

Literary Analysis

ROMANTIC POETRY

The romantic poets stressed emotion, spontaneity, and imagination over reason and orderliness. They stressed the importance of the individual’s subjective experiences rather than issues that concerned society as a whole. They focused on nature as a source of inspiration and solace. Their poetry often used natural, informal language. Their characters and events were commonplace, not heroic, but they often included mysterious or supernatural elements.

**Directions:** Choose one of the poems by Wordsworth. Record examples from the poem for each feature of romantic poetry listed in the first column of the chart.

Feature of Romantic Poetry	Example(s) from “ _____ ”
interest in the individual	
emphasis on the commonplace	
expression of emotions	
ordinary language	
love of nature	
mysterious, exotic, or supernatural elements (if applicable)	

SELECTED POETRY  
BY WILLIAM WORDSWORTH