



ROMANTIC AGE / AGE OF WORDSWORTH

POETS : WW, Coleridge, Byron, Shelley, Keats

NOVELISTS : Walter Scott, Jane Austen

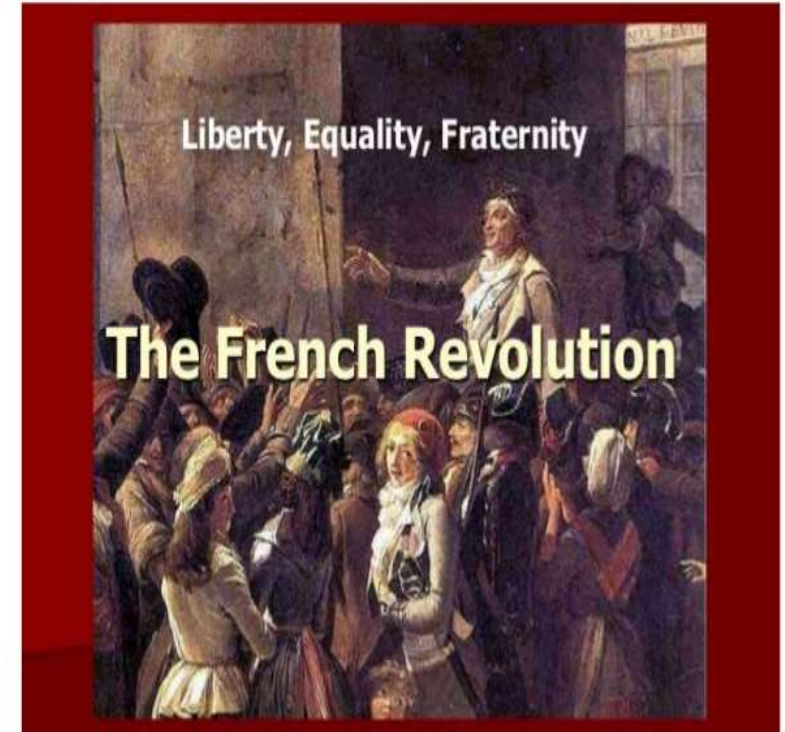
ESSAYISTS : Charles Lamb, William Hazlitt

ROMANTIC AGE – AN OVERVIEW

- Historical – **French Revolution in 1789** - initiated : Liberty / Equality / Fraternity – Ideals of Revol.
- Literal – WW's publ. of **Lyrical Ballads in 1798** – beginning of the Romantic Spirit : Freedom (Keyword)
- **Early Romantics** : Wordsworth, Coleridge, W. Scott, Robert Southey (Older Poets) – during Fr.Revl.
- **Later Romantics** : Keats, Shelley, Byron (Younger/ Revolutionary Poets) – aftermath of Revolution
- **Rom. Revival** : To revive poetic ideals of Eliz. age - Love, beauty, emotion, imagination, nature : **blank verse**
- **Rom. Revolt** : To revolt against ideals of Augustan age – logic, reason, satirical, argumentative, town-life, didactic, closed Heroic Couplet : **Artificial & stilted lang.**

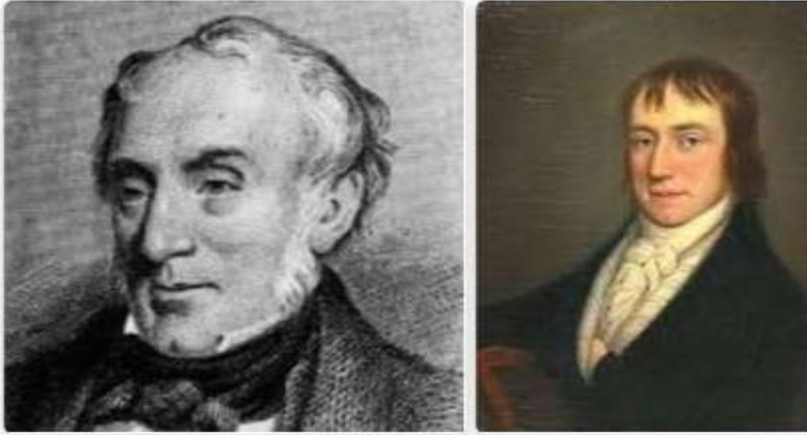
KICKSTARTER

Chapter 1:



The French Revolution led to the end of monarchy in France.

OLDER POETS – WW & COLERIDGE



Synopsis. **Born** in England in 1770, poet **William Wordsworth** worked with Samuel Taylor Coleridge on *Lyrical Ballads* (1798). The collection, which contained **Wordsworth's** "Tintern Abbey," introduced Romanticism to English poetry. ... He became England's poet laureate in 1843, a role he held until his death in 1850.

Apr 2, 2014

William Wordsworth - Poems, Daffodils &

- **Will. Wordsworth** (1770 – 1850) : Claim from simple native background, faith in humanity from childhood, visited France twice, settled in **Lake District** with his sister **Dorothy WW**, ----- in 1843 made the **Poet Laureate**, died in 1850
- Friendship with **Coleridge** – publ. of *Lyrical Ballads* in 1798 : marks beginning of Romanticism & Naturalism (supernatural agents & ord. life)
- LB : stated '**Theory of Poetry**' - "to choose incidents & situations from common life, describe in the lang. of common man"
- *Michael* & *Tintern Abbey* – included in *Lyrical Ballads*, wrote sonnets, ballads, elegies (*The Solitary Reaper*, *Daffodils* : lyrical)
- *The Prelude* : an auto-biographical poem, devel. of his love for nature from childhood to manhood, talks of his influences
- "**The Immortality Ode**" – glorifies the **innocence of childhood**
- The Poet of the Country, Nature & of man (**unlike Pope**), greatest interpreter of Nature; **Spiritualizes nature** : as embodiment of Divine Spirit; Nature as the greatest of all teachers -**fundament. philosophy**

Important Works

SAMUEL TAYLOR COLERIDGE POEMS



- *Brockley Coomb*
- *Cologne*
- *Dejection: An Ode*
- *Epigram*
- *Fears In Solitude*
- *France: An Ode*
- *Frost At Midnight*
- *Kubla Khan*
- *Love*
- *On Donne's Poetry*
- *Reflections On Having Left A Place Of Retirement*
- *The Dungeon*
- *The Eolian Harp*
- *The Nightingale*
- *The Pains Of Sleep*

internetpoem.com/samuel-taylor-coleridge/

William Wordsworth

ZANICHELLI

Only Connect... New Directions

3. Main works

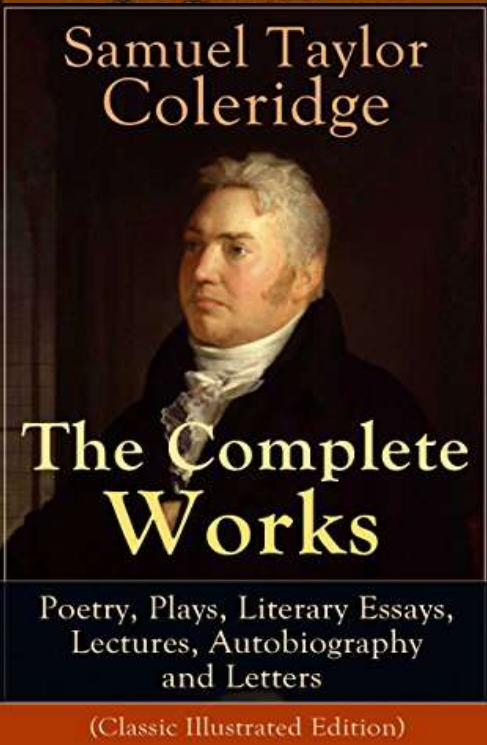


William Wordsworth, Shreveport, James Smith Noel Collection

- *Lyrical Ballads, with a Few Other Poems* (1798).
- *Lyrical Ballads, with Other Poems* (1800). This edition contains the famous *Preface*, the Manifesto of English Romanticism.
- *Poems*, in Two Volumes (1807).
- *The Excursion* (1814).
- *The Prelude* (1850).

Only Connect... New Directions

COLERIDGE (1772 -1834)



- Poet, Prose-Writer, Literary Critic, Original thinker, **Visionary Poet**
- Influenced by the Revolution, **met Southey** in 1794, with WW in 1997 jointly produced **LB** (4 poems included), **I Book** : *Poems on various subjects*
- ***The Rime of Ancient Mariner*** : masterpiece, ballad with supernatural elements, ***Christabel*** – unfinished tale of witch (both represents triumph of Romanticism), ***Kubla Khan*** – unfinished, an echo of a dream (pleasure dome built in Xanadu), ***Dejection an Ode*** – personal, melancholic poem : ill-health, addiction of opium, loss of creativity, ***Biographia Literaria*** – most valuable work, reveals his critical powers; discuss philosophy & poetical theory of WW – place him among Critics
- **Prose Work** – of journalistic origin, phil.al & literary themes, **started 3 Journals** : The Watchman, The Morning Post, The Friend (brief period)
- Calls '**power of imagination**' as “ **the willing suspension of disbelief**”; poems reveal love of mystery & supernatural; **healing power of nature**, clarity & simplicity of diction, **Char of poetry – dream-like quality**

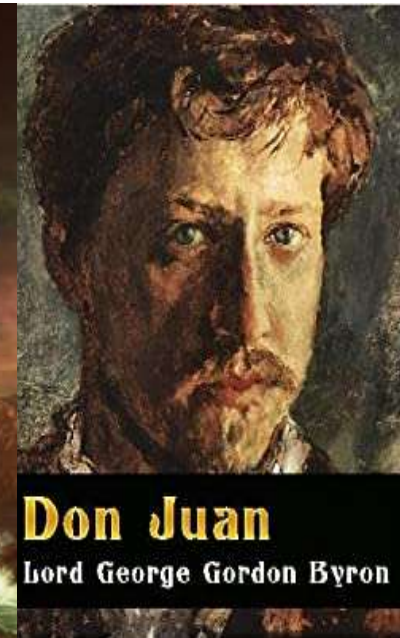
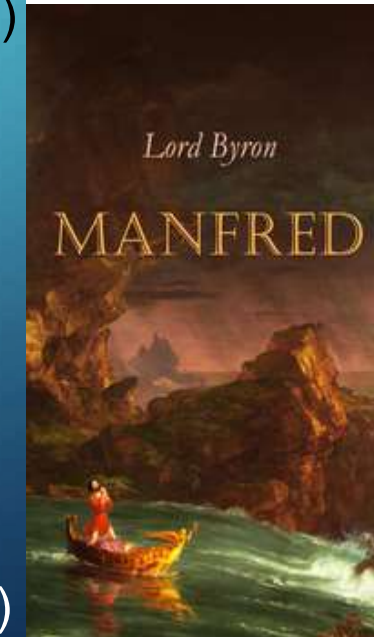
YOUNGER POETS : LORD BYRON

- Poet, Novelist, Dramatist (**Satirist** : Inherited irritable & volcanic char. Reflect conflict with men & things) – known for ‘**Rebellious Nature**’
- Toured continent for 2 years – his experience & places visited for – **Child Harold’s Pilgrimage** : a young romantic hero, picture of insatiability of human grandeur & power (immediate success)
- **Hours of Idleness** - publ. boyhood days – attacked by Edinburg Review – a reply in **English Bards** & **Scottish Reviewers**(model on Pope’s satire)
- A few **Poetic Tales, Lyrics, Satirical** Poems; **The Vision of Judgement** : finest Political Satire – against Southey, **Don Juan** – greatest satire, a **Picaresque Novel**(Hero – wanderer on adventure), express bitter mockery & his worldly wisdom, **Manfred** & **Cain** - Important dramas
- **Characteristics** : Subjective Poetry, vitality & power, lyrics – passion & strong romantic imagination, his spirit of **gloom & unrest** as ‘Byronism’
- **Heroes** – pirates, corsairs & outlaws(idealise who revolt against society)

Lord Byron



- 1788 – 1824
- Born in London
- A British poet and a leading figure in Romantic Movement
- First volume of poems, “Hours of Idleness” in 1807



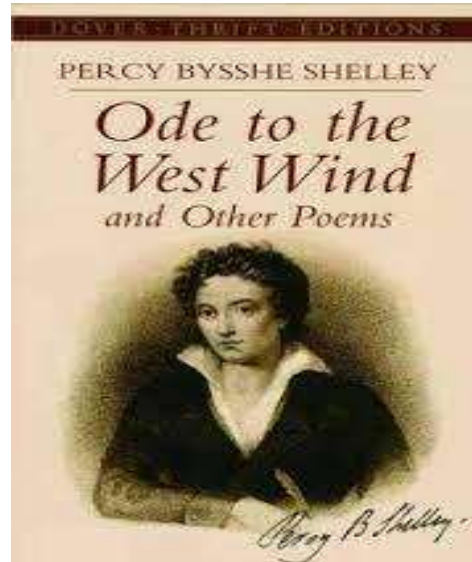
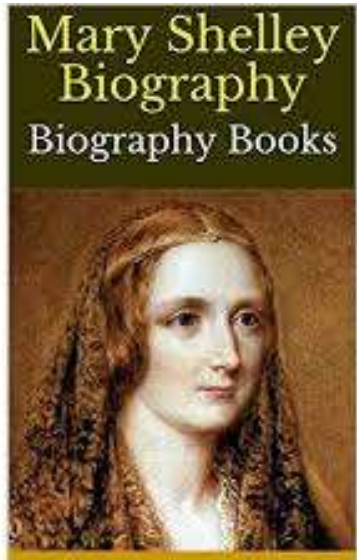
Percy Bysshe Shelley (1792-1822)

- Born in Sussex into a wealthy landowning family. Son of an MP. Eldest of six children.
- 1804: Attends Eton. Called "mad Shelley" by his classmates.
- 1810: Oxford University; friendship with Hogg.
- Immerses himself in philosophy; becomes vegetarian.
- 1811: Expelled from Oxford for publishing and circulating his pamphlet "The Necessity of Atheism."



P.B.SHELLEY : REVOLUTIONARY POET

- Key member of visionary poets, **rebellious, celebrate freedom**
- Expelled from Oxford - pub. of "**The Necessity of Atheism**"
- Second Marriage with **Mary Shelley** (a fellow poet, novelist), in 1818 left England & settled in Italy, **drowned to death @ 30**
- **Works – Personal** : *Ode to a Skylark*, *Ode to the Westwind*, *The Cloud*, **Impersonal** : *Queen Mab* (lengthy poem- crude atheism), *Alastor/ the Spirit of Solitude* (Spirt. autobiography), *The Revolt of Islam*, *Laon the hero* (as willing martyr)
- **Prometheus Unbound** (lyrical drama – Greek Myth on moral salvation of man); **Personal & Impers.** – *The Cenci* & *Adonais*
- **Cenci** – Rom.drama, **Adonais** – modelled on classical elegy – lament for **Keats' early death** (attack on Edinburg Rev.)
- **Central Themes** : Beauty, passions, nature, political liberty, creativity, sanctity of imagination – philosophical treatment

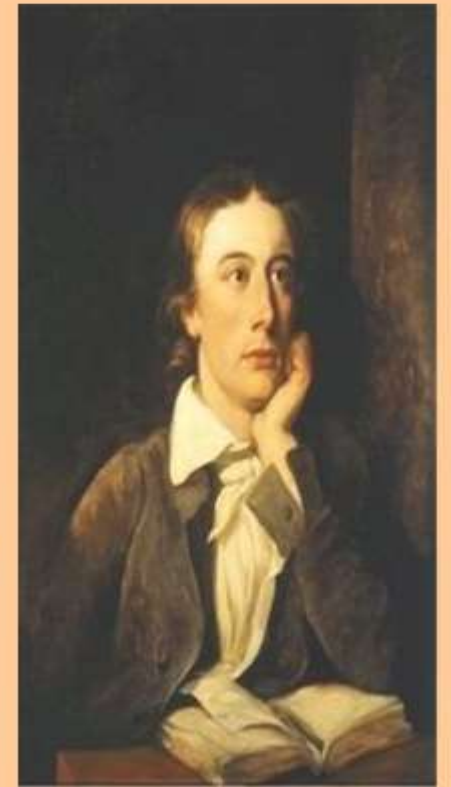


JOHN KEATS – LAST & YOUNGEST

- An apprentice of a surgeon turned to Lit., **admired Homer, Spenser & Shak.**, later asso. with **Leigh Hunt, Lamb, WW & Shelley** – kindled literary fire, died @ 26 (consumption)
- Neither Byron's anger, nor Shelley's passion, **poetry as incarnation of beauty** ; **Endymion** opens as: "A thing of beauty is a joy forever" – Keynote of his works
- **Works** : **Endymion, Hyperion**(epic theme – modelled on *Par.Lost* – fight between older & younger Greek gods), **The Eve of St.Agnes** (finest narrative poem – elopement of lovers), **Lamia** (modelled on fables of Dryden)
- **Odes** : melancholic strain (**permanence of art (vs) tempo. of life**) – "To a Nightingale", "Ode on a Grecian Urn", "To Psyche", "To Autumn", "On Melancholy" – **Total 61 sonnets**
- **"La Belle Dam Sans Merci"** – popular lyrical ballad
- **Sensuous poet** gifted with artistic nature, imaginative escape from cold world, **perfected art of sonnet**

John Keats (1795-1821)

- A master of lyrical poetry
- Born outside of upper-class society
- Contracted tuberculosis and, hoping to recuperate in a warmer climate, moved to Italy where he died shortly after.



NOVELIST : WALTER SCOTT (1771-1832)

The name of Sir Walter Scott is closely connected with the genre of the historical novel. He was interested in the romantic aspects of Scottish history and his historical novels changed attitudes towards the past, he made the world aware of Scotland, his novel struck the reader with their epic quality



The most famous works by Walter Scott

- *Waverley* (1814)
- *Rob Roy* (1817)
- *Ivanhoe* (1819)
- *Kenilworth* (1821)
- *The Fortunes of Nigel* (1822)
- *Quentin Durward* (1823)
- *The Talisman* (1825)
- *Woodstock* (1826)

- **Scottish Poet** – ballads, metrical romances, Historical Novelist
- **Popular as** : **The Father of Historical Novels**, The Wizard of the North, Author of **Waverly Novels** (27 Novels & 5 tales – Total), influenced **Alexander Dumas & Alexander Pushkin**
- **Poetry** : *The Minstrels of the Scottish Border*, *The Lady of the Minstrel* (long Poem), *Mermion*, *The Lady of the Lake* (picturesque)
- **Border Tales & legends** : **Hist of Scotland** – *Guy Mannering*, *Old Morality*, *Rob Roy*; **English subject**- I, K, F; **Hist. of Crusades** – T; **Others** – *The Abbot*, *Bride of Lammermoor*, *The Antiquary*
- Fusion of '**Novel of Manners**' & '**Historical Romance**'; inspired by medieval past; personal interpretation of history;
- Called the "**Prose Shakespeare**" – variety of subjects, **char.s** – middle & lower class, **Villains** – melodramatic, **Heroes** – dull, **Style** – powerful, natural **Scottish Vernacular** lang, born storyteller

JANE AUSTEN (1775 - 1818)

- Known for '**Domestic novels**' – break away from tradition of Sentimental & Terror novels, deals with middle-class people **hunt for brides & grooms** (narrow range)
- **Features** : Simple Plot without sensational themes, skillful, lively & effective dialogues, **Not stock char : indiv. traits**, portrayed perfect female, **humour**: quiet & delicate, matured
- Not curious of past(unlike Scott), not affected by Fren. Revol.
- **Works** : *Sense & Sensibility* (1811), *Pride & Prejudice* (masterpiece), *Northanger Abbey* (attack on Terror novels), *Mansfield Park* (variety of char - Fanny Price), *Emma*, *Persuasion* (marriage theme)
- Herself referred to her work as "**two inches of ivory**" – small but valuable & worthy
- "It is a truth universally acknowledged, that a single man in possession of a good fortune, must be in want of a wife"
- **Pride & Prejudice**

JANE AUSTEN

- Born in 1775 at Steventon, Hampshire
- Her father was rector of the church
- She was educated at home by her father
- She was the 6th of seven children
- She spent her short and uneventful life in the circle of her family
- Her inseparable companion was her sister, Cassandra, who like Jane, never married
- All her novels were published anonymously while she was alive
- Died in 1817

Jane Austen

- ✦ Wrote six well known novels:
- ✦ Northanger Abbey
- ✦ Sense and Sensibility
- ✦ Pride and Prejudice
- ✦ Mansfield Park
- ✦ Emma
- ✦ Persuasion

PROSE - CHARLES LAMB (1775- 1834)

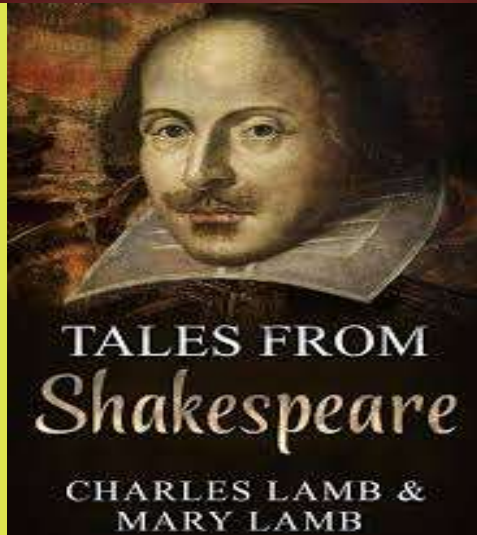
- His essays, published together in a book entitled "Essays of Elia," were a success
- His ability as a critic, editor, reviewer, and essayist gave him steady employment with a prominent publisher
- His reputation grew and he was finally asked to write the essays which have secured his fame in the literary world

- Famous for "Personal Essays": wrote under pen-name, "Elia"
- Devoted life to care his insane **sister Mary Lamb**, unmarried, she frequents in his essays as **Cousin Bridget**
- Began as Poet, attempted tragedy *John Woodvil*, best known as Essayist – first appeared in *The London Magazine*
- In 1823, a series of essays – *The Essays of Elia* (pseudonym), II series as *The Last Essays of Elia*, *Tales from Shak.* (in Prose), Dream - Children (most – pathetic), "I myself the subject of my essays": Lamb
- **Characterisation** : subjects drawn from experience – (eg) chimney - sweepers, *Old China*, Master of humour & pathos, Original Style, art to combine joy with tear, scholarliness with humanness - "**Lamb smiled with one eye & wept with the other**"
- Traces of Influence of **Sir Thomas Browne, Burton, Fuller** ; Strong influence in development of romanticism
- In 1807, *Tales...* - collaborative, retelling of Shak. plays, intended "for the use of young persons" : **Comedies** by Mary & **Tragedies** by Charles Lamb



THE ESSAYS OF ELIA

CHARLES LAMB

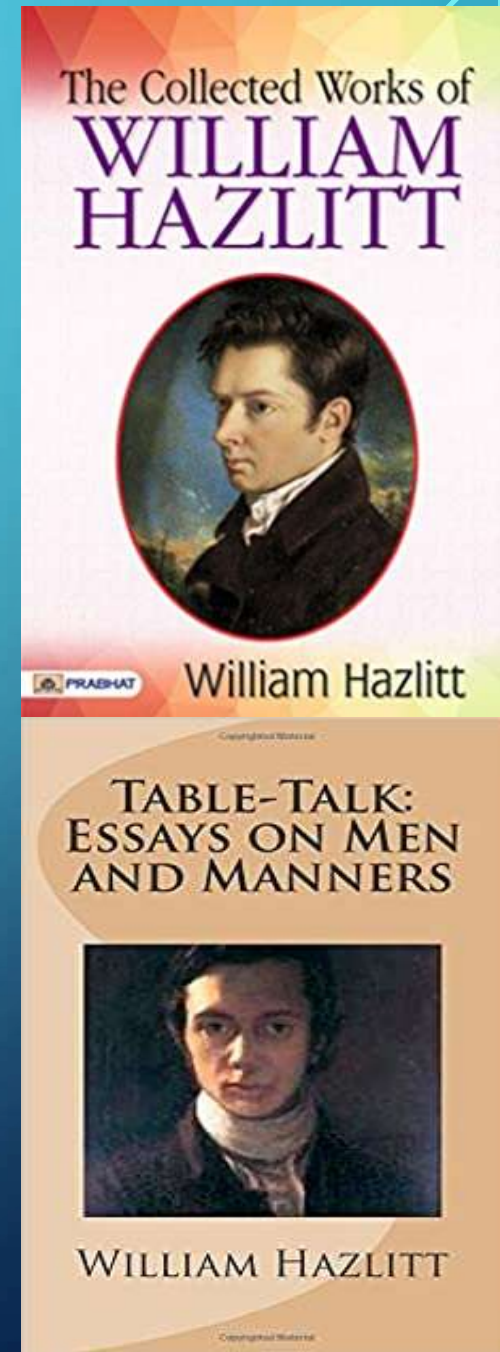


TALES FROM Shakespeare

CHARLES LAMB & MARY LAMB

WILLIAM HAZLITT (1778 – 1830)

- Essayist & Literary Critic – called “**the Critic’s Critic**”, **Successor to Coleridge** in Lit. Criticism – most satisfactory critic of Romantic Age, liberal minded Critic
- Lectures & Essays on general & literary subjects, **Lectures on** : *Char.s of Shak. Plays* (rich in critical insight & vigour), *The English Poets* (wit & wisdom), *The English Comic Writers*, & *The Dramatic Lit. of the Age of Elizabeth*
- **Best Essays** collected in *The Round Table*, *Table-Talk / Original Essays on Men & Manners*, *The Spirit of the Age / Contemporary Portraits*
- Known for honest expressions & individual opinion, judgements based on emotional reactions, noted for **auto-biographical elements** – intimate flavour
- **Characteristics** : **aphoristic power & humour** – vigour in brief & abrupt sentences, ironical humour, **diction** – pure & concise, prose – **noble eloquence**, clarity of thought, & beauty of expression
- “Those who are at war with others are not at peace with themselves” - Hazlitt



SUMMING UP...

- **Puritan Age** – John Milton, John Bunyan (Pilgrim's Progress)
- **Restoration Age** – Metaphysical – John Donne, John Dryden (Verse Satire)
- **Neo-Classical / Augustan Age**
 - **Poets** : Alexander Pope & Samuel Johnson
 - **Rise of Novel** : Defoe, Swift, Goldsmith, Richardson, Fielding
 - **Periodical Essays** : Addison & Steele
- **Romantic Age**
 - **Poets** : Older – WW, Coleridge, Younger – Byron, Shelley, Keats
 - **Novelists** : Walter Scott, Jane Austen
 - **Essayists** : Charles Lamb & William Hazlitt



S. VALARMATHI
ASST. PROF.
MGGAC MAHE