

# PROJECT ON ENGLISH LITERATURE



**WE'RE GOING TO ANALYSE SOME  
LITERARY TEXTS AND PAINTINGS  
AND HIGHLIGHT THE RELATION  
BETWEEN MAN AND NATURE  
IN ENGLISH  
ROMANTICISM**

# FIRST STUDY HOW TO ANALYSE A PAINTING AND A POETIC TEXT



LANGUAGE YOU NEED	
PHRASES	This painting was done by ... It is on display at ... It represents/shows/depicts ... The subject is typical of ... The painting technique that the artist employed is ... The painting is divided into ...
SECTIONS OF THE PAINTING	In the middle On the right / on the left On either side At the top / at the bottom In the foreground / in the background
TYPES OF ARTWORKS	Drawing Still-life Portrait Landscape

## HOW TO ANALYSE A PAINTING

<b>1. INTRODUCTION</b>	First, when you describe a painting you should be able to answer questions about: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The setting in time and place</li> <li>• The sitters (people who pose for the artist)</li> <li>• The situation represented in the painting</li> </ul>
<b>2. COMPOSITION</b>	Then you should describe the composition, focusing on: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The use of symmetry → balance</li> <li>• The use of lines → dynamism and tension</li> <li>• The use of shapes → movement</li> <li>• The use of colour → feelings sensations emotions</li> </ul>
<b>3. INTERPRETATION</b>	After that, you should connect the description to the themes conveyed by the artist.
<b>4. VIEWER'S RESPONSE</b>	Finally, analyse what mood and emotions the painting arouses.

# HOW TO ANALYSE A POETIC TEXT

<b>DATA OF THE POEM</b>	Author: Title: Collection: Date:
<b>REFERENCES</b>	Title: (can you guess anything about the story form the title?) Layout: (traditional, unconventional, experimental..)
<b>SOUND</b>	Rhyme: (regular, irregular, final rhyming couplet...) Use of alliteration, assonance, repetition...
<b>LANGUAGE</b>	Style: Use of similes, metaphors, words for sense impressions (5 senses), personifications...
<b>MESSAGE</b>	Themes: Author's aim:
<b>PERSONAL RESPONSE</b>	Reader's reaction: (your feelings emotions and connections you can see between the text and ... a painting, a song, a poem ...)



## ANALYSE THE POEM

Click on the photo to listen to the poem.



# WORDSWORTH

I wandered **lonely** as a **cloud**  
That floats on high o'er **vales and hills**,  
When all at once I saw a crowd,  
A host, of golden **daffodils**;  
Beside the **lake**, beneath the **trees**,  
Fluttering and dancing in the **breeze**.

Continuous as the **stars** that shine  
And twinkle on the Milky Way,  
They stretched in never-ending line  
Along the margin of a **bay**:  
Ten thousand saw I at a glance,  
Tossing their heads in sprightly dance.

The **waves** beside them danced; but they  
Out-did the sparkling waves in glee:  
A poet could not but be **gay**,  
In such a **jocund** company:  
I gazed—and gazed—but little thought  
What wealth the show to me had brought:

For oft, when on my couch I lie  
In **vacant** or in **pensive** mood,  
They flash upon that **inward eye**  
Which is **the bliss of solitude**;  
And then my heart with **pleasure** fills,  
And dances with the **daffodils**.

Where is the poet? What is his mood? What is he doing? What does he see suddenly?

What are flowers associated with? What is their movement compared to?

How does the poet feel? What gave him such a pleasure?

What does the poet do when he is in a bad mood?

What idea of NATURE does Wordsworth convey?

What scene does Wordsworth use to create emotions in the readers?



ANALYSE THE  
PAINTING



**CONSTABLE**

## ENGLISH ROMANTICISM

Wordsworth believed in the **goodness of nature** and in the strict relation between **man and nature**. He thought they were **inseparable**: man is a part of the natural world. Nature is a source of joy and it can comfort man in sorrow. Poetry is the recollection in tranquillity of emotions which the poet has a great sensibility to feel and express.

Poets and artists often choose everyday situations with ordinary people: **humble rural life**.



# COLERIDGE



The Rhyme of the Ancient Mariner is a ballad divided into seven parts introduced by a short summary of the story. It reflects the Romantic interest in supernatural events.

The poet provides a long symbolic description of the natural landscape and the moral in the end.



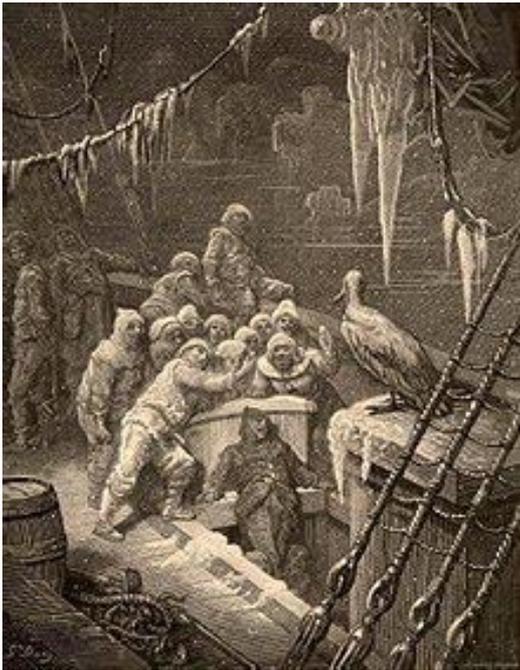
At length did cross an Albatross,  
Thorough the fog it came;  
As if it had been a Christian soul,  
We hailed it in God's name.  
...  
And a good south wind sprung up behind;  
The Albatross did follow,  
And every day, for food or play,  
Came to the mariner's hollo!  
...  
'God save thee, ancient Mariner!  
From the fiends, that plague thee thus!—  
Why look'st thou so?'—**With my cross-bow**  
**I shot the ALBATROSS.**

The ship reaches the polar lands and an albatross appears. The sailors see it as a bird of good omen. But the Mariner shoots and kills the bird with his crossbow.

→ What do you expect to happen next?

→ What does the albatross represent?

After the killing of the innocent bird the ship sits motionless on the ocean and the crew die of thirst. The Mariner's evil deed is followed by misfortune and the crew hang the Albatross around the Mariner's neck.



The Albatross is the symbol of the pact between man and nature.

Killing the albatross is like killing nature itself.