Man, nature and the city

## Lesson 4 – ‘Composed upon Westminster Bridge, September 3, 1802’ (Wider Contexts, p. 204-205)

### 15 minutes ago: ‘London' – and now to a completely different description of the city…

# British Romanticism (ppt)

Attached to the Friday lesson of last week.

# Groups according to the age of your youngest sibling

# Conversation board game (incl. industrialisation, Romanticism, US election, sensory imagery, grammar)

# Introductions to sonnets

14 verse lines of iambic pentameter.

Rhyme scheme of the English (Shakespearean) sonnet: abab cdcd efef gg (four quatrains and a couplet)

Rhyme scheme of the Petrarchan (Italian) sonnet: abbaabba cdcdcd (an octave followed by a sestet)

Other rhyme schemes are possible as well.

# Listen to the poem

<https://www.poetryfoundation.org/poems/45514/composed-upon-westminster-bridge-september-3-1802>

# Analysis of William Wordsworth’s ‘Composed upon Westminster Bridge, September 3, 1802’

Regular group work – and if some of you prefer working individually, that is possible, too. Support your analysis with quotes from the text, and write notes so that you can participate in the class discussion afterwards.

1. Prove that the poem is an Italian sonnet.
2. What does the speaker see of London? What does he not see? Why is this, in combination with the time of day, significant?
3. Does the speaker expect to see what he sees? How do you know?
4. Comment on how sensory imagery is used to create a calm and idyllic atmosphere. You may also want to comment on the use of personification and emotive language (i.e., words that cause people to feel (strong) emotions).
5. Relate ‘Composed upon…’ to British Romanticism. Use the extract from ‘Preface to *Lyrical Ballads*’ and the ppt.
6. Compared the two poems about London that we have analysed today. Which of the two accounts appeal the most to you?

# Class discussion

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