

Chapter 4 Section 4

Culture: Romanticism and Realism

Focus Questions #14

1. Define Romanticism and provide at least two individuals that are examples of this form of expression.
2. How does Romanticism compare to the Enlightenment period?
3. Define Realism and how did society feel regarding this type of expression? What was the realist response to this criticism?

Romanticism

- Prior to romanticism, classicism and its ideas were expressed in the art and literature of the period.
- These ideas expressed reason, balance, and restraint.
- Romanticism emerged as a reaction against the Enlightenment.
- It expressed ideas of feeling, emotion, and imagination.

Romanticism

- To the romantics, the inner feelings of each person were unique.
- Romantic novelists tended to create characters who were misunderstood, or rejected by society.
- These characters often isolated their individual feelings and their ideas were the only barometer for right and wrong.
- Romantic literature used ideas from the Middle ages, the history of the country, nationalism, and explored exotic and dark ideas as well.

Examples of Romanticism

- Mary Shelly's: Frankenstein
- Edgar Allen Poe Short stories of horror
- Poet William Wordsworth: whose poetry worshiped nature and questioned 18th century science, which had reduced nature to a cold object of study.
- Painters like Eugene Delacroix's, whose paintings mirrored the artists vision of the world and abandoned classical reason for warmth and emotion.

Romanticism vs Enlightenment

- Characteristics of Romanticism
 1. Emotion
 2. Creativity
 3. Color
 4. Imagination
 5. Creativity
- Characteristics of the Enlightenment
 1. Logic
 2. Reason
 3. Knowledge
 4. Science

Realism

- Realism became a movement in the mid 19th century.
- The movement rejected romanticism and emphasized actual life.
- Realist avoided emotion by focusing on precise description.
- Realist wrote about real characters from actual life rather than heroes or exotic settings.
- Many realist expressed their social views through their characters and through an examination of real social issues.

Examples of Realism

- Gustave Flaubert; French author whose work presented critical descriptions of small-town life in France.
- Charles Dickens wrote about the realities of life for poor individuals of early industrial Great Britain.
- Artist and painter Gustave Courbet work portrayed real scenes of farmers, factory workers, peasants, wives, saloons and workers.
- “I have never seen either angels or goddesses, so I am not interested in painting them.”

Realism

- Many critics of realism objected to the ugliness and human ugliness realism portrayed.
- Realist believed that no subject was too ordinary, too harsh or too ugly.