

# Themes in Romantic Poetry

## Lesson 1 of 12

English

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# Themes in Romantic writing

## 1. Imagination and the importance of 'self'

The Romantics thought that an active imagination was the sign of a well-functioning mind.

The 'self' was important as Romantics believed that being an individual was incredibly important. Romantic fiction would often be about brave individuals facing the world alone.

## 2. Revolution

The Romantics were writing during a time when lots of change was happening across the world. The consequence of a **revolution** is to create change.

For example, the Industrial Revolution was happening as many Romantics were writing and inspired many of their works.



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## 3. Criticism of oppression

Since the Romantic writers thought that the power of individuals was important, they were against many forms of oppression.

Some forms of oppression which writers criticised include slavery, poverty and unfair working conditions in newly built factories.

## 4. Nature

The natural world was especially important to Romantic writers.

Some wrote about the beauty of nature, especially the way that it contrasted the newly built cities around the country.

Others wrote about the power of nature and the way that it can be terrifying, yet inspirational.

## 5. Youth and innocence

Romantics viewed children as pure and **unchanged** by the world around them.

They believed that children were:

- Naturally good
- Innocent
- Honest

