Nature, Feeling, Form

Trace how genre, theme, and language reflect British Romanticism.

12.T.PM.1 "Demonstrate knowledge of dominant themes, genres, and verbal styles of literature from a particular time period."

NAME _____ DATE _____

1 READ AND MARK

Read it twice

YOUR JOB Underline words or phrases that reveal a Romantic theme, circle each genre named, and number three language features associated with the period. Use your marks to connect what Romantic writers wrote about with how they wrote.

Britain's Romantic Turn

1. At the end of the eighteenth century, many British writers turned from neoclassical ideals of order and public reason toward imagination, emotion, and individual perception. This movement, later called Romanticism, grew during political revolution and rapid industrialization. Poets often treated nature not as scenery but as a living presence that could unsettle, heal, or instruct the mind. In William Wordsworth's poetry, a walk among hills or daffodils can become an inward event. The speaker's changing feelings matter as much as the landscape itself. Such imagery invites readers to trace a private consciousness meeting the natural world.

2. Romantic literature did not speak in one voice. The lyric poem, usually centered on a speaker's moment of feeling or reflection, suited writers interested in inward experience. The ballad drew on oral storytelling, plain language, repetition, and dramatic events, as in Samuel Taylor Coleridge's "The Rime of the Ancient Mariner." Gothic novels such as Mary Shelley's Frankenstein used isolation, frightening settings, and disrupted boundaries between life and death. Across these genres, writers frequently preferred vivid sensory images, musical rhythms, exclamations, and conversational diction over formal abstractions. These choices made intense experience feel immediate.

3. Romantic writers were not simply escaping modern life. Factories, steam power, and crowded cities altered work and landscape, while wars and revolutions raised questions about liberty and authority. Against this backdrop, many texts celebrate the untamed mountain, storm, or ruined castle as a counterweight to control and routine. Yet Romantic language can also sound restless or uncertain. A fragmented speaker, a sudden question, or a startling image may show that freedom brings risk as well as possibility. To identify the period's style, connect a text's subjects, forms, and word choices to its historical pressures.

2 ANSWER WITH EVIDENCE

Use the passage

1. How does the first paragraph describe nature's role in Romantic writing, beyond being a setting?

2. How does the lyric poem's focus differ from the ballad's typical approach?

3. Name two Gothic features associated with Romantic literature in the passage, and identify the novel used as an example.

4. What three kinds of language choices does the passage connect to Romantic verbal style?

3 YOUR TURN

Your own words

Write a 70 to 90 word mini passage in a Romantic genre, either lyric-style prose, a ballad-style narrative, or a Gothic scene. Include a nature image or unsettling setting and at least two language features named in the passage, then add one sentence that identifies your genre and explains how your word choices reflect a Romantic theme.

ANSWER KEY

Nature, Feeling, Form

GRADE 12 · 12.T.PM.1

PART 1 · READ AND MARK

Underline words or phrases that reveal a Romantic theme, circle each genre named, and number three language features associated with the period. Use your marks to connect what Romantic writers wrote about with how they wrote. Accept any marking that follows this job and points at the right text.

PART 2 · ANSWERS

#	QUESTION	ANSWER
1	How does the first paragraph describe nature's role in Romantic writing, beyond being a setting?	**Nature is a living presence that can affect, heal, unsettle, or instruct the mind, while prompting inward reflection.**
2	How does the lyric poem's focus differ from the ballad's typical approach?	**A lyric centers on a speaker's moment of feeling or reflection, while a ballad uses oral storytelling, repetition, plain language, and dramatic events.**
3	Name two Gothic features associated with Romantic literature in the passage, and identify the novel used as an example.	**Accept any two of isolation, frightening settings, or disrupted boundaries between life and death. The example is Mary Shelley's Frankenstein.**
4	What three kinds of language choices does the passage connect to Romantic verbal style?	**Accept any three of vivid sensory imagery, musical rhythms, exclamations, conversational diction, fragmented speech, sudden questions, or startling images.**

PART 3 · YOUR TURN (SAMPLE ANSWER)

At dusk, I climbed beyond the last chimney and found the river striking silver sparks beneath the moon. A cold wind whispered through the reeds, and my thoughts rose and fell with its music. Why had I feared the dark streets below? The water seemed to answer, not with reason, but with a bright, trembling silence. For a moment, the world felt wider than any rule I had been taught. This lyric-style prose uses first-person reflection, sensory imagery, and a rhetorical question to present nature as a source of inward freedom.

Accept equivalent explanations that accurately connect Romantic themes, genres, and verbal styles to details in the passage. For the open task, verify the word count, required setting or nature image, two identified style features, and a defensible connection to a Romantic theme.