

Warm Up:

- ❖ *In small groups (no more than four), choose one poet to focus on. (sign up to the left)*
- ❖ *Respond to the following regarding your poet:*
- ❖ How has nature and/or the power of nature impacted this poet?
- ❖ What emotion is being expressed in his poems, and how is it being expressed?
- ❖ What might the poet be saying about individuality in his poetry?
- ❖ Do any of the themes/motifs used in this poet's work connect to *Frankenstein*? What event or passage from *Frankenstein* does each poem make you think of?



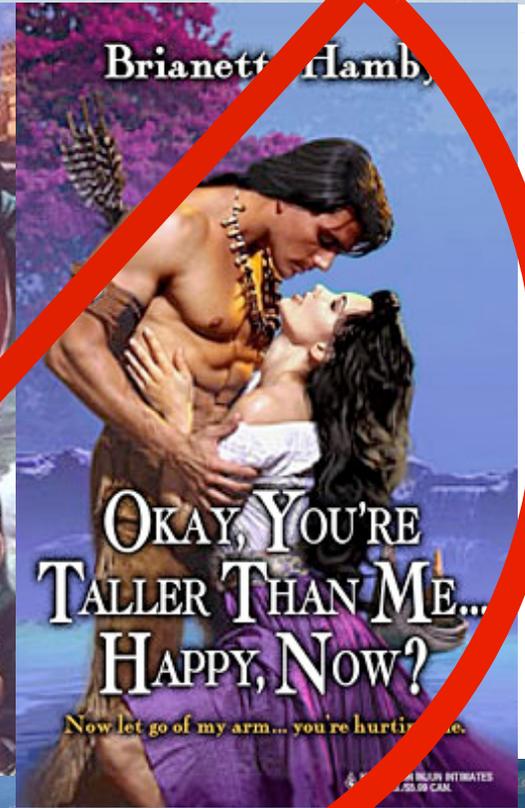
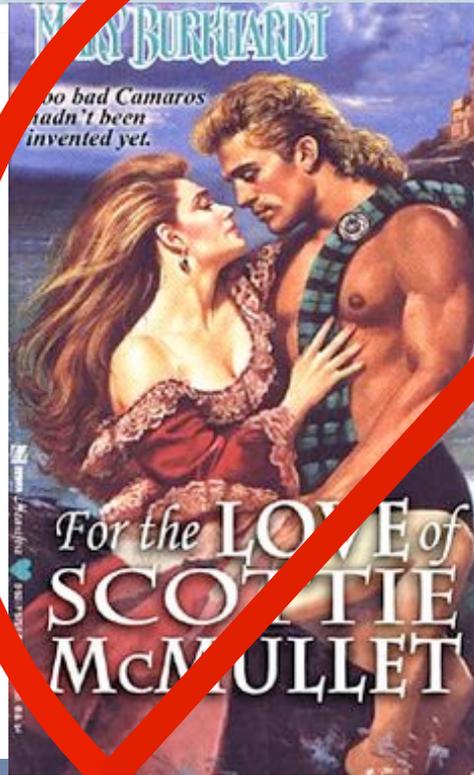


Week 2:

Nature & Romantic Literature

The Romantic Period:

- 1780 - 1850 (roughly)
- A movement of writers who gained inspiration from the beauty and power of nature; a form of Naturalism
- The Romantics came as a response to the Industrial Revolution and the Age of Enlightenment; they called for a return to nature
- Was considered a “progressive” movement socially and ideologically



Dude,
Gross...



Setting the Stage for English Romanticism

- ❖ Nature: In the early 18th century, nature was not seen as beautiful but as a wasteland; nature seen as having potential to be productive (ex: by being turned into mines/quarries)
- ❖ Progressive ideas: As the British Empire expanded, more cultures and new ideas flooded into England; human rights and civil rights became huge topic
- ❖ Individualism: the idea of “self” became very important; a heightened awareness of self-awareness, self-control, free will, etc.

Historical Context

- ❖ The French Revolution
- ❖ The Printing Press & mass media
- ❖ More people could read more; tabloids, fictions
- ❖ Pop literature fueled a whole new kind of pop culture
- ❖ Coming out of the Age of Enlightenment:
Let's get back to why people are awesome!
- ❖ Coming out of the Industrial Revolution:
Let's get back to nature!

Romanticism and its Impact

❖ In America...

- ❖ Paved the way for Transcendentalism (Emerson, Thoreau, Whitman)
- ❖ Coincided with Gothic Literature (Poe, Dickenson, Melville, Hawthorne)

❖ In England...

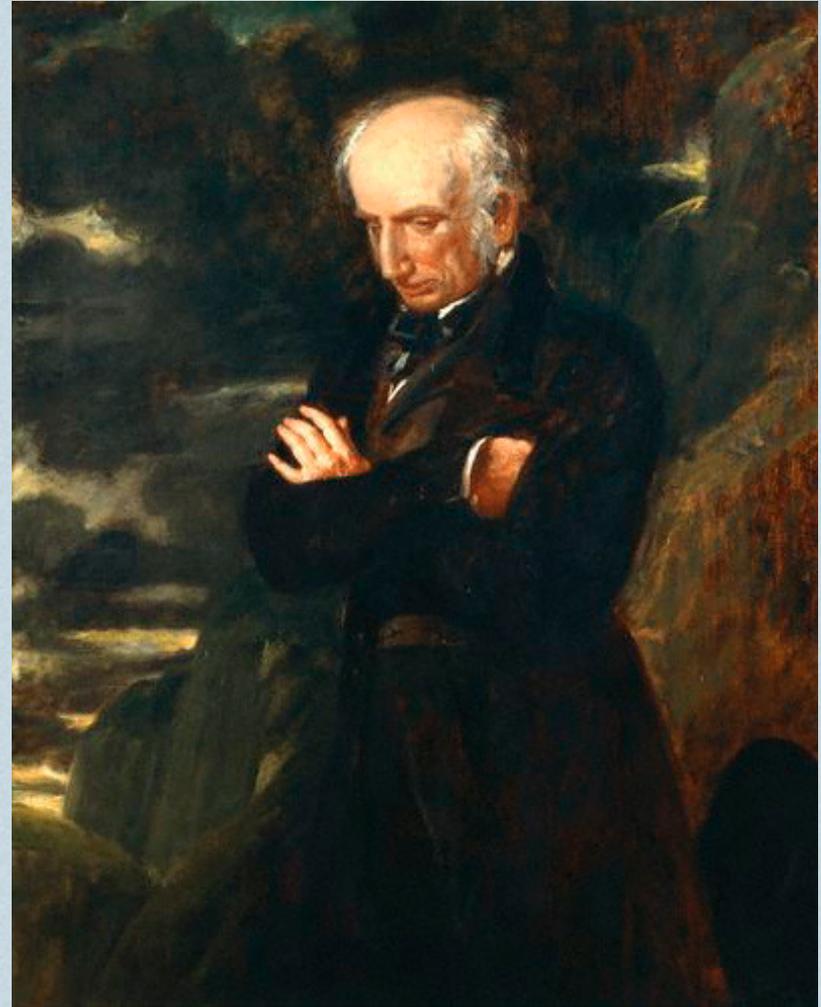
- ❖ Early Romantics:
William Wordsworth
Samuel Taylor Coleridge
- ❖ Later Romantics:
The Shelleys
Lord Byron
John Keats
William Blake
- ❖ Contemporaries:
Jane Austen

The Power of Poetry

- ❖ **The Romantic Poets believed that poetry/art had real power to change and reflect society**
- ❖ Wordsworth: believed that when there was a revolution in society (ie: the French Revolution) there is a revolution in poetry as well (ie: Romanticism)
- ❖ Blake: people and children are innately good; children are little people, not little savages; views told through poetry
- ❖ Percy Shelley: Imagination is not the same as reason; poetry is not susceptible to the will of “I” or “me” - we cannot force poetry, it is forced on us

William Wordsworth

- ❖ 1770 - 1850
- ❖ Britain's Poet Laureate
- ❖ Considered to be the father of the Romantic Period
- ❖ Inspired all of the Romantic writers to follow, as well as many American authors
- ❖ Major Work: *Prelude*



William Wordsworth

- ❖ Believed in the power of nature to transform mood, perception, emotion; even identity and existence
- ❖ “My Heart Leaps Up”
 - ❖ Nature is awesome! It makes me excited!
- ❖ “Daffodils”
 - ❖ Nature is so pretty! It makes me happy!
- ❖ “Lines Written in Early Spring”
 - ❖ It is sad that we have moved away from nature. Why does man resist nature? Why do we resist OUR nature?

Samuel Taylor Coleridge

- ❖ 1772 - 1834
- ❖ Along with Wordsworth, helped start the Romantic Movement
- ❖ Poet, as well as philosopher and literary critic
- ❖ A poet's poet
- ❖ Other major work: *The Rime of the Ancient Mariner*



Samuel Taylor Coleridge

- ❖ “Kubla Kahn”
 - ❖ Written after an intense, opium induced dream
 - ❖ Xanadu was the summer palace of the title Mongol ruler
 - ❖ Metaphor for writing a really awesome poem; “paradise” is about finally capturing the product of your imagination

Percy Bysshe Shelley

- ❖ Husband of Mary Shelley
- ❖ A pure intellectual - lived in a realm where mental consciousness is all that mattered
- ❖ Very well read in philosophy, critical readings, etc.



Percy Bysshe Shelley

- ❖ “Mont Blanc”
 - ❖ No matter the power of nature, the power of the mind is greater because we, people, are the ones who imagine it
 - ❖ Uses the mind as a metaphor for the physical world, instead of the other way around
- ❖ “Ode to the West Wind”
 - ❖ The wind is wild, unseen, a force of death; nature as both a destroyer and a preserver

John Keats

- ❖ 1795 - 1821
- ❖ Youngest but perhaps most prolific of the later Romantics; loved by the other Romantics
- ❖ Like Shelley, his life was punctuated by the death of many family members; knew he would die young
- ❖ Believed poetry to be a stronger medicine than actual medicine
- ❖ Very empathic to people, animals, the world around him

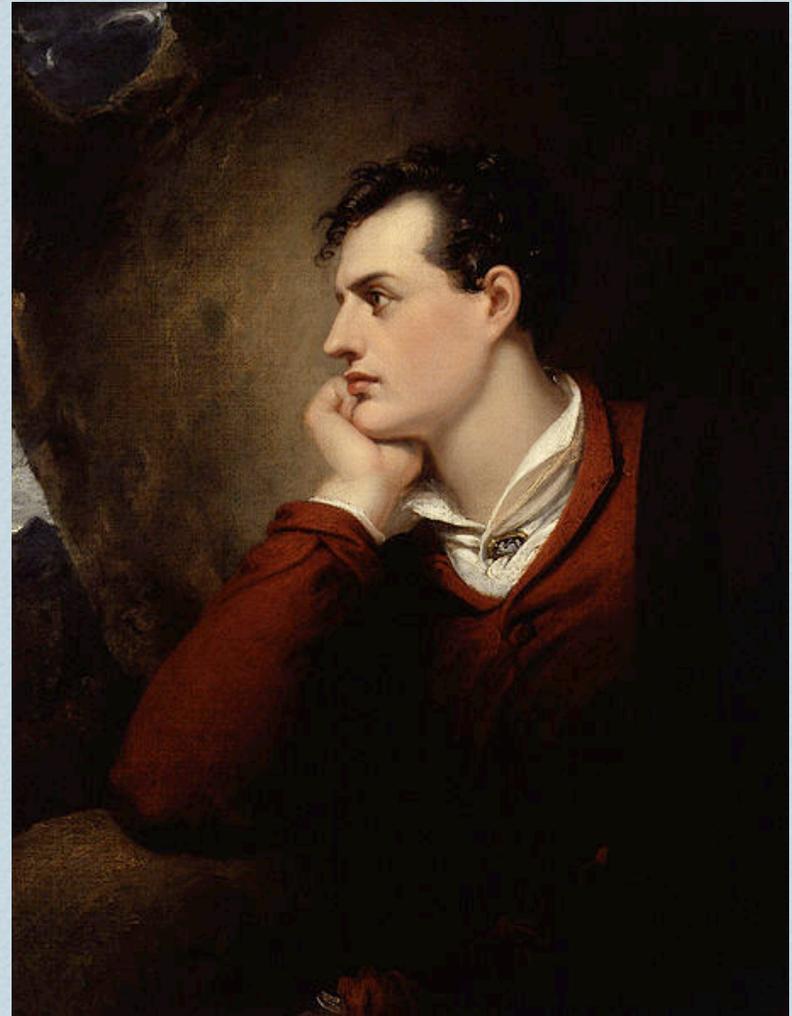


John Keats

- ❖ “Ode to a Nightingale”
 - ❖ The poem comes after Keats feels an immense joy and connection to a nightingale singing outside
 - ❖ The *actual* moment of the poem is Keats strategizing how to reconnect with this the bird, with nature
- ❖ “Ode on a Grecian Urn”
 - ❖ “Beauty is truth, and truth beauty...”
 - ❖ We are, in a way, defined not by our achievements but by our potential;

Lord Byron

- ❖ AKA Lord George Gordon Byron
- ❖ Born intelligent, wealthy, handsome, and lame (had a clubbed foot and limp)
- ❖ Was perhaps the most famous at the time; understood the importance of having an attractive, gossip-worthy personal life



Lord Byron



- ❖ Was a celebrity for being lord of a grand estate who was bisexual, a sex addict, world traveler, and a brilliant writer
- ❖ Did “The Grand Tour” in his early 20’s; went to Italy, Greece, and Albania
- ❖ Most known for *Childe Harold*: an epic poem about a young, jaded knight traveling Europe

Lord Byron

- ❖ *Childe Harold*

- ❖ Story about a jaded young knight; traveling, using nature as an escape (ie: nature can be a life changing experience)

- ❖ “She Walks In Beauty”

- ❖ A love poem - using comparisons of nature, nature imagery, to describe the beauty of a woman



The “Byronic” Hero

What do all of these characters have in common?

Byronic Hero / Tragic Hero

- ❖ **Byronic Hero:** A hero that does not have the typical qualities of a hero; a hero that has a dark side, is broody, usually has a flexibility of morality, but that you like/root for
 - ❖ EX: Severus Snape, Bruce Wayne, Holden Caulfield, Tyler Durden, Driver in *Drive*, The Phantom (of the Opera)
- ❖ **Tragic Hero:** A hero with a tragic flaw that brings about their downfall; unlike the Byronic Hero, they are mostly good and have one thing that brings them down; they die
 - ❖ EX: Romeo and Juliet, Anakin Skywalker, Okonkwo, Terminator (T2), Ned Stark

Discussion:

- ❖ How has **nature** and/or the power of nature impacted Victor? Mary Shelley?
- ❖ What might Shelley be saying about **individuality** in this novel?
- ❖ Do any of the **themes/motifs** used in Romantic poems connect to *Frankenstein*?
- ❖ Do you think **Victor** would be...
 - ...a Tragic Hero?
 - ...a Byronic Hero?
- ❖ Do you think **the creature** would be...
 - ...a Tragic Hero?
 - ...a Byronic Hero?

