

British Romantic Literature Reading List

Primary Sources

Have a strong familiarity with the major works of the following:

- Mary Wollstonecraft
- Anna Laetitia Barbauld
- William Blake (of his major prophecies choose **either** *The Four Zoas* or *Jerusalem*.)
- William Wordsworth
- Dorothy Wordsworth
- Samuel Taylor Coleridge
- Charles Lamb
- William Hazlitt
- Thomas deQuincy
- George Gordon, Lord Byron
- Percy Shelley
- Mary Shelley
- Laetitia Elizabeth Landon
- Felicia Hemans
- John Keats

Secondary Sources

Specialists: Have a working knowledge of most of the following.

Non-specialists: Read at least two of the background sources, and one each for the canonical poets (Blake, Wordsworth, Coleridge, Byron, Shelley, and Keats).

Background:

- Meyer Abrams, *The Mirror and the Lamp: Romantic Theory and the Critical Tradition*, 1953.
- Carl Woodring, *Politics in English Romantic Poetry*, 1970.
- Marilyn Butler, *Romantics, Rebels, and Reactionaries: English Literature and Its Background 1760-1830*, 1982.
- Stuart Curran, *Poetic Form and British Romanticism*, 1986.
- Marilyn Gaull, *English Romanticism: The Human Context*, 1988.
- Anne Mellor, *English Romantic Irony*, 1980.
- Anne Mellor, ed. *Romanticism and Feminism*, 1988.

- Marlon Ross, *The Contours of Masculine Desire: Romanticism and the Rise of Women's Poetry*, 1989.

Blake:

- David Erdman, *Blake: Prophet Against Empire*, 1954.
- W.J.T. Mitchell, *Blake's Composite Art*, 1978.
- Leopold Damrosch, *Symbol and Truth in Blake's Myth*, 1981.

Wordsworth:

- Geoffrey Hartman, *Wordsworth's Poetry, 1787-1814*, 1964.
- Paul Magnuson, *Coleridge and Wordsworth: A Lyrical Dialogue*, 1988.
- Susan Wolfson, *The Questioning Presence: Wordsworth, Keats, and the Interrogative Mode in Romantic Poetry*, 1986.

Coleridge:

- J. Robert Barth, *The Symbolic Imagination: Coleridge and the Romantic Tradition*, 1977.
- Norman Fruman, *Coleridge, the Damaged Archangel*, 1971.
- Kathleen Wheeler, *The Creative Mind in Coleridge's Poetry*, 1980.

Byron:

- Robert Gleckner, *Byron and the Ruins of Paradise*, 1967.
- Peter Manning, *Byron and His Fictions*, 1978.
- Frederick Garber, *Self, Text, and Romantic Irony: The Example of Byron*, 1988.

Percy Shelley:

- C.E. Pulos, *The Deep Truth: A Study of Shelley's Skepticism*, 1954.
- Michael Scrivener, *Radical Shelley: The Philosophical Anarchism and Utopian Thought of Percy Bysshe Shelley*, 1982.
- Angela Leighton, *Shelley and the Sublime*, 1984.

Keats:

- Jack Stillinger, *'The Hoodwinking of Madeline,' and Other Essays on Keats' Poetry*, 1971.
- Helen Vendler, *The Odes of John Keats*, 1983.
- John Barnard, *John Keats*, 1987.