Romanticism Notes

**Basic Definition:** Romanticism was a literary, artistic and philosophical movement originating in Europe that lasted from the late 18th century through the mid-19th century.

1. Romantics celebrated . . .
   a. The individual
   b. Nature
   c. The senses and emotions (over reason and intellect)
   d. Imagination
   e. Spontaneity
   f. A preoccupation with the genius, the hero & the exceptional figure
   g. A new view of the artist as a supremely individual creator
   h. Folk culture and national and ethnic cultural origins
   i. The medieval era

2. Romantics were fascinated by . . .
   a. The exotic
   b. The remote
   c. The mysterious
   d. The weird
   e. The occult
   f. The monstrous
   g. The diseased
   h. Even the satanic

3. Romantics reacted against . . .
   a. The Enlightenment
      i. A time of greater religious and political freedom in England
      ii. New scientific developments (like understanding the circulatory system and developing a heliocentric view of the universe)
      iii. Also known as the “Age of Reason”
   b. Classicism

4. Romantic poets included . . .
   a. William Blake (some call him a pre-Romantic)
   b. William Wordsworth
   c. Samuel Taylor Coleridge
   d. Lord Byron
   e. Percy Bysshe Shelley
   f. John Keats