

Wordsworth, Coleridge and the Birth of the Romantic School of Poetry

Coordinators: Irving Geller and Frederic L. Gannon

William Wordsworth and Samuel Taylor Coleridge created the English Romantic school of poetry. The two were close friends and lived near each other for a long time. Coleridge was already famous for his celebration of imagination as a way to vital truths, and for poetry that approached the visionary and the supernatural. Building on his influence and advice, Wordsworth eventually went his own way, developing a new type of poetry for the "common man" to express profound images and ideas -- poetry that incorporated conversation and autobiography and led to the modern age. In this group we show how they revolutionized the art and substance of poetry.

Readings:

Coleridge/Nicholas Halmi, editor, *Coleridge's Poetry and Prose*, {Norton, 2004, ISBN 0-393-97904-0}.

Wordsworth/Nicholas Halmi, editor, *Wordsworth's Poetry and Prose*, {Norton, 2014, ISBN 978-0-393-92478-7}.

Ted Gannon, retired MD, has coordinated groups on American and English literature. **Irv Geller** has an educational background in philosophy and has coordinated groups in history and literature.

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Week 1: "Strange Fits of Passion Have I Known", p. 113
"She Dwelt among Untrodden Ways" p. 114
"Lucy Gray" p. 115
"She Was a Phantom of Delight" p 386
"I Wandered Lonely as a Cloud" p 418
"Lines Composed a Few Miles above Tintern Abbey" p 65
"Ode: Intimations of Immortality" p 432

Week 2: "The Prelude," Book 1, p 173, ll. 240-445

Week 3: "The Prelude," Book 10, p 432, ll. 689-727
Book 4, p 211, ll. 400-505

"Coleridge's Poetry and Prose"

Week 4: "The Rime of the Ancient Mariner" p59

Week 5: "Christabel" p 161

Week 6: "Kubla Kahn" p 182
"Frost at Midnight" p 120
"Dejection: An Ode" p 155