

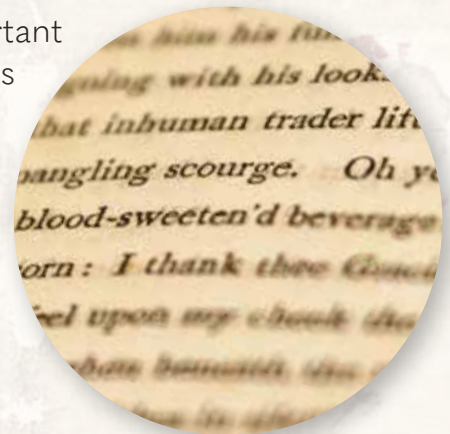
SUBJECT: ENGLISH LITERATURE
TOPIC: THE TRANSATLANTIC SLAVE TRADE
TITLE: THE POETRY OF ROBERT SOUTHEY
ON THE TRANSATLANTIC SLAVE TRADE



The Poetry of Robert SOUTHEY

To read and understand the poems written by Robert Southey about the Transatlantic Slave Trade, to gain an understanding of what motivated him to write about the subject, and how they were received by readers at the time of his writing (late 18th - early 19th centuries).

Select one of the poems in the collection, and choose 5 words or phrases from the text which you feel illustrate Southey's opinions about the Transatlantic Slave Trade. For example, what does the poet mean when he uses the metaphor "blood-sweeten'd beverage" in Sonnet III? How important do you think poetry was in the 18th and 19th centuries in providing information for people about things that were happening thousands of miles away from home? Identify some facts about Robert Southey which might explain why he was interested in the slave trade - for example, where did he come from, and why could this be important?



REFERENCES:

- Robert Southey: "Poems on the Slave Trade"
- "Slavery in the Age of Revolution" interview with Professor Seamus Perry, Balliol College, Oxford
- Oxford Dictionary of National Biography, www.oxforddnb.com



ACADEMIC ESSAYS Politics, Abolition, and undergraduate life in the 1790s:
the Case of Robert Southey by Seamus Perry

TAKE HOME TASKS:

Write a short poem about the Transatlantic Slave Trade, based on what you know about the subject, using metaphors in the same way that Robert Southey does.