

2.7 She Walks in Beauty

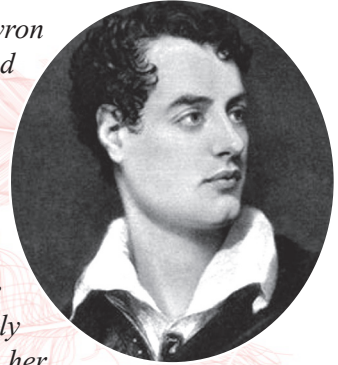
ICE BREAKERS

- While judging any person you would consider certain aspects. Complete the diagram after carefully thinking what aspects you would consider.

Different aspects of a person	appearance

- Make a list of proverbs and quotations related to 'Beauty'.
 - (a)
 - (b)
 - (c)
 - (d)
 - (e)
- Discuss your impressions about someone's personality, and say what you like the most and why.
 - (a)
 - (b)
 - (c)
 - (d)
 - (e)

George Gordon Byron (1788 to 1824), known simply as Lord Byron was a famous English Romantic poet and also a satirist. He attended a number of schools, including the famous Public School, Harrow and then went to Trinity College, Cambridge. At the age of 21, he started a tour of Europe and the Orient after which he composed 'Childe Harold's Pilgrimage' which made him immensely popular in England.



'She Walks in Beauty' is a short lyrical poem celebrating female beauty. The poet describes an unnamed woman who is exceptionally striking. The poet describes not only her external appearance but also her inner goodness which makes her so captivatingly attractive. Byron compares her to the night sky describing her serene and perfect beauty. Although the poem is generally thought to be a love poem, the poet never actually declares his love for this lady.

She Walks in Beauty

She walks in beauty, like the night
Of cloudless **climes** and starry skies;
And all that's best of dark and bright
Meet in her **aspect** and her eyes;
Thus **mellowed** to that tender light
Which heaven to **gaudy** day denies.

One shade the more, one ray the less,
Had half impaired the nameless grace
Which waves in every **raven** tress,
Or softly lightens o'er her face;
Where thoughts serenely sweet express,
How pure, how dear their **dwelling-place**.

And on that cheek, and o'er that brow,
So soft, so calm, yet **eloquent**,
The smiles that win, the tints that glow,
But tell of days in goodness spent,
A mind at peace with all below,
A heart whose love is innocent!

- Lord Byron

climes : climate

aspect : features

mellowed : made smooth
and soft

gaudy : bright and showy

raven : a large bird of the
crow family with shiny
black feathers

*The colour of the lady's
hair is*

*The phrase 'dwelling-
place' refers to her*

eloquent : expressive

BRAINSTORMING

- (A1) (i) 'Beauty lies in the eyes of the beholder' – you have probably heard this saying. Discuss in your class how far the statement is true.
- (ii) Discuss with your partner about the most inspirational person you have come across. Also explain the reasons behind your opinion.
- (A2) (i) After reading the poem match column A with column B.

Column A	Column B
(1) the lady's beauty	wavy and black
(2) her hair	a perfect blend of light and darkness
(3) her eyes	at peace with all below a heart
(4) her smile	a cloudless starry night
(5) her mind	expresses thoughts serenely and sweetly
(6) her face	soft, calm and eloquent

- (ii) The lady in the poem has a winning smile and a glowing skin. According to the poet she is blessed with these things because

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- (iii) In this poem the poet brings a perfect balance of outer beauty and inner beauty. Write a few lines on how the poet brings this balance in his description.

- (iv) 'Beauty is skin deep'- Do you agree with the statement ? Or do you feel that beauty comes from within ? Explain your views in a few sentences.

- (A3) (i) Find out the words which are used to describe the lady in the poem.
- (ii) A contraction is a shortened version of the written and spoken forms of the word, syllable or word groups created by omission of internal letters and sounds. Find out the instances of contractions from the poem.
- (A4) (i) The poet creates an imagery of light and darkness to bring out the beauty of the lady. Find out the lines with such imageries and complete the table.

Lines with imagery	Reason for using
(1) And all that's best of dark and bright	To express the beauty of the eyes
(2)	
(3)	

(ii) Find out from the poem examples of :

- (a) Simile
- (b) Metaphor
- (c) Alliteration
- (d) Personification
- (e) Antithesis

(A5) (i) Write an appreciation of the poem ‘She Walks in Beauty’.

Refer to the earlier poems for the points to be covered for appreciation.

(ii) Compose a poem of at least 4 - 6 lines on ‘Beauty of Nature’.

(iii) Write at least one paragraph and expand the inherent idea of the saying ‘A Thing of Beauty is a Joy Forever’.

(A6) (i) Browse the internet and find out different types of poems on ‘Beauty’.

(ii) Byron’s name is often taken along with his two contemporaries – Shelley and Keats. Go to your school/college library and read some poems written by P. B. Shelley and John Keats to get a better idea about the Romantic Poets.

