

Early British Poets

Emma Dove

William Shakespeare (1564-1616)

“The Phoenix and the Turtle” - which is about the ill-fated love between two birds (“truth and beauty buried be”)

“The Rape of Lucrece” - which is about how Tarquin causes Lucrece to kill herself

154 sonnets, addressed to the Fair Youth, the Dark Lady, and the Rival Poet

Iambic Pentameter

Sonnet 18 - “Shall I compare thee to a summer’s day?”

Sonnet 130 - “My mistress’s eyes are nothing like the sun”

“Shall I not add impediments?” “Does anyone object?”

John Donne (1572-1631)

Metaphysical Poet

Meditations (Meditation 17, “No man is an island”, “For whom the bell tolls”)

“The Flea” (the Flea “sucked me first and now sucked thee” and “our two bloods mingled be”)

“The Canonization” (“For God’s sake hold your tongue and let me love you”)

Holy Sonnets- “Death Be not Proud”, “Batter My Heart Three Person God”

“A Valediction Forbidding Mourning” (“Let us melt and make no noise”)

Extended metaphors

Samuel Taylor Coleridge (1772-1834)

“Rime of the Ancient Mariner” - Wedding guest gets told a story by an old sailor who shot and albatross and was cursed. Death and Life in Death play a game of chess for all the sailor’s men; Death wins and the mariner has to watch his men die. He goes home and tells everyone his story so they don’t make the same mistake. (“a thousand slimy things old crawl” and “water, water everywhere, but not a drop to drink”)

“Kubla Khan”- Opium induced dream, man from Porlock (“In Xanadu did Kubla Khan a stately pleasure dome decree”, “sacred river Alph”, and on top of a mountain there is a damsel playing a dulcimer)

William Blake

The Four Zoas

Tom Dacre, an angle sets him free

The Marriage of Heaven and Hell

Songs of Innocence and Experience

The Lamb and the Tyger (“burning bright/in the forest of the night”)

“The Chimney Sweeper” (“A little black thing whose parents went to church to pray”, and “a little black thing among the snow”)

John Keats

“When I Have Fears that I May Cease to Be”, “On First Looking into Chapman's Harbor”, “Hyperton”, “To Autumn”, “Endymion”, “Eve of St. Agnes”, “La Belle Dame Sans Merci”

“Ode to a Nightingale” (“My heart aches and a drowsy numbness pains my sense as though of hemlock I had drunk”, “Thou wast not born for death”, “Was it a vision or a dream? Do I wake or sleep?”)

“Ode on a Grecian Urn” (“Thou still unravished bride of quietness! Thou foster child of silence and slow time,” “Beauty is truth, truth is beauty- that is all ye know on earth and all ye need to know”)