

**George Gordon  
Lord Byron  
(1788-1824)**



## Origins and early years

- January 22, 1788, London
- son of :  
Captain John 'Mad Jack' Byron and his second wife, Catherine Gordon, a Scottish heiress;
- **his paternal grandfather was the younger brother of the 5th Baron Byron, while his maternal grandfather was a descendant of King James I.**

- On reaching his majority, in 1809, Byron took his seat in the House of Lords, and then embarked with a close friend on a grand tour, visiting Portugal, Spain, Malta, Greece, Albania, Turkey.



- His father died so George and his mother got back to England
- In 1801 he went to Harrow, one of England's most prestigious schools
- In 1805 he entered Trinity College and indulged in the conventional vices of undergraduates there.

**Major works**

- Hours of Idleness (1806)
- Childe Harold's Pilgrimage (1812–1818)
- The Prisoner Of Chillon (1816)
- The Dream (1816)
- The Island (1823)
- The Prophecy of Dante (1819)
- The Age of Bronze (1823)

# Life

- In Greece he began ***Childe Harold's Pilgrimage***, a narrative poem, published between 1812 and 1818. The term childe is a medieval form meaning “a candidate for knighthood”.
- The poem contains autobiographical elements. Byron travelled through the Mediterranean and Aegean Sea between 1809 and 1811.



Lord Byron in Greece

Life

Deeply mourned, he became a **symbol** of disinterested **patriotism** and a **Greek national hero**.



Lord Byron's Monument at Missolonghi

## Byron monuments



Byron's Stone in Telepelene, Albania

Statue of Lord Byron  
in Athens.



"Byron's Grotto" in Porto Venere, Italy,  
named in his honour, because according to  
a local legend he meditated here and drew  
inspiration from this place for his literary  
works.

BYRON'S  
POETRY:  
A REVIEW

- In all his poetry there is a current of gloom and pessimism. The reason for this gloom and sorrow may be found in social and political events of his day.

- The industrial revolution in England and the invention of new machines which supplanted workers brought misery to thousands of laborers.

- Wars, economic and political oppression of common people, all these facts gave rise to his discontent with social and political life. So he raised his voice to condemn them.

- Once Byron said “to withdraw myself from myself.” It hints that there are many selves in his poems and as many motives for writing. He is the most various of poets for he tried everything in poetry and in life.

- His poetry varies a great deal, but it is not enough to say that it is the poetry of masks and that he has different persona for every poem.

- Definitely, that persona is a part of his shifting self, of his endless exploration of life and of his continual search for something that would occupy his energy.

- Byron is the romantic poet whose work is most inclined to question the values of safety and prudence.

- He invites the reader continually to be adventurous, and to sympathize with those who are imprudent and sensitive including himself.