

# English romanticism

## Prominent English Romantics:

### First phase of Romantics:

William Wordsworth  
Samuel Taylor Coleridge  
William Blake

### Second Phase of Romantics:

Sir Walter Scott  
John Keats  
Lord Byron  
Percy Bysshe Shelley and Mary shelley

## Time span:

1790s to 1830s

## kick-off point:

The joint publication of LYRICAL BALLADS in 1798 by William Wordsworth and Samuel Taylor Coleridge

## Tenets/principles

**NATURE:** innocence and the picturesque, the use of the elements of nature in literary innovation.

**SUBJECTIVITY:** human feeling and emotions are primary

**THE PRIMACY OF THE INDIVIDUAL:** as opposed to conventional submission to the group and its traditions

**FREEDOM OR LIBERTY:** the sanctity of human dignity and freedom from tyranny and convention.

**IMAGINATION:** the instrument of literary creation as opposed to reason

## Historical background:

A reactionary intellectual attitude against the Enlightenment and 18th cen. rationalism.

Germany and France were the birth places of Romanticism.

Influencer thinkers of this movement at its start were: Jean Jacques Rousseau and Johann Von Goethe.