

Module 6: Examining the World to Discover Truth  
Topic 2 Content: Early Romanticism

Introduction



The Romantic movement is generally recognized as beginning in 1798 with the landmark publication of *Lyrical Ballads*. However, Romanticism had its roots in the literature of writers who were active in the last decades of the 18<sup>th</sup> century.

In this interactivity, click the titles to learn more about writers of emerging Romanticism and the Lake poets. Click *NEXT* to begin.

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**Emerging Romanticism**



**Blake**

**Burns**

**Austen**

**William Blake** was a Romantic poet who began publishing as early as the 1780s. Focusing on the plight and suffering of the poor and embracing fantastical elements, his ideas were revolutionary and sometimes controversial. **Robert Burns** also published poetry at the same time, but he drew on the traditions and culture of his native Scotland. Known as the Ploughman Poet, Burns incorporated both standard English and his native Lowland Scots dialect in his verse. **Jane Austen** was a British author who was very much in a league of her own. Widely known for her novels, Austen wrote about strong female protagonists. Although her ideas largely reflected Neoclassical values, Austen's writing also straddled emerging Romantic ideals, such as a focus on daily life and the Romantic spirit of pursuing passion and truth.

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#### The Lake Poets

**William Wordsworth** grew up in a scenic area of northwestern England known as the Lake District. Home to some of England's most breathtaking mountainous landscapes, this region came to serve as the cradle of British Romanticism. After he published *Lyrical Ballads* with **Samuel Taylor Coleridge**, the two later settled in the Lake District near fellow poet **Robert Southey**. The three came to be known as the core of the Lake poets, early writers who helped firmly establish Romanticism. Many other Romantic writers, such as John Keats, met and interacted with the Lake poets while touring the region. Other Romantic authors who were inspired by the Lake District include Dorothy Wordsworth (William's sister), Charles Lamb, and Thomas De Quincey.

**Wordsworth**

**Coleridge**

**Southey**



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