

Dead Poets Society

Poetry in Dead Poets Society

Degree of difficulty:




upper–intermediate

Interests/Skills:

- Romanticism and realism
- Poetry in Dead Poets Society
- Famous (British and American) authors

*** Additional Exercises (Wahlaufgaben) well!**

If you have enough time you should do these exercises as well!

Group work: 		
(1) Definition: (a) Realism (b) Romanticism		
(2) Poetry in Dead Poets Society: Famous authors		
(3) Memorable scenes		
* (4) Lord Byron: The wild rover		
* (5) Documentary: Walt Whitman		
* (6) Shakespeare's: "A Midsummer Night's Dream"		

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Poetry in Dead Poets Society

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TOPIC	Part 01	material	timing	group	Where to find information
Poetry in Dead Poets Society	Research: Realism Romanticism		 about 60 minutes		LDEL Hutchinson Pocket Encyclopedia Internet: Britannica Online

(1)

What is **ROMANTICISM**?

What is **REALISM**?

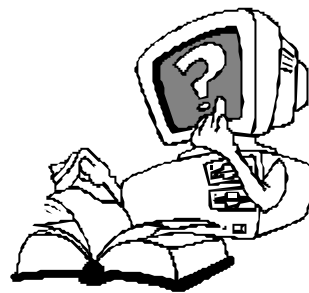
Write down the definitions!

You can:



- Look up the words in the *Longman Dictionary of English Language and Culture*.
- Look up the words in the *Hutchinson Pocket Encyclopedia*.
- Search the **net**: *The Encyclopedia Britannica Online* provides useful information!



[www:search.eb.com](http://www.search.eb.com)



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TOPIC Poetry in DPS	Part 02 Research: famous authors	material	timing  about 120 minutes	group 	Where to find information
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This is a list of poetry in Dead Poets Society

- O Captain! My Captain! - **Walt Whitman**
- To The Virgins, Make Much of Time - **Robert Herrick**
- O Me! O Life! - **Walt Whitman**
- Excerpt from Walden - **Henry David Thoreau**
- The Ballad of William Bloat - **Raymond Calvert**
- The Prophet - **Abraham Cowley**
- Ulysses - **Alfred Lord Tennyson**
- The Congo - **Vachel Lindsay**
- Song of Myself (Section 52) - **Walt Whitman**
- The Road Not Taken - **Robert Frost**
- Sonnet XVIII - **William Shakespeare**
- She Walks In Beauty - **Lord Byron**

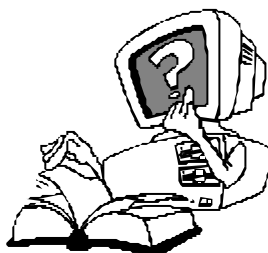
2. Try to find out as much as possible about the authors. Write down the information you can find.

You can:



- (a) Look up the names in the *Longman Dictionary of English Language and Culture*.
- (b) Look up the words in the *Hutchinson Pocket Encyclopedia*.
- (c) Search the **net**: *The Encyclopedia Britannica Online* provides useful information!



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TOPIC Poetry in DPS	Part 03 memorable scenes	material Video	timing  about 120 minutes	group 	Where to find information
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3. Now watch some of the important scenes and try to answer the questions in your "Szenenprotokoll".

Where are the following authors mentioned and why?

	scenes	content of the scene
Walt Whitman		
Robert Herrick		
Henry David Thoreau		
Vachel Lindsay		
Robert Frost		
William Shakespeare		
....		
.....		

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TOPIC	Part 04	material	timing	pairs	Where to find information
Poetry in DPS	The poet Lord Byron: The wild rover	Cassette	 about 120 minutes		

1.

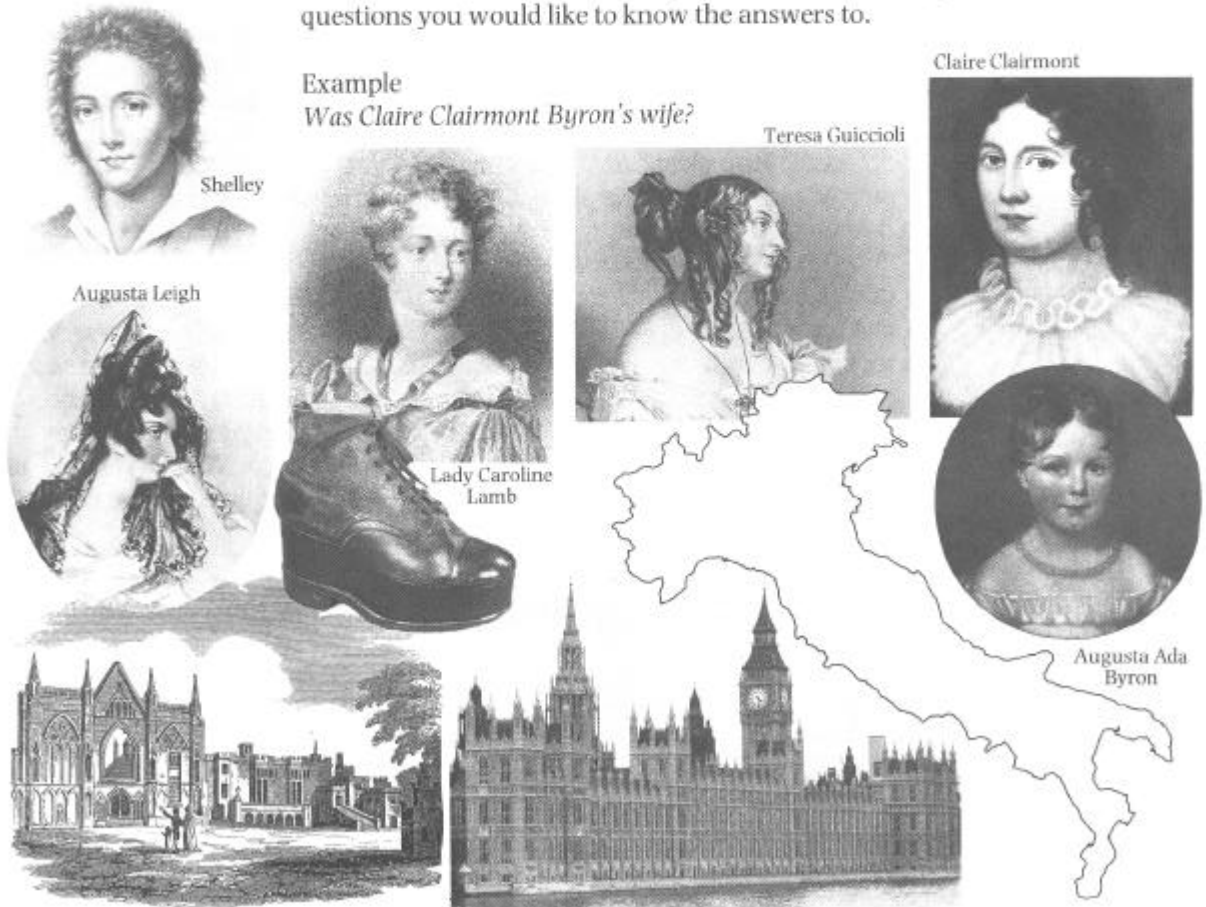


The poet GEORGE GORDON, LORD BYRON, was born in England in 1788. He studied at Cambridge, where he had his first collection of poetry published when he was 18. In 1816, at the age of 28, Byron left England on his second tour of Europe. He was never to return alive. In 1823 Byron travelled to Greece to fight in the Greek War of Independence, and it was there in the following year that he fell ill with a fever and died.

What do you think?

The pictures below are all connected with Byron's life. Work in groups of four to share what you know or can guess about his life story. Then write ten questions you would like to know the answers to.

Example
Was Claire Clairmont Byron's wife?



Shelley

Augusta Leigh



Lady Caroline Lamb

Teresa Guiccioli

Claire Clairmont

Augusta Ada Byron

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TOPIC	Part 04	material	timing	pairs	Where to find information
Poetry in DPS	The poet Lord Byron: The wild rover	Cassette	 about 120 minutes		

2. Pairwork reading

You are going to read about Byron and try to answer the questions you wrote.

- (a) Person 1 Read the biographical details on paper 1
 Person 2 Read the biographical sketch on paper 2

(b) Answer as many of your questions as possible.

(c) If any of your questions are still unanswered, you could do some more research into Byron's life in order to answer them.

<i>adventurous</i>	<i>carefree</i>	<i>nostalgic</i>	<i>romantic</i>
<i>bored</i>	<i>excited</i>	<i>regretful</i>	<i>tired</i>

3. Listen

Listen to the poem as you read it. Which of the words in the box do you feel best expresses Byron's mood when he wrote the poem?

* a-roving (archaic) – roving, wandering

*So we'll go no more a-roving**



So we'll go no more a-roving
 So late into the night,
 Though the heart be still as loving,
 And the moon be still as bright.

For the sword** outwears its sheath***,
 And the soul wears out the breast,
 And the heart must pause to breathe,
 And Love itself have rest.

Tough the night was made for loving,
 And the day returns too soon,
 Yet we'll go no more a-roving
 By the light of the moon.



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4. Comprehension Cross out the information you feel is **not** true in the following sentences.

Check



Example:

(a) The poem is probably addressed

- ~~– to a woman~~
- ~~– a male friend~~
- the poet himself.

(b) The poem was written

- late at night
- during the day.

(c) The poet

- has decided to stop adventuring
- is planning to go out and have fun.

(d) The poem is about

- a moment when time stands still
- the passing of time.

(e) The poet

- doesn't intend to fall in love again
- is hoping to find a new lover.

(f) Byron wrote the poem

- when he first met and fell in love with Teresa Guiccioli
- when he was sick and exhausted at the end of the Carnival season in Venice
- in 1816 when he left England to travel abroad.

5. Looking at style



(a) Night /nait/ and /brait/ (lines 2 and 4 are perfect rhymes. (The final vowel and consonant sounds are exactly the same.)

Although they look as if they should rhyme, a–roving and loving (lines 1 and 3) don't rhyme completely. Look up the phonetic transcription in your dictionary:

a–rowing: _____

loving: _____

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TOPIC Poetry in DPS	Part 04 The poet Lord Byron: The wild rover	material Cassette	timing  about 120 minutes	pairs 	Where to find information
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Listen to the poem again. Which pairs of words at the end of lines are perfect rhymes and which are imperfect rhymes:

- perfect rhymes: _____
- imperfect rhymes: _____
- perfect rhymes: _____
- imperfect rhymes: _____
- perfect rhymes: _____
- imperfect rhymes: _____

- (b) Read the poem again more closely. Find the details mentioned in the following sentences
- Byron starts the poem with the word 'so'.
 - In the second verse Byron uses an image of a sword in a worn-out sheath.
 - In the second verse Byron describes the heart and love as if they were people.
 - Byron uses a lot of repetition (of sounds, words, and sentence structure) throughout the poem.

6. Reading aloud (a) Read and listen to the poem again. As you listen, mark the stressed words with ?. The first line looks like this:

? ?

So we'll go no more a-rowing



- (b) Tap out the rhythm as you listen to the poem again, following the text.
- (c) Listen and read the poem with the tape.
- (d) Now read the poem aloud without the tape to help you.

7. Check your answers Check your answers in the key!





*If you have enjoyed reading the poem in this unit, and would like to read some more short poems by Byron, Shelley, and other poets old and new, we suggest you take a look at **The Oxford Book of Short Poems** edited by P J Kavanagh and*

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TOPIC	Part 04	material	timing	pairs	Where to find information
Poetry in DPS	The poet Lord Byron: The wild rover	Cassette	 about 120 minutes		

James Michie. All the poems in it are shorter than 14 lines.



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TOPIC	Part 05	material	timing	pairs	Where to find information
Poetry in DPS	Walt Whitman	Cassette	 about 120 minutes		

5. Watch the video about Walt Whitman.

- (a) **Mindmap the information of the video.**
- ***(b) **Prepare a "listening exercise" for your classmates.**

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TOPIC	Part 06	material	timing	pairs	Where to find information
Poetry in DPS	A Midsummer Night's Dream	Cassette	 about 120 minutes		

6. Do some research on Shakespeare's life and his play "A Midsummer Night's Dream".

Write a short report. Do not write more than 250 words.

