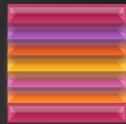


LORD BYRON



1788- 1824

"She Walks in Beauty"

"On This Day I Complete my Thirty-Sixth Year"



BYRON NOTES

- Glamorous, a “mélange” of good and evil
- Contemporary, though work is rooted in the 18th century.
- “Symbolizes the Romantic Spirit”



BYRON NOTES

- Came from a good family (LORD)
- Squandered his inheritance (therefore, not rich)
- Was going to enter the House of Lords (politics), but he decided to try Poetry first — it stuck.

BYRON NOTES

- Instant success
- Became part of the PISAN CIRCLE
(like Shelley)
- Joined the Greek army
 - Died of a fever before battle
 - Still seen as a Greek Hero



SHE WALKS IN BEAUTY



- Getting at Meaning # 1 -4
- Developing Skills # 2 & 3



SHE WALKS IN BEAUTY

Contrast of Dark and Light

- suggests that it's the harmony of two contrasting opposites that make something (or someone) really beautiful
- Compared to the stars and the moonlit sky



SHE WALKS IN BEAUTY

“Had...impaired”

- Could be rewritten “would have spoiled the nameless grace”

SHE WALKS IN BEAUTY

“Nameless Grace”

- Lines 9-12 describe the “nameless grace” that show itself both dark, as in “every raven tress,” and light, as in her facial expressions, which reveal the serenity and purity of her thoughts

SHE WALKS IN BEAUTY

“All Below”

- Line 17 – could refer to everything of this world, that is below her (or below heaven)



SHE WALKS IN BEAUTY

Sound Devices and Mood

- Assonance, Consonance, and Alliteration are interwoven (ex: line 2, line 9)
- Almost every word in any given line is aurally linked with at least one other word in the line.
- Flows seamlessly — like her beauty and intelligence

SHE WALKS IN BEAUTY


Theme

- She is so beautiful that she can only be described by the contrast/comparison of dark and light
- Byron describes her beautiful physique as well as her beautiful intelligence/personality.
- Observable unity between the physical body, the soul, and the forces of nature supports the Romantic concept of the unity of all creation.





ON THIS DAY I COMPLETE MY THIRTY-SIXTH YEAR

- Getting at Meaning # 1,2,4
 - Developing Skills #4
- 

ON THIS DAY I COMPLETE MY THIRTY-SIXTH YEAR

Byron's Complaint

- As he grows older, he no longer stirs romantic love in others.
- Reminds himself: self-pitying thoughts have no place in his present situation
- Prepares to fight for a heroic cause

ON THIS DAY I COMPLETE MY THIRTY-SIXTH YEAR

Biographical Connection

- Byron had been rejected by most of his earlier friends and lovers (including his wife)
- Determined to redeem himself by heroic action on behalf of Greece
- Fitting epitaph — written right before his own death
- Celebrates his Heroic Gesture
- Didn't actually die in battle

ON THIS DAY I COMPLETE MY THIRTY-SIXTH YEAR

"If thou regret'st thou youth, why
live?"

- He does not fear death because his youth is past anyway.
- Frees himself of the melancholy expressed in the first sixteen lines by looking forward to the glory of a heroic death on the battle field?

ON THIS DAY I COMPLETE MY THIRTY-SIXTH YEAR

Tone

- Bitter, morose tone of first four stanzas
 - Read slowly and heavily
 - Suggest death and decay
- Bold Exhortations, Rallying cry in fifth stanza
 - Short, sharp phrases
 - Repetition of words
 - Strong Pauses