

Romantic Poetry

KS3 English · Follows the national curriculum

Name _____ Class _____ Date _____

1. Worked example

Find two Romantic ideas in Wordsworth's last stanza of 'I Wandered Lonely Cloud'.

Step 1 · Look at the setting

He is indoors, 'on my couch', in a 'vacant or... pensive mood': bored or thoughtful.

Step 2 · What happens?

The memory of the daffodils 'flash[es] upon that inward eye'.

Step 3 · Name the ideas

1) Nature has a lasting, healing power. 2) Imagination and memory are precious ('the bliss of solitude').

Answer: Wordsworth shows that nature keeps healing us through memory, and that the imagination ('that inward eye') is a source of joy, two central Romantic beliefs.

Check: Two ideas, each tied to a quotation.

2. Now try one with the steps

How does Blake make the tiger seem both beautiful and frightening?

Step 1 · Beauty

Step 2 · Fear

Step 3 · Combine

Step 4 · Link to the sublime

Answer:

3. Practice

Show your working. The marks tell you how much is expected.

1. In which year were Lyrical Ballads first published? Write the year. [1]

2. Name two Romantic poets. [1]

3. How many lines are in 'Ozymandias', which is a sonnet? Write the number. [1]
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4. What does Wordsworth mean by 'that inward eye'? [1]
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5. Give two ideas that Romantic poets often wrote about. [2]
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6. What is 'the sublime'? [1]
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7. In 'To Autumn', what is autumn the 'close bosom-friend' of? [1]
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8. Which technique is used when Keats calls autumn the sun's 'bosom-friend'? [1]
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9. What does the phrase 'fearful symmetry' suggest about the tiger? [2]
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10. Explain the irony of 'Look on my Works, ye Mighty, and despair!' [2]
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11. Why might the Romantic poets have written so much about nature at a time of industrial change? [2]
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12. How does Wordsworth's last stanza show the power of memory? [2]
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13. Compare one way Blake and Shelley present power in their poems. [3]
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14. Choose one extract and explain how a sound device adds to its meaning.

[2]

4. Before you hand it in

'Romantic poetry is love poetry.'

Romantic poetry is about nature, feeling, imagination and freedom. Some poems are about love, most are not.

Listing Romantic ideas without linking them to the poem.

Show the idea in a quotation: 'Wordsworth's "inward eye" shows the Romantic belief in imagination.'

Missing irony in 'Ozymandias'.

Set the boast beside 'Nothing beside remains' and explain the gap.

Treating all Romantic poems

Look at the tone of each poem separately.