

Later Romantics

Later Romantics

- Byron, Shelley, Keats – three poets distinct from the Lake School
- All born on the wake of the French Revolution
- None affected directly by its commotion
- But all three touched by revolutionary ideas
- Influenced by
- The liberal agitations after 1815
- Wordsworth, with whom they had a literary love-hate relationship

Lord George Gordon Byron (1788-1824)

- The most flamboyant and notorious of the major Romantics
- Born in London with a clubbed right foot
- Inherited barony and family home when he was 10
- Educated at
- Aberdeen School
- Harrow (a famous school for boys) and
- Trinity College, Cambridge
- Profligate behaviour

Works

- Fugitive Pieces (1807)
- Poems on Various Occasions (1807)
- Hours of Idleness (1807), “By George Gordon, Lord Byron, A Minor”
- English Bards and Scotch Reviewers (1809)
- Childe Harold’s Pilgrimage 4 Cantos (1812, 1816, 1818)
- “The Prisoner of Chillon”
- Blank Verse Drama
- Manfred (1817), Cain (1821), The Two Foscari (1821), Marino Faliero (1821), Heaven and Earth (1821), Sardanapalus (1822), etc

Works

- Poems that expressed sympathy for great Italian poets: The Lament of Tasso, The Prophecy of Dante: A Poem, Francesca of Rimini
- Beppo (1817)
- Mazeppa (1819)
- Don Juan (1821)

- Last unfinished tragedy *The Deformed Transformed* (1824)
- *The Vision of Judgment* (1822)

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Byronic Hero

- Gothic elements
- Having conflicting emotions or moodiness
- Self-critical and introspective
- Struggles with integrity
- Having a distaste for social institutions / norms
- Being an exile, an outcast, or an outlaw
- A lack of respect for rank and privilege
- Having a troubled past
- Being cynical, demanding, and/or arrogant
- Often self-destructive
- Troubles with sexual identity
- Loner rejected from society

PB Shelley (1792-1822)

- Born at Sussex as the eldest son of Timothy Shelley, a country squire
- At Eton College, his independent spirit won him the nickname “Mad Shelley” and “Eton Atheist”
- In 1811, with Thomas J Hogg he wrote & circulated *The Necessity of Atheism*, probably the first English pamphlet to profess atheism
- They were expelled from the college
- Shelley eloped with 16-year-old Harriet Westbrook, the daughter of a tavern-keeper, to Scotland & they married in 1811
- His marriage ended in a fiasco, with Shelley eloping to Switzerland with 16-year-old Mary Godwin (a radical and idealist like himself with whom he had fallen madly in love)

Major Works

- *Queen Mab* (1813)
- *Alastor, or The Spirit of Solitude* (1816)
- “Hymn to Intellectual Beauty”
- “Mont Blanc: Lines Written in the Vale of Chamouni”
- *The Revolt of Islam* (1818)
- “Ozymandias”

Major Works

- *Prometheus Unbound* (1820)
- *The Cenci* (1819), a sordid verse tragedy

- Upon hearing the news of the Peterloo Massacre
- The Mask of Anarchy (1819)
- “Ode to the West Wind” (written on 25 Oct 1819)
- “England in 1819” (a sonnet)
- Peter Bell the Third (a satire on Wordsworth’s “Peter Bell”)
- “To Liberty”, “To Naples” (political odes)
- Letter to Maria Gisborne (written to their friend)
- The Witch of Atlas
- “Song to the Men of England”

Major Works

- Verse Plays
- Prometheus Unbound (1820)
- The Cenci (1819)
- Hellas (1822)
- Oedipus Tyrannus or Swellfoot the Tyrant
- Odes
- “To a Skylark”
- “The Cloud”
- “Ode to the West Wind”
- “To Night”
- Adonais (1821)
- Epipsychidion (1821)
- The Triumph of Life (1822)
- A Defence of Poetry (written in 1821; pub 1840 posthumously)

John Keats (1795-1821)

- Keats’ father was the manager of the livery stables of his father-in-law in Moorfields, and died when he was 8
- His mother Frances Jennings remarried but was soon separated from her second husband, and died of TB when he was 14
- John was the oldest of the family – had two brothers George and Tom and a sister Fanny, who were deeply devoted to one another
- While at Clark’s School at Enfield, he was interested in cricket and boxing, began to read voraciously, especially Greek mythology, and began to translate Aeneid
- Soon, he was apprenticed to Dr Hammond

Major Works

- “Lines in Imitation of Spenser” (1814)
- “O Solitude”

- “On First Looking Into Chapman’s Homer”
- “I Stood Tiptoe Upon a Little Hill” and “Sleep and Poetry”
- “Endymion: A Poetic Romance”
- Isabella, or, The Pot of Basil (1818)
- Great Odes
- “On Indolence”
- “On a Grecian Urn”
- “To Psyche”
- “To Nightingale”
- “To Melancholy”
- “To Autumn”

Major Works

- La Belle Dame Sans Merci
- Sonnets: “Fame” and “Why Did I Laugh Tonight”
- Tragedy Otho the Great (written with Charles Brown)
- Lamia
- Hyperion
- The Fall of Hyperion
- “The Eve of St. Agnes”
- Sonnets
- "On first looking into Chapman's Homer"
- "When I have fears that I may cease to be"
- "Bright Star, would I were steadfast as thou art"

Hellenism and Hebraism

- Hellenism refers to a representation of the culture, ideals, and pattern of life of classical Greece
- It involves pagan joy, freedom, and love of life
- This is contrasted with Hebraism
- Austere morality and monotheism of the Old Testament

Gothic Novel

Gothic Novel

- Gothic novel is a European Romantic, pseudo-medieval fiction having a prevailing atmosphere of mystery and terror
- Called Gothic because its imaginative impulse was drawn from medieval buildings and ruins, such novels commonly used such settings as castles or monasteries equipped with subterranean passages, dark battlements, hidden panels, and trapdoors.
- The vogue was initiated in England by Horace Walpole’s immensely successful Castle of Otranto (1764)

Other Gothic Novelists

- Walpole's most important successor was Ann Radcliffe, whose *Mysteries of Udolpho* (1794) and *Italian* (1797) are among the best examples of the genre
- A more sensational type of Gothic romance exploiting horror and violence flourished in Germany and was introduced to England by Matthew Gregory Lewis with *The Monk* (1796)
- Other landmarks of Gothic fiction are William Beckford's Oriental romance *Vathek* (1786) and CR Maturin's story of an Irish Faust, *Melmoth the Wanderer* (1820). The classic horror stories *Frankenstein* (1818) by Mary Wollstonecraft Shelley, and *Dracula* (1897), by Bram Stoker, are also in the Gothic tradition.

Later Writers

- Gothic atmospheric machinery continued to be employed by such major writers as
- Charlotte Brontë in *Jane Eyre*
- Emily Brontë in *Wuthering Heights*
- Edgar Allan Poe in all his fiction and poetry
- Nathaniel Hawthorne in *The Scarlet Letter*
- Charles Dickens in *Bleak House* and *Great Expectations*

Mary Shelley (1797-1851)

- Daughter of political philosopher William Godwin and liberal feminist philosopher Mary Wollstonecraft
- Mother died in her infancy
- Educated according to liberal political ideals
- Scandalous affair with the married Percy Bysshe Shelley, elopement, and marriage after Shelley's first wife committed suicide
- The Shelleys famously spent the summer of 1816 in Switzerland with Lord Byron and John Polidori, where Mary conceived the idea of *Frankenstein*, her Gothic novel
- Other novels: *Valperga* and *The Last Man*

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Frankenstein: The Modern Prometheus (1818)

- Mary Shelley began writing this novel in 1816, when she, Shelley, Lord Byron and John Polidori wrote ghost stories to pass the time during the summer in Switzerland
- Epistolary novel in the form of story-within-a-story
- Frame narrative: The novel documents a correspondence between Captain Robert Walton and his sister, Margaret. Walton is a failed writer who sets out to explore the Arctic to attain fame. During the voyage the crew spots a dog sled driven by a gigantic man. Later, the crew rescues a nearly frozen and emaciated man named Victor Frankenstein. Frankenstein has been in pursuit of the gigantic man they had seen. Frankenstein starts to recover from his exertion, sees in Walton the same over-ambitiousness he has had, and recounts his story to Walton as a warning.

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Frankenstein: The Plot

- Victor Frankenstein, a student of natural philosophy in Geneva, builds an 8 feet tall monster in the semblance of a man and gives it life
- Possessed by unnatural strength, the creature inspires horror in those who see it, but is miserably eager to be loved
- Repulsed by his own creation, the unhappy Frankenstein deserts it, and falls ill. He is nursed back to health by his cheerful childhood friend, Henry Clerval

- Frankenstein is pursued by the monster to Chamonix in France, where he agrees to make a female counterpart for him

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Frankenstein: The Plot

- However, a wave of remorse makes him destroy the female he has been constructing, and the monster swears revenge on its creator
- He kills Frankenstein's brother and then his bride on their wedding night
- Frankenstein's father dies of grief, and the scientist's mind gives way
- Eventually he recovers, and sets out to destroy his creation
- After a chase across the world, the two at last confront each other in the Arctic
- Frankenstein dies and the monster, mourning the loss of the man who gave him life, disappears into the frozen wilderness, hoping for his own annihilation

Horace Walpole (1717-1797)

- Art historian, Whig politician, letter-writer and novelist
- The youngest son of Sir Robert Walpole, Prime Minister of Great Britain during the reigns of George I and George II
- Educated at Eton College (along with Thomas Gray) and King's college, Cambridge
- Effeminate, and probably homosexual
- In March 1739, he set off on a Grand Tour to Italy with Thomas Gray, during the course of which they disagreed and temporarily separated
- While he was away on the Grand Tour, he was elected member of parliament in his absence

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Strawberry Hill and Other Works

- In 1747, he moved to Twickenham and started to Gothicize his house Strawberry Hill, an activity which continued for 25 years
- This famous reconstruction, along with the publication of his Description of the Villa of Horace Walpole (1774, printed at his own press at Strawberry Hill), heralded the Gothic movement in architecture and landscape gardening
- In 1757, he printed Odes by Mr Gray, followed by Walpole's own Catalogue of the Royal and Noble Authors of England
- Inspired by his recent construction at Strawberry Hill and a nightmare he had had, Walpole wrote what is often deemed the first Gothic novel The Castle of Otranto (1764)

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Strawberry Hill

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The Castle of Otranto, A Gothic Story (1764)

- In the first edition, it was offered as a translation from an imaginary Italian original: "Translated by William Marshal, Gent. From the Original Italian of Onuphrio Muralto, Canon of the Church of St. Nicholas at Otranto."
- In the 13th century, the Prince of Otranto is Manfred, the grandson of a usurper who had poisoned the rightful heir, Alfonso

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Manfred's plans

- Manfred's only son, sickly Conrad, gets mysteriously killed (when a gigantic helmet from a statue falls on him) the night before his marriage with princess Isabella

- Now suddenly bereft of an heir, Manfred determines to divorce his wife Hippolita and marry Isabella himself
- Isabella is terrified of Manfred and escapes to a church with the help of a peasant named Theodore, who is suspected of being connected with Conrad's death
- Manfred's daughter Matilda loves Theodore, and when he is arrested, she releases him
- Isabella is given shelter by Friar Jerome...

Attention to detail

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Mystery solved

- Friar Jerome
- Revealed as being a Count
- Discovers that Theodore is his son
- Reveals that Theodore's mother was Alfonso's daughter
- Theodore wounds Isabella's father, mistaking him to be an enemy
- Manfred, suspecting that Isabella is meeting Theodore in the church, goes there and stabs a woman whom he thinks is Isabella but discovers that he has murdered his own daughter Matilda
- The ghost of Alfonso, now grown too enormous to be contained by the castle, overthrows it and rises from the ruins
- Manfred confesses the usurpation by his family, and the ghost proclaims Theodore the heir
- The tale ends with the marriage of Theodore and Isabella

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Other Works

- Otranto was the first of a long line of far more successful Gothic novels by writers such as Clara Reeve, Ann Radcliffe and Gregory Lewis
- Otranto was followed with a blank verse tragedy, The Mysterious Mother (1768)
- Walpole also wrote a large number of political and historical works, which are all insignificant compared to his letters, of which about 4000 have survived and have been published in many volumes.
- He wrote his letters with an eye to publication, successfully requesting the return of about 1000, which he then carefully annotated for the benefit of future editors.
- The letters address such topics as politics, history, geography, travel, Great Britain, music, literature, and drama

Historical Novel

Historical Novel

- A historical novel is a genre of fiction that reconstructs past events and periods, often incorporating both historical and fictional characters.
- Sir Walter Scott is often credited with popularizing the historical novel genre.
- His novel "Waverley" (1814) is one of the first examples of this style.
- Characteristics of Historical Novels:
- They are set in a specific historical time period, often at least 50 years prior to when the novel was written.
- The narrative incorporates historical events, bringing history to life through the perspectives of the characters.
- Historical figures may appear alongside fictional characters, with real events influencing the plot.

- Historical novels often explore themes such as power, conflict, societal change, and personal transformation against the backdrop of historical upheavals.
- Other Examples of Historical Novels:
- War and Peace by Leo Tolstoy — A narrative set against the backdrop of the Napoleonic Wars in Russia.
- The Book Thief by Markus Zusak — Set in Nazi Germany, it tells the story of a young girl who finds solace in books during World War II.
- Wolf Hall by Hilary Mantel — Chronicles the rise to power of Thomas Cromwell in the court of Henry VIII.

Walter Scott (1771-1832)

- Scottish novelist, poet, editor & critic
- Born at Edinburgh, was lamed by infantile paralysis; but he never let this make him an invalid
- Over six feet tall
- Educated at Edinburgh High School & at Edinburgh University, where his major study was law
- Had astonishing memory, and an obsessive collector of stories; he read voraciously ancient oral stories, ballads, fairy tales, chivalric romances & exotic tales of distant places
- At the age of 25, he began to professionally translate works from German

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Early Poems

- In 1802-03, brought out The Minstrelsy of the Scottish Border, a collection of ballads in three volumes
- Scott's metrical version of the medieval romance of Sir Tristrem appeared in 1804
- Scott's poetic writing so far was dominated by a blend of Gothic Germanic sorcery & antiquarian enthusiasm
- In 1805, with the publication of The Lay of the Last Minstrel, an old border story, his name became widely known
- In the same year, Scott entered into a secret partnership with James Ballantyne, his friend, in the publishing industry; later, until the company collapsed in 1813, he was the half-owner of the company...

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More Poetry

- After 1805, a number of longer poems were published, including
- Marmion (1808)
- Considered his masterpiece in poetry
- Antiquarian theme; contains the poem Lochinvar
- The Lady of the Lake (1810)
- The Vision of Don Roderick (1811)
- Rokeby and The Bridal of Triermain (1813)
- There were other shorter poems written in this period
- But some of Scott's best verses are found in the novels

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Scott's Poetry: An Appraisal

- Picturesque descriptions

- Effective use of wild scenery
- Vigorous tone; too many incidents and details; physical action is simply portrayed without analysis
- Criticized for superficial treatment
- Lacks greater poetic virtues such as reflection, melody, sympathy, sense of humour
- Revived and gave a new zest to Romantic methods

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Prodigious Output of Prose

- During these years Scott also produced a tremendous volume of prose work & editorial work, much of it relating to criticism, antiquarianism and history
- Includes an edition of Dryden with biographical material (1808)
- Numerous book reviews for the Whig Edinburgh Review, then edited by Francis Jeffrey
- In 1809 Scott took a prominent role in establishing the Tory Quarterly Review

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As a Novelist

- Scott's highly acclaimed novel Waverley was published anonymously by Constable in 1814
- Subtitled 'Tis Sixty Years Since
- Regarded as the first historical novel
- Set against the Jacobite Rebellion of 1745
- Portrayed peasant characters sympathetically
- A series of novels on similar themes written by "the author of Waverley" appeared soon after

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Major Waverley Novels

- Guy Mannering (1815)
- The Antiquary (1816)
- Rob Roy (1817)
- The Bride of Lammermoor (1819)
- The Monastery & The Abbot (both 1820)
- The Pirate (1821)
- The Talisman (part of Tales of the Crusaders, 1825)
- Woodstock (1826)

Attention to detail

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Ivanhoe (1820)

- Best-known novel
- On English history
- Set in the reign of Richard I, the Lion-Heart (12th century)

- A story of one of the remaining Saxon noble families at a time when the English nobility was predominantly Norman
- Revived medievalism in English literature
- The legendary Robin Hood (initially under the name Locksley) his “merry men” are characters in the story

Attention to detail

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Kenilworth (1821)

- On English history
- A romance set in Elizabethan England (1575); tragedy
- Centers on the secret marriage of the ambitious nobleman Robert Dudley, 1st Earl of Leicester, and Amy Robsart
- The queen finally discovers the truth, to the shame of the Earl.
- But the disclosure has come too late, for Amy has been murdered by the Earl’s even more ambitious steward, Varney.

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More Works

- Beyond writing novels, Scott was, throughout these years, again busy with editions, antiquarian studies & literary criticism
- An edition of Swift came in 1814, along with biographical data
- This was followed by a tremendous output of writings, mostly historical in nature
- The hard work he engaged in as writer, lawyer and as a social figure took a toll on his health
- By 1826, the failure of his publisher Constable led him to a financial crisis
- He set to work at an even more furious pace, producing more works including The Life of Napoleon

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Last Years and Death

- In 1827, he finally admitted to the authorship of the Waverley novels at a public dinner.
- The next year, he started the series called Tales of a Grandfather for his grandson (the son of John Gibson Lockhart, Scott’s future biographer)
- In 1831, following a stroke, Scott went to Italy in an attempt to revive his health, but returned to his beloved Abbotsford the next year and died in September 1832

Domestic Novel

- A domestic novel focuses on home life, family relationships, and emotions, often emphasizing the role of women in society.
- Key Features of a Domestic Novel:
- Character Development — Emphasizes personal growth and emotional depth, especially among female characters.
- Domestic Setting — Centres around homes, marriages, and community life, portraying realistic and relatable scenarios.
- Moral and Social Issues — Tackles societal norms, gender roles, and morality within the domestic context.
- Jane Austen was a major practitioner of the genre
- Austen's novels often revolve around family dynamics and societal expectations, a hallmark of domestic novels.
- Her works highlight women’s roles and restrictions in the domestic sphere and society at large during the 19th century.
- Love and marriage are central themes, reflecting the domestic concerns of the time, an aspect vividly present in her well-known work, "Pride and Prejudice."

- Through humor and insight, Austen critiques societal norms and conventions related to home life and gender roles.
- Other Examples of Domestic Novels:
- Charlotte Brontë's *Jane Eyre* — Explores themes of identity and morality, with a focus on personal and domestic trials.
- Louisa May Alcott's *Little Women* — Follows the lives of the March sisters, emphasizing family bonds and individual growth.

Jane Austen (1775-1817)

- Jane Austen was born at Steventon in Hampshire where her father, who was also her tutor, was a clergyman
- On his retirement in 1801 the family moved to Bath, a city that frequently appears in her fiction, but returned to Hampshire after his death in 1805
- With her mother and sister, Jane Austen first lived in Southampton & then in Chawton, remaining there until she died
- Her life was conspicuous for its lack of event and for the strength of her family ties, most importantly with her sister Cassandra
- She died in Winchester at the age of 41

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Austen's Early Fiction

- *Love and Friendship*, a burlesque of Richardson, written when 15
- Early novels (of the 1790s) caricature the sentimentality or excessive 'sensitivity' of late 18th century literature
- *Northanger Abbey* (published posthumously in 1818 but probably her earliest extended work of fiction)
- Satirizes the ridiculous in contemporary taste
- Satirizes her heroine's penchant for Gothic fiction
- *Sense and Sensibility* (begun in 1797 but not pub until 1811)
- Earlier title *Elinor and Marianne*

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Austen's Mature Works

- *Pride and Prejudice* (begun in c.1796 & pub in 1813)
- Has the same high spirits as its predecessors
- First of her mature works
- Original title "First Impressions"
- Began as an epistolary novel
- Opening line: "It is a truth universally acknowledged, that a single man in possession of a good fortune must be in want of a wife."
- *Mansfield Park* (begun 1811, published 1814)
- *Emma* (begun 1814, published 1816)
- *Persuasion* (begun 1815, published posthumously in 1818)

Attention to detail

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Sense and Sensibility (1811)

- First published work
- Published under the pseudonym "A Lady"

- There was an earlier version called “Elinor and Marianne” written in c. 1795
- The story is about the romantic attachments, heartbreaks and marriages of the sisters Elinor and Marianne Dashwood, representing “sense and sensibility” respectively
- Theme: The need to balance emotions and thought

Attention to detail

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The Historical Context

- The rationalism of the Augustan age was being replaced by romantic sensibility at this time
- This novel emphasises the folly in failing to temper emotion with good sense

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The Dashwood inheritance

- Henry Dashwood has died
- The Dashwood estate and Norland Park are left in the care of John Dashwood, his son by a first marriage
- Mrs and Mr John Dashwood do not care for John's half-sisters Elinor, Marianne and Margaret, or their mother Mrs Henry Dashwood

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Edward Ferrars

- The good-hearted brother of Mrs John Dashwood
- Seems to develop a quiet affection for Elinor, but does not propose
- Is separated from Elinor when Mrs Dashwood, with the help of a relative Sir John Middleton, moves to Barton Park with her daughters...

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Colonel Brandon

- A friend of Sir John Middleton who was in the militia in India
- Appears to be interested in Marianne
- Marianne thinks he is too old at 35
- Elinor however thinks he is likeable

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John Willoughby

- Dashing man who shares Marianne's outlook on life and art
- Marianne falls passionately in love with him
- He gifts Marianne a horse which Elinor makes her refuse
- Elinor thinks the pair is too intimate and there is gossip about their alliance, but they are not engaged
- Willoughby and Marianne are too romantic and are acting according to sensibility, not sense
- He departs to London suddenly, which leads to Marianne's dramatic suffering

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Deceptions

- Elinor discovers that Edward Ferrars is engaged to Lucy Steele
- At the end it is revealed that Lucy married not Edward but his brother
- Marianne learns from Brandon that Willoughby was not serious about her and is deceptive
- She is hysterical with grief
- Willoughby writes her a jilting letter and marries a rich girl
- But Willoughby does regret it later and confesses he had to do it for money
- Marianne learns to understand her sister and to control her emotions
- Elinor marries Edward Ferrars and Marianne marries Colonel Brandon

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Analysis

- This satirical comic novel criticizes the 19th century middle class society, especially its penchant for sentimentality and sensibility, which post-1750 literature valorised
- Before the 1760s, in the Augustan period, reason was given importance, and Austen's novel also asserts the value of a rational judgement of affairs (called "sense" or common sense" in the novel)
- The Age of Sensibility is also called the Age of Johnson
- Northrop Frye's essay "Towards Defining an Age of Sensibility" (1956) provides an analysis of this age
- Presents a male-dominated world where women have limited opportunities and their lives depend entirely on the men they marry

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Analysis

- As typical in domestic realism, Elinor and Marianne both find love and happiness by overcoming their struggles and learning from their mistakes
- However, the subtle power of Austen's women lies in the fact that Austen they are depicted as thoughtful, clever, ambitious, and even manipulative
- Lucy Steele, for example, claims to be in love with Edward Ferrars, but when Edward loses his inheritance to his brother Robert, she marries the latter
- Another important issue in the novel is of course inheritance of wealth
- The wealthy upper class (represented by Fanny or Mrs John Dashwood) is greedy
- Willoughby loves Marianne, but marries the rich Miss Grey for money
- Mrs Ferrars (the mother of Edward and Robert) cares only about her sons marrying into wealth and social position

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Pride and Prejudice (1813)

- Charles Bingley, a rich single man, moves to the Netherfield estate
- Mrs. Bennet is thrilled, hoping to marry one of her five daughters to him.

- The Bennet daughters meet Bingley at a ball and are impressed
- They are less impressed by Bingley's proud friend Fitzwilliam Darcy, a landowning aristocrat who is too proud to speak to any of the locals and whom Elizabeth Bennet overhears refusing to dance with her.
- Bingley and the oldest Bennet daughter, Jane, fall in love. The relationship is opposed by Bingley's sisters (who do not approve of Jane as a wife for Bingley because of her mother's lower status) and by Darcy (who believes that Jane is indifferent to Bingley)

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Elizabeth's admirers

- Meanwhile, Darcy is attracted to Elizabeth's wit and expressive eyes, and Caroline Bingley is jealous.
- Elizabeth however despises Darcy and is instead attracted to George Wickham, a handsome military officer.
- Wickham tells Elizabeth that Darcy had selfishly deprived him of a living Darcy's father had offered him. Elizabeth is even more prejudiced to Darcy now.
- The Bennets are visited by Mr. Bennet's cousin, William Collins, a clergyman who will inherit Mr. Bennet's estate because of a legal stricture.
- Mr. Collins has been asked by his patroness, Lady Catherine De Bourgh to marry, and he proposes to Elizabeth, but is stunned and offended when she refuses him.

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Bingley goes to London

- Collins then proposes to Elizabeth's friend, Charlotte Lucas, who wants to marry for security rather than love, and the two are soon engaged and married.
- Jane is dismayed to find out that Bingley and family have unexpectedly left for London. Caroline Bingley writes to Jane that they do not intend to return, and she predicts a match between Bingley and Darcy's sister, Georgiana.
- Elizabeth suspects that Bingley's sisters and Darcy are trying to keep him from Jane.
- Elizabeth visits Charlotte at her new home in Hunsford, Kent, and meets Mr. Collins' patroness and Darcy's aunt, Lady Catherine De Bourgh, an overbearing woman who meddles in other people's lives.

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Elizabeth's realisations

- While Elizabeth is in Kent, Darcy visits his aunt with his cousin, Colonel Fitzwilliam.
- One day, he surprises Elizabeth by proposing to her. Still repelled by his pride and her prejudice, Elizabeth refuses him. The next day, Darcy gives her a letter explaining his role in influencing Bingley away from Jane and details the facts of Wickham's situation. The letter reveals that Darcy, though proud, is innocent of wrongdoing.
- Back home, Elizabeth goes on a trip with her aunt and uncle to Derbyshire county, where they visit Darcy's estate of Pemberley. There they meet Darcy unexpectedly and are all surprised at how graciously he treats them. Elizabeth begins to feel love for him.
- Elizabeth hears from Jane that Lydia has eloped with Wickham
- Elizabeth fears that the Bennet family is permanently disgraced.

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Happy Endings

- When Lydia is found, however, she and Wickham marry.

- After the wedding, Elizabeth discovers that Darcy was instrumental in orchestrating the marriage, thereby saving the reputation of the other Bennet daughters.
- Bingley returns to Netherfield and asks Jane to marry him. Jane, of course, accepts.
- Meanwhile, Lady Catherine De Bourgh arrives, on hearing a rumor that Darcy and Elizabeth are engaged. She asks Elizabeth not to accept any proposal from Darcy, and Elizabeth refuses.
- Lady Catherine complains to Darcy about Elizabeth's impertinence which gives Darcy hope that Elizabeth has had a change of heart.
- He proposes again and Elizabeth happily accepts.

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Mansfield Park (1814)

- In many ways, this is unlike the other Austen novels
- Highly complicated themes
- Not well-admired even by Austen fans
- Fanny Price is unlike other Austin heroines
- Shy, weak and (sometimes annoyingly) always right
- Her love and marriage are not the focus of the novel
- The theme is her trying to find a place within the social order

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In Northamptonshire

- Young Fanny Price comes to live with her wealthy uncle and aunt, Sir Thomas and lady Bertram
- Her impoverished family is in Portsmouth
- Fanny feels grateful to the Bertrams
- But her other aunt, Mrs Norris, always treats her as a servant
- The snobbish Bertram daughters Maria and Julia constantly remind her of her lower status
- Fanny's companion is the youngest son Edmund who is planning to be a clergyman

Attention to detail

Dec 2024 Batch

The absence of the father

- Sir Thomas Bertram leaves for his sugar plantations in Antigua
- The attractive brother and sister Henry and Mary Crawford arrive from London
- Henry flirts with Maria and Julia, and Mary is attracted to Edmund
- The young people except Fanny and Edmund enact a play called Lovers' Vows by Elizabeth Inchbald, which has adultery as its theme
- Sir Thomas unexpectedly arrives, and the play is stopped...

Attention to detail

Dec 2024 Batch

A Scandal

- Maria is married to Rushworth, a boring man who lives in an old mansion called Sotherton Court
- Henry pursues Fanny, but is unable to get her; he runs away with the married Maria
- Julia also runs away with Yates, her brother Tom's friend
- Fanny's Christian goodness is rewarded
- Edmund marries her
- Henry, Maria and Mary are cast out from the family

Attention to detail

Dec 2024 Batch

The Colonial Theme

- Sir Bertram owns slaves in his sugar plantation
- Fanny questions him on the slave trade and is met with "dead silence"
- Edward Said discusses this novel in Culture and Imperialism (1993)

Attention to detail

Dec 2024 Batch

Emma (1816)

- 20-year-old Emma Woodhouse of the village of Highbury has decided never to marry, but imagines herself to be naturally gifted in matchmaking.
- Her only friend and critic is her neighbour, George Knightley
- Taking credit for the marriage between her governess and Mr. Weston, a village widower, and against the advice of Knightley, Emma sets out to match her friend, Harriet Smith (a girl of unknown parentage), with Mr. Elton, the village vicar.
- She also persuades Harriet to reject the proposal of Robert Martin, a well-to-do farmer whom Harriet clearly liked
- Emma's plan is spoiled when Mr. Elton proposes to Emma.
- Offended by Emma's refusal, Elton marries a newly rich girl in Bath, at which Harriet considers herself heartbroken

Attention to detail

Dec 2024 Batch

Emma

- At this time, Frank Churchill, Mr. Weston's son, who has been raised by his aunt and uncle in London, arrives in Highbury
- Knightley distrusts Frank, but Emma flirts with him
- Another person arrives in Highbury: the beautiful and orphaned Jane Fairfax, niece of poor Miss Bates, whom Emma envies
- Despite Knightley's warnings, Emma tries to fix the match between Harriet and Frank, only to know that Frank is engaged to Jane
- Harriet reveals that she is in love with Knightley, at which Emma is dismayed because she herself is in love with him
- Knightley proposes to Emma, and Harriet is comforted by a second proposal from Robert Martin, which she accepts
- The novel ends with the double wedding of Emma and Knightley, and Harriet and Robert Martin

Attention to detail

Dec 2024 Batch

Persuasion (1818)

- Published along with Northanger Abbey

- Both novels partly set against the superficial social life in Bath
- Contains biting satire
- Anne Elliott of Kellynch Hall had been engaged to naval officer Frederick Wentworth, but had been persuaded to break of the engagement due to the pressures of her family who are obsessed with rank and wealth.
- Eight years later, she meets her former love, when his sister and brother-in-law, the Crofts, lease out Kellynch Hall.
- Amidst confusions, the lovers are reunited.

Attention to detail

Dec 2024 Batch

Northanger Abbey (1818)

- 17-year-old Catherine Morland is excessively fond of reading Gothic novels, especially Anne Radcliffe's *The Mysteries of Udolpho*
- She accompanies her wealthy neighbours, the Allens, to Bath, where they partake in balls and other social delights
- She makes friends: the flirtatious Isabella Thorpe and her rough-mannered brother John Thorpe who pursues her, while Catherine falls in love with Henry Tilney, brother of Eleanor
- Catherine visits the Tilneys' estate, Northanger Abbey, which she expects to be exotic and frightening, like in Gothic novels
- General Tilney finds out from a vengeful John Thorpe that Catherine is not wealthy, and sends her away from Northanger Abbey
- Henry breaks with his father and proposes to Catherine, which she delightedly accepts; and the father later acquiesces

Dec 2024 Batch

More Novels

- *Lady Susan*, an epistolary novel, and *The Watsons* were published after they appeared in the second edition of J.E. Austen Leigh's *Memoir of Jane Austen* (1871)
- The fragment of *Sanditon*, on which she was working in the last months of her life, was first published in 1925

Dec 2024 Batch

Features of Novels

- Portray small groups of people in a limited environment
- Highlight social hypocrisy through irony
- Employ domestic realism
- Characters are middle-class and provincial; their major preoccupation is with courtship and marriage
- The apparently trivial incidents of everyday lives are moulded into comedy of manners
- Contain elements of fairy tales
- Heroines undergo a process of education and self-realization
- Delicate economy, subtle irony, underlying moral commentary
- Smooth, unobtrusive style; avoidance of anything unusual, startling, loud or garrish...

Dec 2024 Batch

Jane Austen's Style

- Parodied the sentimental novel
- Perfected the 18th century technique of free indirect speech, in which the voices of the characters blend with that of the narrator
- More emphasis on dialogues than on scenic descriptions

- Many allusions to contemporary fiction

Prose

Prose

- The Romantic period, spanning the late 18th to the mid-19th century, was a time of significant change in literature, including prose.
- Romantic prose often focused on intense emotion and the imagination. Writers explored inner experiences and personal feelings, breaking away from the rationalism of the Enlightenment.
- Authors used prose to depict nature's beauty and power, emphasizing its spiritual and inspirational qualities. The natural world was often seen as a reflection of human emotion and a source of mystery and awe.
- Romantic prose celebrated individualism and subjective experience. Writers expressed personal thoughts and explored identity, emphasizing personal freedom and self-expression.
- Many Romantic prose works delved into the mystical and supernatural, reflecting the period's fascination with the unknown and the spiritual aspects of life.
- Some Romantic prose addressed societal issues, advocating for change and reform. Writers used their works to critique social norms, injustice, and the impact of industrialization.
- Romantic prose also depicted everyday life and ordinary people, highlighting their struggles and triumphs.

Charles Lamb (1775-1834)

- Essayist and poet
- The youngest child of Elizabeth & John Lamb, a lawyer's clerk, he went to Christ's Hospital School, where he formed a lifelong friendship with Coleridge
- In his youth Lamb spent some time at Blakesmoor in Hertfordshire where his grandmother was housekeeper
- Later Lamb was employed in the South Sea House and later at the East India House where he worked until his retirement
- In 1796 his sister Mary Ann Lamb (11 years older than him) murdered their mother in a fit of insanity & was confined to an asylum, at length being released into her brother's care
- Lamb himself suffered a period of insanity in 1795-96

Dec 2024 Batch

Lamb's Early Works

- Contributed to Coleridge's Poems on Various Subjects (1796)
- In 1798
- Blank Verse published with Charles Lloyd; included "The Old Familiar Faces", a famous and unabashedly sentimental poem
- A Tale of Rosamund Gray and Old Blind Margaret
- John Woodvil (1802; a tragedy initially entitled 'Pride's Cure')
- Greatly fond of stage drama
- Contributed to the recovery of Shakespeare's contemporaries with his book Specimens of the English Dramatic Poets Who Lived About the Time of Shakespeare (1808)
- Lamb established a reputation in literary circles as a contributor to periodicals, and as the popular host to intellectual gatherings which included Coleridge, Southey, and Leigh Hunt

Dec 2024 Batch

Writing for Children etc.

- William Godwin suggested that Lamb contribute to his “Juvenile Library” and with his sister, he produced the well-known Tales From Shakespeare (1807)
- Other books for children were:
- The Adventures of Ulysses (1808)
- Mrs Leicester’s School (1809, written with Mary & containing reminiscences of their childhood)
- Poetry for Children
- Contribution to journals
- “On the Character and Genius of Hogarth” (in Leigh Hunt’s Reflector)
- “On the Tragedies of Shakespeare”
- A review of Wordsworth’s The Excursion

Dec 2024 Batch

Essays

- Lamb is best remembered for The Essays of Elia (collected in 1823)
- Pseudonymously contributed to the London Magazine from 1820 to 1823
- First used the pseudonym Elia for an essay on the South Sea House, where he had worked decades earlier; Elia was the last name of an Italian man who worked there at the same time as Charles
- His sister Mary is called “Cousin Bridget”
- A second series, The Last Essays of Elia, appeared in 1833...

Dec 2024 Batch

Features Of His Essays

- Personal and conversational tone
- Deliberately good-humoured
- On a wide range of topics, touched with personal opinions, recollections
- Cheerful and sad, a delicate clashing of humours
- Old-fashioned style, echoes older writers; long and curious words

Dec 2024 Batch

Major Essays

- “The Londoner” (1802)
- Written as an open letter to Leigh Hunt’s Reflector; derides the contemporary fascination with nature and the countryside
- “On the Tragedies of Shakespeare”
- Argues that Shakespeare should be read rather than performed in order to prevent the subtlety of Shakespeare’s character development being butchered by mass commercial performances
- “The South-Sea House”
- First essay in The Essays of Elia

Attention to detail

Dec 2024 Batch

“Oxford In The Vacation”

- Second essay in Essays of Elia
- About the author's visit to the university of Oxford.
- The essay gives a comic portrait of his academic friend, the absentminded George Dyer, standing passive by the side of the old shelves in the library, having almost grown into a book.
- Lamb feels sorry that he himself could not have the benefit of university education, though that, in no way, could diminish his faculties as a writer."

Attention to detail

Dec 2024 Batch

"Christ's Hospital Five-And-Thirty Years Ago"

- A record of his life in the dreary Christ's Hospital School, a traditional English boarding school where he studied
- Met Leigh Hunt and Coleridge here.
- Lamb speaks of himself in the third-person as "L"

Attention to detail

Dec 2024 Batch

"Dream Children: A Reverie"

- The essay is in one paragraph of over four pages
- The writer imagines telling his 'little ones', called Alice and John, some tales of their great-grandmother Field and her house, and of his own courtship, in hope and eventual despair, for another Alice
- At the end of the essay, the children mysteriously disappear, indicating that they were created by Lamb's imagination.

Dec 2024 Batch

More Major Essays

- "The Old Benchers of the Inner Temple"
– Features in the preface of To Kill a Mockingbird; Quote: "Lawyers, I suppose, were children once."
- "Blakesmoor in H—shire"
- "A Dissertation Upon Roast Pig"
- "Poor Relations"
- "The Superannuated Man"

Dec 2024 Batch

Last Years

- In 1827 Lamb, his sister & Emma Isola, an orphan whom they had adopted, moved to Enfield & later to Edmonton, where he died and was buried
- Memorials of Charles Lamb was published in 1848
- The memoirs of his friends record
- Lamb's gentle and engaging personality
- His debilitating stammer
- His burden of responsibility
- His whimsical humour

William Hazlitt (1778-1830)

- Essayist, journalist and critic

- Hazlitt was born at Kent, where his father, a friend of writers Joseph Priestley and Richard Price, was a Unitarian minister
- After a period in America the family settled at a village in Shropshire, and here Hazlitt spent most of his youth
- Hazlitt developed a distaste for the religious life and spent the next three years reading and painting
- Through his father he became acquainted with Coleridge, who introduced him to Wordsworth, and although he was later to quarrel bitterly with them on politics and criticism, it was largely under their influence that he developed as a writer

Dec 2024 Batch

Early Career

- In London his friend Charles Lamb introduced him to Godwin & other literary figures, and he began a long career as a prolific critic, journalist, essayist and lecturer
- Political views
- Radical and republican sympathies
- Strongly supported the French Revolution
- Deeply concerned about social conditions in England
- Admired Napoleon indiscriminately
- Early writings are on philosophy, politics, language

Dec 2024 Batch

Early Criticism

- In 1808 married and settled in London
- He then left philosophy for literature & journalism, and became a theatrical critic for The Morning Chronicle
- Contributed essays to other periodicals
- Characters of Shakespeare (1817)
- Established him as a Shakespearean critic second only to Coleridge
- Dedicated to Lamb; admired by Keats
- Keats also admired The Round Table (written with Leigh Hunt; 1817) and The Lectures on the English Poets (1818), which anticipated Keats's idea of the poet as possessing negative capability
- Hazlitt's next important critical work was the Lectures on the English Comic Writers (1819), which was followed in the same year by his Political Essays addressing the conditions of the poor

Dec 2024 Batch

Scandals

- In 1820 Hazlitt, who had been living apart from his wife, became passionately involved with his landlord's daughter
- This attachment brought him close to insanity
- His Liber Amoris, or, The New Pygmalion (1823) is a transparent description of the whole affair
- Characteristics, in imitation of La Rochefoucauld, appeared in the same year
- Hazlitt made a spiteful attack on Shelley in his Table Talk (1821-22)
- Later he made partial amends by contributing 5 pieces to The Liberal (1823-4), a journal planned, with Hunt as editor, by Byron & Shelley in Italy, shortly before the latter's death

Dec 2024 Batch

Table-Talk

- A collection of essays originally published in two volumes
- Topics dealt with are from art, literature and philosophy
- Considered one of his masterpieces
- First essay, “On the Pleasure of Painting”
- An account of Hazlitt’s views on the nature of art and the mental satisfaction to be derived from painting
- Another essay in the volume, “The Indian Jugglers” is much anthologized

Dec 2024 Batch

Later Career

- Then came two collections of essays containing some of his best work, *The Spirit of the Age* (1825) and *The Plain Speaker* (1826)
- The major project of his last years was his *Life of Napoleon* (4 vols, 1828-30), a rather poorly researched & one-sided account which he considered his most important work
- While his judgements are based on ‘Romantic’ ideas, he was hostile to the ideas of Wordsworth and Coleridge, and fought against their tendency to exempt the artist from social and political responsibilities

Dec 2024 Batch

The Spirit of the Age

- Essays on the work and personalities of Hazlitt’s contemporaries
- Includes sketches of 25 men, presented as seen in daily life
- Contains his mature and balanced criticism of Godwin, Coleridge, Wordsworth, Byron, Lamb and Scott
- Also includes Bentham, Malthus
- The latter wrote the controversial “*Essay on the Principle of Population*” which argued that population will outrun food supply.
- “The present is an age of talkers, and not of doers; and the reason is, that the world is growing old.”

Leigh Hunt (1784-1859)

- Poet, journalist, critic
- Friend of Byron, Shelley and Keats
- Dickens caricatured him as Harold Skimpole in *Bleak House*
- Edited journals
- *The Examiner*, *The Reflector*, *The Indicator*
- *The Liberal* was started with Byron and Shelley, and only four issues appeared
- He also “wrote” the journals *The Companion*, the new *Tatler*, and Leigh Hunt’s *London Journal*

Dec 2024 Batch

Hunt’s Works

- *The Feast of the Poets* (1811)
- *The Story of Rimini* (1816)
- *Hero and Leander* (1819)
- *Amyntas: A Tale of the Woods*
- Translated from the Italian Tasso

- Captain Sword and Captain Pen
- A Legend of Florence (a play)
- “Abou Ben Adham” and “Jenny Kissed Me” (short poems)

Thomas De Quincey (1785-1859)

- Essayist and critic
- Outstanding student at grammar school but lost interest in formal education
- Having read Lyrical Ballads, he thought of presenting himself to Wordsworth in the Lake District, but felt that he wouldn't make a favourable impression on his hero & embarked instead on a tour of Wales
- Completely destitute, he reached London in November 1802, suffered extreme deprivation & befriended a young prostitute named Ann
- The story of this incident in London is told in the first part of The Confessions of an English Opium Eater...

Attention to detail

Dec 2024 Batch

The Confessions Of An English Opium Eater

- An account of his opium addiction interwoven with descriptions of his life
- Controversial for its advocacy of the drug
- Lofty, sonorous, “impassioned prose”
- Edgar Allan Poe and Baudelaire were influenced by De Quincey's book

Dec 2024 Batch

Youth

- In 1803 he entered Worcester College, Oxford
- He read voraciously, made few friends at college & frequently absented to London, where in 1804 he first took opium to alleviate a prolonged attack of facial neuralgia
- He experimented with the drug over the next nine years
- He had begun a correspondence with Wordsworth in 1803, and in 1805 and 1806 travelled to the Lakes in order to visit him; on each occasion he turned back, overcome by feelings of his own inadequacy
- A similar diffidence caused him to absent himself from his final examinations at Oxford in 1808
- In 1807 he finally met Coleridge and through him Wordsworth

Dec 2024 Batch

Early Career

- By 1813 he was a confirmed opium-addict, which estranged him from the Wordsworths, who also looked with disfavour on his affair with a local farmer's daughter, whom he married in 1817, following the birth of a son in 1816
- But for the need to support a family, De Quincey might never have become a writer
- His work consisted almost entirely of contributions to magazines, and was collected only in the last years of his life in the 14-volume Selections Grave and Gay from Writings Published and Unpublished
- From 1821 to 1824 he wrote mainly for The London Magazine, where Confessions of an English Opium Eater appeared in 1821, bringing him immediate notoriety & recognition

Dec 2024 Batch

Later Career

- His 48 pieces for the periodical are remarkably varied both in quality & character, and include articles on Goethe, Herder, Richter, Malthus, Rosicrucians etc, English & German dictionaries, education, & one of his best critical essays, “On the Knocking at the Gate in Macbeth”
- Following the demise of The London Magazine he published his best essays in Blackwood’s Edinburgh Magazine for the next 23 years. This included the long historical series entitled The Caesars, The Last Days of Immanuel Kant, an important article Rhetoric, & one of his humorous masterpieces, “On Murder Considered As One Of The Fine Arts”
- His Gothic novel, Klosterheim, appeared in 1832

Attention to detail

Dec 2024 Batch

“On The Knocking At The Gate In Macbeth”

- Discusses Act II, Scene 3 (Porter Scene) in Macbeth
- The murder of King Duncan by Macbeth is followed by a loud knocking at the gate by Macduff and Lennox, which opens the Porter Scene
- De Quincey analyses the scene from a psychological perspective and explores how the knocking reflects on the murderer’s state of mind

Dec 2024 Batch

Later Life

- Despite his productivity, De Quincey was poor
- “Sketches... From the autobiography of an English Opium Eater” (later entitled Autobiographic Sketches)
- Recollections of the Lakes and the Lakes Poets, which led to his alienation from Wordsworth, Coleridge & Southey
- The Revolt of the Tartars (1837)
- The uncompleted series Suspensory Profundis (1845) with its magnificent dream-visions
- Two remarkable articles on The Glory of Motion & The Vision of Sudden Death, which make up The English Mail Coach (1849)
- The book, The Logic of Political Economy (1844)
- De Quincey died in Edinburgh

Early Feminist Writing

Early Feminist Writing

- Early feminist writers in 17th-18th centuries began questioning traditional gender roles, highlighting the patriarchal structures that limited women’s rights and freedoms.
- These writers argued for women’s access to education, believing that educated women could contribute more effectively to society and gain greater independence.
- Notable writers like Mary Astell and Mary Wollstonecraft emerged as pioneers of feminist thought, addressing gender inequality.
- Mary Astell
- Known for her works like "A Serious Proposal to the Ladies"
- Astell advocated for women’s education and equality, critiquing societal norms that kept women subservient.
- Mary Wollstonecraft
- Author of "A Vindication of the Rights of Woman"
- Wollstonecraft argued for women’s education and equal rights, emphasizing rationality and reason.
- Early feminists critiqued the notion that a woman’s place was solely in the domestic sphere, advocating for their participation in public life.
- They addressed the inequities in marriage, calling for partnerships based on mutual respect and equality rather than dominance and obedience.

- Female writers began using novels and essays to explore women's issues, creating works that questioned societal norms and depicted strong, complex female characters.
- Many early feminist ideas were disseminated through pamphlets and essays, accessible formats that reached a broad audience....

J.S. Mill (1806-1873)

- John Stuart Mill was a philosopher and political economist in the 19th century, known for his influential ideas on liberty, utilitarianism, and social justice.
- Mill was a prominent proponent of utilitarianism, a philosophy advocating for actions that result in the greatest happiness for the greatest number of people. He elaborated on this principle in his work, "Utilitarianism."
- In his seminal essay "On Liberty," Mill argued for individual freedom and autonomy, stating that individuals should be free to pursue their own interests as long as they do not harm others.
- Mill introduced the "harm principle," which asserts that the only justification for exercising power over another person is to prevent harm to others, a cornerstone of liberal thought.
- An early advocate for gender equality, Mill wrote "The Subjection of Women," in which he argued for equality between the sexes and women's right to vote and participate fully in society.
- He emphasized the importance of education, believing it crucial for personal development and societal progress.
- Mill contributed significantly to economic theory, discussing issues like production, distribution, and the role of government in regulating markets.

"Subjection of Women" (1869)

- John Stuart Mill's work "The Subjection of Women" is a pivotal text advocating for gender equality and women's rights.
- Mill argues for equal rights for women, challenging the societal norms and legal structures that subjugate them.
- He critiques the patriarchal system, viewing the subordination of women as an outdated construct that impedes human progress and happiness.
- Mill calls for legal reforms to grant women the same rights as men, particularly in marriage, education, and employment.
- He advocates for the transformation of marriage into a partnership of equals, opposing the view of women as property or subordinates to their husbands.
- Mill stresses the importance of education for women, arguing that educated women can contribute more effectively to society and individual household welfare.
- He applies his utilitarian principles, asserting that societal happiness and progress are maximized when both men and women are free and equal.
- Mill champions individual liberty and autonomy for women, asserting their right to self-determination and personal development.
- The work significantly influenced the early feminist movement, providing intellectual grounding for calls for women's suffrage and legal rights.

Mary Wollstonecraft (1759-1797)

- Mary Wollstonecraft was a pioneering advocate for women's rights and is best known for her seminal work, "A Vindication of the Rights of Woman."
- She was the wife of William Godwin and mother of Mary Shelley
- Wollstonecraft is often regarded as one of the first advocates for women's rights, stressing the need for gender inequality in education and social standing.

"A Vindication of the Rights of Women"

- This 1792 work argues that women are not naturally inferior to men but appear so due to a lack of education and opportunities.
- She believed that educating women would empower them, allowing for a more equal society where women could contribute intellectually and socially.
- Wollstonecraft criticized the strict gender roles of her time, which confined women to domestic duties and limited their personal and professional growth.

- She emphasized the importance of rationality and reason, arguing that women are capable of logical thought and should be encouraged to develop their intellectual skills.
- Wollstonecraft called for reforms in laws and customs that restricted women's participation in public life and relegated them to subordinate roles.
- She advocated for marriage to be a partnership between equals, challenging the notion that women should be dependent upon their husbands.