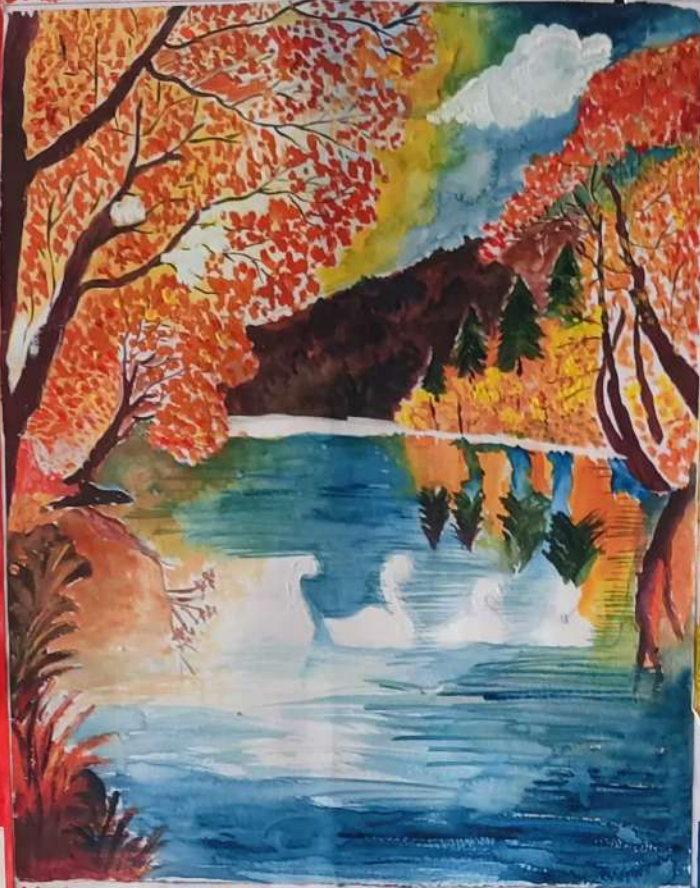


DEPARTMENT  
OF  
ENGLISH







Nature in W.B. Yeats's "The wild Swans at Coole," 1917.



The Highland Lass in W. Wordsworth's "The Solitary Reaper," 1803. [Painted by Mitali Bhandari]

The Nature  
 Surrounded by greenery, the pure wind is always blowing; The clouds are playing. The blue sky is dazzling.  
 The rain is falling, The water is roaring. The river is flowing, The flowers are blooming. The mind is talking.  
 The river, the canal, The pond are swimming. All I know is that they live on their own forms. The birds have built their nests on the branches of trees.  
 How fair is the moon!  
 The Sun in day time & the moon in the night form a harmonious play. [Mitali Bhandari]

The Winter  
 Quietly from where winter came today, no one knows. The bird sings - winters, winter, winter. Farmers cut hay, find happiness. Faces get brighter at the thought. The flutes of shepherds fill the air with music. Fields get covered with velvet green. Wealth and Bark, Smile and Greeting complete the cycle of life. Dry leaves find their roots in the wet soil. Nature awakes with her own's destination and creation. [Mitali Bhandari]

A visit to Bhopal  
 When we hear the name Bhopal one name comes to our mind, he is the world's first poet Rabindranath Tagore. He is the only place in Bhopal. So Bhopal is a place for all of us. A famous festival of Bhopal is Poush Mela. I went to Bhopal with my friends on the occasion of this Poush Mela. Bhopal is a place full of natural beauty. Where we can see a variety of plants full of natural beauty in Bhopal are Visha Bhairav, Vijayalaya, Sanjivani, Bhabhara, Chaitradia, Upasana, etc. There are many museums, monuments in Bhopal. We visited during the Poush Mela. The Mela scene of the fair was also wonderful with the gathering of people in the middle of nature. In the morning the sun was shining and the trees were covered in mist. It was a beautiful sight to see. The people were enjoying their natural beauty in the fullest. Also the air was so fresh and clean. The people here have developed the natural beauty of the place. [Mitali Bhandari]



# Essayists and their Writings

1. Francis Bacon (1561-1626)  
 Francis Bacon was an English philosopher, statesman and essayist born in 1561. He is widely regarded as one of the pioneers of the scientific method of writings. His famous writings are - Of Studies, Novum Organum.  
 2. Joseph Addison (1672-1719)  
 Joseph Addison was an English politician and writer. His name is usually remembered alongside that of his long-standing friend, Richard Steele, with whom he founded the Spectator magazine. Along with Steele, Addison would contribute the majority of the content for three of the most influential periodicals of the eighteenth century: The Tatler, The Spectator, and The Freeholder, all of which set standards for literary taste and literary criticism and would endure throughout the remainder of the century. Addison was also an accomplished poet and playwright, and his tragedy, Cato, would become one of the most popular plays of the eighteenth century English stage.  
 3. Somerset Maugham (1874-1965)  
 (Somerset Maugham (1874-1965) was a British playwright, novelist and short story writer) born in the British colony in Paris, where his father worked, Maugham was an orphan by the age of ten. He was tutored by his uncle, who tried to persuade the young Maugham to become an architect or painter. Maugham instead pursued a career in medicine, although he never practised professionally, as his first novel, *Of Human Bondage*, was published the same year he qualified. His famous writings are - *The Moon and Six Pence*, *The Letter*.  
 4. Arthur Conan Doyle (1859-1930)  
 He was a British writer and physician. He created the character Sherlock Holmes in 1891. His famous writings are *The Sherlock Holmes* and *The Specified Band*.



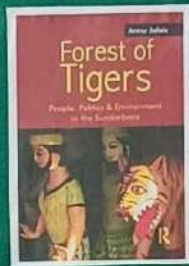
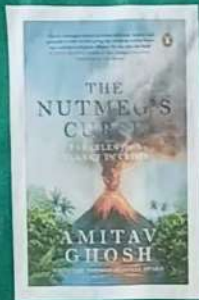
1. Charles Lamb (1775-1834)  
 Charles Lamb was an English essayist, poet, and critic. He is best known for his *Essays of Elia* and for the children's book *Tales from Shakespeare*, co-authored with his sister, Mary Lamb (1744-1842). His writing includes - *Old Chino*.

2. O. Henry (1862-1902)  
 William Sydney Porter better known by his pen name O. Henry, was an American writer known primarily for his short stories, though he also wrote poetry and non-fiction. His works include "The Gift of the Magi", "The Duplication of Happiness", "The Last Leaf of Red Chief", "The Outrageous Story of the Women of the World", "The Obnoxious", and "The Surprise Ending".





# Earth, Ecology & Beyond: Exploring Nature Through Literature



## The 'non-Sundan' Saga of Sundarbans

Sundarbans is the world's largest mangrove forest with unique Socio-ecological milieus where we witnessed "Jole Kumira and Dangal Bagh" (Crocodiles inside water and tigers on land). Human-Animal interactions are severely jeopardized by the neo-liberal corporate greed and unscientific development and climate changes.

## Climate challenges in Sundarbans



## The Nutmeg's Curse: Parables for a Planet in Crisis

Celebrated and Jnanpith Award winning author Amitav Ghosh has published this powerful book in 2021 and he argued that his Western Colonialism in Search of Nutmeg in Banda Island of Indonesia has horrendously exploited the climate, ecology and indigenous communities.



Nutmeg Fruits

## The Hungry Tide

The Hungry Tide (2004) is the fourth novel of Amitav Ghosh. In this novel, AG has described the impact of globalization upon the people of the Islands of Sundarbans. It centers on man's relationship with nature. The Hungry Tide draws heavily from two literary works: the Bengali folktale The Glory of Bon Bibis and the German poet Rainer Maria Rilke's 1923 epic poem, The Duino Elegies. The Duino Elegies was and still is extremely influential in the literary world.

## Forest of Tigers

### People, Politics & Environment in the Sundarbans

Forest of Tigers: people, Politics & Environment in the Sundarbans Annu Jalai's path breaking work 'Forest of Tigers' came out in 2009. Forest of Tigers\* is a deluge come of a detailed anthropological account on the intractable lives of Sundarbans' Islanders. This work engages with several issues such as human-nature interactions, political ecology, cultural ecology and posthumanism.

Nabanna: An Agriculture Based Festival in Sundarbans and all over West Bengal....



## Agriculture is our culture

Agriculture is the most embedded form of occupation with the society which not only provides the essential foods for survival but also generates rural employment without affecting the bio-diversity and nature. Agriculture is also the foundation of our rural public life which produces the idea of global collective identity and shared culture.

## Wall of Equality: Mahila Kishan and the Agrarian Economy in India

More than half of India's agricultural labors are women and they give tremendous amount of labor in the agricultural production. This hard work goes unnoticed and unacknowledged both in terms of social respect and wages. Hence our wall of equality would like to extend our solidarity with the struggle of millions of Mahila Kishans for their battle for equal pay for equal work.

## The Idea of De-growth and Save our planet

The concept of De-growth is the need of the hour. This concept is the critique of capitalist mode of growth super exploitation of nature and natural resources. Hence it is high time for all of us to promote such model of growth which will balance between development and bio-diversity.



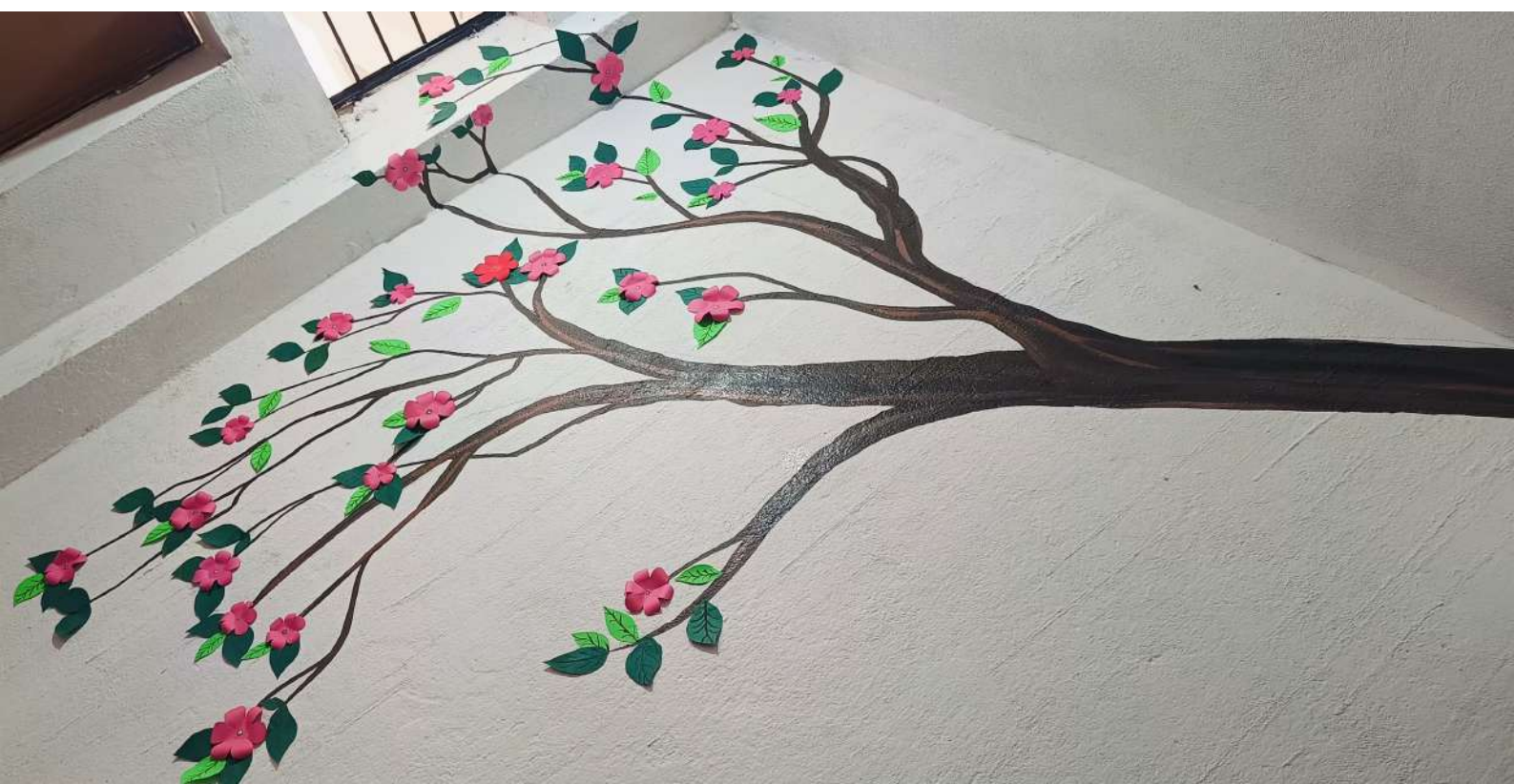
Female Agriculture labors Indian Female Farmers



De-growth

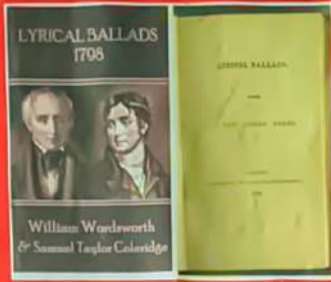








# Romantic Period & its Artistic Reflection



## The World

The Romantic Period began roughly around 1798 and lasted until 1837.



## Revolution

Romanticism is an artistic, literary and intellectual movement that originated in the second half of the 18th century in Europe. It is an outlook of artists and thinkers - their way of looking at the world, at themselves, at their relationship with the world. Romanticism is not outright rejection of enlightenment - reacted against the enlightenment - placed emphasis on reason. It rejected the style of art in which enlightenment ethos was embodied - neo-classicism.

## The Art of Romanticism

- 1) Intuition
- 2) INDIVIDUALITY
- 3) IDOLATRY
- 4) IMAGINATION
- 5) INSPIRATION



## Imagination

- ◆ Imagination was emphasized over reason.
- ◆ This was a backlash against the rationalism characterized by the Neoclassical period or "Age of Reason".
- ◆ Imagination was considered necessary for creating all art.
- ◆ British writer Samuel Taylor Coleridge called it "Intellectual Intuition".

## Philosophical foundations of Romanticism

- 1) Jean-Jacques Rousseau (1712-1778)
- 2) Immanuel Kant (1724-1804)

## FEATURES OF Romanticism

- 1) Emotions/Passion/Intuitionality
- 2) Imagination
- 3) The Individual/The Dreamer
- 4) The Enraptured and Engaged Artist
- 5) The Power and Fury of Nature
- 6) Science Can Be Dangerous
- 7) The new Technology is Dehumanizing
- 8) Romanticizing Ordinary Life
- 9) The Artistic Romanticizing the Middle Ages
- 10) The Exotic, the Exotic & the Macabre
- 11) Nationalism
- 12) Interest in Exotic Foreign Lands

## Themes

- ◆ Sturm und Drang
- ◆ The Sorrows of Young Werther
- ◆ The French Revolution
- ◆ The cult of Sensibility

## The Arts

- ◆ Romanticism was a movement across all the arts: visual arts, music and literature.
- ◆ All of the arts embrace the themes prevalent in the Middle Ages: chivalry, courtly love, literature and art from this time depicted these themes.
- ◆ Shakespeare came back into vogue.
- ◆ Romantic art was emotional, deeply felt, individualistic and exotic. It has been described as a reaction to Neoclassicism, or "anti-classic".

## Immortal Lines of Romantic Writers:-

- ◆ Poetry is the spontaneous overflow of powerful feelings: it takes origin from emotion recollected in tranquillity. - William Wordsworth.
- ◆ A thing of beauty is a joy forever; its loveliness increases; it will never pass into nothingness.

## Visual Arts

### Painting

In the visual arts, Romanticism first showed itself in landscape painting, where from as early as the 1800s British artists began to turn to wilder landscapes and storms, and evoke emotional responses, even if they had to make do with lakes as a setting.

### Painters

- ◆ Caspar David Friedrich
- ◆ J.M.W. Turner
- ◆ The Bayeux
- ◆ John Constable
- ◆ The Corn Field
- ◆ J. Martin
- ◆ The Execution of William
- ◆ T. Gericault
- ◆ Turner



Romanticism began to take root as a movement following the French Revolution. The publication of Lyrical Ballads by William Wordsworth and Samuel Taylor Coleridge in 1798 is considered the beginning of literary Romanticism.

## The Sorrows of Young Werther

- ◆ As letters written by Werther, a young artist of highly sensitive and passionate temperament, and sent to his friend Wilhelm.
- ◆ Love triangle - Werther loves the girl who is engaged to Albert (10 years older to her).
- ◆ Although this causes Werther great pain, he engages the next few months cultivating a close friendship with both of them.
- ◆ Little and Albert mounted - excited by the feeling that both will not return - visits her very often - visits her very often - visits her very often - visits her very often.
- ◆ Little becomes emotional and sends the pistols - Werther kills himself - buried under Albert's tree - burial unattended by both as objects of protest.
- ◆ Created Werther frenzied - called this book best work of Europe - carried this book with him while wandering Russia - young people created wearing Werther's style of dress - also led to copycat suicide.



## Literature of Romantic Period

### Poets

#### First Generation Romantic Poets

- ◆ William Wordsworth (1770-1850)  
Lyrical Ballads (1798, 1805); Poems, in Two Volumes (1807)
- ◆ Samuel Taylor Coleridge (1772-1834)  
Biographia Literaria (1817); Kubla Khan, The Rime of the Ancient Mariner.

#### Second Generation Romantic Poets

- ◆ John Keats (1795-1821)  
Enigma, Hypsion, La Belle Dame Sans Merci, Lamia, On First Looking into Chapman's Homer, To Autumn.
- ◆ Percy Bysshe Shelley (1792-1822)  
Ozymandias (1818), Ode to the West Wind (1819), To a Skylark (1820), Adonais (1821), The Philosophical Essay - The Necessity of Atheism (1811).
- ◆ Lord Byron (1788-1824)  
Don Juan, Childe Harold's Pilgrimage, Beppo.

### Romantic Music

- ◆ Music, like painting could release emotion.
- ◆ Classical music emphasized internal order and balance.
- ◆ Romantic music emphasized expression of feeling.
- ◆ Chopin (1810-1849)  
One of the most famous composers of early 19th century.  
Dreamy brooding melancholic fiery.
- ◆ Romantic music poses a strong connection with emotion as well as nationalism through the use of national folk songs.
- ◆ Ludwig van Beethoven (1770-1826)  
A transitional figure between the classical and Romantic eras.  
One of the first composers to convey inner human emotion through music.  
Eminent the genius who not constrained by pathology (initially all his personal life was dark).  
Many of his later works were written when he was deaf.
- ◆ First composer to incorporate vocal music into symphony by using the text "Gloria" of his symphony.

◆ Giuseppe Verdi (1813-1901), greatest Italian opera composer.  
◆ Richard Wagner (1813-1883), German opera.  
◆ Working with Verdi, he is considered the greatest opera composer of the 19th century.  
◆ He developed a style of music that was more dramatic and emotional than the traditional style.  
◆ Wagner's music was revolutionary and it was the beginning of the modern opera.



### Introduction

"The Lotus Eater" is a short story written by William Somerset Maugham in 1935. The story is loosely based on the 16th story of John Bunyan's *The Pilgrim's Progress*. It shows the dangers of pleasure and addiction and shows the loss of responsibility. It shows the loss of responsibility and the loss of purpose, which can be compared to modern-day issues like substance abuse.



### Plot

The story begins in 1918 with the narrator's visit to an island on the island of Capri in Italy. The island belonged to the narrator's friend Thomas Wilson, who had come to the island for a holiday sixteen years earlier. A year after that holiday Wilson had given up his job in London and a law partner to live a life of simplicity and enjoyment in a small cottage on Capri. The Lotus Eater tells of a man who plans to live a happy life to a certain point of time, but faces difficulties when things do not work out the way he wants them to be.

### Key Themes

1. The Pursuit of Happiness
2. Escapism
3. The Nature of Reality
4. Isolation and Loneliness
5. The Consequences of Choices
6. Cultural Critique



These themes collectively reflect Maugham's exploration of human desires, the conflict between dreams and reality, and the complex nature of happiness.

### Study Guide

- Capri
- Piazza
- Island of Ithaca
- Montecitorio
- Marseilles
- Pompeii

### Places

- Pausanias
- Faraglioni
- Sybaris {Greece Cities renowned for pleasure living and self-indulgence}
- Carthage
- Baths of Trajanus {Roman Emperor}



### Character

1. Thomas Wilson
2. Assunta
3. Narrator
4. Narrator's friend
5. Democritus

# The Lotus Eater

## Somerset Maugham

Based on a short episode in Homer's *Odyssey* (ix, 82-97)



### Important Quotes

- "The will needs obstacles in order to exercise its power."
- "Very few people know where to look for happiness; few will find it."
- "Most people, the vast majority indeed, lead the lives that circumstances have thrust upon them..."

### Capri



### Montecitorio



### Island of Ithica



### Marseilles



### Faraglioni



### Piazza



Assumption of Mary

... Religious Festival ...  
\* Feast of Assumption



### Food

1. Macaroni (Italian food)
2. Cheese
3. A plate of figs
4. Coffee
5. Stanga (A kind of strong alcoholic drink)



### Musician

1. Donizetti
2. Schumann
3. Schubert
4. Beethoven
5. Bach
6. Chopin



### Painters

- Painters of Greek Mythological Subjects
- G. F. Watts
- Lord Leighton



### Historians

- Historians of Roman History
- 1. Maximal Crawford - ( Anglo American Historical Novelist
- 1. Suetonius

### Idioms

1. Call it a day - Come to a stop.
2. Once in a blue moon - Very seldom.

