George Gordon, Lord Byron (1788-1824)

--Scottish descent

-- title at age 10, uncle died (aristocrat)

--born with birth defect of club foot, walked w/limp, cane (self-conscious, over-compensated), skilled swimmer, into his looks (vain)

--people back then thought club foot was of the devil, called him names, would show how bad he could be (REBEL)

--experimented with LOTS (drugs, ideas --VERY OPEN MINDED--, sex)

--very mercurial (bi-polar or manic-depressive); bulimic (tended to gain weight)

--Father was sea captain who was womanizer

--Friends with Shelley (horror story weekend in Switzerland)

--fell in love, married, half-sister (shunned in society), ostracized him; had a girl named August Ada, was not faithful; wife left him taking child, Byron never saw her again, open wound, never got over it

-- exiled self from England

\*\* More like NEOCLASSICAL (Augustan) writers from Restoration period

\*\*Child Harold’s Pilgrimage made him famous, overnight; Don Juan (satire abt relationships, against poets like Wordsworth)

\*\* BYRONIC HERO (lone introspective thinker, sad)

(people liked to listen to him read poetry, discuss it—he was very charismatic—almost envied his “care-free” lifestyle)

--hated Wordsworth, called him a “sell out,” was traitor revolutionary spirit of the time

--died at battlefield where he went to help Greeks fight against Turkey (never got to fight, died of fever)