

# Introduction

*British Literature 2: Romantics to the Present* focuses on authors and works from passionate Romanticism to smug Victorianism to a doubting, wary, Orwellian twentieth century. Lessons emphasize the links among literature, culture, and history.

Part 1 introduces major figures of the Romantic Era, such as poets Wordsworth and Keats and novelists Austen and Shelley. Part 2 examines the Victorian Age of Empire, when writers like Dickens, Kipling, and Hardy lauded and questioned England's growing world influence. In Part 3, the events and ideas that accompanied the turn of the century are viewed through the writers of the Modern Era, like Yeats, Woolf, and Eliot. Finally, Part 4 focuses on how postwar British writers responded to the considerable social changes that followed the end of the World Wars.

This unit has nine general objectives:

- To familiarize students with major writers and works from the late eighteenth century to the present
- To generate enthusiasm for and interest in England's literature, culture, and history
- To integrate into the study of British literature the role of women and minority writers
- To prompt understanding of Romanticism as a comprehensive art movement
- To develop awareness of interrelationships among literature, art, history, scientific development, and philosophy
- To challenge students to relate their own experiences and thoughts to English literature
- To encourage integration of skills from both the classroom and the workplace: reading, thinking, writing, speaking
- To facilitate diverse classroom activities in teaching/learning literature
- To lead students to cross-relate recurring themes and movements in English literature