

The poem is "An Elegy Written in a Country Church Yard" by Thomas Gray.

What is Pre-romanticism ?

When did it start?

What is 'the grave yard school'?

Who are its pioneers?

What are the classical elements and the new elements of Pre-romanticism?

Study the poem and analyse it in terms of the main idea, themes and classical and new elements with examples.

Discuss Gray's pictorial power in the poem.

The poem is too long and it cost the poet six years to finish it. The required part is just the first sixty lines(60) lines starting with

the curfew tolls the knells of parting day

And ending with the following line

Some Cromwell guiltless of his Country's Blood

The poem is an elegy which means a mournful poem or a poem of lamentation.

The romantic elements are clear in the title. It reflects a sense of melancholy and sadness. It is about death of the poor. It opens with an atmosphere of stillness and silence in a cold weather which evokes sadness and brings to readers a feeling of despair , melancholy and misery increasing with isolation and darkness.

What are the elements of elegy?

1. Iambic pentameter.
2. Love of humanity
3. Futility of human life
4. Simple theme but difficult language
5. Beautiful description of nature
6. Pictorial power (the use of images)
7. Music and lyricism

8. Evolution of thought(the poet is rational and systematic. He starts with the description of the background and then he thinks about the dead and tries to console the poor through equating them with the rich.

9. Melancholy through the description of the dead in graves, the atmosphere of isolation and the state of their wives and children