

## Katherine D. Harris

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**Sent:** Wednesday, February 22, 2006 6:23 PM  
**To:** RomanticGender@listproc.sjsu.edu  
**Subject:** English 232- Discussion questions for tomorrow's class

Hello, fellow lovers of the Romantics!

Here are my three discussion questions for tomorrow's class as a brief summary of my essay:

Ross, Marlon B. "Romantic Quest and Conquest: Troping Masculine Power in the Crisis of Poetic Identity." *Romanticism and Feminism*. Ed. Anne Mellor. Bloomington: Indiana UP, 1988. 26-51.

In this article, Ross examines the ways in which poets of the Romantic era are driven to self-possession as the motivating force for poetic expression. He describes this internal self-questing of the Romantic poet as an attempt to reestablish a relation with the external world and to reestablish masculinity. Byron and Wordsworth act as examples of Romantic poets who share this quest for self-possession yet who approach their destination through different modes.

1) Given the emotion described in Wordsworth's "Tintern Abbey," would you classify this poem as "feminine" or "masculine"? Why, specifically?

2) What is the purpose of Wordsworth's inclusion of the character, Dorothy, in the poem? Could she be seen as an extension of Wordsworth's character?

3) In Ross's article, he states that Wordsworth's task in writing poetry is to "return the language, and by extension the feeling and thought, to its aboriginal source in the real events, to embolden the language and re-empower the influence of the poet" (39). How does the language in "Tintern Abbey" connect you as the reader to real events?

Happy reading!  
See you in class,  
~Katie Isaacs

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