

Byron

He is more complex from a stylistic point of view?? →he is culturally elitist in his satirical poems →he used poetic diction (lofty style characterizing augustian poetry = latinisms, figures of speech)

But also the use of satire, wit and irony →important aspects of augustians poetry and Byron's one

- wit = the ability to relate things in a sophisticated and funny way
- irony = the use of words to express the opposite of what you really mean
- satire = is an artistic technique aiming at exposing and discrediting people's vices by recurring to wit and irony

On the one hand Byron was fascinated by sublime nature →but at the same time it felt resentment because of his physical disability

Byron is the embodiment of the overcoming of romanticism over neoclassicism →they are not in contrast

Titanism = attitude of rebellion against authority that the subject perceives as despotic and unjust →term comes from the mythological figure of the titan (most famous one: Prometheus)

Prometheus has 2 versions:

- the titan creating humans out of clay
- the titan stealing fire from zeus to donate it to humans (more important version to romanticism) →for this reason he was tied to a rock for eternity (an eagle ate his liver every day) →he represents the punished rebel for a right cause

The tone in the romantic works is titanistic, idealistic, rebellious, fascinated by Nature, gothicism, nationalism →he was a champion of political freedom (not of individuals, but of peoples)

The concept of the exotic has changed with the development of means of travel →italy was an exotic place at the time

The neoclassical works are more realistic →skeptical realism, because his pessimistic point of view on society

The byronic hero is the typical character of byron's romantic poems

"Lara" → The Byronic Hero

Proud, mysterious, dark, rebellious

Scoreful towards society → for him common people tended to lack from sensibility

He is mysterious

He helps to be admired, not for pity

Lara is the sequel to another oriental tale → "The corsair"

The protagonist is a Spanish count and Lara is the name of the possession he owned

He decides to leave his privileged position and travel the world

Then he returns to his lands → in the meantime they were usurped by another aristocrat

Similar to the corsair → why ???

The byronic hero is considered by scholars as an alter-ego of Byron himself → but it is not an autobiographical figure (this would be too far fetched)

It is a romantic character, but also a controversial one

Characteristics of the Byronic Hero - Analysis of the text

- 1 he is controversial because he conjured up mixed feelings in people
- 2 there was something to be loved and feared → he is dangerously attractive → line 2
- 3 he was a taciturn → he didn't talk much, and people tended to speculate on his secrets for this reason
- 4 he had got a mysterious past
- 5 lineage → he has an aristocratic background
- He is a 6 misanthrope (a hater of his kind) → he hates human beings
- 7 he had a sneer (sardonic smile) painted on his face
- 8 he doesn't want to show his vulnerability
- 9 now he is disdainful of humanity probably because he has loved too much in the past
- 10 he felt like he was an outcast (he stood a stranger in this breathing world)
- 11 he usually had dark thoughts (dark imagining) → dangerous thought for himself and the others

- He hates everyone →but 12 has an incredible sensitivity to beauty and nature
- 13 he is a restless soul (line 37, he expands his life in phantom chase →looking for something)
- 14 he feels fiery passions (line 39)
- 15 one the one hand he is fascinated by nature, on the other hand he blames it for all the misfortunes happened to him
- 16 sometimes he blames fate without holding himself responsible, without taking personal responsibility (line 48)
- 17 sometimes he helped others not out of generosity, but to feel superior →sign of perversity of thought
- 18 he has committed crimes
- 19 he is characterized by an attitude of escapism →he wants to leave this wo

The byronic hero represents the romantic hero →controversial figure with few positive aspects