

London 1802 by  
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A lot of Romantic era poets wrote about change, the change from misery to happiness.

Many wrote about their sadness and problems they had but then spoke of what could help them become happier such as another person, an object, nature or even just song. "London 1802" by William Wordsworth "Ode to a Nightingale" by John Keats and "To a Skylark" by Percy Shelley all spoke of a change in either their state of mind or in their hopes and dreams. In London 1802 Wordsworth writes about John Milton and his importance in the role to help change England. The speaker cries out for Milton to come back and help him change the wrong and sadness in England.

He thinks that Milton can "give us manners, virtue, freedom, power." (line 8) And compared his voice to be as pure as the sea. Milton could write and speak of change and people would listen to him. Wordsworth did not see these traits in people in England at the time. He believed Milton a powerful enough man to change the problems and people in England.

Wordsworth wanted Milton to change England from bad to good for everyone to live together happily. Similar to Wordsworth's "London 1802" Percy Shelley's "To a Skylark" saw hope for better in another. Except in "To a Skylark" it was from a bird and its song not a man and his words. Shelley describes the birds' magnificence through many visual similes and metaphors. "Higher still and higher from the earth thou springest like a cloud of fire." (lines 6-8) The bird's beauty is like fire and can stand out over anything.

The skylark gives Shelley a feeling of numbness. It sings with no error but rather gets rid of all error and frees Shelley from pain and problems. The bird's songs beauty over passes every thing else. The skylark is almost exactly like the bird in Keats's " Ode to a Nightingale"; both represent pure expression through their songs. It begins the same as " London 1802" stating their problems.

The speaker is in heartache and looks to find a way to change it. He first looks toward God and wine to change his bad fortunes. He then begins to listen to the voice of the bird. Its beauty makes him think twice about fixing his problems through wine. He says that the bird is immortal that everyone will always hear its beauty in song.

" Away! away! for I will fly to thee, Not charioted by Bacchus and his pards, But on the viewless wings of Poesy," (lines31-33) He speaks to the bird to fly away and he will follow not through the wine but through poetry. The bird brings out the love of poetry for the speaker.