

BA
HISTORY OF ENGLISH LITERATURE
SUBJECT CODE: 18K3EAE3
UNIT 1
THE AGE OF JHONSON
1745-1798

FEATURES OF JHONSON'S AGE:

There are notable features in the age of Johnson. It witnessed many reactions against the tendencies of the age of pope. This age saw the renaissance of feeling and emotions which long repressed. Were now rain reinstated and all life was modified. There was rapid growth in democratic ideas. The ideas of liberty, equality and rights of men were blossomed in the hearts of men. There was a revival in religion which widened the sympathy with man as man. The great French writer Rousseau doctrine and his ideas back to nature change the minds of many people. There was much change in the history of literature

THE LIFE AND WORKS OF DOCTOR JHONSON:

The greatest English man of letters between pope and Wads Worth Was Dr.Samuel Jhonson he was born at Litchfield in 1709.from his father, a bookseller, he inherited his huge unwieldy and unhealthy fame. He acted for a time as a school usha.he did some translation for a publisher. He went London to try his fortune. He married a widow 20 years older then himself. He reached metropolis in 1737 and became popular with the publication of his dictionary.

Johnson's poetry:

In 1738, jhonson published a poem called London, a typical Augustan poem. His other poem is 'the vanity of human wishes which is also of Augustan tradition. It shows the vanity of human wishes.

His drama:

I 1749 he produced a tragedy "*IRENE*" it is on the classical model observing the classical units of time, place and action. It is not a living drama but only a tiresome exercise in rhetoric and moralizing.

His prose:

His first great work is '*Dictionary Of English Language*'(1747-1755) by this work he became the great charm of literature. He undertook not only to define but also to illustrate his definitions by quotations. He published his didactic tale 'Rasselas In 1759'. 'The Edition Of Shakespeare(1765)' was his great work. He undertook the edition of shake sphere plays 'to correct what is corrupt' his preface to the edition is a remarkable piece of critical work. His most mature of critical work is 'the lives of ,the most eminent English poets' with critical observation of their works (1779-1781). He started a periodical the rambler, an imitation of '*The Spectator*'. This was followed by two other series '*The Adventure*' And '*The Idler*'.

No other English writer is so intimately known to us as Johnson lives in the pages of his biography by James Boswell.he was great both as a critic of literature and as critic of life. As a critic of literature he is always penetrating and stimulating though he allowed his strong prejudices to interfere with his judgement,He failed to appreciate the values of Milton's religion and politics. He was a pessimist. In all his taste and standard he was a through-going conservative, holding fast to the principles of the Augustan school.

He follows a style which is highly Latinized in vocabulary and his sentence structure is marked by elaborate balance and antithesis. He died in1784 and was buried in Westminster Abby.

GOLDSMITH'S CONTRIBUTION TO ENGLISH LITERATURE:

In the literature of Johnsonian era the writer who stands nearest to Johnson himself, both in personal and in historical interest is Oliver goldsmith. He was born in 1728 in a small village in Ireland where is father was a protestant clergyman. He studied in Trinity College, dublin.He set to tour Europe and returned to London penniless and friendless. Ultimately he drifted to literature. His struggles continued till the end of his life. When he died in1774 he was still deeply in debt. Poor goldsmith was so large hearted, sympathetic and humane that we forget his faults. He died in 1774 and buried in Westminster Abby.

His poetry:

His poetical production is not large but remarkable. His first poem 'The Traveler' (1764) deals with poet's wanderings through Europe it reveals his feeling for the poor. His other long poem is 'The Deserted Village' (1770).

His drama:

His two admirable comedies are 'The Good-Natured Man' and 'She Stoops To Conquer'. 'The Good-Natured Man' is a comedy of character but not very successful one.



'She Stoops To Conquer' is one of the landmarks of English comedy.

His prose:

His imaginative work is 'The Citizen Of The World'. His essays appeared in this work.

HIS NOVEL:

His novel '*The Vicar Of Wakefield*' is the first rank of the 18th century novels. The vicar Dr. Primrose is reminiscent of his father. The other novel is the deserted village. The good priest in this novel is reminiscent of his brother Hendry.

Other general prose writer of the period

DAVID HUME(1711-76)

He is better known as a skeptical philosopher. He wrote 'The History Of England' it has a strong story bias in favor of the Stuarts against the puritans.

WILLIAM ROBERTSON (1721-93)

He made a great mark in his work '*History Of Scotland*', '*History Of Charles V*' and '*History Of America*'

EDWARD GIBBON: (1737-94)

His '*History Of The Decline And Fall Of Roman Empire*' remains one of the acknowledged masterpieces of historical literature. His history begins with the reign of Titus in 98ad, traces the history of Rome through their thirteen centuries and ends with the fall of Constantinople by the Turks in 1453.

EDMUND BURKE : (1729-97)

He is a man of noble nature and extraordinary breadth of outlook. Brought into political controversy, passionate moral earnestness, vivid imagination and splendid logical power. He supported the cause of the American colonies in his speeches 'On American Taxation' and on 'Conciliation With America'. He bitterly opposed the French revolution in his 'reflections'. He was a conservative in political thinking but he was not opposed to change. His literary position depends chiefly on his style- his gift of expression. He was not a democrat and opposed parliamentary reforms. He was also unhappy with East India Company's governance of India and took interest in the



impeachment of Warren Hastings. Two important speeches of Burke on the Indian theme were 'The Nawab Of Arcot's Debt' and 'The Impeachment Of Warren Hastings'. Burke's place in English literature is unique because he is the only orator who commands such great respect.

WILLIAM GODWIN (1756-1836)

He was one of the most influential political writers of the time. His '*Inquiry Concerning Political Justice*' set forth the most extreme revolutionary ideas.

Lady Mary Wortley Montagu (1689-1762) Philip Dormer Stanhope, Earl Of Chesterfield (1694-1773) And Horace Walpole (1717-1797) are the best letter writers.

THE AGE OF JOHNSON

THE NOVEL

HISTORICAL SIGNIFICANCE OF THE NOVEL:

The second half of the 18th century saw the abundant growth of novel. There were number of factors which contributed to its rise.

One of the reasons was ascendancy of the middle classes. The educated middle class people demanded a new type of literature which would tell about them-their thoughts, motives and struggles. The novel form satisfied this demand. The rise of the novel was also one of the results of the democratic movement the novel undertook to deal freely and treat the characters sympathetically. Hence it was favored by the common man. It was significant that the heroine of the first English novel Pamela is a rustic lady's maid.

The rise of the novel also owes much to the desire on the part of the writers to outgrow limitations of classicism. The novel was the form in which a writer could work independently. The decline of the drama in the 18th century occasioned the rise of the novel. The reading public looked for a new literary form to satisfy their hunger for story and social pictures. The novel satisfied this hunger.

SAMUEL JOHNSON (1689-1761) (FATHER OF MODERN NOVEL):

He was a prosperous printer. He drifted by mere accident into the production of an epoch-making book at the age of 50. He set the vogue of novel-writing with his Pamela or virtue rewarded. He was requested by two friends to write a book of letters that would serve as models of construction as well as models of goodly conduct. He conceived an idea of writing a novel and in two months produced Pamela, the first



English novel. He said that his purpose was promoting "Religion and Virtue".

The first English novel was written in epistolary style. It tells the story of a young, beautiful servant maid of a lady who has just died. The lady's son becomes enamored of Pamela's youth and beauty. He tries to seduce her but she resists all his attempts. Finally overcome by passion and love, he takes her for his wife. The second part novel deals with Pamela's problems after marriage, for her husband has continued his bad ways. In the end Pamela succeeds in changing him.

Clarissa Harlowe, which appeared in eight volumes in 1748, is Richardson's masterpiece. It is also an epistolary novel.

Sir Charles Grandison, his final novel was published in seven volumes. It is again an epistolary novel. The most striking feature of Richardson's novel is moral purpose. He is good at portraying female characters. It is Richardson who introduced sentimentality into English fiction.

HENDRY FIELDING'S (1707-1754)

He is the second of 18th century novelist. He was a man of different type. He had a virile, vigorous and corrode nature. His knowledge of life was wide. Fielding had his apprenticeship in drama. This taught him a lot regarding structure and exposition of character. He came to novel writing because he did not share the general enthusiasm about Pamela. The happy idea occurred to him to take advantage of the popularity of the book and at the same time to laugh at it by turning it into burlesque. This was actually the origin of 'the adventures of Joseph Andrew's. Fielding began by reversing the initial situation in Pamela. The book is transformed into a comic epic in prose.

Fielding's second novel is 'The History of Tom Jones' it has been considered the greatest novel of 18th century, noted for its well-proportioned plot. This novel gives us the fullest and richest picture of English life about the middle of the 18th century

Fielding's third great novel is Amelia (1751) as the title indicates the interest centers round the character of women, Amelia. It is the story of the courage and patience of a devoted wife and of the ill doings of her weak-willed husband.

Throughout his career, Fielding was much concerned about the structural principles of prose fiction. To him the novel was a form of art as the epic or drama. As a social satirist and a teacher he depicts vice and exposes some of the most glaring evils, which infect the country. His men and women are far more wholesome human beings than of Richardson.

THOBIA'S SMOLLETT (1721-71)



It is said that his work is much lower level than the works of Richardson and Fielding. However he had the ability to tell an interesting story. His stories are filled with exciting situations. He was able to bring alive the oddities of human nature. In the early life Smollett spent some years in warship and gained a firsthand knowledge of the sea and the sailors. That is why we identified him as the 'first novelist of the navy'.

Smollett is famous for a half a dozen novels: the most important of them are '*The Adventures Of Roderick Random*', '*The Adventures Of Peregrine Pickle*' And '*The Expedition Of Humphrey Clincker*'. The first novel made him famous and the last one is his masterpiece. The value of the first novel lies in its individual episodes. It is also remarkable for the characters of sea dogs. Peregrine Pickle deals with the adventures of Peregrine Pickle, a blackguard. The novel presents a panorama of English life. It is also an epistolary novel. Each novel contains a series of adventures. His characters are primarily concerned with the external features of man and **women** are not with the deeper qualities. His purpose is to make them ridiculous. He makes them caricatures. Hence, he may be called a first caricaturist.

OTHER NOVELISTS OF THE PERIOD

REV. LAURENCE STERNE (1713-1768)

His work '*Life And Opinions Of Tristram Shandy*' appeared in 9 volumes from 1759-1767 this can hardly be called a novel. His second book 'a sentimental journey' in two volumes is a new kind of travel book. He mixes humor and sentiment in this novel.

HENDRY MACENZIE (1745-1831)

He is best known for his novel '*The Man Of Feeling*'. He has exaggerated his emotionalism. This novel, from beginning to the end is a perfect welter of tears; but it is not a dry book. In later life he opposed the French revolution.

William Godwin wrote his powerful '*Clara Williams*' or '*Things As They Are*'. (1794)

Francis Burney (1752-1840) she laid the real foundations of the women's novel. Her novels, *Evelina*, *Cecilia* and *Camilla* can be classified as domestic novels. She follows the tradition of Richardson in epistolary method and Fielding in his humor. She is the first women novelist to write about woman's life from the woman's point of view. We may regard her as the founder of the 'tea table school of fiction'.

The revival of romance

The 18th century novel rose a picture of man and manners. The favors which it enjoyed soon expanded in many directions under various influences of the time. One important new movement was '*A Revival Of Romance*'. In this revival of romance



Horace Walpole was an important person in his gothic romance as he called '*Castle Of Otranto*' (1765) was simply the expression in fiction. It bore new ground.

Chief characteristics of the classical school of poetry

1. It was mainly the product of the intelligence, and was strikingly deficient in imagination.
2. It was almost exclusively 'town' poetry.
3. It was conspicuously wanting in romantic spirit.
4. It was extremely formal and artificial in style.
5. It adhered rigorously to the closed couplet.

At all these points the reaction set in

1. Emotion, passion and imagination invaded poetry to the destruction of its intellectuality and the old narrow didactic principles were discarded

2. Poetry ceased to concern itself exclusively with the town and began to deal with nature and rustic life. A most important feature in it is the growth of sense of the picturesque.

3. The romantic spirit revived and this revival brought with it great changes in the themes and temper of verse.

4. Efforts were now made to break away from the stereotyped conventions of 'poetic diction' and to substitute for this simplicity of phrase and the language of nature.

5. The supremacy of the closed couplet was attacked, and other forms of verse used in its place.

THE CONTINUANCE OF THE AUGUSTAN TRADITION

Dr. Johnson and Goldsmith are two important poets associated with the continuance of the Augustan tradition. These two were strong conservatives in literature as they held fast to the immediate past. Their works were classical in matter and manner. Johnson's two poems 'London' and 'The Vanity of Human Wishes' are classical in tone and in their adherence to form and style. The same may be said of Goldsmith's 'The Traveller' and



'Deserted Village'. They are also didactic under are written in closed couplet. They may be fairly described as the last great works of the 18th century.

At the same time, the traces of the new poetry can be seen in the works. Goldsmith was touched by the growing power of sentimentalism. Their treatment of nature and ruler life must also be noted. Though conservative, goldsmith yielded to new influences. Johnson was incomparably the strongest individual force on the literary world of his time, but he was still unable to check the encroachment of the new spirit of literature.

The reaction in the form of poetry:

The reaction against the Augustan tradition started with the change in form. This was associated with the changes in other directions. The main future of this reaction in style was the abandonment of the popean and tradition of the heroic couplet. Other forms of verse were also experimented. There was a revival of interest in long-neglected pre-august and writers. Also there was a growing admiration of Milton and hence blank verse came to be used Thompson "Seasons" could be cited as an example for 18th century blank verse . Other examples are Somerville's " The Chase" Young's "Night's Thoughts" And Blair's " The Grave". The blank verse was established side by side with the couplet. There was also a revival of Spenserian stanza but none succeeded. The schoolmistress by William Shenstone uses language and style of Spenser.

Thomson's castle of indolence adopts much of the gothic machinery of The Fairie Queene. The minstrel by James Beattie imitates the form and spirit of Spenserian stanza.

The two points must be made clear about the reaction in form. In the first place, in technical quality and aesthetic effects, the blank verse and Spenserian stanza are the opposite of the terse, epigrammatic closed, heroic couplet. It helped in the free movement of the poet's mind. Secondly the couplet itself remained intact as pope left it, as it was rejected by many writers.

The growth of the love of nature in the 18th century poetry

The growth of a love of nature and of a feeling for the picturesque is one of the marked characteristic in the history of English poetry between pope and wads worth .even during the 17th century Thomas Parnell and Lady Winchilsea showed genuine sense of natural beauty and the charms of rural life. These were only exceptions. A majority of the poetry of the Augustan period was poetry of city life.

It was in the writings of Lancashire man Allan Ramsey that the reviving love of nature first to become conspicuous Ramsey drew his inspiration from popular songs and ballads of his own peasants. His 'the gentle shepherd' is a real pastoral poem.



James Thompson, another Scotsman also exercised a tremendous influence on others. His seasons are a descriptive poem in four parts. Though his poem follows an Augustan tradition, Thompson gives a real landscape wrights largely from personal knowledge and his incidental touches are marked by great precision and sympathy nature is made the central theme.

John dyer, a Welshman published a descriptive poem 'granger hill' a piece of vigorous landscape painting which owes much to Milton. From this time on the love of nature become increasingly prominent in English poetry.

The development of naturalism

The "return to nature" affected the later 18th century poetry in subject, tone and style. It meant a rising sense of all that is implied in the contrast between nature and civilization. It resulted in poetry. And in the quest for more elementary themes, drawing inspiration from one more sophisticated country -folk .greater simplicity in the subject matter was chosen and attempt was laid to bring poetry back to nature and reality.

The development of naturalism was due to the co-operation of many influences, literary and social. In matter and style simplification was much aided by the spread of an interest in old ballad literature. In the ballads the people began to discover that simpler form is better and more poetical than the Augustan poetry. The development of naturalism made writers and readers alike increasingly conscious of the superiority of what natural and spontaneous in poetry.

Mention has to be made of William Blake, a mystic and a visionary. He was inspired by the desire to restore the golden age. He finds a place among the earthly romantics. In his poetical sketches song of innocence and songs of experience we find the love of the country of simple life, of childhood and home. This makes him a leader in the naturalistic kind of poetry- the poetry of ordinary things.

Another contrasted phase of naturalism is exemplified by Blake's contemporary. George Crabbe. In this works the village, the newspaper, the parish register, the borough, the tales in verse, and tales of the hall. It takes the form of extreme and uncompromising realism, Crabbe new the life of the poor, with all its misery which he depicts in his verse very realistically .to the very end of his life Crabbe remind and uninfluenced by the romantic moment. He used the couplet form to describe the materials taken from actual life his is a naturalistic reaction against the Augustan tradition.



THE ROMANTIC REVIVAL

During the age of the Johnson there was the general revolt against the hard temper, the dry intellectuality, the hatred of the fantastic, the visionary and the mystical. Which were the chief characteristics of the Augustan school, this revolt is called the romantic moment

. It is difficult to define the word romantic by romantic we mean.

1. The principle of spontaneity in literature which implies the assertion of individuality against the conventions. Hence romanticism is as Hugo described it "*liberalism in literature*"
2. A particular mood and temper -passion and sensibility, aspiration, and melancholy or widely recognized as component elements. It is "*the renaissance of wonder and mystery*"
3. A love of the wild, fantastic, abnormal and supernatural and
4. A fondness for a particular kind of subject matter. Stimulated the romantic mood a few examples will explain the concept. We speak of the spirit of gray's "*Elegy*" as romantic melancholy. We use the term romantic to describe fantastic narrative of Scott's lay of the last minstrel and supernaturalism of Coleridge and ancient mariner.

A very important phase of the Romantic Movement was the medieval or gothic revival .about the time of the protection of '*Castle Of Otranto*'. Its influences became equally conspicuous in poetry Richard Hurd in his letter on chivalry and romance maintained that gothic manners provided better material for poetry than classical mythology.

As in the development of naturalism, So in the revival of the romantic past a powerful influence was exerted by the spread of arrest in ballad literature the most important ballad book of the 18th century was bishop Percy's reliques of ancient English poetry; consisting of old heroic songs and other pieces our earlier poetry; together with some few later date (1765). The reliques proved a great power in spreading the romantic taste.

An extraordinary fascination for the revival of the middle ages was found in Thomson Chatterton "*A Marvelous Boy*" who published most of his poems as work of Thomas Rowley a mystical Bristol priest of the 15th century . The Aella



and the ballad of the charity are probably the most wonderful poems ever written by a boy of Chatterton's age. This itself is an indication that the public valued everything belonging to the middle ages. The medieval revival was accompanied by the spread of interest in the romantic past -especially the world of Celtic antiquity .the ode on the popular superstition of the highlands of Scotland considered as the subject of poetry by William Collins reveals, its significance James Macpherson published fragments of ancient poetry collected in the highlands of Scotland. This gave rise to the curiosity and speculation. He also produced '*Fingal*' And '*Temora*'. These were called ossianic poems (as they were called to by Macpherson as work of 13th. Century it is Gaelic poet. They were filled with the supernaturalism, melancholy and sentimentalism. The desire to get back to nature is a conspicuous feature of these poems. They captivated the hearts of all the readers all readers.(all came to head between 1760 and 1770)

CONTRIBUTION OF THE THREE GREAT TRANSITIONAL POETS- THOMAS GREY, ROBERT BURNS AND WILLIAM COWPER.

THOMAS GREY:

Thomas gray was a man of poor physique, a great scholar and a recluse. He produced only title little poetry but what he wrote is not only exquisite in quality and finish but also an epitome of the changes that we are taking place in the literature of the period.

Gray, started producing pieces in the Augustan tradition, but he could not complete them. His first publication was the "*Ode on a Distant Prospect of Eton College*". Then he appeared ode to spring, on the death of favorite cat. These are conventional in thought and diction.

The elegy written in a country churchyard bought in a great chance when it was published in 1751. Many features make it historically very important. First there is the use of nature, which is handled with the fidelity and sympathy the churchyard scene, the twilight atmosphere and the brooding melancholy of the poem the contrast between the country and the town and the present simple life on the town people's ignoble life are beautifully described .a tender feeling is shown to the rude forefathers of the hamlet. This poem definitely gives the "short and



simple annals of the poor". it mark the stage in the evolution of gray's genius.

The two great odes- progress of poesy and the bard are filled with the new conception of the poet as an inspired singer, an enthusiast rather than a 'wit' grey began with versified pamphlets in pope's manner passed on through conventional lyrics to the elegy; and he ended with experiments which are fundamentally romantic in character.

Robert Burns:

Burns was endowed with a marvelously spontaneous power. Of genius and an unrivalled gift of song .absolute sincerity to himself under surrounding was the ultimate basis of his strength. He was Scottish peasant and he wrote as a peasant. He became the poetic interpreter of the thoughts and feelings, the joys and sorrows, passion and superstition of the peasant class with the entire freedom.

His ambitious poem in the cotter's Saturday night in the Spenserian stanza is poetic ancestry was Scottish. His vernacular poetry helped to bring natural passion back to English verse.

Another important quality in his writing, Is their strong democratic quality. He was keenly responsible to the revolutionary spirit of his age. In the "*Cotter's Saturday Night*" He contrasts the homely life of the peasants with the wealth and the artificial refinements of the fashionable world. He considers himself as the mouthpiece of the growing faith of his time in liberty equality and fraternity.

William Cowper

Cowper began to write poetry late in life. He was not a student of poetry. He did not give attention to poetry as an art but wrote just to express his ideas in his own way.

He also started to write in the tradition of pope, but in his principal poem "The Task, he abandons the tradition and purchase one independent method. This long blank verse of poems considered to the poetic masterpiece of later 18th century evangelicalism. It is extremely discursive and rambling .it has a unity of motive meaning. In its praise of retirement and of country life his oft -quoted line. "*God Made the Country and Man-Made the Town*" shows him to be on the side of revolutionist who are preaching the gospel of "*Back to Nature*". His language is simple. His tasks were flows with the spirit humanitarian and liberty.

Copper is said to have foreshadowed both Wordsworth and Byron. In his love of

nature, his emotional response to it and his sympathetic handling of rural life. He anticipates Wordsworth considering the character of men and discrete his poetry points to Byron.

SHORT QUESTIONS IN THE AGE OF JHONSON

1. What is the name of the first poem written by Johnson? To what tradition does it belong?
2. To what prose work is Johnson famous for? When was it written?
3. What does the poem "the traveler" deal with?
4. Mentioned to comedies produced by Oliver goldsmith?
5. What is gibbons' masterpiece?
6. What type of works did goldsmith do immediately after his return to London?
7. Mention any two characters in goldsmith's novels who were reminiscent of his relatives.
8. To what cause did Edmund Burk extent his support?
9. Who is called the father of the modern novel? Mention one famous novel produced by him
10. Mention any two novels of Smollett
11. Whose work is Trisham Shandy in how many volumes was produced?
12. To which is gothic revival associated with?
13. What is the main feature of the reaction against Augustan age style instead?
14. What is the name of the travel book by Laurence Sterne?
15. Who is the first novelist of the navy, where did he work in his early life?
16. Who wrote the poem on Scottish peasant life?
17. Who produced "oceanic poems", what are they?
18. When was the elegy returned in a country churchyard "published" and who is it author?



19. Who are transitional poets?

20. Who argued in the impeachment of Warren Hastings?

UNIT -2

AGE OF WORDSWORTH

1798-1832

INTRODUCTION

The age of Wordsworth is the age of revolution .in the Romantic Triumph in literature and politics. The long accepted rules of our we're treated with contempt t. the reaction against Pope and Augustan School became aggressive. The principles of spontaneity were everywhere thrust to the front.

The impact of French Revolution had the striking changes in the temper of European Society. They great Outburst of 1789 sent a thrill of fresh life through the whole civilized world. The humanity at large was to pass forward into an era of democratic ideals of Liberty, brother-hood and Rights of Man. With the publication of a epoch making book, the lyrical Ballads by Wordsworth and Coleridge, A new taste in literature and art set in. This new taste is called the 'romanticism' or 'liberalism' in literature.

THE LIFE AND WORKS OF WILLAM WORDSWORTH

William Wordsworth was born in 1770 at cocker mouth Cumberland and spent much of his Boyhood among the Shepherds and Dales men of his native country. The influence of these early surrounding was, As he afterwards said profound and lasting;



for rough and rugged as they were, this simple peasant folk were types of the homely virtues of manhood and Womanhood untainted by contact with the Corruptions of civilization, and from his family familiar intercourse with them. He learnt faith in humanity and reverence of the elemental things of life.

He was educated at Hawkshead School, Lancashire and at Cambridge. Then he came to visit to France (1790 and 1791-1792).in 1793 He published an Evening Walk and Descriptive Sketches In which the regular classic couplet which is used, and which are otherwise curiously reminiscent of Pope, Goldsmith and Crabbe. A small Legacy left by a friend made him so for independent that he was able to henceforth to devote himself entirely to poetry. his friendship with Coleridge which began about 1796 did much to stimulate his genius. Two years later Coleridge joined him in the publication of a epoch- making little book the "lyrical ballads". in 1802 He married Mary Hutchinson ,and his devoted sister Dorothy as a third member Of household settled first Grasmere and later at Rydel Mount, both in that Lake District in which his name is now always Associated .though He continued to write steadily ,he failed for many years to catch the public ear while the critics almost unanimously treated him with contempt .but little by little he won his way, and the readers of new generation began to perceive greatness and meaning of his poetry to which their fathers had been blind.

The general change of opinion regarding him was shown in 1843. When on Southey's death, he was made Poet Laureate. He died in 1850.

The literary career of Wordsworth was smooth his poems Marked a clear departure from the conventional ones. He dealt with ordinary men and women and commonplace things. "*Ode On The Intimation Of Immortality*" "*Tintern Abbey Lines*" "*Michael*" And "*Resolution And Independence*" are some of his well-known poems. *The Prelude* is a record of the growth of words with mind and soul.

The limitations of his genius are limited. he had no humor and little passion and was deficient in dramatic power. Even those who revere him must be bound to acknowledge that he wrote more uninspired and unpoetic verse than any other poet of equal rank.

SAMUEL COLERIDGE (1772-1834)

Coleridge was born in 1772. His father was a clergyman. even as a small boy. He was interested in poetry. He got the Friendship of Southey and Wordsworth and settle down in Lake District. "*The Ancient Mariner*" "*Christabel*" "*Kublakhan*" are the most characteristic poems of Coleridge. "*The Asian Mariner*" is the story of a sailor who meets with a number of strange and unnatural experiences on a voyage. Coleridge makes us believe this unbelievable Story. "*Cristobal*" may be regarded as the most complete representative of English romantic poetry. The theme of the poem is typically



medieval. "KublaKhan" is a fragment which recapture series of visions, which the poet saw in a dream. The dream-like quality of the poem is its great virtue.

Coleridge's personal poems like "Ode to dejection" and "work without hope" have a pathetic interest. Coleridge took the new Supernatural as its particular Province and he treated Supernatural in a purely poetic way. Only a poet with a mind like Coleridge could capture that dream images in all their strangeness.

The Secret of Coleridge's charm lies in the deft of handling of meter, but its Beauty defied explanation. He appeals directly to the reader's imagination in this well known work of criticism, "*biographia literaria*". We find the most enduring exposition of the Romantic theory of literature. Coleridge was a man of gigantic genius, divinely gifted to write poetry of remarkable Beauty.

WALTER SCOTT(1771-1832)

He was a Scottish novelist, poet, historian, biographer and influential interpreter of romanticism. Scott was born in Edinburgh in 1771. He spent much of his childhood at his grandmother's home, where he loved the wild rough landscape and listen to the stories of Border battles. As a boy, He was influenced by Bishop Percy's Reliques of ancient English poetry and he developed a passionate interest in the ballads. He was also interested in the German romantic literature. "*The minstrelsy of the Scottish border*" was Scott's first important publication. "The lay of the last Minstrel" is sort of extended ballad full of Border incidents, fighting and the enhancements. "*The Lady Of The Lake*" And "*Marion*" are other popular romances. Later He took to novel writing under made a mark as an outstanding historical novelist. Towards the last part of his life, financial ruin overtook him and he died in 1832.

Scott rejected the classic epic as his model. His "romantic Tales in verse" represent a development of the medieval ballad and medieval romance. His tale is vigorous, free and Rapid, but often careless and commonplace. He is also a master of bold treatment of landscape, but unfortunately, he wrote too fast. he has nothing of the mystical quality and the spiritual power of Wordsworth and Coleridge.

OTHER POETS CONTEMPORARY WITH WORDSWORTH

WILLIAM LISLE BOWLES: wrote sonnets which helped the growth of love and nature in poetry. But some of them require a kind word of recognition.

SAMUEL ROGERS: was a banker as well as a poet. Throughout his life He was



Untouched by the Romantic Revolution . his "*Pleasures Of Memory*" is written in heroic couplet in Augustan styled his "*Next Book Italy*" is in blank verse Rogers belongs to the Past.

JAMES HOGG nicknamed the Ettrick Shepherd had connections with famous literary men of the day, including Sir Walter Scott some of his ballads are popular. His longer poems "*Killmeny*" And "*The Queen's Wake*" have certain amount of fancy and Power.

ROBERT SOUTHEY : He also came under the influence of the Romantic Revolt. He expressed his ideas in his epic, "Joan of Arc "and "Wat Tyler". he was a man of prodigious industry in verse and prose. "*Madoc*", "*Thalaba the Destroyer*", "*Roderick*", "*The Curse Of Kehama*", etc.Are popular. His poetry shows the tendency of the Romantic Movement and marks a reaction against the regularity of the 18th century versification.

WALTER SAVAGE LANDOR : through Landor wrote poetry all through his life, He never became very popular. He is usually described as a classic writer in a romantic age. Hellenics is his book in classic themes; Gebir is his romantic work .Whether classic or romantic he writes in had restrained manner. he "lived in the past world of heroic thought"

THOMAS CAMPBELL. In his early work. He does not differ from Augustan tradition. His pleasures of Hope belongs to the Augustan School ,written in a closed couplet form .in his later works like "Gertrude of Wyoming". He is seen a romantic. some of his shorter poems like "*Lochiel*" "*Lord Elaine's Daughter*" And "*The Last Man*" are really striking .he is chiefly known today for his vigorous War lyrics – "*Ye Mariners Of England*" Or "*The Battle Of The Baltic*"

THOMAS MORE is a very attractive to the general reader. His famous "*Lalla Rookh*" is an oriental tale .His Irish Melodies shows that he was a genuine lyric gift. He has a Permanent place in the history of English poetry.

LATER ROMANTIC AGE:

Introduction:

The Romantic poet generally falls into two groups - the Elder Romantics and the younger Romantics. Wordsworth and Coleridge and Scott are older poets. But Shelley, Keats and Byron are representative of the younger Romantics. The old enthusiasm and hope had gone. The later Romantics responded to the influence of the time in accordance with it his own genius and character. Byron, Shelley and Keats lived in the same atmosphere, but their poetry differs in quality and Temper.



BYRON(1788-1824)

He is known as Lord Byron. He was a British poet and politician. He was one of the leading figures of the romantic movement. He inherited an irritable temperament from his father, which brought him into the conflict with Napoleon and the things.

Even as a small boy. He published a small volume of poems, which was attacked by the Edinburgh Review. To this He replied in a vigorous satire, English Bards Scotch Reviewers. A tour of the continent furnished the materials for the first two cantos of "Childe Harold's pilgrimage" these two became immense success. Byron said, I woke up in the morning and found myself famous.

He married and was separated the very next year. He spent the rest of his life in a continent. It was during this year's of exile he wrote his greatest works, *Manfred, Cain, The Third and the Fourth Cantos Of The Childe Harold*. Unfinished *Don Juan*. He finally participated in the Greek war of independence, took the field and died in 1824 at the age of 37.

Byron wrote with incredible facility. His work is voluminous. His output is very varied- lyrics, satire, narrative poems, serious and serio-comic regular tragedies and dramatic poems. Byron was a supreme egoist. As a critic and theorist, he proclaimed himself as a follower of Augustan school. He admired Pope and cared little for Wordsworth and Coleridge. He compared the poetry of 18th century with Greek temple. As a poet of nature, He is the most at home with the Nature's wilder aspects. He loves mountains and storms. As a satirist, He is incomparably the greatest of Modern English poets.

Byron is so very popular in literature that the very word "Byronism" is used to denote the spirit of gloom, satiety and unrest, which is characteristic of most of his writing. As a revolutionary poet He represents the destructive side of the Revolutionary movement. He is an apostle of Liberty; but he conceives Liberty in terms of pure individualism. The heroes of his romances are Pirates and outlaws. In *Childe Harold, Manfred, Cain, Don Juan*. He idolizes all who are in revolt against the society. He is therefore rebel against the very conditions of human life.

PERCY BYSSHE SHELLEY(1792-1822)

He was one of the major English Romantic Poets widely regarded as one of the greatest lyric and philosophical Poets in the English language. He was a son of Tory Squire. He was born in 1792. He was sent to Eton school where he was nicknamed "Mad Shelly". Later He was sent to Oxford from where he was expelled for publishing a



pamphlet "*The Necessity Of Atheism*" He left England for Italy and was drowned in the Bay of Spezzia.

Two of Shelley's poem stand outside any general classification. One is Adonais, a splendid elegy on the death of Keats. The other poem "*Cenci*" is a romantic drama. all other poems fall into two divisions- his personal poems and impersonal poems. Shelly's genius was essentially lyrical; his moods impression, thoughts and emotions embodied themselves in verse. As a lyric poet He is the greatest. we have to praise him for Ecstasy of feeling, the lightness and Grace, the Felicity of phrase and the verbal magic of his poems – "*The Skylark*" "*The Cloud*" "*The Ode To The West Wind*". His impersonal poems are different. Shelly is seen as an Inspirer and guide of men. He has the passion for reforming the world. His Queen Mab was a sincere overflowing of heart and mind. In Prometheus Unbound Shelley gives an eloquent expression to his political ideals.

Shelly is a mythmaker and displays a wonderful ability to invest natural phenomena with Supernatural attributes and to evoke brilliant new pictures.

Shelly has certain obvious defects. He is not precise. He is too vague and abstract to be brought under the power of reasoning .Shelley's poetry rises above being mere artistic creation and appear something natural and elemental like the fire and the wind.

JHON KEATS(1795-1821)

He was an English romantic poet. He was one of the main figures of the second generation of Romantic Poets along with the Byron and Shelley. Keats's four long poems a few miscellaneous lyrics and his magnificent odes are proof of his poetic Excellence. *Endymion Hyperion, Lamia ,The Eve Of St.Agnes, Isabella ,The Bella Dame Sans Merci And The Odes- Odd To A Nightingale ,Ode To A Grecian Urn, To Autumn, On Melancholy, To Psyche*-are some of his well-known poems. Keats is a greatest lover of beauty. "A thing of beauty is a joy for ever" is Keats poetic Creed. He kept himself detached from all political religious and social movements and enjoy nature in all its aspects. According to Keats poetry should not be vehicle of philosophy religious teaching. He has loved the principle of beauty in all things.

Keats is a sensuous poet "sensuousness" means 'enjoyment through senses' Keats derived utmost pleasure from Five Senses- sight, hearing, smell, taste and touch. his odes bear evidence to this" Ode to a Nightingale" is a very good example for this. He has abundant love of the past. He became familiar with Greek art, paganism and customs and superstitions of the middle Ages. his poems Endymion, Hyperion and eve of St. Agnes take us to the Past Times and reveal us the beauty of the past.

The language of Keats keeps his remarkable for its richness of compound adjectives,



imagery and other Beauties. "sylvan historian" and "full-throated ease" good examples.

John Keats is best remembered for his odes. An ode is an address in which the poet expresses his own desires disappointment, Joy, sorrow, hope, hopelessness and other strong emotions. "Ode to a Nightingale" glorifies the song of the Nightingale. The bird is not Born for death. It will give pleasure to all Humanity. the "ode on Grecian urn" glorifies art and its permanence. "Ode to autumn" brings out the beauties of the Autumn season, which is otherwise a dull and uninteresting season. He died of consumption before. He had completed his 26 years.

OTHER POETS OF THE LATER REVOLUTIONARY AGE

JAMES HENDRY LEIGH HUNT

Leigh hunt had close association with Shelly and keats. He does not rank highly as a poet. often His poems are trivial under sometimes marred by slipshod workmanship. his best long poem. The story of Rimini is an Italian tale modeled on Dante. It is in this work that he heroic couplet was first rejected. Its style became the model for Keats Endymion. His chief important source of poet is historical .Hunt is the best remembered for his prose.

THOMAS HOOD

Hood's life was a struggle against poverty and ill-health. He is chiefly remembered for his humorous poems. He has proved himself to be the greatest master of verbal wit and punning. In contrast to his comic poems. He has also written some tragic poems "the deathbed" and "the bridge of Sigh" are examples. He also wrote some superb ballad and lyric, like "the dream of Eugene arm, the Song of shirt and fair Inez.

JOHN CLARE

Clare was a true peasant poet, who was very popular during his period. He is very much appreciated in the modern period. He was inspired by "the seasons" by Thomson. His first publication *Poems Descriptive of Ruler Life and Scenery* was much praised. But later collections were not very successful. his poems deal with simple rustic themes. He rejoices in the ways of animals and insects. Though He is not great poet he has enough contribution to make him a true romantic poet. The several volumes of poem published in his lifetime are represented in selected poems.



The two women poets Felicia Dorothea Hemanns and Leticia Elizabeth Landon also deserve attention. They wrote fluent and graceful verse, which appealed to the romantic and sentimental taste of the time.

GENERAL PROSE IN THE AGE OF WORDSWORTH

Introduction

An important feature in the history of prose during this age was the rise of the modern review and magazine. "*The Edinburgh review (1802)*" edited by Jeffrey brougham And Sydney Smith of the wing party came first .seven years later. The quarterly review was started by the Tories William Gifford was the first editor and was succeeded by Lockhart

These two magazines were followed by two important magazines, Which were bordered and more varied- Blackwood's Edinburgh Magazine. A Tori monthly launched by Wilson, Lockhart and Hogg, the London magazine followed. it included popular contributors like lamb, Hazlitt, De Quincey and Carlyle.

Another well-known magazine of gentle type, Fraser's was found in 1830. Most of the prose writers of the period contributed to this new form of literature. The magazine exercised with tremendous influence on the prose literature of the period.

THE EDINBURGH MEN

Francis Jaffrey who was called by his admirers as the 'archcritic' contributed some 200 articles to the Edinburgh review, may be regarded as the most influential critic of his time. He was neither opposed to the Romantic Movement, nor a blind supporter of the Augustan movement. Now his criticism is not valued much.

Sydney Smith. Another Edinburgh man was a clever clergyman. he was Known more for his criticism then for his literature. His satire Peter Plymley's letters is noteworthy. though. His writing contain many good things, they are not read often by the moderners.

THE BLACKWOOD'S MEN

The most famous "Blackwood" man of the day was John Wilson (with the pen name Christopher north).he was a professor of moral philosophy while at the same time he Was a boxer and wrestler. He wrote much. he best to work is to be found in is Noctes Ambrosianae, which appeared in Blackwood. They are in form of dialogues with regard to his prose style, Wilson was with the Romantics.



THOMAS DE QUINCEY

Wrote for both Blackwood and London magazine; He was an important man for literature. He was essentially a magazinist and 17 volumes of his collected works were published .one can notice some glaring defects in his writings: He had a bad habit of abusing his learning; he was trivial in his argument and indulged in Digressions. There are some merits see style is marvelously rich and a rhetorical. De Quincy is the master of romantic prose. He has great powers of narrative And description. He achieved remarkable success in campaigning Grim humor with the horrible. He is remembered for his autobiographical writings. The essay "Confessions Of An English Opium Eater" is a Classic.

JOHN GIBSON LOCKHART is a connecting link between Edinburgh and London. He was reserved, Keen, incisive and caustic. He produced much miscellaneous work, including four novels, a volume of Spirited Spanish ballads and the life of burns. his Famous work was life of Scott. He was romantic with Scott and sympathized with Wordsworth, but he was critical of the younger Romantics (He was nicknamed scorpion.)

The London men

Is one of the best beloved of the English authors, whose memory will retain its fragrance. His ever-delightful Essays of Elia is an immortal work. Lamb is as much an egoist as Montaigne. the substance of what he write is almost wholly drawn from himself, his experiences, reminiscence ,likes, dislikes ,whims and prejudices. the subject matter of all his writing is lamb himself.

He was the master Of humor and pathos. He combined them-The finest tenderness with quaintest fancies. This is unique in literature, and can be called "Lambish"

On the critical side Lamb's influence was strong in the development of Romanticism. His sympathies with the Elizabethan literature are seen in the tales from Shakespeare.

Lamb's style is absolutely his own. It is flavored by constant contact with his favorite writers -Burton, Fuller and Sir Thomas Browne. as a familiar, personal essayist, he ranks first. as he himself said, he wrote neither for the present nor for the future, but for antiquity. He is definitely the "prince of personal essayist"

WILLIAM HAZLITT



Hazlitt is one of the best Essayist of the Romantic Period under very well-known contemporary of Lamb. He was also a painter. He wrote mainly for magazines, lectured on literary topics and published art and dramatic criticism.

Hazlitt contributed to the Magazines- *Morning Chronicle*, *Edinburgh Review*, *The Examiner*. His best to criticism is contained in "*Characters Of Shakespeare's Plays*". "*The English Poet*" "*The English Comic Writer*". Etc. He has been called "The Critic's Critic". His insight, discrimination and sureness of taste justify the title.

Hazlitt is a meditative Observer of human life. He has a strong passion for analyzing human nature. He is a psychologist. Another important aspect of his essay is a sense of the enjoyment of life. His Essay like "*Going on A Journey*" "*On The Pluses Painting*" Etc. are interesting. Hazlitt is a fine romantic essayist. He has all the major characteristics of Romanticism-love of beauty, art and life. His contribution to English literature is immense.

OTHER PROSE WRITERS OF THE PERIOD

Prominent among them were William Gobbett, Landor and Southey. Gobbett's "*Rural Ride*" is his most characteristic book. His English grammar is unique among grammars. Landor's Prose work imaginary conversations are dialogues between great characters of the past. He was not a great thinker but a man of great thoughts. "*The Citation Of William Shakespeare*" "*Perntameron*" are his other popular works.

Southey was a prose writer as he was a poet. His Masterpiece is "*Life of Nelson*".

THE NOVEL IN THE AGE OF WORDSWORTH

SIR WALTER SCOTT (1771-1832)

Sir Walter Scott has been remembered chiefly as a novelist. He said to have popularized a new form of Novel, historical novel. His genius is best suited for this form. He mingles history with the life of Scottish peasants.

The influence of the Romantic Period is seen in Scott's choice of theme of the past, as the romantics were interested in the Middle Ages. Again Wordsworthian choice of 'humble and rustic' life is seen in his choice of Scottish peasants. His First novel "*Waverley*" is nothing but an amalgamation of the manners of the Scottish and the historical romance.

Historical novel is different from history, it is neither the life of the actual historical person nor the presentation of actual facts of History. It only presents the life and manners of the people of a particular period. Scott's *Ivanhoe* is an imaginary novel,



which has the historical background of 12th century. In his novels, Scott presents a picture of eight centuries. To give a few examples, his "*Court Robert Of Paris*" is based on 11th Century "*Talisman*" and Ivanhoe on 12th century "*Castle Dangerous*" on the 14th century "*Quentin Durward*" on the 15th century; Kenilworth with on the 16th century; *The Fortunes Of Nigel*, *The Legend Of Montrose*, *And Old Mortality* and the 17th century "Rob Roy" and "The Heart of Midlothian" on the 18th century and St. Ronan's "well" on the 19th century Scott not only deals with history of Scotland and England, but also with France.

Scott has a thorough knowledge of the past. Past came to him automatically at the same time. We cannot take the facts given by Scott as historical truths. He takes liberties with history. Hence, for example Scott's Ivanhoe cannot be taken as a perfect picture of middle Ages. His historical characters like James-I, Louis IX, Elizabeth and others are all fine imaginative creations.

Again Scott's novels are novels of action. They are drawn on a very vast scale. Scott is always seen in his best when he presents his Scottish peasant and Scottish life, with which he is familiar. Even as a young boy, he was attracted by the stories about the borderland. His first attempted literary composition was only Scottish ballads.

Scott has created a wide range of characters, but he lacks insights into his characters. His characters are broad and bold pictures but not the result of a psychological analysis. He is unable to paint stronger emotions, like love, violence, anger, etc. At the same time he excels all other novelists in portraying patriotism and loyalty.

There are certain defects in Scott's novels. His novels are very well constructed. His creations lack spiritual insight and grasp. Scott is no good in presenting female characters. It is so to be admitted that in spite of all the defects, his novels never fail to please.

Jane Austen (1775 to 1817) her famous novels are "*Pride And Prejudice*" "*Mansfield Park*" "*Emma*" "*Sense And Sensibility*", "*Persuasion*" And "*North Anger Abby*" .she avoided popularity. She was a realist. She had difficulty in creating male characters..

MEN WRITERS

CHARLES ROBERT MARTIN (1782 TO 1824) His work "*Mel Moth*" "*The Wanderer*" was most successful.

THEODORE HOOK (1788 -1841). He was one of the fun makers who produce loosely written novels .



JOHN GALT (1779 1839)his work "*Irish Ayrshire Legatees*" And "*Annals Of The Parish*" Contains some admirable pictures of Scottish life.

Thomas Love Peacock 1785 To 1866.

He was known for his satiric commentary upon his things in society and literature. His works are "*Headlong Hall*" "*Melon Court*", "*Nightmare Abby*" "*Grochet Castle*".

SHORT QUESTION IN THE AGE OF WORDSWORTH

1. With whom Wordsworth collaborated to publish a famous work? What is that work?
2. By what was Scott influenced when he was a boy?
3. What is 'BYRONISM' used to denote?
4. Write there names of two odes of Keats.
5. Who edited the Edinburgh Review?
6. Give the names of two novels of Jane Austen?
7. What was Southey's masterpiece?
8. Who were the famous poets who met premature death?
9. Name two important essay of William Hazlitt.
10. To what type of novel is Sir Walter Scott noted for? Give the names of two of his novels.
11. Who are the minor Poets of the early romantic poet?
12. "I woke up one morning and found myself Famous" whose words are these?
13. Name two women Poets of the Revolutionary age.
14. Name any two popular contributors to London magazine.
15. Who is called the critic's critic?
16. What is Scott's imaginary novel? What is its background?
17. What is Keats poetic Creed?



18. Who is the most famous black-hood man?

19. Whose nickname is scorpion?

20. What are the limitations of Wordsworth's genius?

