

Year 8 – Romantic Poetry

Autumn 2 : Poetry

Device	Definition
Rhyme	The repetition of similar sounds at the end of words.
Repetition	Words are repeated in order to create effect.
Juxtaposition	The placement of two different or contrasting elements in close proximity to one another.
Metaphor	A direct comparison of two things. Saying something is something as opposed to like.
Alliteration	The occurrence of the same letter or sound at the beginning of closely connected words.
Simile	A comparison using like or as.
Imagery	The writer uses words to create a picture for the reader.
Personification	An object is given life-like qualities.
Onomatopoeia	Words that imitate the sound they are naming.
Oxymoron	Contrasting/contradictory terms are combined. Two opposite terms are placed side by side, for example: bitter sweet/friendly fire.
Hyperbole	An exaggeration.

Assessment Objectives

You will be assessed on your knowledge and understanding of one of the poems listed below, you will also be assessed on your ability to write both analytically and critically.

AO1: ideas supported by quotations; AO2: analysis of language and structure;
AO3: linking the poem to the context in which it was written

Create a mind-map for each of the poems below, add your own research notes to further your understanding of each poem.

<p><u>My Last Duchess</u></p> <p>The poem, by Robert Browning, is set in 1564, three years after the death of the 'real' Duchess. In the poem, an emissary (messenger or representative) has been sent to see the Duke from the Count of Tyrol. The Count is the father of the Duke's next wife (he married three times in all). The Duke shows the emissary a picture of his late wife and remarks on her character, suggesting that she was unfaithful to him - insinuating that this may have been the reason for her premature death.</p>	<p><u>Porphyria's Lover</u></p> <p>The poem Porphyria's Lover, by Robert Browning, is about an arguably delusional, unhinged man who falls in love with a strong-willed, independent Victorian woman. In the poem, the speaker describes being visited by his passionate lover, Porphyria. After realising how much she cares for him, however, the speaker strangles Porphyria and then props her lifeless body up beside him.</p>	<p><u>Ozymandias</u></p> <p>Percy Shelley writes about Ozymandias (better known as Ramses II, the most feared Egyptian pharaoh). While walking in the desert, the speaker finds a traveller, who tells him about Ozymandias. Ozymandias was feared and powerful, and had slaves build a huge statue of him, but he couldn't win his battle against time, and so his statue just falls apart in the desert, while most people have forgotten him. The poem is probably a warning to other rulers who want to be all-powerful.</p>
<p><u>England in 1819</u></p> <p>In this poem, by Percy Shelley, the king (George III) is dying, old, blind, insane, and despised. His sons are objects of public scorn. His ministers run the country for their own selfish interests. The people are hungry and oppressed. The army is used to destroy liberty and to collect booty. The law is manipulated to protect the rich and enchain the poor. Religion is in a state of apathy. Parliament denies Roman Catholics their civil rights. But out of this unhappy state of affairs may come a revolution that will right all wrongs.</p>	<p><u>The Tyger</u></p> <p>"The Tyger" is a poem by English poet William Blake. It consists entirely of questions about the nature of God and creation, particularly whether the same God that created vulnerable beings like the lamb could also have made the fearsome tiger. The tiger becomes a symbol for one of religion's most difficult questions: why does God allow evil to exist? The poem is also an expression of marvel and wonder at the tiger and its fearsome power, and by extension the power of both nature and God.</p>	<p><u>The Lamb</u></p> <p>"The Lamb" is a poem by William Blake, published in Songs of Innocence in 1789. "The Lamb" is the matching poem to Blake's poem: "The Tyger" in Songs of Experience. Blake wrote Songs of Innocence to contrast the Songs of Experience. In this poem, the poet pays a tribute to Lord Christ who was innocent and pure like a child and meek and mild like a lamb. The little child asks the lamb if he knows who has created it, who has blessed it with life, and with the capacity to feed by the stream and over the meadow.</p>

Key Vocabulary

Dramatic Monologue
Sonnet
Didactic
Patriarchal
Possession
Obsession
Hierarchy
Objectify
Dehumanise
Idolise
Egotistical
Corrupt
Biblical
Omnipotent
Omniscient

Three Things

Three things to read:

- <https://www.english-heritage.org.uk/learn/untold-stories/new-poems/>
- <https://heritagecalling.com/2018/10/04/6-poems-to-ponder-on-national-poetry-day/>
- <https://www.poetryfoundation.org/collections/152982/an-introduction-to-british-romanticism>

Three things to watch:

- <https://www.bbc.co.uk/programmes/p02m6hrk>
- <https://www.bbc.co.uk/programmes/p02m6k63>
- <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=24RGLPnTcJU>