

ROMANTIC POETS.

Do you like poetry? All these men were poets*. They lived at a time of change in history. For example, there were revolutions in the United States, France and Ireland. The Romantics wanted to change poetry. They wanted more people to read and enjoy it. They tried to use language that everyone could understand.

William Blake {1757-1827}

William Wordsworth {1770-1850}

Samuel Taylor Coleridge {1772-1834}

Lord Byron {1788-1824}

Percy Bysshe Shelley {1792-1822}

John Keats {1795-1821}

Some of these poets were friends. Shelley and Byron travelled to Switzerland and Italy together. Keats lived in Rome for a time. Some of them were strange. Byron, for example, was described as 'mad, bad and dangerous to know!' All of them wrote great poetry.



The poems

Often, their poems had short lines, and they rhymed. The words 'bright' and 'night' rhyme with each other in this example:

Tiger, tiger burning bright, In the forests of the night.

Blake.

1. Read the text about the Romantic Poets. Answer the questions

- 1 Who was born first? _____
- 2 Who was born last? _____
- 3 Who was born in the 18th century? _____
- 4 Who died in the 19th century? _____
- 5 Who lived the longest? _____
- 6 Who died the youngest? _____

2. Choose two words that rhyme with the first Word in each group:

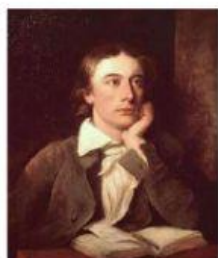
- | | | | | |
|------------------|--------|-------|--------|--------|
| a) night: | bright | lit | white | wait |
| b) young: | sound | sung | tongue | song |
| c) cage: | page | large | age | garaje |
| d) side: | wide | list | said | died |
| e) sea: | teach | free | be | fear |
| f) now: | know | how | flower | allow |
| g) men: | women | pen | end | tend |

3. Complete the poem with words that rhyme from activity 2:

Romantic poets lived in an 1 _____
When lovely words were on the page.
Some died old, but most died 2 _____
Their poems now are rapped and sung.
One wrote about a man at sea.
These poets wanted to be 3 _____
They travelled Europe far and wide
Until the very day they 4 _____
Their names are famous even now.
Our English teachers don't 5 _____
Their students to forget these men.
Each changed our history with his 6 _____

The poets.

Blake was good at imagining things. He also had 'visions'. (These are dreams that you have when you are awake.) He was an artist, and he drew pictures to go with his poems.



Keats died very young, but we can see his love of life and the natural world in his poetry. He looked for beauty in the things around him



Wordsworth was a rebel too when he was young, but he lived for many years. He lived in the Lake District, a beautiful area of mountains and lakes in the north-west of England. He wanted 'his' hills to be free of tourists. Today, his house in the Lake District is visited by thousands of tourists -the same kind of people that Wordsworth didn't like!

Byron was the most popular poet of his day. His poems were great and his life was exciting. The word 'Byronic' means someone who is romantic, handsome, free and a rebel*. Byron loved Greece, and he went to fight with them against Turkey, but he was ill on the boat and died on the way.



Shelley liked travelling and lived in other countries. He and his wife Mary met Byron in Italy. They enjoyed telling ghost stories. One of these stories gave Mary Shelley the idea for her fantastic book *Frankenstein*.

Coleridge was a friend of Wordsworth's. When he was young, he took opium* for pain in his teeth and head. Later, he couldn't stop taking it. He probably wrote some of his best poems while he was taking opium. He wrote a long poem about a sailor lost at sea: *The Ancient Mariner* (The Old Sailor.) It's full of strange and beautiful things. Today, it's one of his most popular poems.



4. Read the texts about Coleridge, Keats, Shelley, Byron and Wordsworth.

Mark these sentences True or False and if false correct them.

1. The poets had boring lives. _____
2. They all lived in England. _____
3. They wrote for a very small group of people. _____
4. Blake could draw. _____
5. Coleridge had a drink problem. _____
6. Percy Shelley didn't write Frankenstein. _____
7. Keats hated nature. _____

8. Byron had an interesting personality. _____

9. Wordsworth was a rebel all his life. _____

10. The Lake District isn't popular with tourists today. _____



5. Rearrange the letters to find a fact that not many people know. Byron's daughter, Ada Augusta Lovelace, wrote the world's first

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