# Creative Response to Poetry of the Romantic Age

*FBCS 11-12 English Literature and Language Arts*

*Unit Description and Rationale:* This unit introduces the primary poets of the Romantic Age of English literature and their most famous works. Poetry from this era continues to form our popular conception of what poetry is and ought to be. Most people expect poetry to be, as Wordsworth defined it in his 1798 preface to Lyrical Ballads, “the spontaneous overflow of powerful feelings.” Romantic poetry also offers a fruitful literary encounter for readers of faith. With its reactionary emphasis on the beauty of nature and the endurance of the supernatural against a growing tide of secular modernity, Romantic poetry frequently aligns with and affirms Christian beliefs and sensibilities. Yet, just as frequently, it diverges from orthodox Christianity into neopaganism and pantheism. As we read, enjoy, and discuss the poetry of the Romantic Age, we will have to grapple with our own beliefs about God, nature, the soul, and the human imagination.

*The Big Idea:* Romantic poetry emphasizes . . .

* the primacy of the individual
* the significance of emotion
* the validity of subjective experience and personal expression
* the creative capacity of the imagination
* the potency of nature
* the mystery of the supernatural

*Capstone Project and Assessment:* A creative presentation that both interprets and interacts imaginatively with Romantic poetry.

*Options and Ideas:* You may choose from the following or propose your own idea.

1. Visual: original artwork, painting, drawing, sculpture, video, photo display, word art, calligraphy, poster
2. Drama: oral interpretation, one-act play inspired by or based on poem
3. Music: composition inspired by a poem, musical setting of a lyric poem
4. Writing: imitation, alteration, or continuation of a poem, a poetic response to a poem
5. Documentary: explication of a poem or group of poems delivered via recorded PowerPoint or documentary video.

*Details*: Projects will be presented in class on the final day of the unit—**Wednesday, March 2, 2022**. Presentations should be **3–4 minutes** in length. Rubric grade.