



Preface to the Lyrical Ballads

William Wordsworth

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Tessa says

For College

Interesting reading, all these on my Literature Theory have been quite helpful.

Rose says

When Wordsworth defends his poetic style saying, of the old school poets, "They who have been accustomed to the gaudiness and inane phraseology of many modern writers, if they persist in reading this book to its conclusion, will, no doubt, frequently have to struggle with feelings of strangeness and awkwardness," he seems to be summing up my views of late Renaissance poetry, particularly that of Milton, and of early Enlightenment poets as well. I like Wordsworth. He's approachable.

Alenka says

I liked this (even though it is 1:22 AM here), it was humble and passionate, you can see why it is considered revolutionary.

Jane Reye says

If an Author by any single composition has impressed us with respect for his talents, it is useful to consider this as affording a presumption, that, on other occasions where we have been displeased, he nevertheless may not have written ill or absurdly; and, further, to give him so much credit for this one composition as may induce us to review what has displeased us with more care than we should otherwise have bestowed upon it. This is not only an act of justice, but in our decisions upon poetry especially, may conduce in a high degree to the improvement of our own taste: for an accurate taste in poetry, and in all the other arts, as Sir Joshua Reynolds has observed, is an acquired talent, which can only be produced by thought and a long continued intercourse with the best models of composition. This is mentioned, not with so ridiculous a purpose as to prevent the most inexperienced Reader from judging for himself, (I have already said that I wish him to judge for himself;) but merely to temper the rashness of decision, and to suggest, that, if Poetry be a subject on which much time has not been bestowed, the judgment may be erroneous; and that in many cases it necessarily will be so.

Marco says

Read for College

These critical texts are not really my thing.

Alison says

I hate this it made me want to hide in my wardrobe. I'm only adding it so I can get closer to my reading challenge goal

Momina Masood says

Here, Wordsworth presents more of an explanation than an actual defense of the style chosen for his *Lyrical Ballads*. I liked the earnestness of his language and his theory, so 4 stars. In a nutshell, Wordsworth believes that the most important function of a poet is to present the universal truths of human nature and in doing so, the poet must keep himself in a closer proximity to the real, simple passions of men that are relatable by all, and must use the language of the common man. Tough diction is not a requisite of good poetry, believes Wordsworth. In saying this, he went against 17th century classicism of pedantry, and became a precursor of the 18th century Romantic movement. This small, little preface outlines Wordsworth's aesthetic beliefs, and I quite enjoyed reading it.

Marco says

It's fascinating how in the course of two years reading the same text can have a completely contrasting impact on you. I read this text two years ago and having had to re-read it now for another subject, I realized how interesting it actually is, especially for people who enjoy poetry and that can in some way relate to Wordsworth's thoughts and way of thinking, even given the fact it was first published long ago, in 1800.

For all good poetry is the spontaneous overflow of powerful feelings

(...)

Poetry is the breath and finer spirit of all knowledge

Jonathan says

What can I say?

I was 'forced' to read this as part of my 'Literary Theory & Criticism' course at University (English Major), and after much whining, I braved the first page. And I was left speechless until the end of the essay, in stark contrast to my initial refusal to bother with the text.

Mithun Barman says

preface to lyrical ballads is one of the most fundamental theory regarding the written style of poetry so that poem can move man into the world of happiness & charm...its main features r...a. the basic elements of poetry , b.the function of poetic diction, c. the nature of a poet..d. revolution against the neoclassical poetic device & e. the subject matter of poetry...etc.
