

Characteristics of Romanticism



1. The yearning for something distant and unattainable. (i.e. forbidden knowledge as in Frankenstein)
2. A preoccupation with the dark side of life, the murky, uncanny, mystical, supernatural.
3. A decidedly anti-middle class approach to life.
4. A duty to experience life or to dream yourself away from it.
5. A yearning for nature and its mysteries. Nature is viewed as an organism or rather a unity which is constantly developing its innate potentialities.

The potential of fiction, particularly the mythic tale or fairy tale, was viewed as an ideal. It gave the poet/writer free license of his creativity. Its impact on literature in general was to move the boundaries of subject and form and expectation, thus freeing the writer to explore greater imaginative possibilities.