

The Age of Wordsworth (1798-1832)

- **The Age of Wordsworth is called the romantic triumph**
- **It is the age craving for freedom and the larger life**
- **Keats wrote from pope's couplet, the fundamental difference between Augustan and romantic poetry.**
- **the key-note of both was emancipation.**
- **The great outburst of 1789 sent a thrill of fresh life through the whole civilised world.**
- **It came as the prophecy of a new day , into an era of realised democratic ideals of liberty, brotherhood, and the rights of man.**
- **Later eighteenth century literature shows a steady growth of wonderful humanitarian enthusiasm and Perfection were kindled in young souls**

As Wordsworth afterwards wrote :

**" But Europe at that time was thrilled with joy ;
France standing on the top of golden hours,
And human nature seeming born again";**


- **The excesses reign of terror; rise of Napoleonic wars, the establishment of a military despotism; the long strain Of the Napoleonic wars; after waterloo, democracy were destroyed as a result of disturbances in thought and feeling The age of buoyancy and expectation passed away. The age of unrest and disillusion succeeded.**
- **1793 he published An Evening Walk and Descriptive Sketches, in which the regular classic couplet is used, and which are otherwise curiously reminiscent of Pope, Goldsmith, and Crabbe.**
- **His friendship with Coleridge, which began about 1796, did much to stimulate his genius. Two years later Coleridge joined him in the publication of that epoch-making little book, the Lyrical Ballads**
- **In 1843, when, on Southey's death, he was made poet laureate.**
- *The Prelude* is his autobiographical poem
- **In England he found conservative opinion running strongly against the Revolution,**
- **In 1792 just after the September massacre he became the supporter of revolution.**
- **At first he held fast to the French cause.**
- **Fall of Robespierre, rise of Napoleon and the events followed made him an extreme conservative.**

- **He became an earnest supporter of English institutions and traditions.**
- **General democratic movement of his time emerged.**
- **Lyrical Ballads marks the full development of both romanticism and naturalism.**
- **In his poems incidents and situations are from common life, humble and rustic life.**
- **Michael a typical example of his narrative and descriptive poem.**
- **Appropriate language of actual life was taken.**

- Wordsworth is a lover of nature, his knowledge of nature is equal to his love.
- The profound religious feeling was shown again and again in the *Lines written above Tintern Abbey*.
- In Ode on the intimations of Immortality – nature was an embodiment of the Divine spirit.
- Nature is the greatest of all teachers.
- He is not only the poet of nature but also the poet of man.
- Wordsworth is also a moralist by his firm hold upon the central facts.
- He has no dramatic power, no humor and little passion.
- The Excursion is an example of prolix moralisings of the common place.



(21 OCTOBER 1772 – 25 JULY 1834)

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- Samuel Taylor Coleridge was an English poet, literary critic and philosopher.
 - He was the leader of Romantic poetry.
 - He used opium for inspiration.



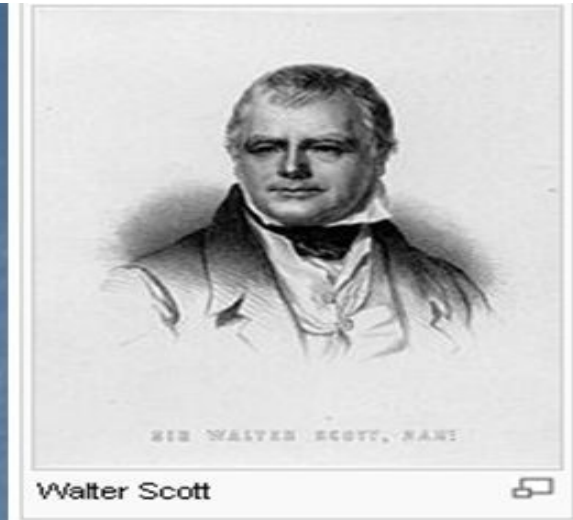
Subject Matter

- The most important characteristic of his literary text, he used supernatural elements, visionary elements in his poems.
- Supernatural elements, extraordinary and mysterious that can be found in human nature.
- Nature is not the only subject matter, he also talk about psychology of character.

Biography

- Sir Walter Scott (1771 ~ 1832) was born of a **lawyer's family** in Edinburgh, **Scotland** on August 15, 1771.
- His interest in the **old Border tales** and **ballads** was started by **his grandmother** who was quite good at telling stories about the **old border feuds**, and was further stimulated by **Thomas Percy's (1729 ~ 1811) *Reliques of Ancient English Poetry* (1765)** and by the study of the **old romantic poetry of France and Italy** and of the **modern German poets**.

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Sir Walter Scott, 1st Baronet




Raeburn's portrait of Sir Walter Scott in 1822.




**Robert Southey (12 August
1774 – 21 March 1843)**

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- He was an English poet of the Romantic school, one of the so-called "Lake Poets", and Poet Laureate for 30 years from 1813 to his death in 1843.

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- Moreover, Southey was a prolific letter writer, literary scholar, essay writer, historian and biographer.

List of works:

- The Fall of Robespierre (1794)
- Joan of Arc: An Epic Poem (1796)
- Icelandic poetry or The Edda of Sæmund (1797)
- Poems (1797–99)
- Letters from Spain (1797)
- Saint Patrick's Purgatory (1798)
- After Blenheim (1798)
- Devil's Thoughts (1799)

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- These lines are written by Robert Southey. He belongs to the Romantic movement. The theme of the poem is all about humanism.
 - There are many Romantic features in this poem. First, there is emphasis on human equality, for example, “He, the indifferent Judge of all, regards/ Nations, and hues, and dialects alike” (9-10). Second, there are many recurrent references to nature, for example, “whatever clime/ Nature or chance hath cast the seeds of life” (2-3). Third, there is a criticism of the present and evocation of the past, for example, “Children we are all/ Of one great father” (1-2) and “According to their works shall they be judged/...” (11-13).