

Mohamed Khider University of Biskra
Faculty of Letters and Languages
Department of English

LEVEL: First year

Lecturer: Dr. Ben Abderrezak Abdelnacer

Academic year: 2021/2022

COURSE: Literary text

Introduction

Neoclassicism and **Romanticism** are two **artistic and literary periods** that appeared in **Europe** during the **18th** and **first half of the 19th century**.

- **Neoclassicism** evolved as a reaction of society against the Baroque period, and was perceived as a way of rescuing from the past the styles of the classical periods, that's why buildings and sculptures have aspects in common with that era. These words can describe the characteristics of Neoclassicism: organised, controlled, serious, perfect, simple, non religious, thoughtful. Polite, realistic and calmed.
- **Romanticism** came later by the hand of the French and the Industrial Revolution. We could say that Romanticism is in general words the opposite of Neoclassicism, it's: romantic, passionate, sensitive, emotional, imperfect, spontaneous, natural, ideal, heroic, exciting, active, complex, disorder, imaginative, fantastic.
- **Realism** was a XIX century movement against the ideas of the Romanticism. Realism wants to **represent things as they are**, without artificial or imaginative items. It avoids idealistic, exotic or paradisiacal places.

Task: classify the following into: classicism, romanticism or realism. Justify your answer

Text 1 :

Daffodils by William Wordsworth

“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 trees,
Fluttering and dancing in the breeze.

.....
.....
.....

.....
.....

Text 2

Frankenstein by Mary Shelley

Frankenstein is one of the best examples of romantic novels. It shows the idea of how supernatural works in an environment where the pursuit of knowledge and discovery of Victor Frankenstein overpowers him so much so that he forgets the moral aspects of life and creation.

.....
.....
.....
.....
.....

Text 3

Frank Norris, *McTeague: A Story of San Francisco*

At times [...] she would lock her door, open her trunk, and pile all her little hoard on her table. By now it was four hundred and seven dollars and fifty cents. Trina would play with this money by the hour, piling it, and repiling it, or gathering it all into one heap, and drawing back to the farthest corner of the room to note the effect [...]. She polished the gold pieces with a mixture of soap and ashes until they shone [...]. Or, again, she would draw the heap lovingly toward her and bury her face in it, delighted at the smell of it and the feel of the smooth, cool metal on her cheeks. She even put the smaller gold pieces in her mouth, and jingled them there. [...] She would plunge her small fingers into the pile with little murmurs of affection, her long, narrow eyes half closed and shining, her breath coming in long sighs.

.....
.....
.....
.....
.....

Text 4 :

Margaret Drabble, *A Summer Bird-Cage*

In the end she taught me the art of competition, and this is what I really hold against her: I think I had as little desire to outdo others in my nature as a person can have, until she insisted on demonstrating her superiority. She taught me to want to outdo her. And when, occasionally, I did so, her anger hurt me, but as I had won it by labour from indifference, I treasured it. And when, finally, I took over one of her men at Oxford, the game was out in the open, I thought, for the rest of our lives.

.....
.....
.....
.....
.....