

Romanticism – Final Thoughts

- Spirit of the Age: Revolution, Democracy, Freedom, Individual Rights. Literature as action
- Poet & Poetry: Speaking “I” (Individual perception: Feeling and emotion, Creative imagination.) Child as figure of innocence, purity, imagination. Poet “is a man speaking to men” (Wordsworth). Innovation, Adaptation, and Variety of poetic forms: Lyric, ballad, sonnet, ode//Meter and rhyme.
- Romance: Supernatural and magical/distant and exotic landscapes, native literature. Psychological states, irrationality and imagination.
- External nature represents psychological states. But the mind also internalizes nature using the imagination to give it meaning: reciprocal relationship. Birds as representatives of the spontaneity, joy, freedom, and hidden power of nature? Poet as a bird?
- Burden of consciousness. Dialectical relationship: to think and to not think

Victorianism

- Looking outward rather than inside (Romanticism). Reform as a means of address social issues.
- Social issues: marriage, relationship between men and women, child labor. Status of individualism within society
- Influence of Romanticism but not faith/confidence in imagination
- Literary forms: Dramatic monologue