

Early Nineteenth-Century Poets

18th century poetry	19th century poetry
Orderly and polished – without much feeling of nature	Writers broke away from form and thought of 18th century poetry
Heroic couplets: dominant poetic and dramatic form	Lyrical poetry – rhyming schemes
Religion and Anti-religion: main concepts of poems	Romantic writings were based on the sincerity of one's personal view and experience.

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- **Romanticism**: regarded as the victory of values of imaginative impulsiveness, visionary originality, wonder, and emotional self-expression over the classical standards of balance, order, control, quantity, and objectivity.
- Name: derived from “**romance**” – the literary form in which desires and dreams prevail over everyday realities.

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- Regarded previous era's writings (early and mid 18th century) as shallow, heartless, and mechanically bound by the artificial rules of imitating classical writings.
- Rejection of the Age of Reason - Age of Enlightenment

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- Signal of Romantic Age: joint work of William Wordsworth (1770-1850) and Samuel Taylor Coleridge (1772-1834) – *Lyrical Ballads* (1789)
- **Ballad**: originally a song for dancers, then in medieval times a simple poem with short stanzas telling a story.
- **Wordsworth**: poet of nature –special ability to throw charm over ordinary things “**Michael**” (1800)
- **Coleridge**: makes mysterious events acceptable to a reader’s mind. “**Kubla Khan**” (1816) and “**Christabel**” (1816)

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- Romantic Poets:
 - John Keats (1795-1821): *La Belle Dame sans Merci*
 - Percy Bysshe Shelley (1792-1822): *The Spirit of Solitude*
 - Thomas Campbell (1777-1844): *The Battle of the Bannockburn*