

Having done all the analysis and evaluation, the reader should best write a description of the poem and then its comprehensive interpretation in his own words.

ROMANTIC POETRY CHARACTERISTICS

* Introduction

* Break from set rules — Back

The poetry of the Romantic Revival is in direct contrast to that of Neo-classical. In the 18th century poetry was governed by set rules and regulations. There were well prepared lines of poetic composition. And any deviation from the rules was disliked by the teachers of poetic thought. The first thing that we notice in the poetry romantic age is the break from the slavery of rules and regulations. The poets

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of the romantic age wrote poetry in free style without following any rules and regulation.

* Interest in Rural Life :-

The poetry of the 18th century was concerned with clubs and coffee houses, drawing rooms and the social and political life of London. It was essentially the poetry of town life.

Nature had practically no place in Neo-classical poetry. In the poetry of Romantic Revival, the interests of poets was transferred from town to rural life and from artificial decorations of drawing rooms to natural beauty and loveliness of nature.

Nature began to have its own importance in the poetry of this age. Wordsworth was the greatest poet who revealed the physical and spiritual beauty of nature to those who could not see any charm in the wild flowers, green fields and the chirping birds.

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* Common Life:

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Romantic poets started taking interest in the lives of the common people, the shepherds, and the cottages and left the gallant lords and gay butterflies of fashion to the care of novelists.

A renewed interest in the simple life marked the poetry of the poets of the Romantic age. A feeling of humanism coloured the poetry of Wordsworth, Shelley and Byron. Thus romantic poetry was marked by intense human sympathy and a consequent understanding of the human heart.

* Love of Liberty and Freedom

In romantic poetry, the emphasis was laid on liberty and freedom of the individual. Romantic poets were rebels against tyrants and despots over humans crushed by poverty and smashed by inhuman laws.

* Escape to the Middle Ages

Some romantic poets felt irritated with the tyranny and ugliness of materialistic life of their age and to avoid the life of uneasy

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restlessness. They escaped from the problems of the world to a world of beauty and joy which their poetic definitions had pictured.

In many ways, romantic poetry proved to be the poetry of escape from the sorrows and sufferings of worldly life and their times to the Middle Ages, where they found the eternal bliss. The enthusiasm for the Middle Ages satisfied the emotional sense of wonder on the one hand and the intellectual sense of curiosity on the other hand.

* Predominance of Imagination and Emotions

In romantic poetry, reason and intellect were subdued and their place was taken by imagination, emotions, and passion. In the poetry of all the romantic poets we find heightened emotional sensibilities and imaginative flights of genius bordering on heavenly heights uncrossed by the poets of the previous age.

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* Lyricism

In romantic poetry, lyricism predominates and the poets of this school have, to their credit, a number of fine lyrics excelling the heroic couplet of the Neoclassical Age in melody and sweetness of tone.

* Simplicity in Style

The style of the romantic poets is varied but the stress was laid on simplicity. Instead of an artificial model of the expression of classical poets, we have a natural diction and spontaneous way of expressing thoughts in romantic poetry.

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