

Recuperare 1 ottobre

Lucy

She has relocated in New York →she has a conversation with her boss, who was talking about spring and daffodils →this makes her remember something about her childhood

She was a pupil

She was complimented on her pronunciation →one can understand that she was not a native speaker

It is common for post colonial works to have marginalized characters →for example, among the colonized, women, members of ethnic minorities or children, whose view on reality is more sincere and pure (in a sense)

In her dream she gets "punished" for her act of rebellion →the flowers submerge her
She tried to forget this as a defensive mechanism

Anger →typical emotion of post-colonized people

Post colonial literature can deal with the relationship between colonizer and colonized and historical events such as:

- colonialism →(formally started in 1492, with the "discovery of america")
- imperialism →(1) the political philosophy behind colonialism: an empire, by definition, is made by different ethnicities and a government that rules →(2) others consider it an evolution of colonialism and a much worse version (1900)
- neocolonialism →newer form of col. starting at the beginning of the 20th century →typically brought by the USA, and after WW2 also UK, France, Spain (previous colonial empires on the process of collapsing →they influence elections of colonized countries and control economically by buying raw materials at low prices = indirect but deep political and economical influence)

USA wanted to control the American continent →according to the "Monroe doctrine", USA had the right to do it

France, ... →regarded mainly Africa, but also Asia

USA was bringing neocolonialism in the Caribbean →for this reason Lucy is settled in USA

Coleridge

He lived less than Wordsworth →he had been plying all his life with chronic diseases
He treated himself with opium (it was considered as a drug)
He became an addict →and this had consequences on his literature too
Coleridge in his youth had opium-induced visions, about which he wrote in his poems
→but opium ruined his imagination as time passed

Kubla Khan

It was published in 1816 →more mature phase of Coleridge's literal production than the lyrical ballads

An example is "Kubla Khan", which is a poetic fragment wrote after an opium-induced vision

Fragment because it remained unfinished

It is about a vision about a beautiful asian palace, owned by the mongul emperor Kubla Khan

The palace was huge and elegant, surrounded by a lush garden with bushes and trees of any kind

There was also a spring, from which a river originated →there were also an abyss
→the spring has been interpreted as a symbol of poetic inspiration

The river is the poetry the poet can produce

It is a metapoetic poem = it also deals with poetry

But this palace is also an ivory tower →because it was surrounded by huge walls, that isolated the palace from the rest of the world →you could hear echoes of voices coming from the outside

He thought that the poet should lock himself in an ivory tower →the poet had to be less concerned by the real world

In a passage of "Biographia literaria" Coleridge talks about the writing of Kubla Khan →before he had taken Laudanum (a mixture of wine and opium)

He had the vision and then started writing →but then he was interrupted by a friend who visited him →when he started to write the poem again, the inspiration was gone and he couldn't finish it

As a young person he was a radical →he supported the french revolution

With Robert Southey he realaborated a political project →they wanted to create "Pantisocracy", a new community founded in america by 12 couples (and then start the population)

In Pantisocracy women were supposed to have the same right as men, and private property had to be abolished too

This never took place

Southey was considered a major romantic →now it is considered a minor

After his radical youth, he became a conservative later

- "Lyrical ballads"
- "Christable and other poems" (which includes Kubla Khan) →christable is a gothic poem, whose protagonist is the witch Christable
- "Biographia literaria" →philosophical and autobiographical long essay →here he elaborates his theory on imagination

Rhyme of the ancient mariner

It is a long narrative poem (not lyrical) →specifically, it is a ballad, but also a cautionary tale in verse

The first ballads were written in the middle ages →they were very popular, because they were meant for common people →they couldn't read, so minstrels or storytellers recited and sang ballads in streets and squares

- they were written in quatrains
- the language was simple
- full of repetitions (to be learned by heart and be comprehended more easily)
- they had a dialogical structure (dialogs were frequent)
- about tragic events →they reflected the life of the people of middle ages

During Renaissance they lost their central role →theatre was the most famous entertainment method

Ballads were transmitted orally →only in 18th they got written down →and also poets wrote them (called literary ballads), but were more complex and refined as the ones of the middle ages

It is cautionary because it teaches a moral story →it teaches the reader to respect nature (or you will get terribly punished)

The mariner was disrespectful towards nature →now he has to spend his life by warning others not to commit their mistakes

October 7:

Every aspect of nature is a manifestation of God →so it has to be respected

There are 7 sections and there are 2 narrators:

- main external 3rd person omniscient one
- the mariner (first person)

The poem presents both realistic and supernatural aspects →the supernatural aspect requires a suspension of disbelief by the reader

Plot

Plot →page 301 ex. 1

After the violent storm an albatross appeared, and the ship started moving again →it was like a messenger sent by God to help the crew

The mariner was not grateful →he kills the albatross

The mariner for this reason get punished →the ship stops moving (in the equator area) and they run out of water

There are only water snakes that swim around their ship and no other signs of life

Then they are approached by a phantom ship →there are two ghosts (Death and Life-in-Death), and they cast dices with the lives of the mariners

Death wins the life of the mariners, and Life-in-Death wins the one of the ancient mariner →he will live but be dead and will have to tell his story to others

After the death of the mariners, the ship is still not moving →it moves only when he blesses the snakes and understands the importance of nature

Open ending →but it implies that the mariner will spend his life as a wanderer and his sense of guilt will end with his death

Killing of the albatross

There are some prose parts, that anticipate the content of the stanzas

Ship is personified (she)

'th = ancient way of saying 's

Stanza 1 →the external narrator speaks

Stanza 2 →next of kin = close relative of the bridegroom (the male spouse)

Stanza 3 →first and last line: consonance in H, and dialogical structure

Stanza 4 →the mariner mesmerizes him →stood still = alliteration in S →like a 3 years child = simile

Stanza 5 →line 2 alliteration in c →line 3: inversion

Stanza 6 →the mariner becomes the second narrator →kirk = archaic word for church →diacope of below

Stanza 7 →line 2: inversion →sun referred to with "he": personification →line 3: consonance

Stanza 8 → general narrator is talking

Stanza 9 → line 2: simile and inversion → merry minstrelsy: alliteration

Stanza 10 → he hypnotizes with his eye

Stanza 11 → the narration continues, by the equator there was a storm (he and tyrannous, personification) → storm = sublime nature → then storm with animalisation (has wings)

Stanza 12 → sloping = inclined → line 2: consonance in W → and long double simile: the storm is someone chasing their foe (enemy, the ship here) and is so close that can walk on its shadow

Stanza 13 → at the south pole they find a sublime landscape → anaphora of "and" → ice is green as emerald (simile) → fearful: sublime nature creates fear

Stanza 14 → no creatures, only ice

Stanza 15 → they feel overwhelmed by ice (sense of oppression) → diacopy of ice → animalisation of ice (growled, roared, howled) → last line: simile, like a dream

Stanza 17 → diacopy of round

Stanza 18 → the albatross becomes a constant presence

Stanza 19 → moon in the night: example of picturesque nature Stanza 20 → anticipation of destiny of the mariner → he will have to live like a dead man

A sadder and wiser man

Moral of the whole poem

The mariner is talking to the guest → there is an apostrophe

Even beasts have a soul → pantheist vision of the world, that Coleridge will abandon in his later life

Later he became more conservative (politically) and also more orthodox religiously (abandoned the pantheistic view)

The very conclusion is relevant to the cautionary tale

The guest grows morally → he becomes wiser

2 most relevant british romantic painters are Constable and Turner
Constable tended to put the focus on picturesque landscaped, while Turner on sublime ones

Second generation of british Romanticism

They were:

- Byron
- P. B. Shelley
- Mary Shelley
- J. Keats

They are called members of the second generation because they were younger →they were born 20 years after Wordsworth and Coleridge

They also died young, under tragic circumstances

Byron died for example while he was in Greece, as he prepared to fight against the Turkish Empire →he died from a malaric feaver, during training

P. B. Shelley died during a storm, while sailing on a ship he owned, in Liguria

Keats died of tuberculosis →he was burried in a protestant cemetery in Rome

Politically speaking →they were radicals →they didn't have the time to become conservative

They were also critical of Coleridge's and Wordsworth's conservatism as adults

Lord Byron

1788-1824

He was the member of a powerful aristocratic family →his family was so prestigious that he had a seat in the british parliament

Parliament was made of 2 houses:

- house of commons →MPS (members of parlament) are elected through general election
- house of lords →whose seats are inherited

However his childhood was not happy →his parents neglected him →he had been raised by his calvinist nanny (she brought him up and influenced him from a religious point of view)

She was fundamental in his upbringing (not education)

He then attended university →then he became extremely famous in London →he was like an idol

- literary fame →his works were appreciated and were best sellers
- biographical fame →his lifestyle was scandalous →some criticized him for this reason, others appreciated his freedom

He was married, but had several lovers →he believed in free love →he despised marriage as an institution

It is also believed that he was bisexual

At one point he became member of the parliament →however a day a mob (infuriated crowd) attacked his house →some rumors had spread about his homosexuality

It was also believed that he had incestuous relationship with his half sister

He wasn't hurt, but he was so shocked that in year 1816 he decided to leave England for good

For him english society was too narrow minded and moralistic →he had a fall from grace

He moved to the continent (continental europe) →he leaved in Geneva, where he owned Villa Diodati

This villa is important for romanticism →in year 1816 one night he was hosting P. B. Shelley and his wife (Mary)

They decided to have a writing competition →the winner had to write the most horrifying horror story →the winner was Mary Shelley →she wrote only a short tale

Then she expanded it in a full novel in the following 2 years →it is Frankenstein

In the introduction she claims that the story comes only from her imagination →but recognizes that Byron and his husband played an important role

She wrote the tale after a nightmare she had →the dream was inspired by a conversation she had heard between Byron and P. B. Shelley

The 2 were talking about an experiment of Galvani →he tried to make dead frogs come to life with electricity

Byron travelled then in europe →he lived in Venice, Rome, Ravenna →while he was in Italy, he was in touch with italian independetists, who were against the austrian empire

The austrian police found him →so he went to Greece →he was very radical from a political point of view →he was ready to risk his life to help indipendentists (both italian and greek)

He was very athletic →but he was a lame, a cripple →malformation of a foot

He was psychologically touched by this physical disability →he suffered from this

Even his view of nature depended on this disability he was born with →he was fascinated by the sublime aspects, on the other hand he accused nature to be a evil stepmother →she made his life difficult

Nowadays british scholars do not consider neoclassicism and romanticism as in stark opposition →byrond embody this duality and the evolution of romanticism from neo-classicism

He composed romantic and neoclassical works →he was a romantic poet but also neoclassical production

Most famous for narrative production

Romantic works:

- lyrical poems →collected under "Hours of Idleness (ozio)" →he is better known for his narrative ones
- verse tales →narrative poems in verses →most important ones under the collection "Oriental tales" →most two relevant are "The Corsair" and "Lara" →here the character feels strong and powerful emotions, and the atmosphere is gothic →typical main character is the figure of the "Byronic hero"
- "Childe Harold's Pilgrimage" →semi-autobiographical poem →not totally, because the events are loosely based on his life →the protagonist is Harold, an aristocratic young man, who travells on a grand tour in Southern Europe (like Byron did)
- verse plays →written in poetry (not prose), set mainly in Italy →philosophical plays, focusing on political freedom →they were rarely put on stage because are very complex to follow →they are mainly meant to be read →ex. "Manfred", "Marino Falliero", "The two Foscari" →"theatre of words, not of action"

He also wrote neoclassical works, in the form of satirical / mock-heroic poems →written in "ottava rima" (eight-line stanzas)

They satirize the hypocrisy of the british society →he despised them (satire) →ex. "Don Juan", he is an anti-hero (reason for mock-heroic) →he fell in love with many women, ...

The verses followed a specific rime pattern

In writing this works, he was influenced by Augustian poetry, which was mocking

and used poetic diction → he was also influenced by Swift (for the use of satire) and Sterne (for the use of digressions)

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

Byron

Satirical neoclassical poems

Beppo - an extract

Is set in Venice → is about an aristocrat, who is believed to have died → he returns to Venice and has to reconquer the love of his previous lover

Here Beppo makes a digression on language → Byron was influenced by Sterne in this → he wrote an experimental novel, called "Tristan Shandy" → so experimental, that he inspired experimental novelists of 20th century

"Tristan Shandy" is full of digressions

The point made is that neo-Latin languages are superior in comparison with Germanic languages → because they sound better

Here he uses a specific stanza → called "ottava rima":

Foot = a syllable

- 8 lines → first 6 iambic pentameters (10 feet) + last 2 hexameters (6 feet), also called "alexandrines"
- rhyme AB AB AB CC

Bastard because Latin developed from Greeks

"Melts like kisses" → figure of speech: simile

"from a female moth" → alliteration of F

"sounds / should / satin (raso)" → alliteration of S → creates musicality

Line 4: personification of syllables → they are breathing → + alliteration in S

Pat in = smooth

Uncouth = (rozzo)

"Like our" → simile

Hiss = sound of the snake

Sputter = spit

Don Juan - another extract

Marriage is love being spoiled → marriage and love don't mix, marriage ruins love

Love is pure, superior → gets spoiled by marriage, just like wine turns into vinegar

It is a digression on the theme of love

In Byron's opinion, it is a hypocritical institution

Line 2 →alliteration in F

Line 3 →alliteration in C

"Like vinegar from wine" →simile

Love is superior to marriage →they only rarely combine

Don Juan is written in ottava-rima

Byron

Life →page 314

He was an unconventional aristocrat with a scandalous life →first people were attracted by this

Then he was surrounded by scandals and debts →so he leaves

He made negative comments of romantic poetry →he defined it unelegant and boring, using even swear words (like against Keats)

He believed in individual freedom and freedom of nations from empires

Childe Harold's Pilgrimage

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A childe = a young man waiting for knighthood (minor british aristocracy, not the major one, like barons, earls and dukes)

Semi-autobiographical →the adventures of Harold replicate the ones of Byron

Childe Harold is a sort of the representation of the byronic hero

There is a red thread in Byron's works →it is the importance of fighting against political oppression

Main themes:

- journey
- nature →picturesque and exotic, but also sublime →often it mirrors the character's mind and feelings
- freedom →individual, or the one of whole populations from tyrans

P. B. Shelley

Was member of the second generation of the british romantics, along with Byron, Mary Shelley and John Keats

He died really young →he was 30 years old

He belonged to a rich and aristocratic background →just like Byron

He could have a great education →he attended Eton (not a university, but a prestigious highschool, a prep school for university)

Shelley hated his experience there →he did not enjoy his time there →his classmates tended to be posh kids and they were also obsessed with sports

The whole institution was obsessed with sports →but he hated sports, for this reason

he was bullied

He was not into sports, but also had strong political ideas →this being radical clashed against his aristocratic background

Then he enrolled to Cambridge university →he liked the experience from an academic point of view, but in 1812 he published a controversial pamphlet

Its title was: "The necessity of Atheism" →pamphlet = essay (work in prose) about a social/political topic →a specific political idea is argued by the author

It was controversial because this essay was in favor of atheism, which was illegal in those years →he published the pamphlet anonymously →but his identity was uncovered

He wasn't arrested thanks to the connections of his family →but got expelled from the university

His parents were disappointed and cut off their financial support

But Shelley was supported by his two elder sisters, who were close to him

In the pamphlet he claims that atheism is necessary to achieve democracy in society
To him there is no rational proof of the existence of god →so he doesn't believe in god

He also doesn't understand how god can be described as both the god of love (in the gospels) and a punisher god (in the bible) →for him this is contradictory

This theological view became political

European monarchies are based on the "divine rights of kings" →according to which a rightful monarch is one of god's representatives on earth

Monarchy has to exist, according to this →but if the existence of god is denied, then also the existence of monarchy is unjustified