanticizing" the Middle Ages

Eldena Ruin

Gaspar David Friedrich, 1825



4. The Exotic, the Occult, and the Macabre!

Characteristics of Romanticism

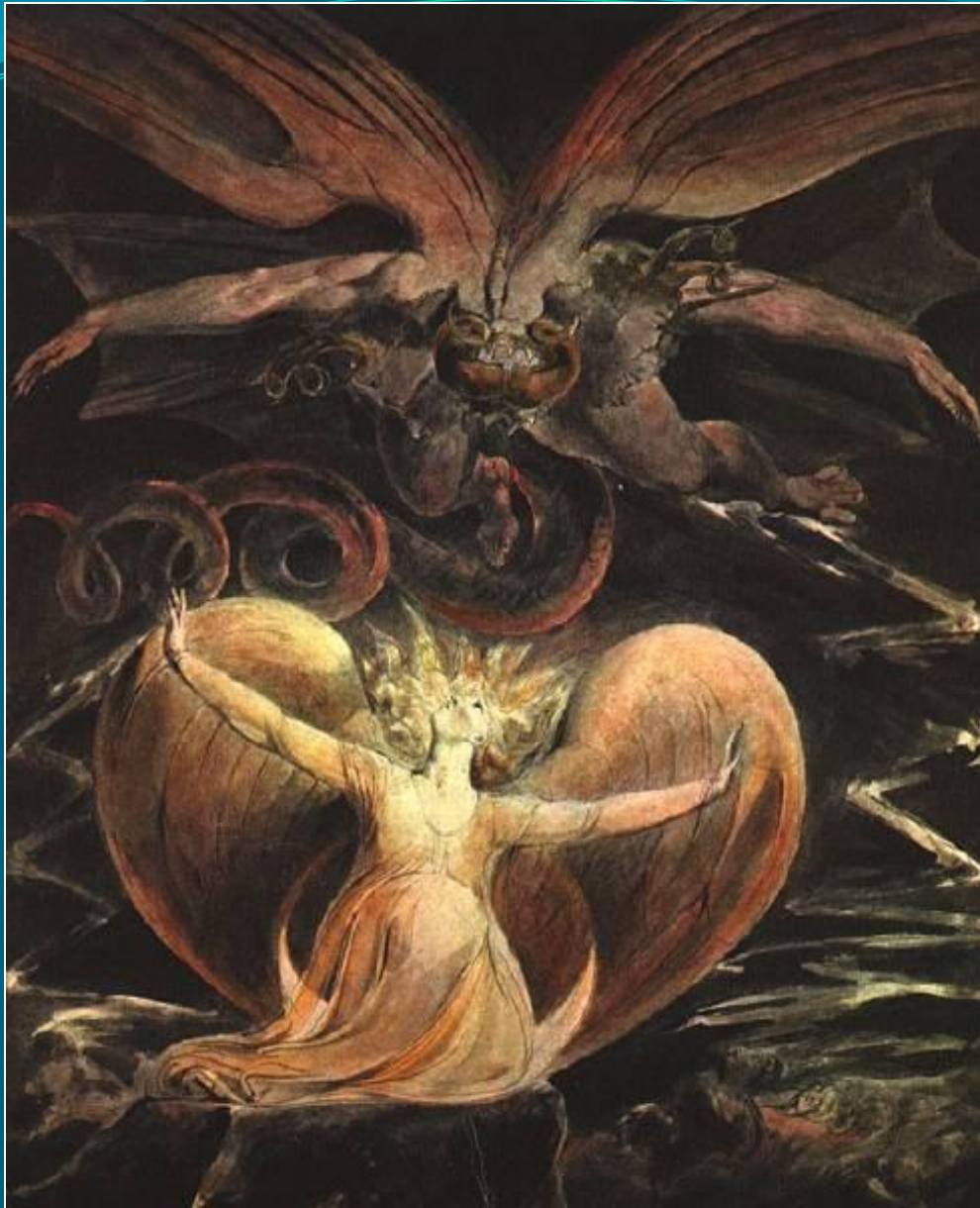
The Supernatural:

- 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.

Abbey in an Oak Forest

Caspar David Friedrich, 1809-1810





*The Great
Red
Dragon and
the Woman
Clothed
with the Sun*

William Blake,
1808-1810

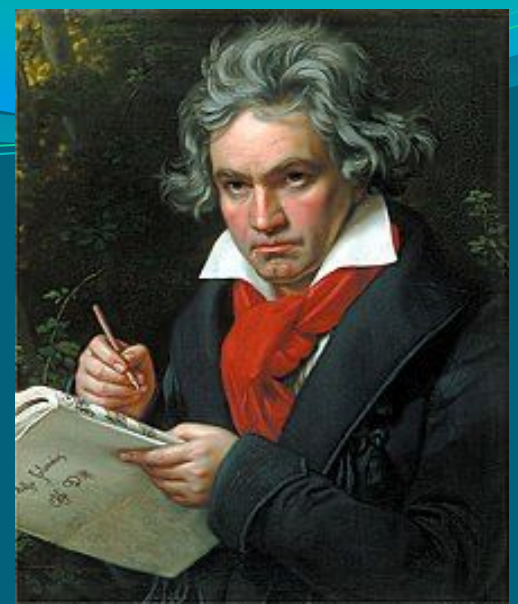
Nightmare (The Incubus)

Henry Fuseli, 1781



The Romantic Music

- **Ludwig van Beethoven**
(German composer and pianist)



Break from the “Classical” styles of Hayden and Mozart.

Famous Compositions: 5th and 9th

Symphony, Fur Elise, Sonata, A Song of Joy
etc.

The Romantic Poets

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



William
Wordsworth's
Poem,
*Tintern
Abbey*

Samuel
Taylor
Coleridge's
Poem,

*The Rime
of the
Ancient
Mariner*



The Great Age of the Novel

e Gothic Novel:

Jane Eyre - Charlotte Bronte (1847)

Wuthering Heights - Emily Bronte (1847)

e Historical Novel:

Ivanhoe - Sir Walter Scott (1819)

Les Miserables - Victor Hugo (1862)

The Three Musketeers - Alexander Dumas
(1844)

The Great Age of the Novel

e Science Fiction Novel:

Frankenstein - Mary Shelley (1817)

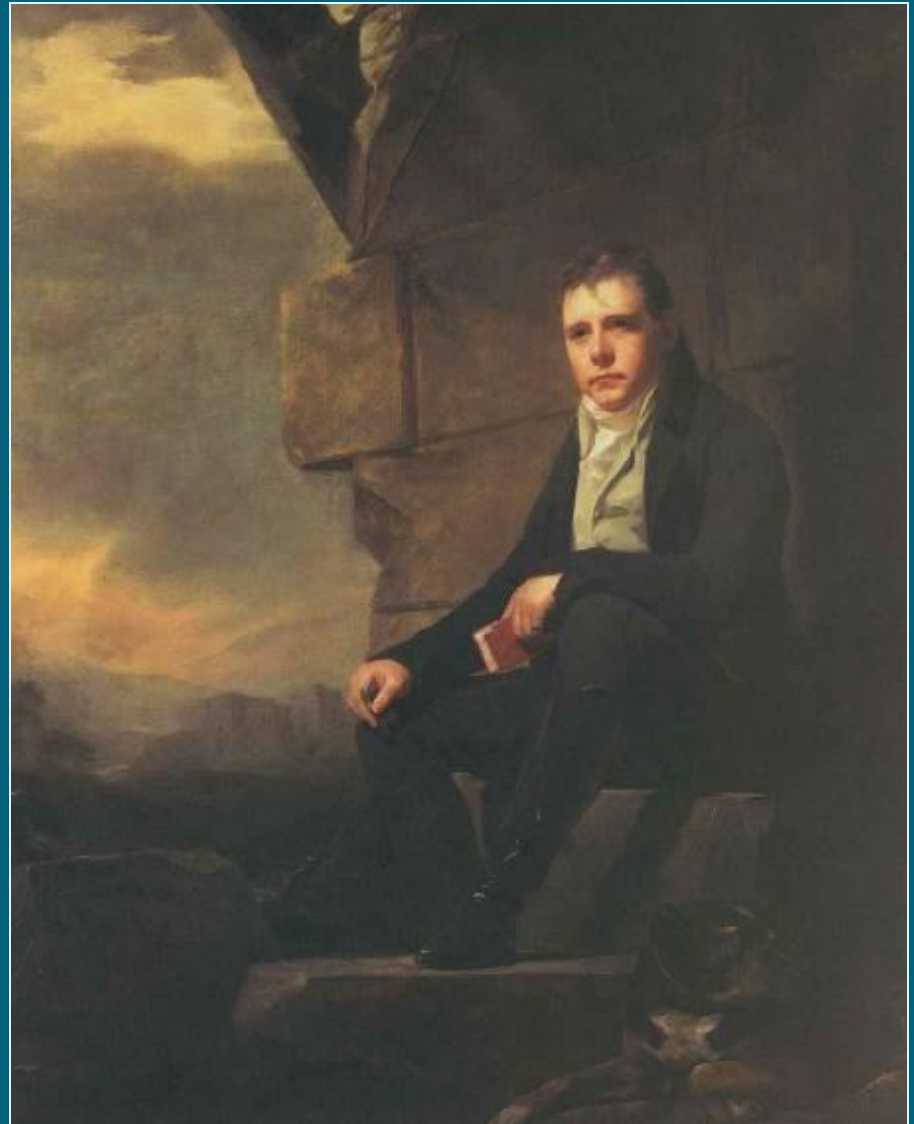
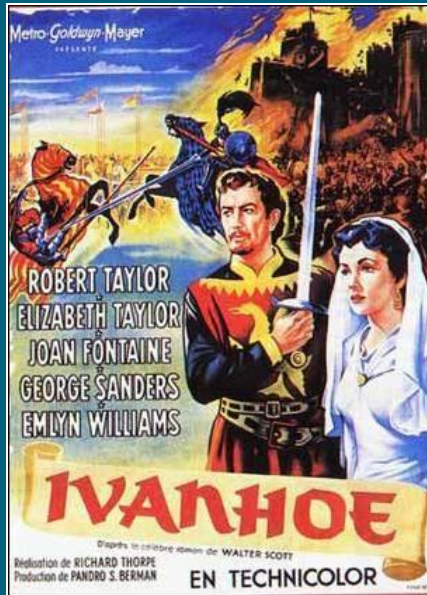
Dracula - Bramm Stoker (1897)

e Novel of Purpose:

Hugh Trevar - Thomas Holcroft (1794)

Sir Walter Scott

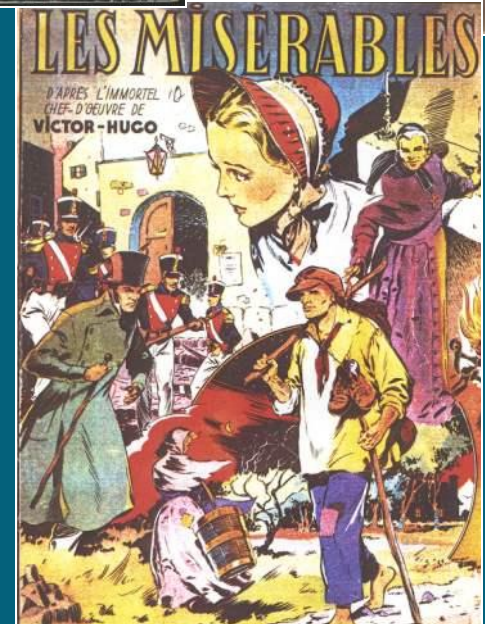
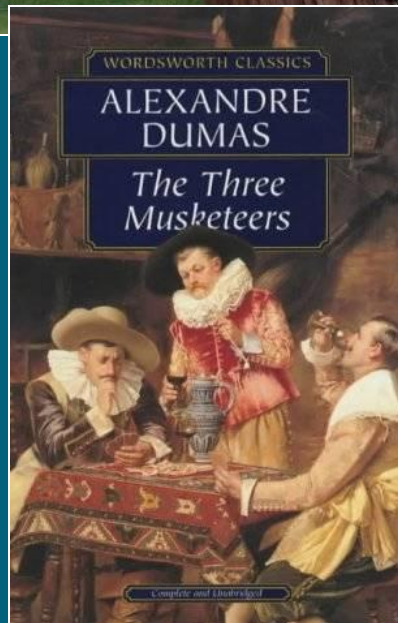
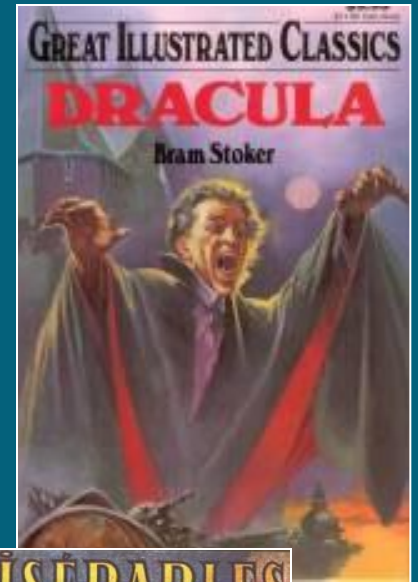
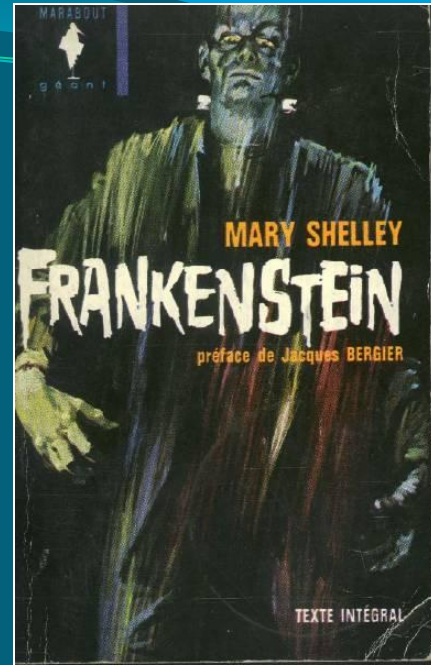
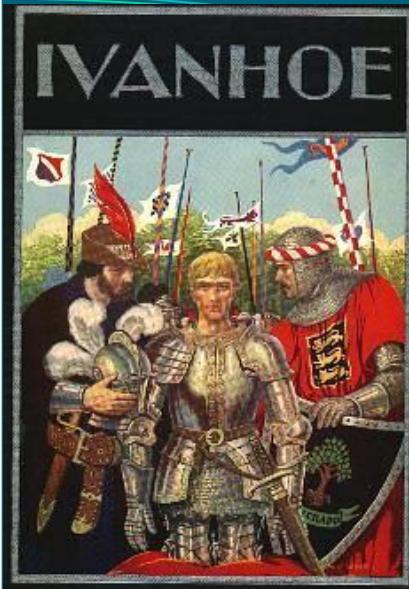
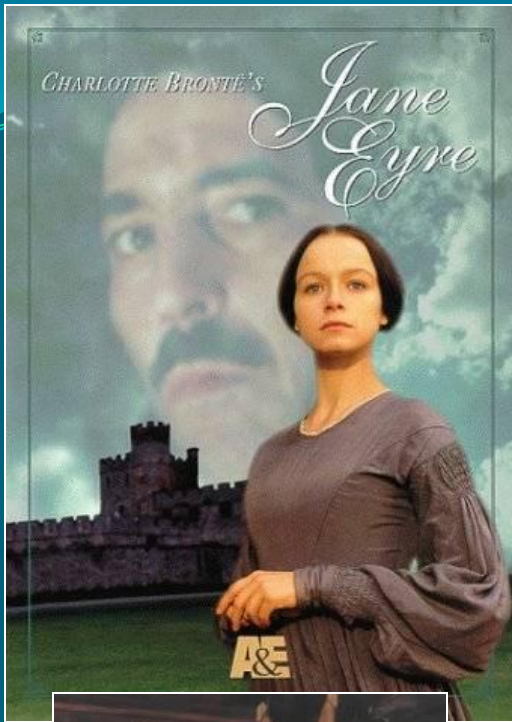
Ivanhoe





Mary
Shelley

Frankenstein



Thank You

For any query, mail me at-
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