

Romanticism

Was it a reaction to the Enlightenment

Literary, artistic and musical movement of first half of 19th century- Frankenstein

Exploration of subjective- inner life

‘Me’ generation

Reaction to the perceived coldness of the Enlightenment- feeling and emotion vs. reason and rational

Features of romanticism

- An attitude not just to art but also to life
- Heroism and individuality- cult of individual/ genius- Napoleon, life is remarkable, he is from humble backgrounds
- The sublime- wonders of nature- awe- mans powerlessness against it
 - reaction to Industrial Revolution
 - nostalgia for lost world (e.g. medievalism – chivalry)
- Romantic figures- turn their back on conventions- opium, multiple sexual partners
- ‘Confessions of an Opium Eater’
- Romantic painting ‘Wanderer above the sea’ by Caspar David Friedrich (1818)

Romanticism in Britain is a reaction to the Industrial Revolution- loneliness of cities

Key Romantics

- Herder
- Johann Fichte
- Wordsworth
- James Hogg
- John Clare
- Grimm Brothers

First half of the 19th century

Could be seen as both as conservative and a radical movement