

Reading Romanticism in Literature and Art



The Age of Enlightenment

A great deal of confidence in humanity's intellectual powers

To achieve systematic knowledge of nature

To serve as an authoritative guide in practical life

Suspicion or hostility toward other forms or carriers of authority (such as tradition, superstition, prejudice, myth and miracles)

Authority of one's own reason and experience



Joseph Wright of Derby, 'A Philosopher giving a Lecture at the Orrery',
1765



Wright of Derby, 'An Experiment with an Air Pump', 1768.



Jacques-Louis David, 'Oath of the Horatii', 1784

The term 'Romanticism' covers a range of developments in art, literature, music and philosophy, spanning the late 18th and early 19th centuries. Seen in context of the earlier Augustan period and preceding age of Reason and Enlightenment (1685- 1789?) , the Romantic tendencies are also seen as a 'reaction', a 'revival', a 'revolution' or a 'movement'.

Individual/Society

Feeling and Imagination/Logic and Reason

Nature/City

Common Man/Aristocracy

Introspection/External realities

Child/Adult

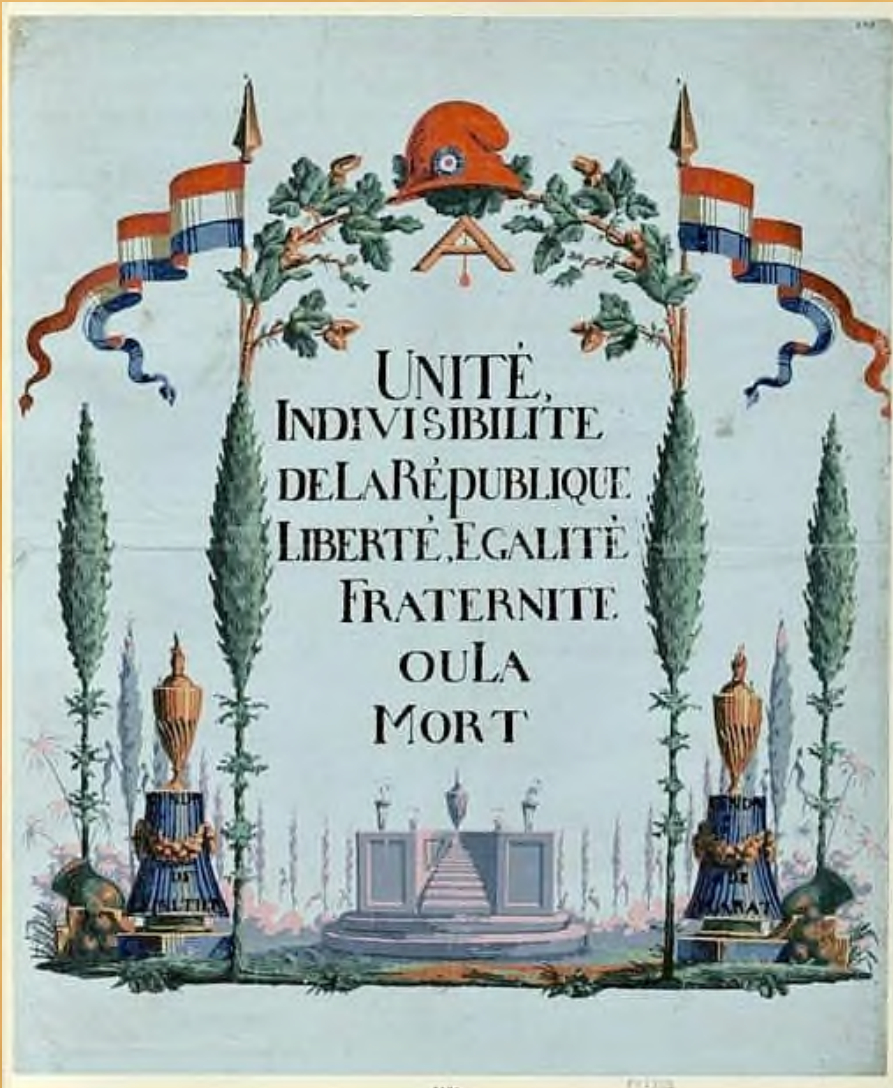
Significant Triggers and Influences



The Industrial Revolution was known as the transition to new manufacturing processes that occurred in the period of 1760 to sometime between 1820 and 1840. The industrial revolution was a significant event as it initiated the starting point for innovative construction of other machinery. The work of the Industrial Revolution occurred in factories. It resulted in a significant amount of new inventions, such as steam-powered engines. It also resulted in trade unions and labour laws.

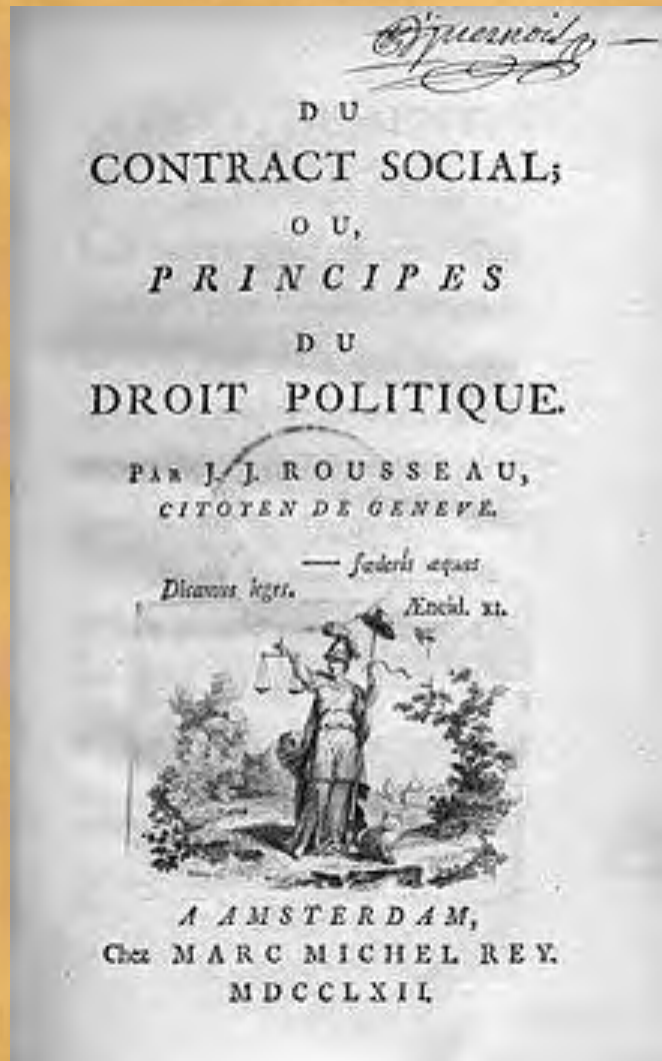


Storming of Bastille, July 14, 1789.



The French Revolution was a watershed event in modern European history that began in 1789 and ended in the late 1790s with the ascent of Napoleon Bonaparte. During this period, French citizens razed and redesigned their country's political landscape, uprooting centuries-old institutions such as absolute monarchy and the feudal system.

Although it failed to achieve all of its goals and at times degenerated into a chaotic bloodbath, the French Revolution played a critical role in shaping modern nations by showing the world the power inherent in the will of the people.



Jean-Jacques Rousseau was a French philosopher and writer. In *The Social Contract*, Rousseau argues that laws are binding only when they are supported by the general will of the people.

His famous idea, 'man is born free, but he is everywhere in chains' challenged the traditional order of society. Where previous philosophers had spoken of elites, Rousseau became the champion of the common person. His perfect world was one in which the will of the people was most important.

The Social Contract, Jean-Jacques Rousseau, 1762.

Fronspice Du Tome II.



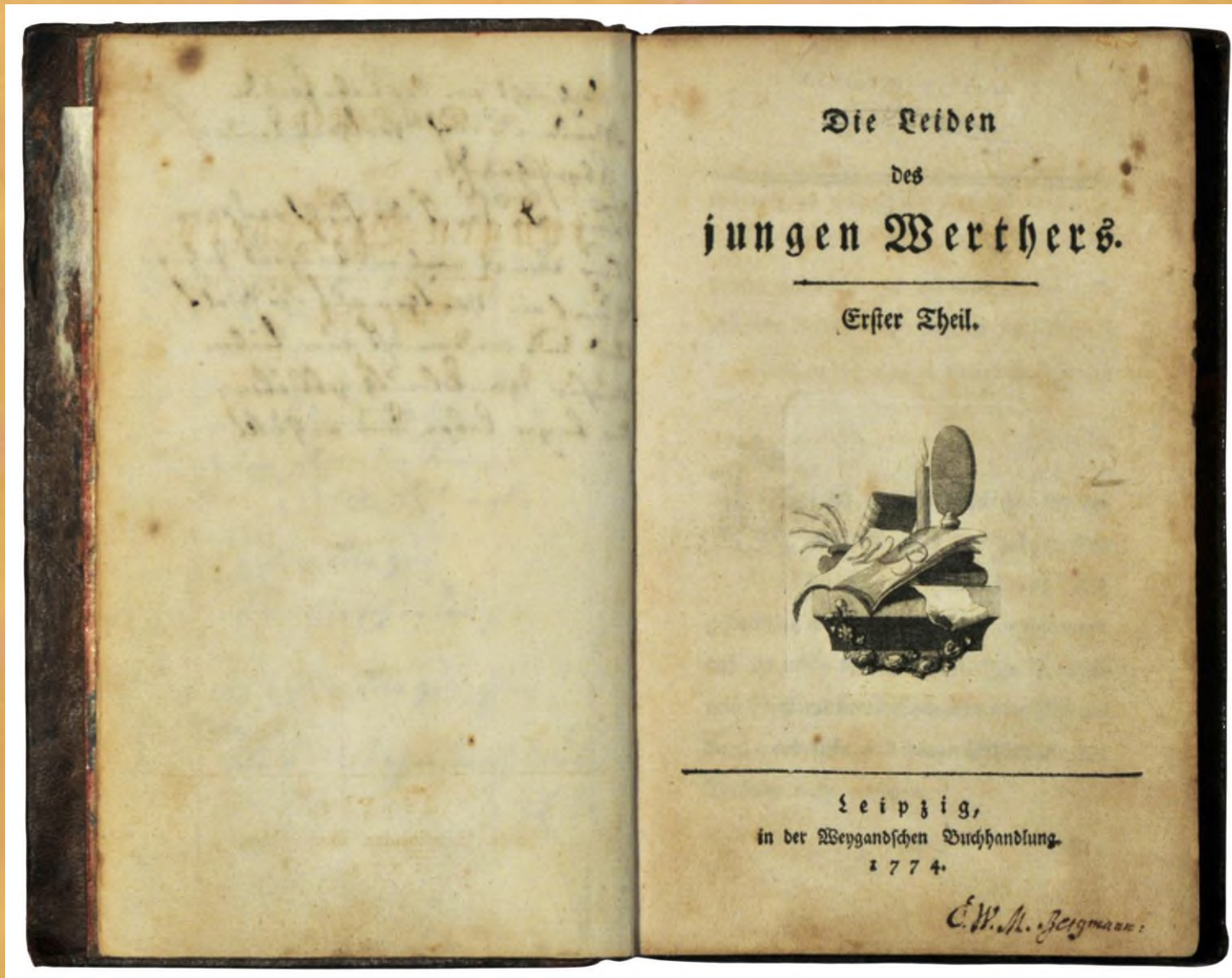
T. E. 1762. 1012. Cicero, Liv. V. 22. Pour qu'on ne s'y

É M I L E
O U
DE L'ÉDUCATION,
Par J. J. ROUSSEAU,
Citoyen de Genève.



A AMSTERDAM,
Chez JEAN NEAUME, Libraire,
M DCC L XII.
Avec Privilège de Nosseigneurs les États de
Hollande & de Westfrie.

Emile or On Education, 1762



The Sorrows of Young Werther, Johann Wolfgang von Goethe, 1774.



LETTRES

DE DEUX AMANS,

Habitans d'une petite Ville
au pied des Alpes.

RECUEILLIES ET PUBLIÉES

PAR J. J. ROUSSEAU.

PREMIERE PARTIE.



A AMSTERDAM,

Chez MARC MICHEL REY.

MDCCLXI.

Rousseau, *Julie or the New Heloise*, 1761.



‘The Death of Chatterton’, Henry Wallis, 1856. Chatterton, an exceptionally talented poet, committed suicide in 1770, at the age of 17.

Some defining traits of the Romantic Movement

Celebration of the individual –and of the self by the author/artist

Imagination as the cardinal faculty of the artist

Prioritizing feelings and emotions

Awe of Nature and a critique of industrialization

Celebrating the common man and woman, not Kings and Queens

Celebrating childhood and its innocence

Redefining Art and the role of the Artist

Love of folklore, the Medieval and the Orient – of the pre-industrial past

Interest in the mind of man – psychological explorations

Romantic Literature

Authors and their Works

THE
DESERTED VILLAGE.

BY
OLIVER GOLDSMITH.

ILLUSTRATED BY THE ETCHING CLUB.



NEW YORK:
D. APPLETON AND CO. BROADWAY.
MDCCLVII.



Sweet Auburn! loveliest village of
the plain,
Where health and plenty cheer'd
the labouring swain,
Where smiling spring its earliest
visit paid,
And parting summer's lingering
blooms delay'd.

The Deserted Village, Oliver Goldsmith. 1770

William Blake is famous today as an imaginative and original poet, painter, engraver and mystic.

Songs of Innocence, 1789

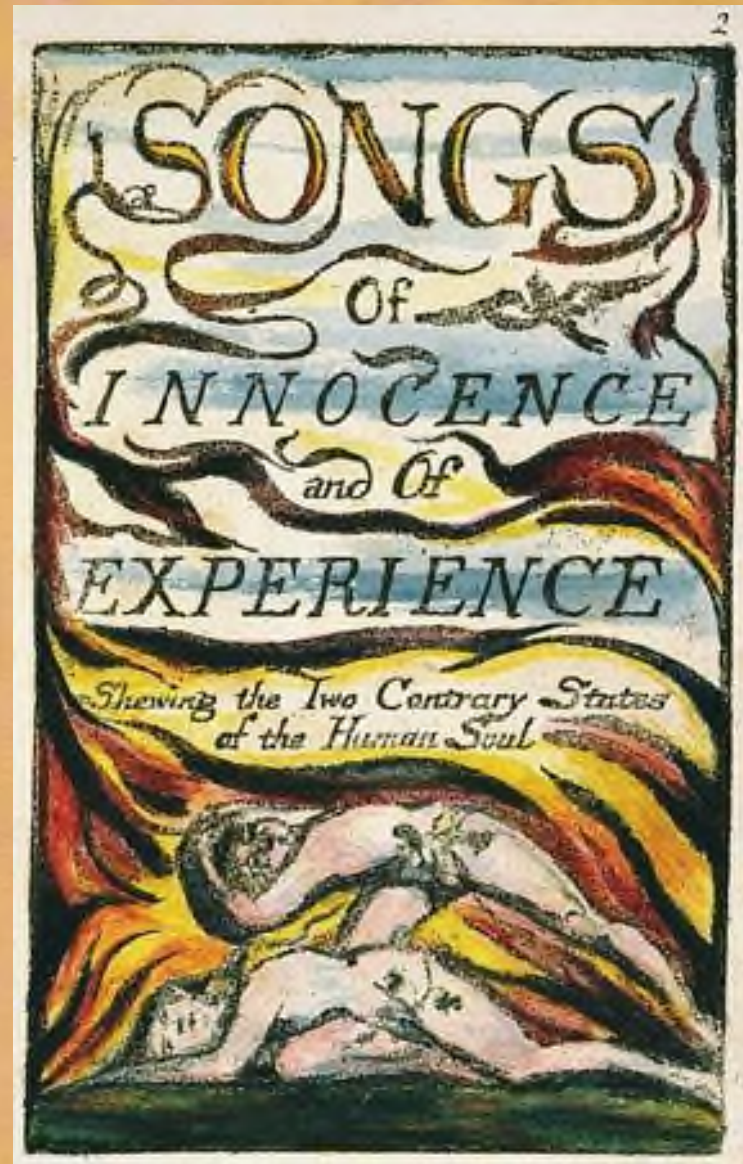
Songs of Experience, 1794

William Blake grew up in modest circumstances. What teaching he received as a child was at his mother's knee, as most children did. This he saw as a positive matter, later writing,

“Thank God I never was sent to school

To be Flogd into following the Style of a Fool.”





Blake, *Songs of Innocence and Experience*.



Little lamb, who made thee?
Dost thou know who made thee,
Gave thee life, and bid thee feed
By the stream and o'er the mead;
Gave thee clothing of delight,
Softest clothing, woolly, bright;
Gave thee such a tender voice,
Making all the vales rejoice?
Little lamb, who made thee?
Dost thou know who made thee?



Spring
Sound the Flute!
Now it's mute.
Birds delight
Day and Night.
Nightingale
In the dale
Lark in Sky
Merrily (Year
Merrily Merrily to welcome in the
Little Boy
Full of joy . Little

The Shepherd

How sweet is the Shepherd's sweet lot?
From the morn'g to the evening he strays;
He shall follow his sheep all the day,
And his tongue shall be filled with praise.

For he hears the lambs innocent call,
And he hears the ewes tender reply;
He is watchful while they are in pens,
For they know when their Shepherd is nigh.



The Little Black Boy

My mother bore me in the southern wild,
And I am black, but O! my soul is white;
White as an angel is the English child:
But I am black as if bereav'd of light.

My mother taught me underneath a tree
And sitting down before the heat of day,
She took me on her lap and kiss'd me,
And pointing to the east began to pray.

Look on the rising sun! there God does live,
And gives his light, and gives his heat away,
And flowers and trees and beasts and men receive
Comfort in morning, joy in the noon day.

And we are put on earth a little space,
That we may learn to bear the beams of love,
And these black bodies and this sun-burnt face
Is but a cloud, and like a shady grave.

For



'Newton', Monotype by Blake, 1795. Reworked 1805.

LYRICAL BALLADS,

WITH

A FEW OTHER POEMS.

LONDON:

PRINTED FOR J. & A. ARCH, GRACECHURCH-STREET.

1798.

Lyrical Ballads, Wordsworth and Coleridge, 1798

Preface to the *Lyrical Ballads*, 1800 and 1802

The "principal object" was to choose "incidents and situations from common life" and to "relate or describe them...in...language really used by men".

"Low and rustic life" was thought best for illustrating the basic laws of human nature because there the "essential passions of the heart", the "elementary feelings", have a simple, more emphatic and mature expression, less effected by "social vanity", become more permanent because "arising out of repetition and regularity".

The famous definition of good poetry as "the spontaneous overflow of powerful feelings".

A poet is "a man speaking to men"

R E L I Q U E S
O F
A N C I E N T E N G L I S H P O E T R Y :
C O N S I S T I N G O F
O l d H e r o i c B A L L A D S , S O N G S , a n d o t h e r
P I E C E S o f o u r e a r l i e r P O E T S ,
T o g e t h e r w i t h s o m e f e w o f l a t e r D a t e .
T H E T H I R D E D I T I O N .
V O L U M E T H E T H I R D .



L O N D O N :
P r i n t e d f o r J . D O D S L E Y i n P a l l - M a l l ,
M D C C L X X V .

Reliques of Ancient English Poetry, Thomas Percy, 1765.



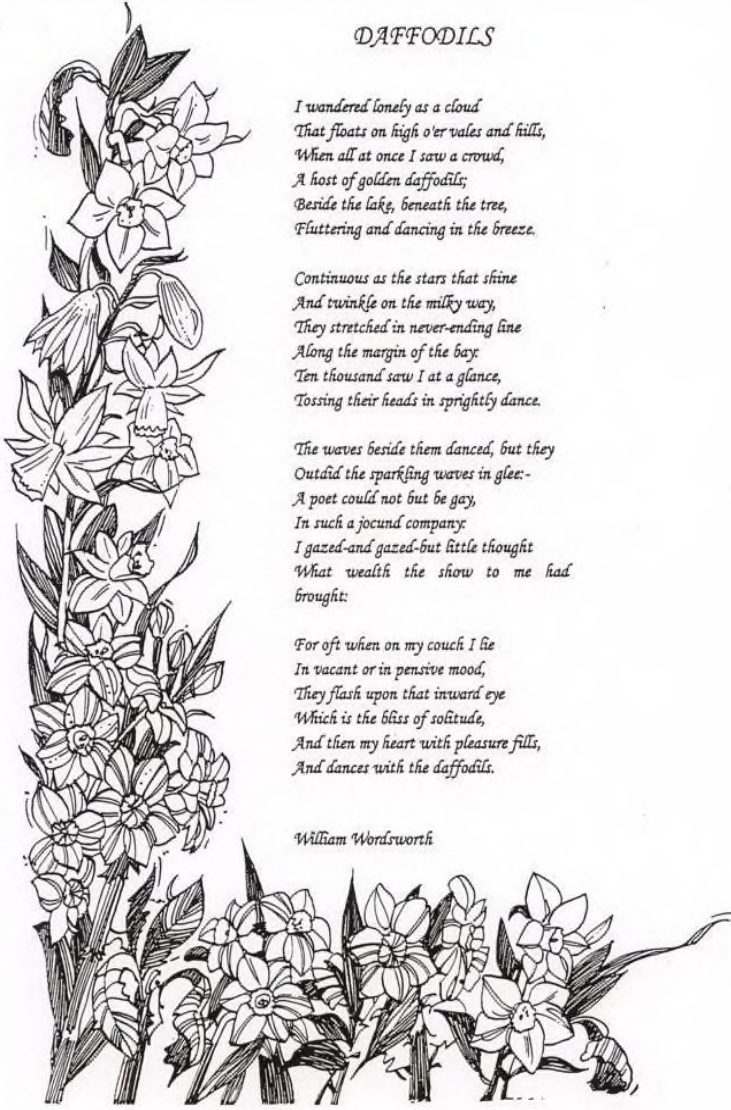
The Lake District



Dove Cottage, Grasmere



Behold her, single in the field,
Yon solitary Highland Lass!
Reaping and singing by herself;
Stop here, or gently pass!
Alone she cuts and binds the
grain,
And sings a melancholy strain;
O listen! for the vale profound
Is overflowing with the sound.



DAFFODILS

*I wandered lonely as a cloud
That floats on high o'er vales and hills,
When all at once I saw a crowd,
A host of golden daffodils;
Beside the lake, beneath the tree,
Fluttering and dancing in the breeze.*

*Continuous as the stars that shine
And twinkle on the milky way,
They stretched in never-ending line
Along the margin of the bay:
Ten thousand saw I at a glance,
Tossing their heads in sprightly dance.*

*The waves beside them danced, but they
Outdid the sparkling waves in glee:-
A poet could not but be gay,
In such a jocund company:
I gazed-and gazed-but little thought
What wealth the show to me had
brought:*

*For oft when on my couch I lie
In vacant or in pensive mood,
They flash upon that inward eye
Which is the bliss of solitude,
And then my heart with pleasure fills,
And dances with the daffodils.*

William Wordsworth

I wander'd lonely as a cloud
That floats on high o'er vales and hills,
When all at once I saw a crowd,
A host of golden daffodils,
Beside the lake, beneath the trees
Fluttering and dancing in the breeze.

For oft, when on my couch I lie
In vacant or in pensive mood,
They flash upon that inward eye
Which is the bliss of solitude;
And then my heart with pleasure fills
And dances with the daffodils.

She dwelt among the untrodden ways
Beside the springs of Dove,
A Maid whom there were none to praise
And very few to love:

A violet by a mossy stone
Half hidden from the eye!
—Fair as a star, when only one
Is shining in the sky.

She lived unknown, and few could know
When Lucy ceased to be;
But she is in her grave, and, oh,
The difference to me!

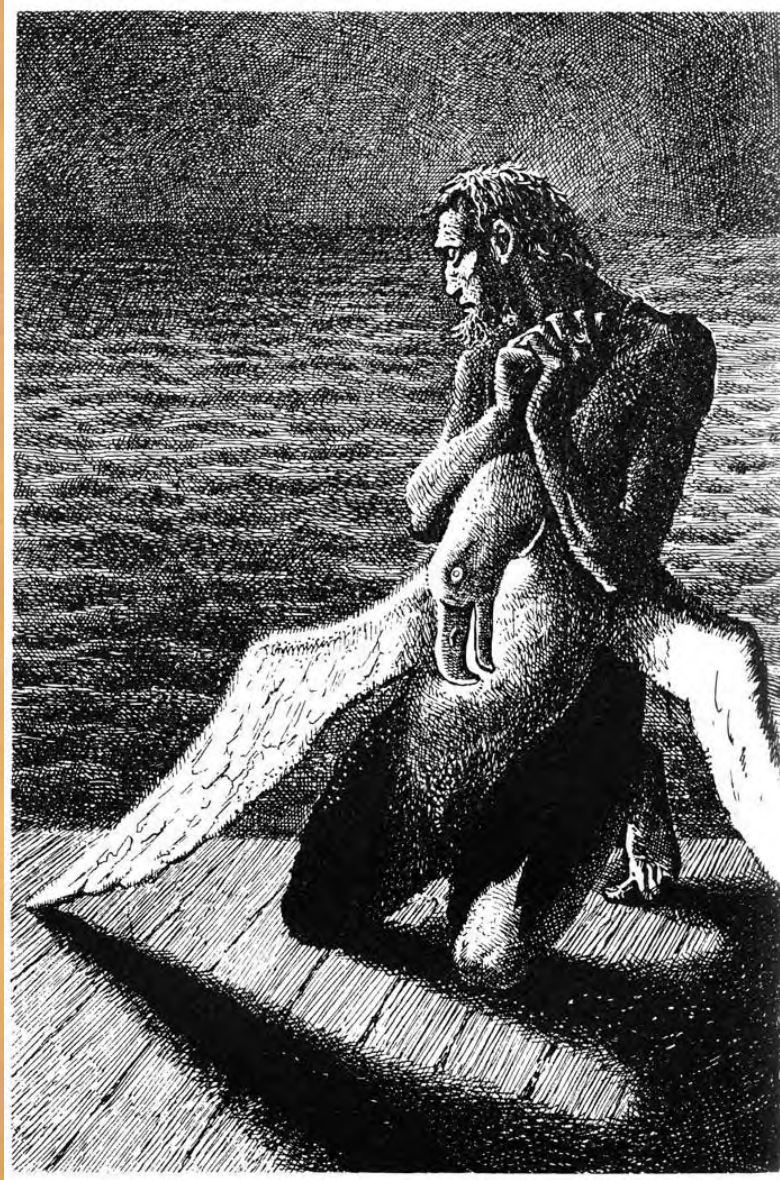
Books! 'tis a dull and endless strife:
Come, hear the woodland linnet,
How sweet his music! on my life,
There's more of wisdom in it.

And hark! how blithe the throstle
sings!
He, too, is no mean preacher:
Come forth into the light of things,
Let Nature be your teacher.

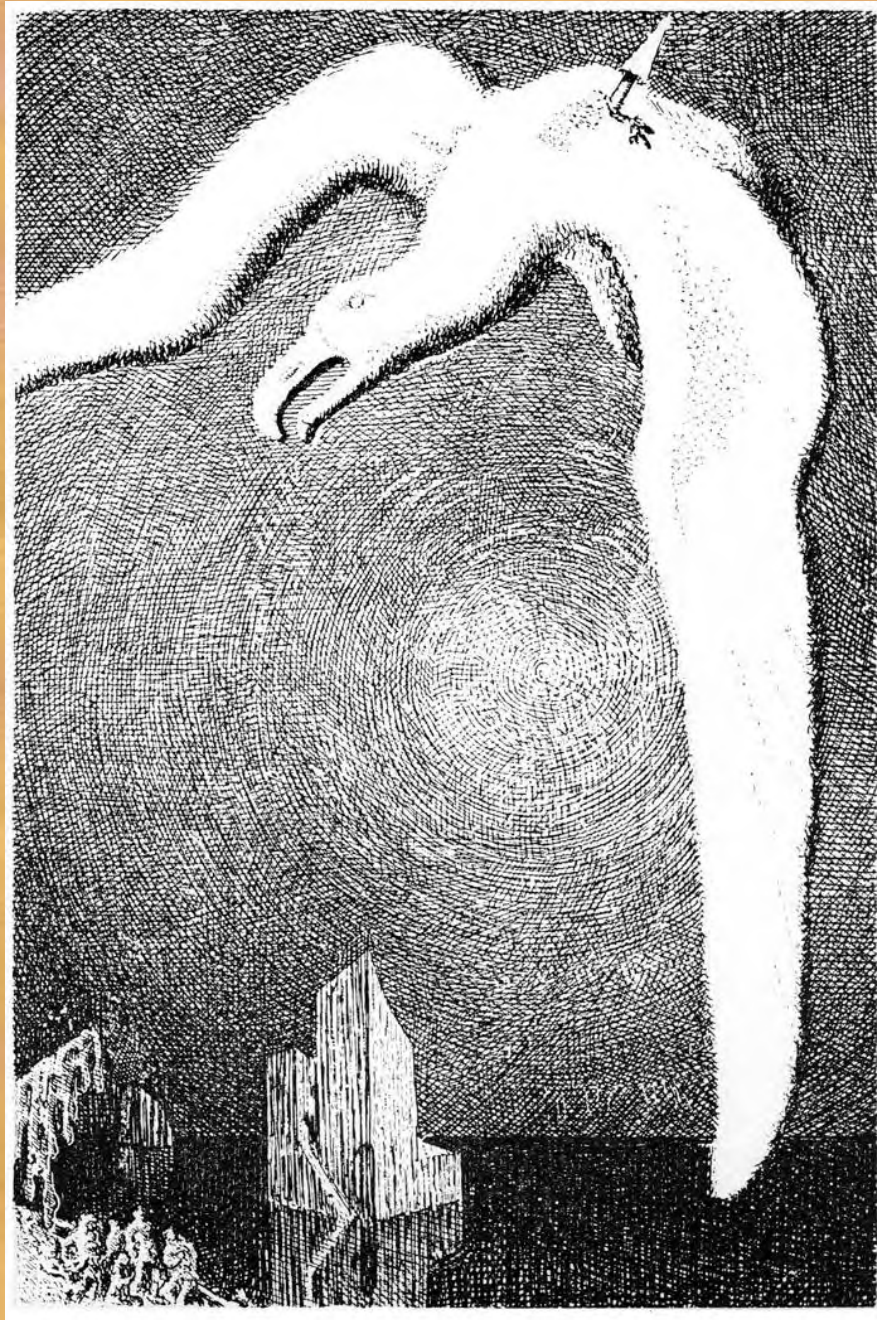
One impulse from a vernal wood
May teach you more of man,
Of moral evil and of good,
Than all the sages can.

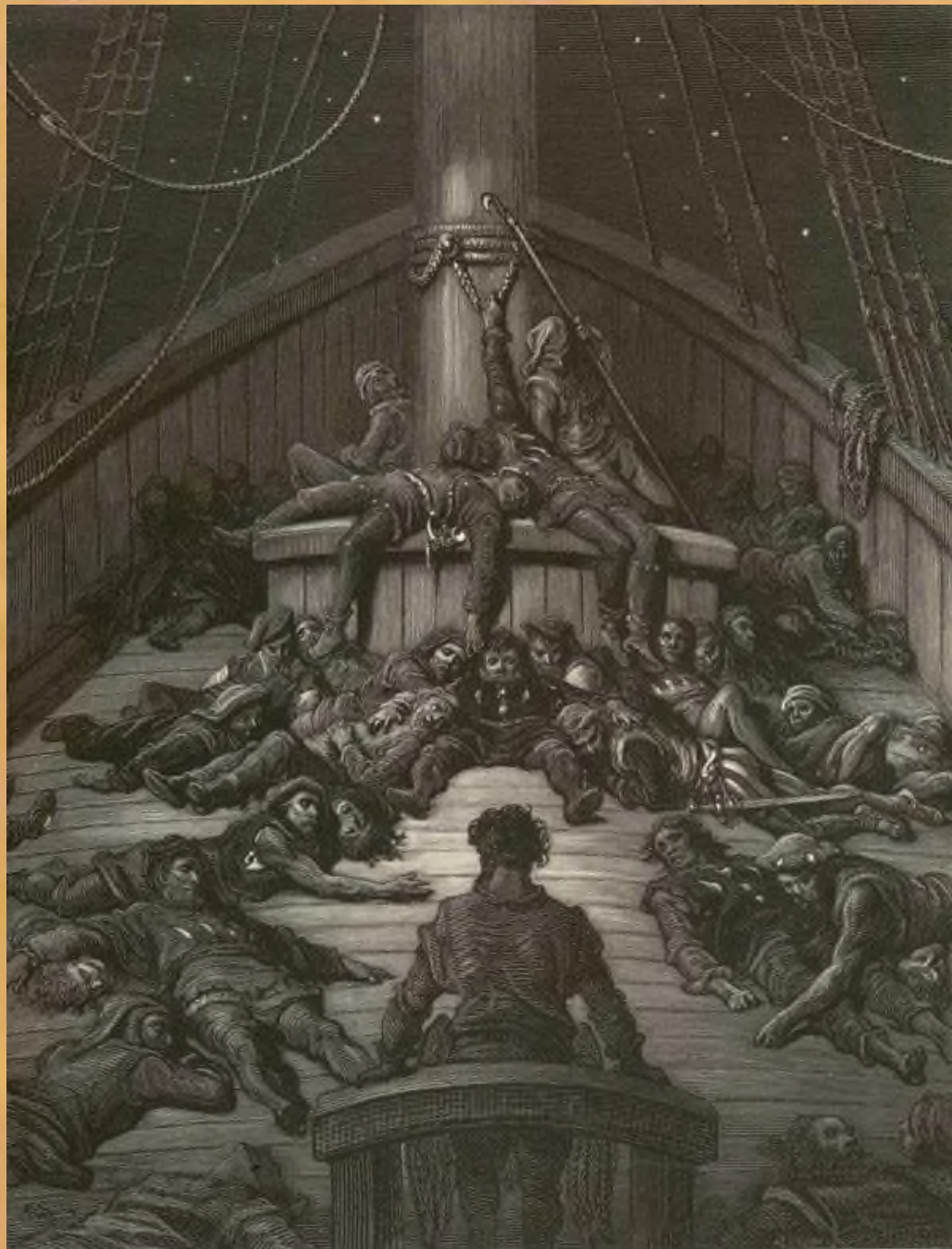
Sweet is the lore which Nature
brings;
Our meddling intellect
Mis-shapes the beauteous forms of
things:—
We murder to dissect.

Enough of Science and of Art;
Close up those barren leaves;
Come forth, and bring with you a
heart
That watches and receives.



The Rime of the Ancient Mariner, Coleridge, 1798.





Pantisocracy

An utopian ideal, conceived by Coleridge and his friend Robert Southey, to create an egalitarian society, a community with commonly owned property, communal labour and an equal government involving both men and women. They planned to establish this community on the banks of the Susquehanna River, Pennsylvania.

One Life

‘I call even my Cat Sister in the Fraternity of Universal Nature.’

To one who has been long in city pent,
'Tis very sweet to look into the fair
And open face of heaven,—to breathe a prayer
Full in the smile of the blue firmament.
Who is more happy, when, with hearts content,
Fatigued he sinks into some pleasant lair
Of wavy grass, and reads a debonair
And gentle tale of love and languishment?
Returning home at evening, with an ear
Catching the notes of Philomel,—an eye
Watching the sailing cloudlet's bright career,
He mourns that day so soon has glided by:
E'en like the passage of an angel's tear
That falls through the clear ether silently.



John Keats was an English Romantic poet. He was one of the main figures of the second generation of Romantic poets, along with Lord Byron and Percy Bysshe Shelley. His works were in publication for only four years before his death which occurred from tuberculosis at the age of 25.

Season of mists and mellow fruitfulness,
Close bosom-friend of the maturing sun;
Conspiring with him how to load and bless
With fruit the vines that round the thatch-eves run;
To bend with apples the moss'd cottage-trees,
And fill all fruit with ripeness to the core;
To swell the gourd, and plump the hazel shells
With a sweet kernel; to set budding more,
And still more, later flowers for the bees,
Until they think warm days will never cease,
For summer has o'er-brimm'd their clammy cells.



Women
during
Romantic Period

The Blue Stockings

The Blue Stockings Society, founded in 1750, was an informal women's social and educational movement in England in the mid-18th century. The society emphasized education and mutual co-operation.



Richard Samuel, 'Portraits in the Characters of Muses in the Temple of Apollo', 1788.



Yes, injured Woman! rise, assert thy
right!

Woman! too long degraded,
scorned, opprest;

O born to rule in partial Law's
despite,

Resume thy native empire o'er the
breast!

Anna Letitia Barbauld, 'The Rights
of Woman', 1791.



The most perfect education, in my opinion, is such an exercise of the understanding as is best calculated to strengthen the body and form the heart. Or, in other words, to enable the individual to attain such habits of virtue as will render it independent. In fact, it is a farce to call any being virtuous whose virtues do not result from the exercise of its own reason. This was Rousseau's opinion respecting men: I extend it to women.

Mary Wollstonecraft – *A Vindication of the Rights of Woman*, 1792.



Dorothy Wordsworth

JOURNALS
OF
DOROTHY WORDSWORTH

EDITED BY
WILLIAM KNIGHT

VOL. I

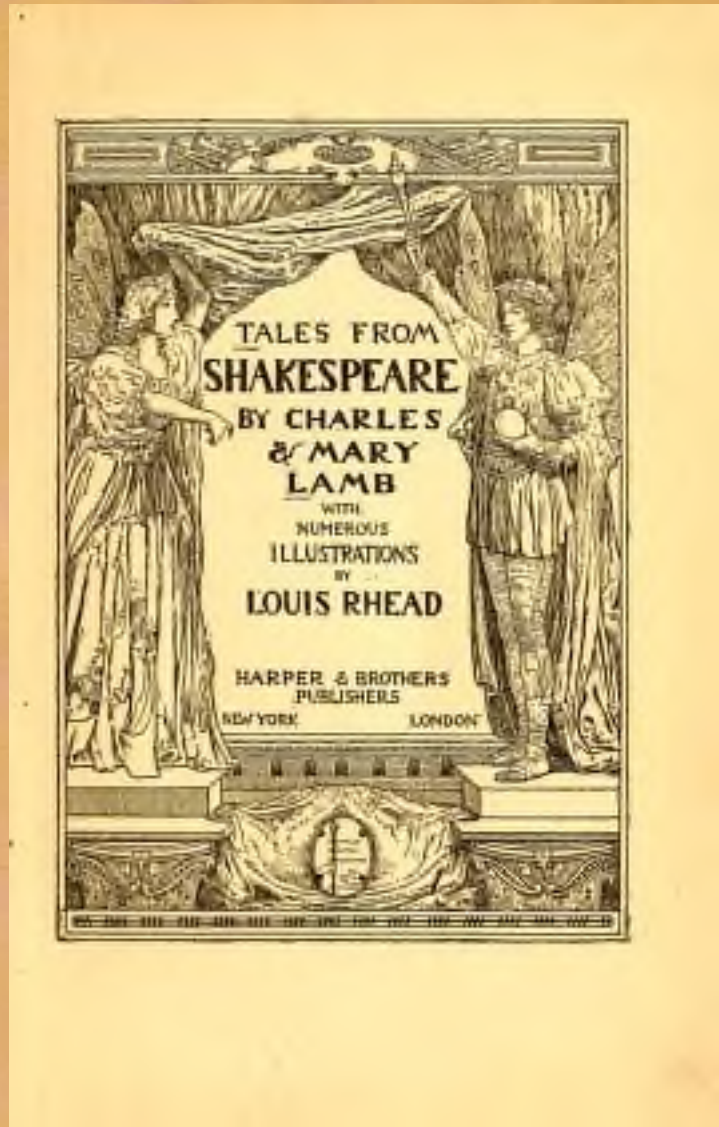
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1904

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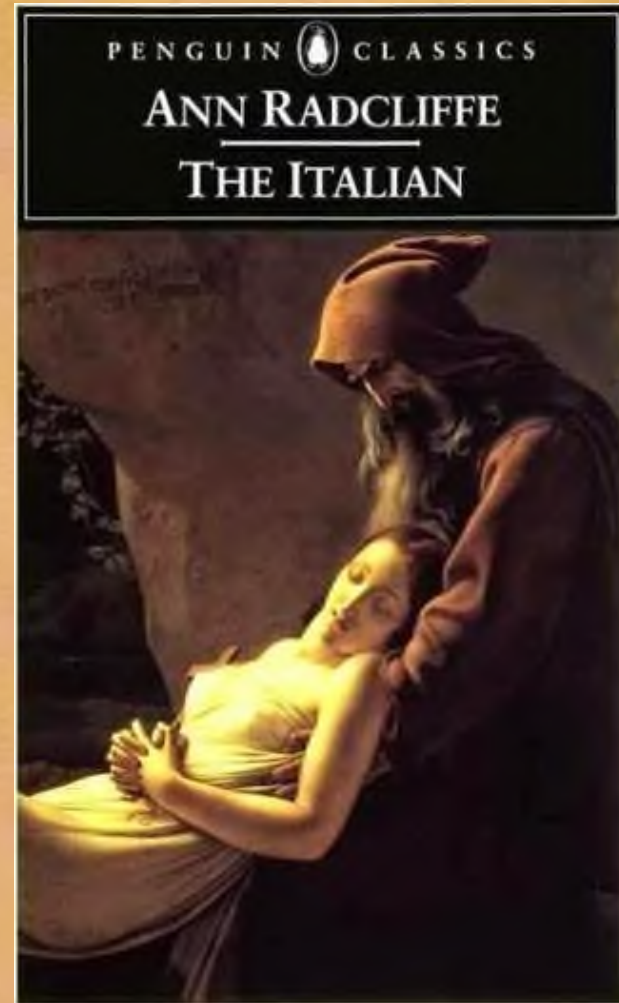
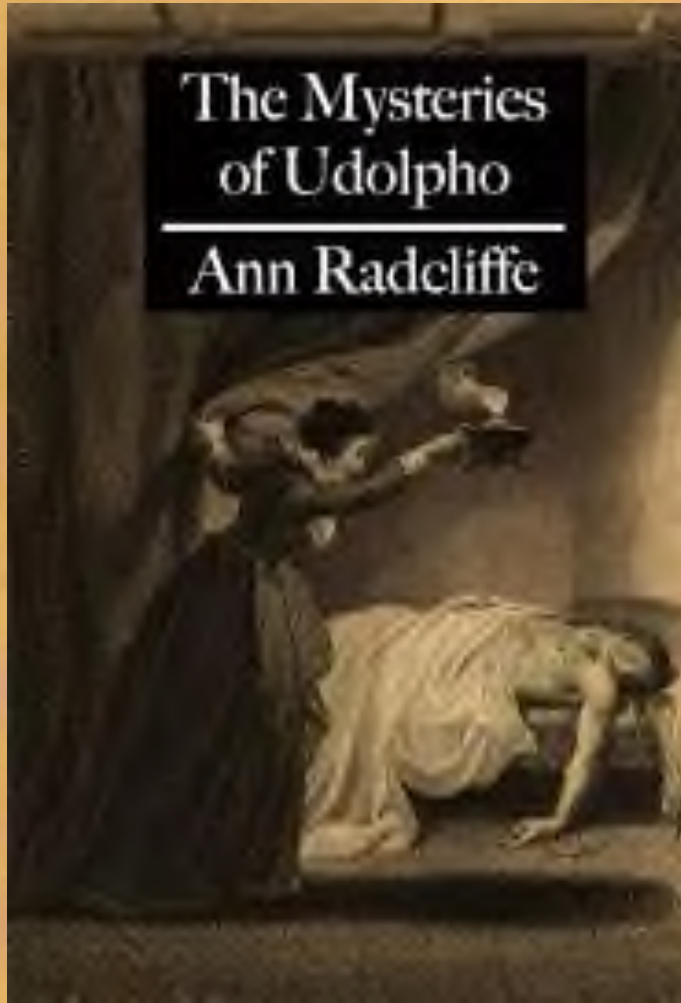
Dorothy Wordsworth



Mary Lamb



Ann Radcliffe



Mysteries of Udolpho, 1794

The Italian, 1797

FRANKENSTEIN ;
OR,
THE MODERN PROMETHEUS.

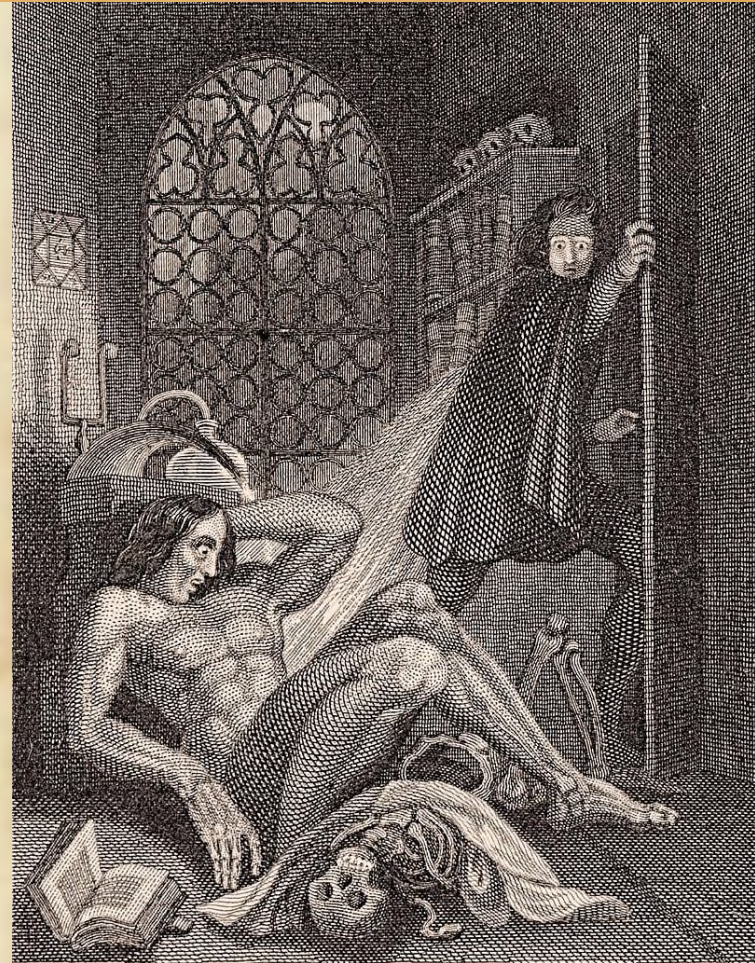
IN THREE VOLUMES.

Did I request thee, Maker, from my clay
To mould me man? Did I solicit thee
From darkness to promote me?—
FRANKENSTEIN.

VOL. I.

LONDON :
PRINTED FOR
LACKINGTON, BISHOP, HARRIS, HAVER, & JONES,
FLEET STREET.

1818.



Frankenstein, Mary Shelley, 1818.

CONFESSIONS

OF AN

ENGLISH OPIUM - EATER.

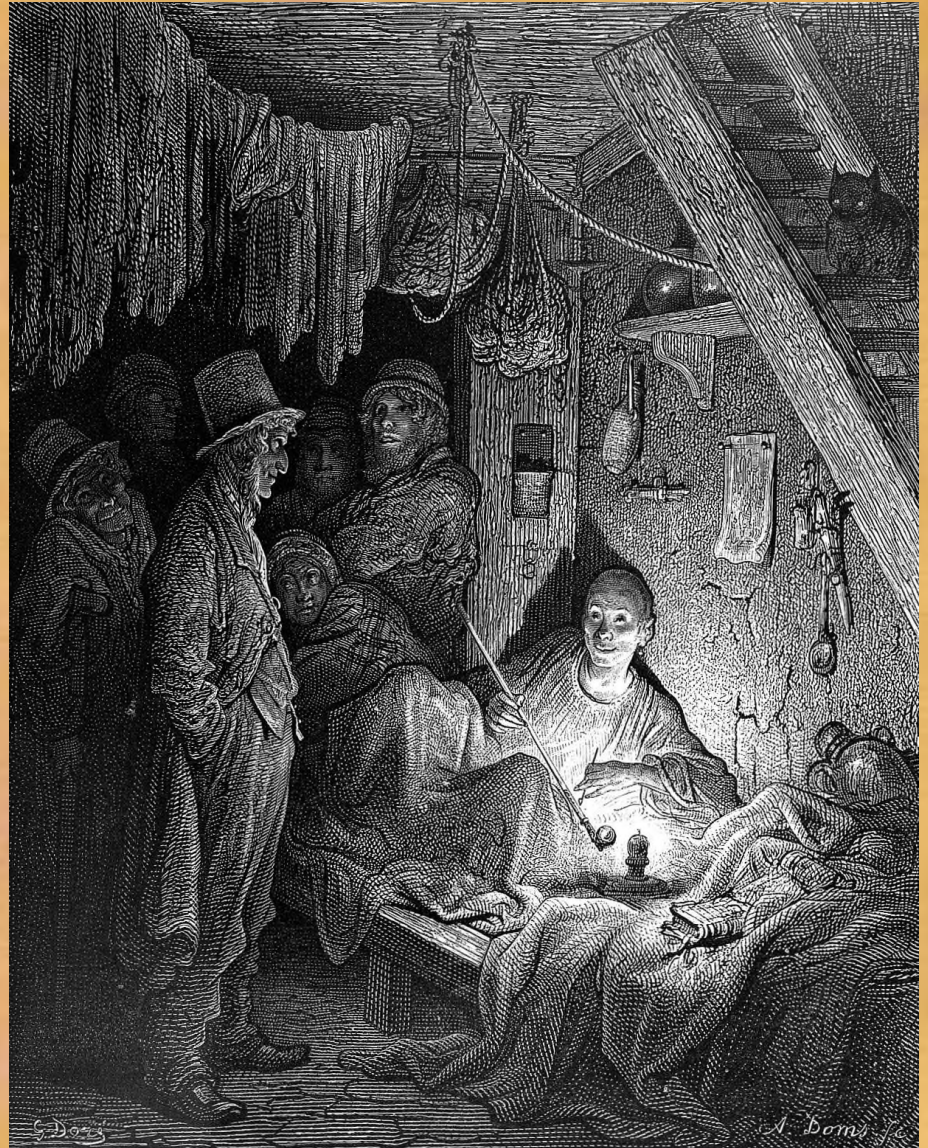
To weep afresh a long since cancell'd woe,
And moan the expense of many a vanish'd sight.
SHAKESPEARE'S Sonnets.

SECOND EDITION.

LONDON :

PRINTED FOR TAYLOR AND HESSEY, FLEET STREET.

1823.



Confessions of an English Opium Eater, De Quincey, 1821.

Gustav Dore, A London Opium Den, 1872.

He loves their colours fresh and fine
As fair as fair may be,
But little does my darling know
How good they are to me.

O how should'st thou with beaming brow
With eye and cheek so bright
Know aught of that blossom's pow'r,
Or sorrows of the night!

When poor mama long restless lies
She drinks the poppy's juice;
That liquor soon can close her eyes
And slumber soft produce.

O' then my sweet my happy boy
Will thank the poppy flow'r
Which brings the sleep to dear mama
At midnight's darksome hour.



Joseph Severn, Keats at Hampstead, 1851



From Boydell Shakespeare Gallery



William Hogarth's portrait of David Garrick as
Richard III, 1745.

The Romantic Painters and their paintings



The Gate in the Rocks, Schinkel 1818.



Medieval Town by Water, Schinkel,
after 1813.



Casper David Friedrich, Wanderer above the Sea of Fog,
1818



Friedrich, Moonrise over the Sea, 1822



Constable, The Hay Wain, 1821



Constable, Salisbury Cathedral from the Meadows,
1831



Constable, Landscape with a Goatherd and Goats, 1823



J.M.W. Turner, *The Slave Ship*, 1840



Details from 'The Slave Ship'



Turner, Rain, Steam, Speed: The Great Western Railway, 1844





Turner, Fishermen at Sea, 1796



Delacroix, Liberty leading the People, 1830.



The Nightmare, Henry Fuseli, 1781.



Joshua Reynolds, 'The Age of Innocence', 1788.



Neuschwanstein Castle, 1886



Ludwig van Beethoven, Ode to Joy, 1822-24.

Romanticism as a **Movement** became apparent in varied **socio-political-cultural** fields and was manifested, often in **radical** ways through the **Arts**. Though the **late eighteenth** and the **early nineteenth** century period is associated with the high tide of the Movement, in many ways **we are all Post-Romantics**.