

Common images and ideas

Although England did not actually experience a revolution, (unlike France) thinking people in society were affected by the same factors which so inspired those elsewhere and this is apparent in the poets' desire to express themselves uniquely and in different ways from previous generations and previous poets.

However, certain themes, features and tendencies frequently occur and the following broad headlines should provide useful starting-points for your own investigations.

Some Common Images and Ideas associated with Romantic Poets and Poetry



Libertarianism

Man's need for and right to freedom.



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Landscape and the natural world were seen as extensions of the human personality and able to sympathise with man's emotional state. Imagery from the natural world was also used by Romantic poets to reflect both inner and outer beauty in the human form. This was combined with a delight in unspoilt scenery and the "innocent" life of rural dwellers and a generalised melancholy or sense that the rural idyll was threatened.

Romantic poetry



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The lure of the exotic. Five out of the six of the poets left Britain and had some sense of life the other side of the channel.