

# ROMANTICISM: The Artistic Expression of Liberalism

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## 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 18<sup>th</sup> cent
2. Challenged enlightenment thinking
3. Sources of knowing – intuition, feeling, emotion, and imagination
4. The heart is more important than the head

*"It behooves us to be careful what we worship, for what we are worshipping we are becoming."*  
Ralph Waldo Emerson

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## 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.

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## 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



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## ROMANTIC POETS AND THE LOVE OF NATURE

PERCY SHELLEY  
WILLIAM WORDSWORTH  
JOHN KEATS  
LORD BYRON



*"Little we see in nature that is ours  
We have given our hearts away, a sordid boon!"*  
William Wordsworth

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

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## 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 wreathed horn.



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## The ROMANTICS REJECTED

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



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## 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

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## ROMANTICISM IN MUSIC

- 18<sup>th</sup> century = Classicism
- 19<sup>th</sup> 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



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1. Emotions!  
 Passion!  
 Irrationality!

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## A Growing Distrust of Reason

Enlightenment

Early  
19c

Romanticism

*Society is good, curbing  
 violent impulses!*

*Civilization corrupts!*

- 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.

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## 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.



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## Characteristics of Romanticism

### The Engaged & Enraged Artist:

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

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### Caspar David Friedrich – "Man and Woman Contemplating the Moon"



15



### *Wandering Above the Sea of Fog*

Caspar David  
Friedrich,  
1818

16

### *Lady Macbeth – Henry Fuseli, 1794*



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## 2. The "Rugged" Individual

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## Characteristics of Romanticism

### The Individual/ The Dreamer:

- Individuals have unique, endless potential.
- Self-realization comes through art
  - Artists are the true philosophers.

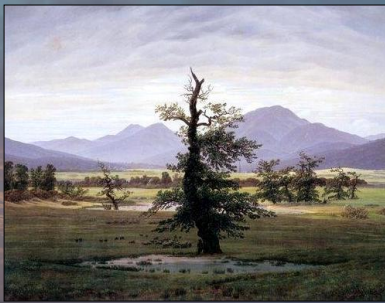
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### *The Dreamer* Caspar David Friedrich, 1835



20

### *Solitary Tree* Caspar David Friedrich, 1823



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## 3. The Power & Fury of Nature

22

## 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.

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### *An Avalanche in the Alps* Philip James de Loutherbourg, 1803



24

*Sunset After a Storm On the Coast of Sicily* – Andreas Achenbach, 1853



25

*The Deluge*  
Francis Danby, 1840



26

*Tree of Crows*  
Caspar David Friedrich, 1822



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



28

*Shipwreck* – Joseph Turner, 1805



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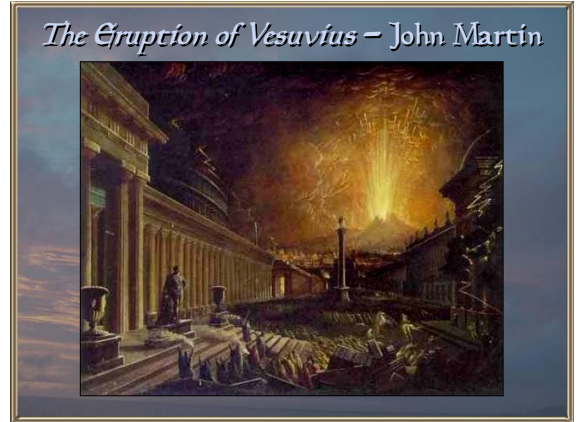
*The Raft of the Medusa*  
Théodore Géricault, 1819



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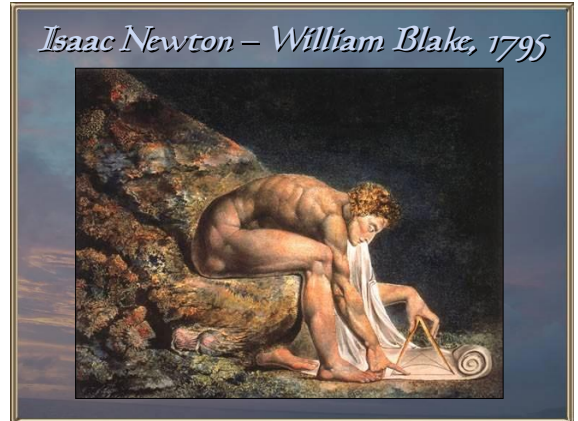
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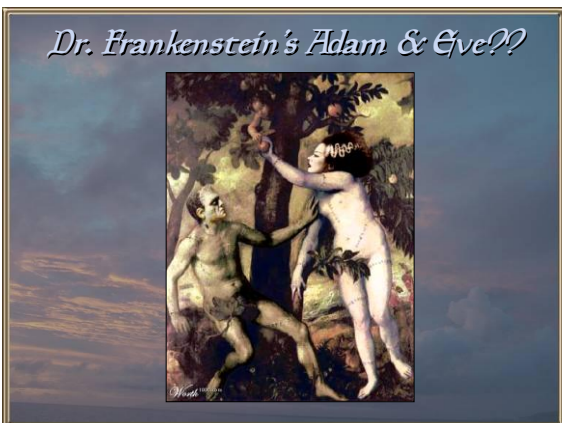
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4. Science  
Can Be  
Dangerous!

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5. The "New"  
Technology  
Is Dehumanizing

36

J. M. W. Turner- "The Fighting Téméraire tugged to her last Berth to be broken"



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*Rain, Steam, and Speed*  
Joseph Mallord William Turner, 1844



38

*Rain,  
Steam,  
& Speed*  
(details)



39



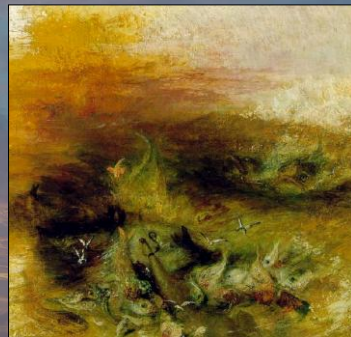
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*The Slave Ship*  
Joseph Mallord William Turner, 1842



41

*The  
Slave  
Ship*  
(details)



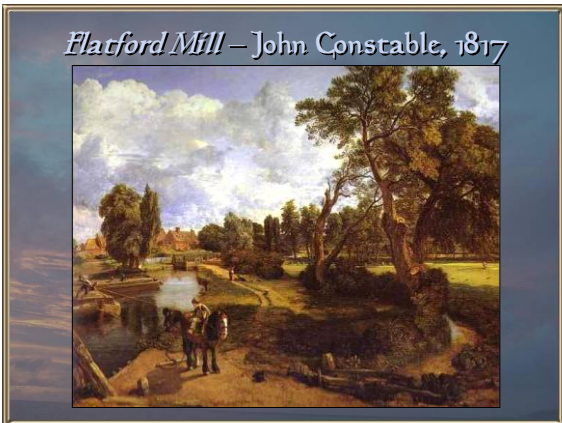
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# 6. Romanticizing Country Life

44



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46



47

# 7. The Gothic: “Romanticizing” the Middle Ages

48

## Characteristics of Romanticism

### Revival of Past Styles:

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

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*Salisbury Cathedral from the Bishop's Ground*  
John Constable, 1825



50

*Salisbury Cathedral from the Meadows*  
John Constable, 1831



51

*Hadleigh Castle* – John Constable, 1829



52

*Eldena Ruin*  
Gaspar David Friedrich, 1825



53

*Winter Landscape with Church*  
Gaspar David Friedrich, 1811



54

*British Houses of Parliament*  
1840–1865



55

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

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**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.

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*Cloister Cemetery in the Snow*  
Caspar David Friedrich, 1817–1819



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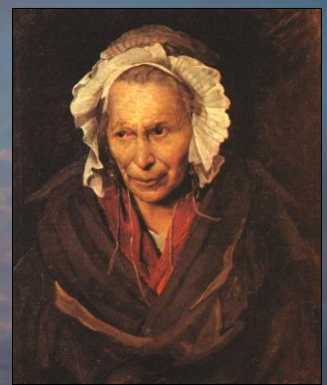
*Abbey in an Oak Forest*  
Caspar David Friedrich, 1809–1810



59

*Mad Woman  
With a  
Mantle  
of Envy*

Theodore  
Gericault,  
1822–1823



60

*Pity* - William Blake, 1795



61



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

William Blake,  
1808-1810

62

*Stonhenge* - John Constable, 1836



63

*Nightmare (The Incubus)*  
Henry Fuseli, 1781



64

*Manfred and the Witch of the Alps*  
John Martin - 1837



65



*Witches Sabbath*

Francisco Goya,  
1798

66

*Procession of Flagellants on Good Friday*  
Francisco Goya, 1793



67

*Saturn Devours his Son*

Francisco Goya,  
1819-1823



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## 9. Nationalism

69

*Greece on the Ruins of Missolonghi*

Eugène Delacroix,  
1827



70

*Liberty Leading the People*  
Eugène Delacroix, 1830



71

Detail of the  
Musket Bearer

Delacroix, himself



72

*The Rise of the Carthaginian Empire*  
Joseph Turner, 1815



73

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



74

*An Officer of the Imperial Horse Guard*

Théodore Géricault,  
1814



75

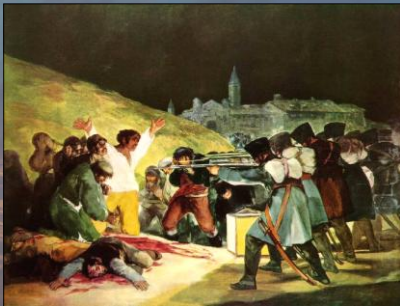
*Napoleon at the St. Bernard Pass*

David,  
1803



76

*The Shooting of May 3, 1808*  
Francisco Goya, 1815



77

*Pandemonium* – John Martin, 1841



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## 10. Interest in Exotic Foreign Lands

79

### Characteristics of Romanticism

#### Exoticism:

- The sexy "other."
- A sense of escape from reality.
- A psychological/moral justification of imperialism?

80

*Grand Canal, Venice*  
Joseph Mallord William Turner, 1835



81

*Massacre of Chios* – Eugène Delacroix, 1824



82

*The Fanatics of Tangiers*  
Eugène Delacroix, 1837–1838



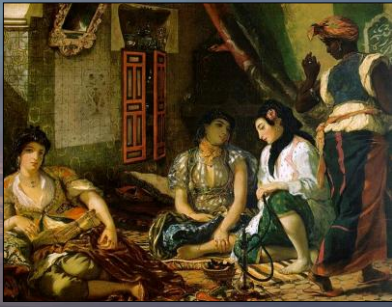
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*The Sultan of Morocco and his Entourage*  
Eugène Delacroix, 1845



84

*Women of Algiers in Their Apartment*  
Eugène Delacroix, 1834



85

*The Turkish Bath*  
Jean Auguste Ingres, 1852-1863



86

*The Bullfight - Francisco Goya*



87

*Charge of the Mamelukes, May 2<sup>nd</sup>, 1808*  
Francisco Goya, 1814



88

*The Royal Pavillion at Brighton*  
John Nash, 1815-1823



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11. Return to  
Christian  
Mysteries

90

## THE REVIVAL OF RELIGION IN THE AGE OF ROMANTICISM

- Revival of Protestantism in Europe in the late 18<sup>th</sup>- early 19<sup>th</sup> cent -> "the great awakening"

1. Methodism in Britain
2. Pietism in Germany



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*God as the Architect* – William Blake, 1794



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*Elohim Creating Adam*  
William Blake, 1805



94

*Body of Abel Found by Adam and Eve*  
William Blake, 1825

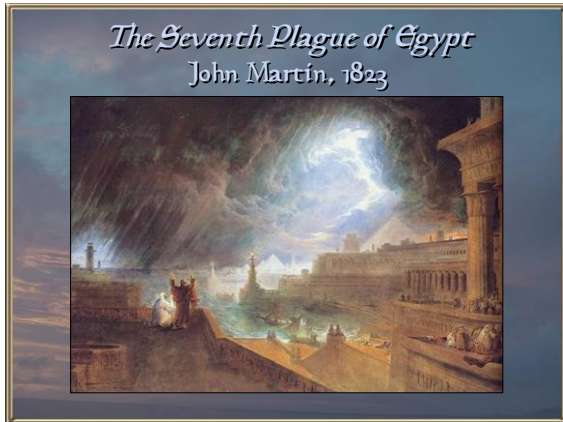


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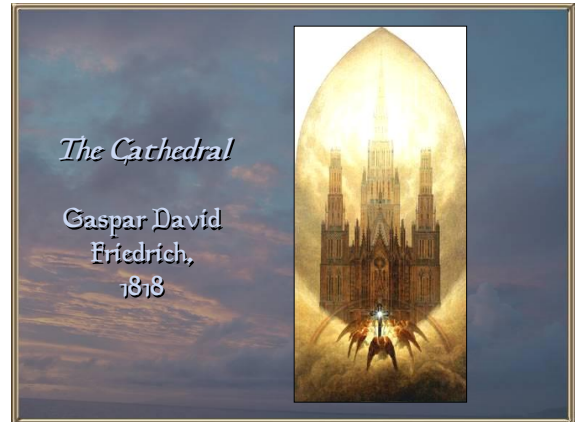
*Faust and Mephistopheles*  
Eugène Delacroix, 1826–1827



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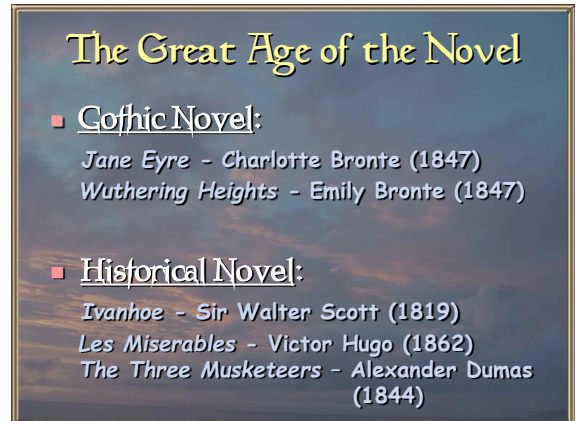
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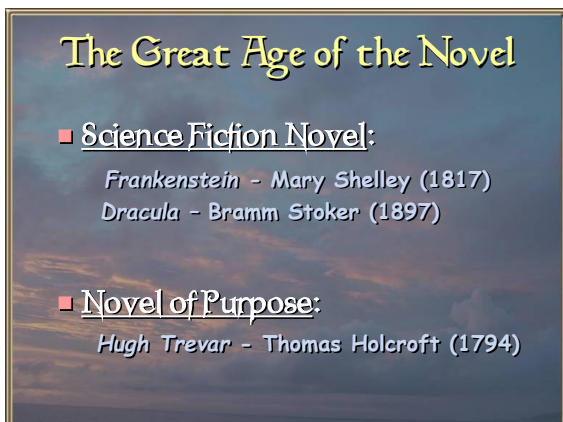
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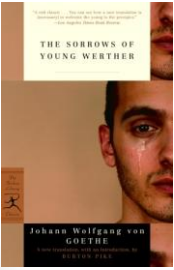



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## THE SORROWS OF YOUNG WERTHER

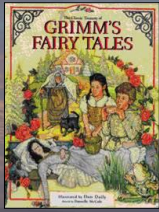




1. Novel written by Johann Wolfgang von Goethe
2. Werther becomes a hero and model of the Romantics
3. Young misunderstood truth seeking – girl he loves rejects him and he commits suicide

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## Other Romantic Writers


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

Only known picture of the Brothers Grimm, 1847

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## Other Romantic Writers



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


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## The Romantic Poets

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

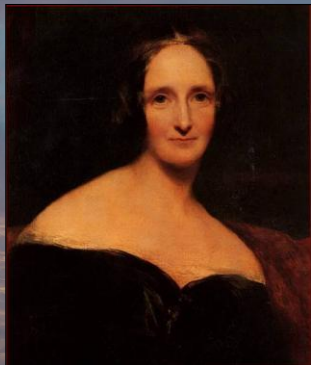
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George Gordon's  
(Lord Byron)  
Poem  
*The Prisoner of Chillon*

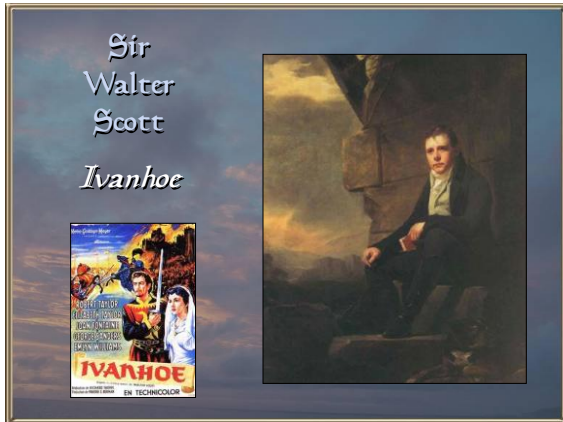


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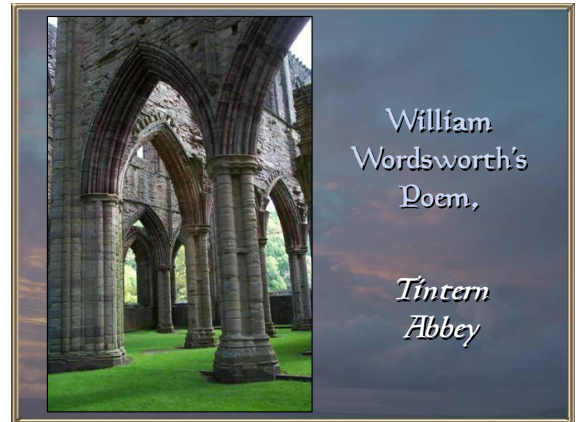
Mary Shelley  
*Frankenstein*



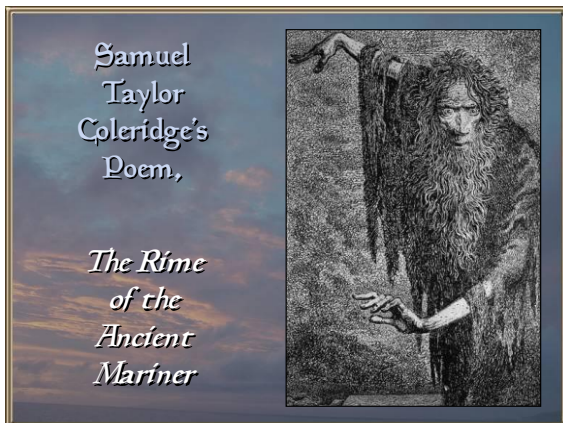
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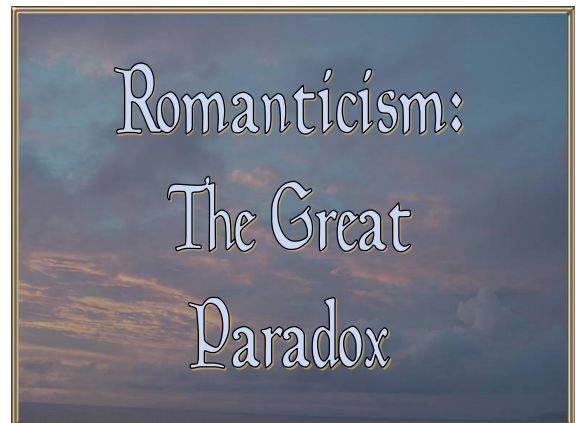
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