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## Whispers In The Dark

Silence all the laughter  
Everyone has gone.  
Leave me here  
Let life roll along.

Shut out the light  
I don't wish you to see.  
This empty existence  
Now en-capturing me.

Close all the doors  
Let no one in.  
The person you knew  
Is no longer me.

Lock all the windows  
Make this my cell.  
The Dark is my prison  
This is my Hell.

Block out those sounds  
Let life roll along.  
I can still hear the music  
But its not my Song.

John Rood 11/10/2013



and fleeting, the author instead chooses to focus upon the understanding and acceptance of suffering and sadness. Although such an approach can be understood as fundamental concepts of Eastern traditions, it was somewhat out of place for Keats own time. Implying the reader to integrate with the full depth of sorrow and sadness, not to take the easy way out, to drink the poison without hesitation, Keats presents a very dark representation of the means whereby the individual should accept the constraints of sadness and sorrow/melancholy, and seek to come to a more full and complete appreciation for how these emotions can define the approach and life of the sufferer.

In a similar way, William Wordsworth's poem, "She Dwelt among the Untrodden Ways", discusses the sorrowful topic of the death of a woman all but unloved by anyone besides the author, again, rather than dwelling on the brighter topics of redemption and the hope of an afterlife; a common theme within the period in question, Wordsworth instead focuses on the level of derision, ridicule, and ostracism that the woman faced as a function of her particularly dark and morose outlook on life. By using terminology such as "none to praise"/"very few to love" describes the level of ridicule that the woman's worldview has gifted her with (Wordsworth 1). Although the approach that she utilizes as a means of defining life is unpopular within her own community and times, Wordsworth holds this up as an example of a exemplary example of a life well understood and well lived.

Within both of these poems, although the subject matter is essentially the same as well as the ultimate approach that the authors take to this, the means by which this is accomplished and the utilization of both active and

Characteristics of dark romanticism. Dark romanticism examples. Dark romanticism traits.

While the Romantic Movement began in Europe toward the end of the 18th century, it migrated to America in the early 19th century. American Romanticism authors were most prolific between 1830-1865. The country was no longer naive, more cynical, and a lot wiser than it had been a half century earlier, an ambivalence--balancing pessimism and optimism--that was reflected in the works of so many of the period's authors. Dark Romanticism is a genre steeped in complex emotions and expressions of individualism. His fallibility was very much in-line with the Dark Romantic authors who published their major works shortly before the American Civil War and its messy aftermath into the Reconstruction era. -- Emily Dickinson's Because I Could Not Stop for Death As all the heavens were a bell, And Being but an ear, And I and silence some strange race, Wrecked, solitary, here. Feel free to draw from The Scarlet Letter 6. Identify a modern author whom you think fits the Dark Romanticism genre (e.g., Stephen King, J.K. Rowling, Joyce Carol Oates). Hawthorne's most famous novel examined the human soul and our morality--certainly a cautionary tale about the dangers of well-intended social reform and blind religious fervor. According to Dark Romantics, even good men and women drift towards sin and self-destruction, and there can be unintended consequences that arise from well-intended social reforms. The genre of "Dark Romanticism" is thought to have emerged from the Transcendental Movement in 19th century America. Fine example: The Fall of the House of Usher, which deals with mental conditions such as hypochondria and hyperesthesia (sensory overload). It's well-known that she led an increasingly reclusive life, afflicted by severe depression, and never saw success during her lifetime (she died at 56). While Hawthorne dabbled in numerous genres, including Transcendentalism, he found his niche in Dark Romanticism, albeit on the less pessimistic side. Who is not a cannibal? "Then why did you take me from my mother's side? The Scarlet Letter was published in 1850, the same year Congress passed the Fugitive Slave Act. The Dark Romantics rebelled against the Puritans, who came to the country to escape persecution, but imposed their own religion and societal rules (government) on others, judging those who did not conform. For the Dark Romantics, spiritual facts lie behind appearances of nature. The individual comes first, and often involves the worship of nature (or a whale?). In Hawthorne's The Minister's Black Veil, what does Reverend Hooper's veil symbolize and why does he wear it? Bartleby, the Scrivener, Teacher's Work Is Never Done We need to hear from you! Please share your lesson plans, questions, or pitfalls to avoid while teaching this genre in pursuing our common interests of helping more students enjoy reading classic literature! Contact us via Facebook or Twitter! Visit our Teacher Resources, supporting literacy instruction across all grade levels! American Literature's Study Guides! Return to American Literature Home Page Am Lit. Pinterest Explain the meaning of this quote from Moby-Dick; or, The Whale (chapter 87) in the context of Dark Romanticism: "for there is no folly of the beast of the earth which is not infinitely outdone by the madness of men." 11. The Dark Romantics were drawn to the dark side of the human psyche, the evil side of spiritual truth. Dark Romantics shun the artificiality of civilization and seek unspooled nature. You might also enjoy H.L. Mencken's analysis of New Puritanism, Puritanism As a Literary Force. The Fall of the House of Usher Moby-Dick; or, The Whale by Herman Melville is one of the most recognized novels in the genre of Dark Romanticism. Authors during the Romantic period, which includes the Dark Romantics, were creating a new national identity through the literature. Yet, her creative energy, willingness to fight conventions (no titles, short lines), and prolific writing (she wrote nearly 1,800 poems in her lifetime, but published very few) established her literary prowess and blazed a trail for other poets and women writers to follow. Because I Could Not Stop for Death The etymology of the word "Romanticism" is from the Latin word "romant" which means "in the Roman manner." It became known as a style of art, literature, and music that drew on emotions, intuition, and imagination, rather than rationality and science. Yet perhaps the pale-faced congregation was almost as fearful a sight to the minister, as his black veil to them...A subtle power was breathed into his words. See Moby-Dick - Study Guide! The Scarlet Letter by Nathaniel Hawthorne exemplifies Dark Romanticism in its themes of imposed judgement and punishment for those who commit sin, resulting in alienation and self-destruction. Discuss how Dark Romantic authors appealed to their readers! 9. In Hawthorne's The Birthmark: Georgiana tells her husband, "You cannot love what shocks you!" What is your opinion? Dark Romantics find beauty and truth in exotic locales, the supernatural realm, and the inner world of the imagination. All that we see or seem is but a dream within a dream. How does Gothic Literature differ from "Dark Romanticism"? 74. Many of Poe's works are on the dark end of the Dark Romantic spectrum, into the realm of Gothic Fiction with macabre tales of horror, morbidity, and madness. Moby-Dick; or, The Whale was published a year later. The Transcendentalists were busy at this same time in history; Thoreau's Walden was published in 1854, Whitman's Leaves of Grass a year later (1855). He believed that for all of our weaknesses, hypocrisy and suffering, "the truth of the human heart" usually prevails. Like all Dark Romantic beliefs, they also thought that the individual was oftentimes flawed. Nathaniel Hawthorne began his writing career considered a Romantic author; then moved towards Transcendentalism, before rejecting it in favor of the genre of his greatest success: "Dark Romanticism." Find an example of his work from each of these genres and discuss their contrasting styles. 5. Discuss the treatment of morality and social conventions (peer pressure) in this genre. A fun fact about Poe: he really disliked Transcendentalists, referring to them as "Frogpondians" (after the pool in Boston Commons). Emily Dickinson challenged the definitions of poetry and exemplify Dark Romanticism. -- Edgar Allan Poe's A Dream Within A Dream "I saw the lips of the black-robed judges. Melville's Captain Ahab is the prototype of human fallibility, and he draws upon ample Biblical allusions (including his character names) centering on themes of judgement, guilt, sin, souls, and the end of the world. "Behind the pasteboard mask of social respectability, the Dark Romantics saw the blankness and the horror of evil. Provide evidence to support your choice, providing examples from their work. 7. Discuss Emily Dickinson's seemingly contradictory voices as a poet? -- Emily Dickinson's I Felt a Funeral in My Brain "No, dearest Georgiana, you came so nearly perfect from the hand of Nature that this slightest possible defect, which we hesitate whether to term a defect or a beauty, shocks me, as being the visible mark of earthly imperfection." "Shocks you, my husband!" cried Georgiana, deeply hurt; at first redeeming with momentary anger, but then bursting into tears. They appeared to me white--whiter than the sheet upon which I trace these words--and thin even to grotesqueness; thin with the intensity of their expression of firmness, of immovable resolution, of stern contempt of human torture." -- Edgar Allan Poe's The Pit and the Pendulum The Birthmark Because I could not stop for Death, He kindly stopped for me; The carriage held but just ourselves And immortality. Within the genre of Romanticism, two opposing sub-genres emerged: the optimists who believed in human goodness and spirituality, grew in to the Transcendentalism Movement, the pessimists, who embraced human fallibility and our predisposition towards sin, grew into the Dark Romantic Movement. From the paintings over which his elaborate fancy brooded, and which grew, touch by touch, into vaguenesses at which I shuddered the more thrillingly, because I shuddered knowing not why." -- Edgar Allan Poe's The Fall of the House of Usher Yet if hope has flown away In a night, or in a day, In a vision, or in none, Is it therefore the less gone? It values beliefs and emotions as more important than logic or facts. Each member of the congregation, the most innocent girl, and the man of hardened breast, felt as if the preacher had crept upon them, behind his awful veil, and discovered their hoarded iniquity of deed or thought." -- Nathaniel Hawthorne's The Minister's Black Veil Edgar Allan Poe "An excited and highly distempered ideality threw a sulphureous lustre over all. Thank you very much for your cooperation. Is it the imperfections we all possess that attracts us, or are these the attributes that repel us in disgust? Poe literally provided a template for detective authors to follow, including Sir Arthur Conan Doyle. Identify the characteristics of Dark Romanticism as expressed in works by American authors. 2. Explain the difference between "Romanticism" and "Dark Romanticism." 3. Similar to the belief of the Puritans, the Dark Romantics thought that because of Original sin man is sinful and imperfect Dark Romantics exaggerated the sinfulness, evilness, darkness of human existence as the other Romantic writers we studied in class did with what was ideal. Abraham Lincoln rose to power leading the country with a truly distinctive American voice--eloquent, yet simple and coarse language embracing the country's failures, triumph, and tragedy. Among other things, I hold painfully in mind a certain singular perversion and amplification of the wild air of the last waltz of Von Weber. Authors who embrace this genre include Edgar Allan Poe, Nathaniel Hawthorne, Herman Melville, and Emily Dickinson. Stories in this genre share many characteristics of Realism (tell it like it is, what can go wrong, will). In order to continue enjoying our site, we ask that you confirm your identity as a human. There's an even darker side of the Dark Romantics: Gothic Literature, which involves sheer terror, personal torment, graphic morbidity, and the supernatural. Here's a helpful overview of the characteristics, origin, and exemplar authors to help you better understand Dark Romanticism. Characteristics of Dark Romanticism English 11 - Mr. Durrett Dark Romantics were known to use a lot of symbol in their work like the bird in the poem "The Raven: and the white whale in the novel Moby-Dick. We hope this guide is particularly useful for students and teachers. Overview of Dark Romanticism, Exemplary Works, Etymology & Historical Context, Quotes, Discussion Questions, Useful Links, and Notes/Teacher Comments! The Scarlet Letter First, let's deal with the meaning of Romanticism. But he was himself the chief horror of the scene, and shrank not from its other horrors." -- Nathaniel Hawthorne's Young Goodman Brown "Such was the effect of this simple piece of crepe, that more than one woman of delicate nerves was forced to leave the meetinghouse. These spiritual facts were not always positive or friendly. Dark Romanticism is distinguished from Romanticism in its emphasis on human fallibility and sin (they are pessimists), whereas Romantics believe in human goodness (they are optimists). His long improvised dirges will ring forever in my ears. Dark Romantics focus on human fallibility, self-destruction, judgement, punishment, as well as the psychological effects of guilt and sin. Select at least two poems, identify elements of depression/hope, resilience/morbidity, and love/loss. 8. Why are readers drawn to stories about human fallibility? Poe was also credited as the creator of the detective fiction genre, as in his story, The Purloined Letter. America had established itself as an independent nation, and was struggling with the morality of slavery, social reforms, and the rights of the minority. In 1865, the Civil War ended, Lincoln was assassinated, slavery was abolished. You cannot love what shocks you!" -- Nathaniel Hawthorne's The Birthmark Emily Dickinson 1. Authors such as Nathaniel Hawthorne wrote extensively about persecution of minorities in America, as in The Scarlet Letter, and The Maypole of Merry Mount. A Descent Into the Maelstrom It is helpful to understand the historical backdrop for the emergence of the Dark Romantics and the Transcendentalists. Another exemplary work of Dark Romanticism is his story, Young Goodman Brown. Practically all of Edgar Allan Poe's canon falls in the Dark Romantic genre, in which he explored the psychology of the conscious and subconscious mind. Loading Preview Sorry, preview is currently unavailable. I tell you it will be more tolerable for the Fejee that salted down a lean missionary in his cellar against a coming famine; it will be more tolerable for that provident Fejee, I say, in the day of judgement, than for thee, civilized and enlightened gourmand, who naillest geese to the ground and featest on their bloated livers in thy pate de fois gras." -- Herman Melville's Moby-Dick; or, The Whale "My Faith is gone!" cried he, after one stupefied moment. Explain the message in this story. 10. "There is no good on earth; and sin is but a name. Dark Romantics, like Romantics, believed that the individual was more important than a collective or society. Visit American History in Literature Here is an excellent summary of Important Events during the Romantic Period (1825-1910), which encompasses an interesting musical history as well. The Minister's Black Veil Explain what the following quotes meaning and why they are exemplars of Dark Romanticism: "Cannibals? These authors were drawn to human's imperfections, self-destruction, sin, and the hazards of social reform. A Descent Into the Maelstrom is a fine example. You can download the paper by clicking the button above. Whereas Transcendentalists felt perfection and their own divinity as innate qualities of mankind (they thought utopian communes would work), Dark Romantics believed humans gravitate to evil and self-destruction (striving for a utopian society is a waste of time). Come, devil; for to thee is this world given." -- Nathaniel Hawthorne's Young Goodman Brown "The whole forest was peopled with frightful sounds--the creaking of the trees, the howling of wild beasts, and the yell of Indians; while sometimes the wind tolled like a distant church bell, and sometimes gave a broad roar around the traveller, as if all Nature were laughing him to scorn.

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