

# difference between neoclassicism and romanticism

Neoclassicism and romanticism are often considered to be opposing movements. The **main difference** between neoclassicism and romanticism is that **neoclassicism emphasized on objectivity, order, and restraint** whereas **romanticism emphasized on imagination and emotion.**

# What is Neoclassicism

- Neoclassicism is a movement in literature that drew inspiration from the classical age. The writers of this period tried to imitate the style of Greeks and Romans. This movement, which was a reaction against the renaissance, lasted from about 1660 and 1798. John Milton, Alexander Pope, Voltaire, John Dryden, Jonathan Swift and Daniel Defoe are some well-known neoclassic writers. Parody, essays, satire, novels and poetry are some popular genres in this movement.
- Neoclassicism was based on classical themes and forms. Structure, restraint, simplicity, decorum, order, logic, and objectivity were the main features of neoclassical literature. These were classical virtues which neoclassical writers admired and attempted to imitate. In his “An Essay on Criticism”, Alexander Pope describes the benefits of order and restraint as follows.

# What is Romanticism

- Romanticism is a literary movement that **lasted from about 1789 to 1832**. This can be described as a reaction against industrial revolution and neo-classicism. **The main feature of this movement is its emphasis on imagination, subjectivity, and emotion.**
- William Wordsworth, John Keats, Lord Byron, Samuel Taylor Coleridge, Walter Scott, Percy Bysshe Shelley, Mary Shelly, and William Blake are some famous writers in the Romantic Movement. This movement drew inspiration from Medieval and Baroque eras and its **main themes were nature, legends, pastoral life, and supernatural elements.**

# William Wordsworth

- **William Wordsworth** (7 April 1770 – 23 April 1850) was an English Romantic poet who, with Samuel Taylor Coleridge, helped to launch the Romantic Age in English literature with their joint publication *Lyrical Ballads* (1798).

# What is the short summary of the solitary reaper?

- In this poem, the poet (William Wordsworth) tells us about a girl, a Highland lass, who is in a field alone: "single in the field". As she is harvesting her crops, she is singing a sad tune which echoes in the deep valley. The speaker asks us to stop and listen to her tune or "gently pass"



# The Solitary Reaper

## BY WILLIAM WORDSWORTH

- Behold her, single in the field,
- Yon solitary Highland Lass!
- Reaping and singing by herself;
- Stop here, or gently pass!
- Alone she cuts and binds the grain,
- And sings a melancholy strain;
- O listen! for the Vale profound
- Is overflowing with the sound.

- No Nightingale did ever chaunt
- More welcome notes to weary bands
- Of travellers in some shady haunt,
- Among Arabian sands:
- A voice so thrilling ne'er was heard
- In spring-time from the Cuckoo-bird,
- Breaking the silence of the seas
- Among the farthest Hebrides.

- Will no one tell me what she sings?
- Perhaps the plaintive numbers flow
- For old, unhappy, far-off things,
- And battles long ago:
- Or is it some more humble lay,
- Familiar matter of to-day?
- Some natural sorrow, loss, or pain,
- That has been, and may be again?

- Whate'er the theme, the Maiden sang
- As if her song could have no ending;
- I saw her singing at her work,
- And o'er the sickle bending;—
- I listened, motionless and still;
- And, as I mounted up the hill,
- The music in my heart I bore,
- Long after it was heard no more

# The World Is Too Much With Us'

- The poem laments the withering connection between humankind and nature, blaming industrial society for replacing that connection with material pursuits

- The world is too much with us; late and soon,
- Getting and spending, we lay waste our powers;—
- Little we see in Nature that is ours;
- We have given our hearts away, a sordid boon!
- This Sea that bares her bosom to the moon;
- The winds that will be howling at all hours,
- And are up-gathered now like sleeping flowers;
- For this, for everything, we are out of tune;
- It moves us not. Great God! I'd rather be
- A Pagan suckled in a creed outworn;
- So might I, standing on this pleasant lea,
- Have glimpses that would make me less forlorn;