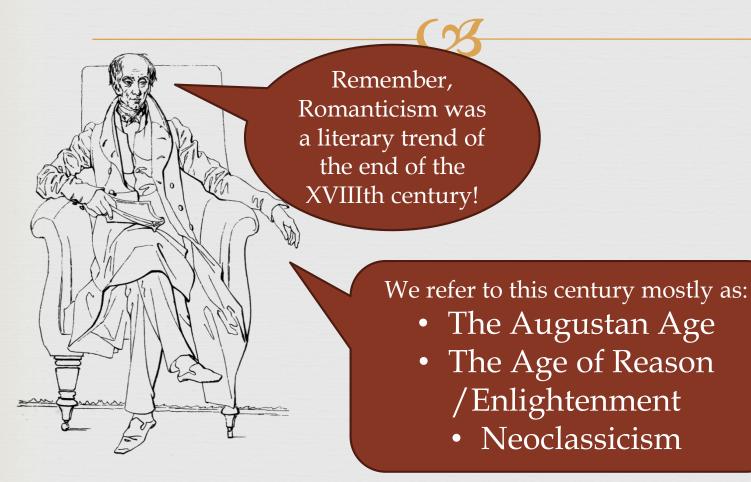
From Neoclassicism to Romanticism

CB

Short overview of the 18th century main literary trends



The Eighteenth century



William Wordsworth

The Augustan Age

CB

The 18th century is known as the Augustan Age because of the Roman **emperor Augustus.**

The period is named after him due to the inspiration that poets in the 18th century took from this period in Roman history

The main features were a dominant tone, allusions to Roman and Greek mythology as well as contemporary social and political issues.

The Age of Reason

- Use of **reason** and **individualism** instead of tradition and established doctrine
- Reason as means to discover truth and shape society
- Scientific empiricism





Neoclassicism



- Reaction to the opulence of baroque
- Artist are inspired by Greek and Roman aesthetics
- Classic canons were regarded as perfect, hence, to be imitated
- Art Beautiful Objective
- Art is cerebral rather than sensual Subjective

Steering towards Emotions

- The graveyard school of English poetry of the 1740s
- Samuel Richardson's <u>Pamela</u> (1740) and other sentimental novels that exploited the reader's capacity for tenderness and compassion
- ™ The Poems of Ossian by James Macpherson (ballads)
- ™ The Sturm und Drang movement in Germany (1770–80)

Elegy Written in a Country Churchyard Thomas Gray 1751

The <u>curfew</u> tolls the knell of <u>parting day</u>,

Passing of time/death

- The lowing herd wind slowly o'er the lea,
- The plowman homeward plods his weary way,
- And leaves the world to darkness and to me

subjective

- Now fades the glimm'ring landscape on the sight,
- And all the air a solemn stillness holds,
- Save where the beetle wheels his droning flight,
- And drowsy tinklings lull the distant folds;

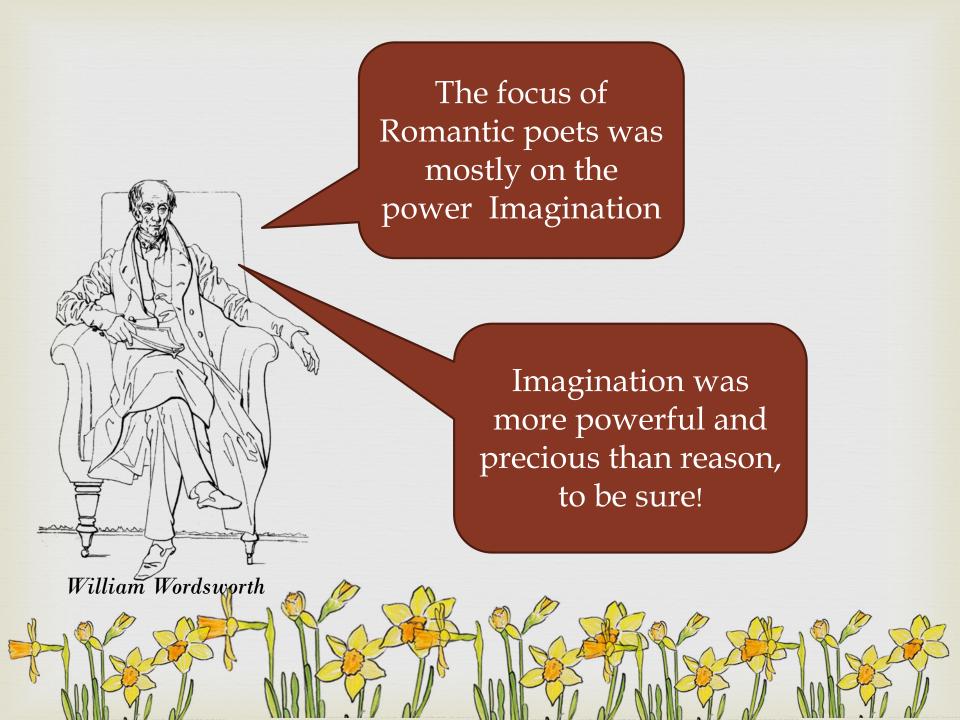
What Romanticism rejected

- Rejection of the precepts of order, calm, harmony, balance, idealization, and rationality that typified late 18th-century Neoclassicism in particular.
- Reaction against the Enlightenment and 18th-century rationalism and physical materialism in general.
- Emphasis on the individual, the subjective, the irrational, the imaginative, the personal, the spontaneous, the emotional, the visionary, and the transcendental.

What Romanticism appreciated

- CB
- Remotion over reason
- The senses over intellect
- **Residence** Passions
- The artist as a supremely individual creator
- **CR Imagination** as a gateway to **trascendent** experience and spiritual truth

Sublime



My good friend William is right!



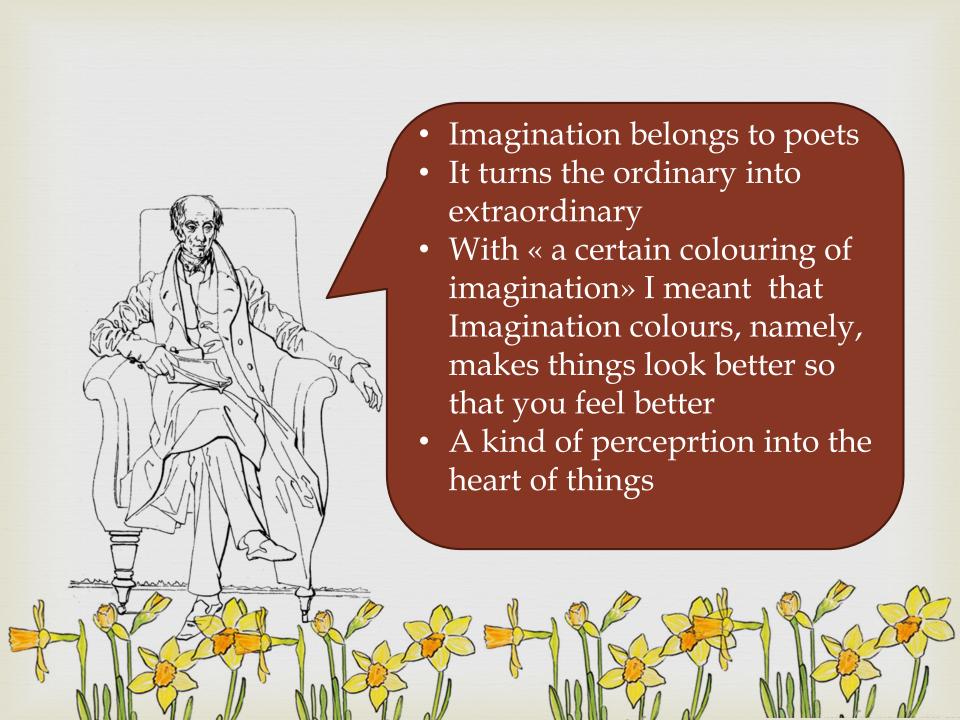
William Blake



Imagination is:

- The pillar of the spirit
- An essential part of being human
- An endless source of beauty
- The means through man can know the world

Children and **poets** enjoy the «Divine power» of Imagination.



The Manifesto of Romanticism

- The poet is a **common man** endowed with a superior sensibility. God chosen.
- ™It is his task to **communicate** what he feels through means of poetry.
- ™On this purpose the language must be simple
- **Common** topics
- **Nature** is the priviledged one

WHY?

Nature is a spiritual purifying force







NEO-CLASSICISM

ROMANTICISM

POET/ SCHOLAR

YES

NO

POET/TEACHER

NO

YES

ART/OBJECTIVE

YES

NO

ART/IMITATION

YES

NO

IMAGINATION

NO

YES

SIMPLE LANGUAGE

NO

YES

EMOTIONS

NO

YES

REASON

YES

NO

