

George Gordon Byron.

22 of January, 1788 – 19 of April, 1824



- Byron was born in an old aristocratic family.
- His mother came from a rich Scottish family.
- His Father was a poor army officer who spend his wife`s money soon and died when the boy was 3 years old.



The poet's father, Captain John Byron

- The boy was born lame, but he liked sports and trained every day.
- He liked history and read much.



- In 1798 Byron`s great-uncle died and the boy inherited the title of Lord and the family estate, Newstead Abbey in Nottinghamshire.
- The family went to live there.



- He studied in Harrow School.
- Leaving it Byron entered Cambridge University and there his literary career began.



- It was the time after first bourgeois revolution in France.
- The European nations were struggling against Napoleon for their independence.



- Byron hated the exploitation and helped people fighting for freedom and independence.

- When he published his first collection of poems “Hours of Idleness”, he was attacked by critics.
- In 1809 he went traveling. Byron described his travels in a long poem, “Childe Harold`s Pilgrimage”
- Byron became one of most popular men in London.



Between 1813 and 1816 he wrote:

- “Oriental Tales”
- “The Corsair”
- “Lara”

The hero of poem is a rebel against society.

Giaour (First poem of the "Oriental Tales")



- Byron`s anti-government speeches in Parliament and his divorce from his wife helped the poet`s enemies to begin an attack against him.
- He had to leave England
- He went to Italy. Byron joined the Carbonari.
- There he wrote many of his best poems: fourth part of “Childe Harold`s Pilgrimage”, “Don Juan”, “The Age of Bronze”.

“Don Juan”



- Byron hated war and showed the people's struggle against Napoleon and his defeat in Russia.



- In 1923 Byron went to Greece and joined the Greek people in the struggle for independence against Turkey.

- In April in 1824 he fell ill with fever and on 19 of April Byron died.
- His body was taken to England and buried in a family Byron`s crypt.



Questions:

1. What family was born Byron?
2. Byron was born lame, wasn't he?
3. What did he like, when he studied in Harrow School?
4. When did his literary career begin?
5. What did Byron hate?
6. Why did he die?