

Guide to Responding to Defining Romanticism, Part 2

This activity provides you with more interpretive freedom, so this guide will provide fewer specifics and more broad guidelines for how you might have answered the prompt. In addition, your answer will also be more specific to you, as it builds on your response to part 1 of the previous activity on defining romanticism. With each of the broad points we listed for the first activity, we will provide a list of texts you might have drawn on in illustrating or complicating your working definition of the characteristics of romanticism. These lists are not exhaustive, as for many of the ideas you could have cited almost any of the texts covered in the unit. Also, note that many of these ideas overlap (e.g., the critique of reason and elevation of emotion), so you might have covered two points with one example.

In scoring your answers, you should judge whether you were able to clearly connect the text you cited to the idea listed. Each connection of the essential idea and possible work is worth 7 points.

<i>Essential Ideas</i>	<i>Possible Works</i>
Reaction to the Enlightenment	Wordsworth's Preface to <i>Lyrical Ballads</i> ; Shelley's <i>Frankenstein</i>
Critique of reason	Wordsworth's "The World Is too Much with Us"
Objective methods/science	Coleridge's "The Rime of the Ancient Mariner"; Shelley's "Mont Blanc"; Shelly's <i>Frankenstein</i>
The subjective, the individual	Wordsworth's Preface to <i>Lyrical Ballads</i> ; Coleridge's "This Lime-tree Bower My Prison"
The imagination	Wordsworth's Preface to <i>Lyrical Ballads</i> ; Coleridge's <i>Biographia Literaria</i> ; Shelley's "Defence of Poetry"
The natural over the social	Wordsworth's "The Prelude" and <i>Tintern Abbey</i> ; Shelley's "Mont Blanc"
Naturalistic religion	Wordsworth's <i>The Prelude</i> and <i>Tintern Abbey</i> ; Coleridge's "The Eolian Harp"; Keats's "Ode to a Nightingale"; Smith's "Beachy Head"
Emotion	Wordsworth's Preface to <i>Lyrical Ballads</i> ; Coleridge's "Dejection"
Primitive humans as innocent and noble	Wordsworth's Preface to <i>Lyrical Ballads</i> and the poems from that volume; Blake's "The Chimney-

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	Sweeper”
Artist as a special seer or prophet	Wordsworth’s <i>The Prelude</i> ; Shelley’s “Defence of Poetry” and “Ode to the West Wind”; Keats’s letters

Each connection of the secondary point and possible work is worth 6 points. Your response should aim to include at least five points.

<i>Secondary Points</i>	<i>Possible Works</i>
The French Revolution	Wordsworth’s <i>The Prelude</i>
The Industrial Revolution and capitalism	Wordsworth’s “The World Is too Much with Us” and “Composed upon Westminster Bridge”; Blake’s “London” and “The Chimney-Sweeper”; Shelley’s “England in 1819”
The common and the exotic	Wordsworth’s Preface to <i>Lyrical Ballads</i> and the poems from that volume; Blake’s “The Chimney-Sweeper”
Lyric poetry	Almost any of the shorter poems in the unit could potentially work here
Symbols	Almost any poem in this unit could potentially work here
Romantic hero	Byron’s <i>Childe Harold’s Pilgrimage</i> ; Wordsworth’s <i>The Prelude</i> ; Coleridge’s “The Rime of the Ancient Mariner”
Folklore and legends	Coleridge’s “The Rime of the Ancient Mariner”
Nationalism	Wordsworth’s <i>The Prelude</i>
Bourgeoisie/individual growth and development	Wordsworth’s <i>The Prelude</i> ; Coleridge’s “This Lime-tree Bower My Prison”

After scoring your answers, use the following guide to help you evaluate your work:

90–100 points: Great job! You have clearly formulated a good and thorough working definition of romanticism and have identified key texts that exemplify its key characteristics.

80–89 points: Good work. You have got a solid grasp of the key features of romanticism and are able to identify key texts exemplifying its chief characteristics.

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70–79 points: You clearly have a broad understanding of what romanticism is taken to comprise and have some grasp of how some key texts represent its main features. If you were particularly weaker on one area or another or in discussing a text, you probably should review the pertinent materials.

Under 70 points: You should review the pertinent materials mentioned above before moving on. Consider posting to the discussion board for help from your peers if you are having difficulty grasping particular ideas.

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