



Module 4  
2<sup>nd</sup>-generation Romantic poets

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Romantic poets

Percy Bysshe  
Shelley

passionate  
rebel  
and **anarchic**  
spirit  
who believed in  
social changes

Nature as his  
main source  
of inspiration  
(**pantheism** in  
his first poems)

*Ode to the West  
Wind* (1820),  
*To a Skylark* (1820),  
*Adonais* (1821)

George Gordon  
Byron

his life and  
works pivot  
on **heroism**

**Romantic hero:**

- unable to live in harmony with himself or the world
- **tragic destiny**
- **striving towards the Infinite**

*Childe Harold's Pilgrimage* (1812)  
**'Byronic hero':**  
glamorous,  
haunted by guilt,  
dangerously adventurous,  
torn between solitude  
and fits of energy

John Keats

concept of the **artist as a superior being**  
(Neoplatonic and idealist philosophies)

**tension between opposite tendencies:**

- real vs unreal
- society vs solitude
- democracy vs leading heroes

*La Belle Dame Sans Merci*,  
*Ode to a Grecian Urn*,  
*Ode to Autumn*,  
*Hyperion*  
(1819)