Romanticism – Final Thoughts

- Spirit of the Age: revolution, rebellion, innovation
- Freedom, democracy, and individual rights; literature as action
- Variety of writers: men, women, and black writers
- Poet & Poetry: Speaking “I” (individual perception: feeling & emotion, receptive consciousness, creative imagination—mind “made in God’s image” (Coleridge). Poet “is a man speaking to men” (Wordsworth). Innovation, adaptation, and variety of poetic forms: lyric, ballad, sonnet, ode/meter and rhyme
- External nature represents psychological states. But the mind also internalizes nature using the imagination to give it meaning: reciprocal relationship. What is the hidden power behind nature? How can the poet access it? (Shelley)
- Romance: supernatural and magical/distant and exotic landscapes & native literature/psychological states, irrationality and imagination Make familiar and ordinary unfamiliar.
- Your own thoughts: