**THE ROMANTIC PERIOD**

* Wordsworth, Coleridge, Byron, Percy, Shelley, Keats, and Blake constructed notions of a unified Romanticism.
* The Romantic Period was intertwined with a multitude of political, social, and economic changes.
* The French Revolution affected (shaped) the literature of the age.
* Wordsworth’s Preface to *Lyrical Ballads* became a turning point; he gathered up isolated ideas, organized them into a coherent theory based on explicit critical principles, and made them the rationale for his own achievements as a poet.
* Poetry is an imitation of human life – “a mirror held up to nature.”
* Charlotte Smith identified poetry as the “expression” or “utterance”, or “exhibition” of emotion.
* In the Romantic lyric the subject “I” often is not conventionally typical speaker but has recognizable traits of the poet’s own person and circumstances.
* Wordsworth defined good poetry not merely as the overflow but as “the spontaneous overflow” of feelings.
* The subjects of romantic poems were for everyone.
* The concern in the poetry was not only with “common life” but with “ordinary things”.
* According to all these writers, the great power of imagination is that it makes the old world new again.
* The Romantic poets like Coleridge opened up the realm of mystery and magic in terms of ancient folklore. And they established a medieval setting for events that violate our sense of realism and the natural order.
* Many of the great literary works of the period joined in attacking what was called “pride”, or aspirations beyond the limits natural to our species
* The Romantic Period the age of unfettered (not restricted) free enterprise, industrial expansion, and boundless revolutionary hope.
* The poets of the new period described mind as creating its own experience.
* According to Blake, the mind creates its proper milieu only if it totally rejects the material world.
* For Coleridge and Wordsworth, however, the mind creates in collaboration with sth given to it from without.
* Like poets, the essayists of the period were personal and subjective; their essays are often autobiographical, self-analytic; and when the writers treated other matters than themselves; they tended to do so impressionistically.
* The subject matter of the essays, like that of the poetry, exhibits an extension of range and sympathy for beyond concerns; the essays dealt with clerks, chimney sweeps, poor relations, handball players, prize-fighters and murderers.