

## Classicism vs. Romanticism

Remember that it is a generalization: not all Romantic works exhibit all of the characteristics below.

A work is more or less Romantic as it exhibits more and more or fewer of these characteristics.

<b>Classicism</b>	<b>Romanticism</b>
didactic purpose; the collective good over the individual good	expressive purpose; tries to convey intense emotions associated with unusual experiences
primacy of reason over emotion, the normal over the abnormal, the conventional over the individual	primacy of imagination & emotion over reason, abnormal over normal, individual over conventional
subject-matter almost exclusively from Greco-Roman history and mythology	wide range of subject-matter, from current events to bizarre legends
clear, closed, balanced, planar, orderly, restrained compositions	unusual and dramatic compositions based on diagonals, whirlpools, etc.
'linear' use of paint, carefully blended, using small, almost invisible strokes	'painterly' use of paint, each stroke distinct and unblended, as though painted rapidly
use of color and light for clarity, to distinguish the individual characters in the work	expressive use of color and light (e.g. blue = sad; strong contrasts of light = dramatic, etc.)
the artist as propagandist and moralist	the artist as political radical and nonconformist
'genius' as learned; there are rules for producing great art	'genius' as innate; learning stifles genius; great art breaks the rules