

The Romantic Period

TEXTS	CONTEXTS
1773 Anna Letitia Aikin (later Barbauld), <i>Poems</i>	1773 East India Act brings large portions of the Indian subcontinent under British government control
1774 J. W. von Goethe, <i>The Sorrows of Young Werther</i>	1775 American War of Independence (1775–83)
1776 Adam Smith, <i>The Wealth of Nations</i>	1780 Gordon Riots in London
1778 Frances Burney, <i>Evelina</i>	
1779 Samuel Johnson, <i>Lives of the English Poets</i> (1779–81)	
1781 Immanuel Kant, <i>Critique of Pure Reason</i> . Jean-Jacques Rousseau, <i>Confessions</i> . J. C. Friedrich Schiller, <i>The Robbers</i>	1783 William Pitt becomes prime minister (serving until 1801 and again in 1804–6)
1784 Charlotte Smith, <i>Elegiac Sonnets</i>	1784 Death of Samuel Johnson. Warren Hastings and Sir William Jones found the Asiatic Society in Calcutta
1785 William Cowper, <i>The Task</i>	
1786 William Beckford, <i>Vathek</i> . Robert Burns, <i>Poems, Chiefly in the Scottish Dialect</i>	1787 W. A. Mozart, <i>Don Giovanni</i> . Society for the Abolition of the Slave Trade founded
1789 Jeremy Bentham, <i>Principles of Morals and Legislation</i> . William Blake, <i>Songs of Innocence</i>	1789 Fall of the Bastille (beginning of the French Revolution)
1790 Joanna Baillie, <i>Poems</i> . Blake, <i>The Marriage of Heaven and Hell</i> . Edmund Burke, <i>Reflections on the Revolution in France</i>	1790 J. M. W. Turner first exhibits at the Royal Academy
1791 William Gilpin, <i>Observations on the River Wye</i> . Thomas Paine, <i>Rights of Man</i> . Ann Radcliffe, <i>The Romance of the Forest</i>	1791 Revolution in Santo Domingo (modern Haiti)
1792 Mary Wollstonecraft, <i>A Vindication of the Rights of Woman</i>	1792 September Massacres in Paris. First gas lights in Britain
1793 William Godwin, <i>Political Justice</i>	1793 Execution of Louis XVI and Marie Antoinette. France declares war against Britain (and then Britain against France). The Reign of Terror
1794 Blake, <i>Songs of Experience</i> . Godwin, <i>Caleb Williams</i> . Radcliffe, <i>The Mysteries of Udolpho</i>	1794 The fall of Robespierre. Trials for high treason of members of the London Corresponding Society
	1795 Pitt's Gagging Acts suppress freedom of speech and assembly in Britain
1796 Matthew Gregory Lewis, <i>The Monk</i>	1797 Mary Wollstonecraft dies from complications of childbirth

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1798 Baillie, <i>Plays on the Passions</i> , volume 1. Bentham, <i>Political Economy</i> . Thomas Malthus, <i>An Essay on the Principle of Population</i> . William Wordsworth and Samuel Taylor Coleridge, <i>Lyrical Ballads</i>	1798 Rebellion in Ireland
1800 Maria Edgeworth, <i>Castle Rackrent</i> . Mary Robinson, <i>Lyrical Tales</i>	1801 Parliamentary Union of Ireland and Great Britain
1802–3 Walter Scott, <i>Minstrelsy of the Scottish Border</i>	1802 Treaty of Amiens. <i>Edinburgh Review</i> founded. John Constable first exhibits at the Royal Academy
1805 Scott, <i>The Lay of the Last Minstrel</i>	1804 Napoleon crowned emperor. Founding of the republic of Haiti
1807 Wordsworth, <i>Poems in Two Volumes</i> . Charlotte Smith, <i>Beachy Head</i>	1805 The French fleet defeated by the British at Trafalgar
1808 Goethe, <i>Faust</i> , part I	1807 Abolition of the slave trade
1811 Jane Austen, <i>Sense and Sensibility</i>	1808 Ludwig van Beethoven, <i>Symphonies</i> 5 and 6
1812 Lord Byron, <i>Childe Harold's Pilgrimage</i> , cantos 1 and 2. Felicia Hemans, <i>The Domestic Affections</i> . Barbauld, <i>Eighteen Hundred and Eleven</i>	1809 <i>Quarterly Review</i> founded
1813 Austen, <i>Pride and Prejudice</i> . Byron, <i>The Giaour</i>	1811 The Prince of Wales becomes regent for George III, who is declared incurably insane
1814 Scott, <i>Waverley</i> . Wordsworth, <i>The Excursion</i>	1812 War between Britain and the United States (1812–15)
1816 Byron, <i>Childe Harold</i> , cantos 3 and 4. Coleridge, <i>Christabel</i> , "Kubla Khan." Percy Shelley, <i>Alastor</i>	1813 Renewal of charter of East India Company, with "pious clause," authorizing missionary activity on the Indian subcontinent
1817 Byron, <i>Manfred</i> . Coleridge, <i>Biographia Literaria</i> and <i>Sibylline Leaves</i> . John Keats, <i>Poems</i>	1815 Napoleon defeated at Waterloo. Corn Laws passed, protecting economic interests of the landed aristocracy
1818 Austen, <i>Persuasion</i> and <i>Northanger Abbey</i> . Keats, <i>Endymion</i> . Thomas Love Peacock, <i>Nightmare Abbey</i> . Mary Shelley, <i>Frankenstein</i>	1817 <i>Blackwood's Edinburgh Magazine</i> founded. Death of Princess Charlotte. Death of Jane Austen
1819 Byron, <i>Don Juan</i> , cantos 1 and 2. Percy Shelley, <i>The Mask of Anarchy</i>	1819 "Peterloo Massacre" in Manchester
1820 John Clare, <i>Poems Descriptive of Rural Life</i> . Keats, <i>Lamia</i> , <i>Isabella</i> , <i>The Eve of St. Agnes</i> , and <i>Other Poems</i> . Percy Shelley, <i>Prometheus Unbound</i>	1820 Death of George III; accession of George IV. <i>London Magazine</i> founded

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1821 Thomas De Quincey, <i>Confessions of an English Opium-Eater</i> . Percy Shelley, <i>Adonais</i> . Clare, <i>The Village Minstrel</i>	1821 Deaths of Keats in Rome and Napoleon at St. Helena
1823 Charles Lamb, <i>Essays of Elia</i>	1822 Franz Schubert, <i>Unfinished Symphony</i> . Death of Percy Shelley in the Bay of Spezia, near Lerici, Italy
1824 Letitia Landon, <i>The Improvisatrice</i>	1824 Death of Byron in Missolonghi
1825 William Hazlitt, <i>The Spirit of the Age</i>	1828 Parliamentary repeal of the Test and Corporation Acts excluding Dissenters from state offices
1826 Mary Shelley, <i>The Last Man</i>	1829 Catholic Emancipation
1827 Clare, <i>The Shepherd's Calendar</i>	1830 Death of George IV; accession of William IV. Revolution in France
1828 Hemans, <i>Records of Woman</i>	1832 First Reform Bill
1830 Charles Lyell, <i>Principles of Geology</i> (1830-33). Alfred Tennyson, <i>Poems, Chiefly Lyrical</i>	
1835 Clare, <i>The Rural Muse</i>	