

Year 7

Independent study booklet

Romantic and Victorian Literature

Name: _____

Form: _____

English Teacher: _____



Your teacher will collect this in during the last week of term. The whole booklet must be complete. If you do not understand a task, you must ask about it before the final hand in date. Incomplete booklets will incur a detention. Completed extension tasks will gain you Go4Schools points.

Week one: Research romantic literature

What themes are explored?

When was romantic literature written?

What historical events inspired romantic literature?

Give some examples of romantic literature.

What were the writers interested in?

Find some of the most famous authors of romantic literature.

Find some of the most famous lines of romantic literature.

Extension: Which modern books and films are inspired by romantic literature? How are the themes and ideas similar?

Week Two: Research Charlotte Bronte's life

When was she born?

What was her childhood like?

Who were her brothers and sisters?

How did she spend her time? What were her interests?

What is she remembered for? What did she write?

How did she become one of the most famous authors in the English language?

Any other interesting facts.

Extension: What themes might you see reflected in her novels and poetry? Why? Is this something you would expect for a writer in Bronte's time?

Week Three: Governess advert

Imagine you are a mother/ father in 1840. Write an advert for a governess for your children. You should include:

- What their qualifications should be.
- What they must teach the children.
- Desirable qualities of a governess.
- What you will pay/ provide for a governess.
- What they are not allowed to do.
- Your expectations for their behaviour.

Extension: Write a letter of complaint about your governess to a friend, explaining why you are disappointed in her. (Make up a good story!)

Week Four: A letter from Blanche Ingram

Imagine you are Blanche Ingram. Write a letter to Jane Eyre telling her how you feel about her recent engagement to Mr. Rochester. Are you pleased for her? Tell her what you wish for her future. Focus on developing your vocabulary.

Extension: In your letter, include:

- A semicolon sentence
- A complex sentence
- A simple sentence
- A complex sentence.
- The words “morose”, “duplicitous” and “reconciled”.

Week Five: "Agony Aunt" letter.

Write a response to this letter as if you are an agony aunt in 1800. Give some good advice to the girl writing to you about how she should behave. Remember to think about historical context.

Dear Mrs Fillyfeather,

I have recently got to know a young gentleman. I don't know enough about him to know if I can love him. I have known him a fortnight at Maryton and I danced four dances with him. Afterwards, I saw him one morning at his own home. Since then I have dined in company with him and two others four times. We have also spent four evenings playing cards.

My sister believes that happiness in marriage is entirely a matter of chance. Please tell me what you believe.

What should I do?

Yours,

Jane Bennett

Week Six: Life in Dickens' London

Research the life of Charles Dickens. When was he born? What was he famous for? What else was he interested in? What was the message of his books? What did he want to change in society?

Extension: Write a letter to Charles Dickens where you tell him about how different life is for people now.