

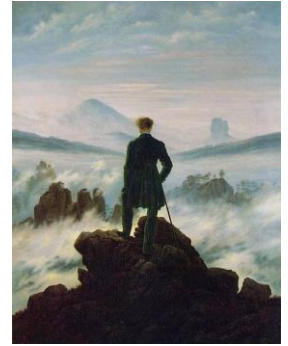
Name _____

CHILDE HAROLD'S PILGRIMAGE

-Lord Byron-

Childe Harold's Pilgrimage is a lengthy narrative poem written in four parts by Lord Byron. It was published between 1812 and 1818. The poem describes the travels and reflections of a world-weary young man who, disillusioned with a life of pleasure and revelry, looks for distraction in foreign lands.

Byron wrote the first two cantos of *Childe Harold's Pilgrimage* during his travels to Europe in 1809-1811. Byron was initially hesitant at having the first two cantos of the poem published because he felt it revealed too much of himself. It was published, at the urging of friends, by John Murray in 1812. It brought both the poem and Byron to immediate and unexpected public attention. Byron later wrote, "I awoke one morning and found myself famous." The third and fourth cantos were added later and published in 1816 and 1818 respectively. Byron envisioned the poems as a poetic travelogue of his experiences in Portugal, Spain, Greece, and Albania, areas of Europe not under Napoleon Bonaparte's direct control. As a record of his journey through lands in which war was an ever-present specter, it is not surprising that much of the work meditates upon war, conquest, and violence in the name of one cause or another. The poem reflects Byron's political views, particularly his support for Greek independence from Turkey (a cause for which he eventually fought and died). Besides politics, Byron includes his love for the East in his celebration of the peoples and places he encounters.



Byron intentionally chose to write *Childe Harold's Pilgrimage* in the form of Spenserian stanzas. Each canto is made up of several nine-line stanzas, each focused on some aspect of the journey, but with several linked together by subject. These stanzas are made up of eight lines in iambic pentameter, followed by a final line of twelve syllables, also written in iambic meter. Each stanza follows the rhyme scheme ABABBCBC.

The protagonist of *Childe Harold's Pilgrimage* is called Childe Harold. "Childe" being the title given to a young man who is eligible for knighthood. One main theme of the cantos is Byron's hatred of oppression. In Cantos I and II he describes the Spanish resistance to Napoleon's forces, clearly siding with the "noble" Spanish against these agents of tyranny. Later, he describes the Greeks as admirable people beaten into submission by the Turkish oppressors. In both cases, Byron takes the side of the "underdog" - a stance he would tend toward all his life. England was already allied with Spain against France, but even she had not been, Byron would have likely sided with the oppressed against the oppressor in any case. Byron made a battle for independence and liberation central to his public persona through his poetry and political actions.

MATCHING: Match the term with its description.

1. ____ travelogue	A. Author of <i>Childe Harold's Pilgrimage</i>
2. ____ four	B. Byron's stanzas were made up of this many lines
3. ____ Childe Harold	C. Published <i>Childe Harold's Pilgrimage</i> in 1812
4. ____ narrative	D. Side with the disadvantage; Byron sided with them usually
5. ____ childe	E. <i>Childe Harold's Pilgrimage</i> is made up of this many cantos
6. ____ Napoleon Bonaparte	F. The protagonist of the poem
7. ____ John Murray	G. Type of poem <i>Childe Harold's Pilgrimage</i> is
8. ____ nine	H. Man who controlled much of Europe during the time of the poem
9. ____ Lord Byron	I. <i>Childe Harold's Pilgrimage</i> is one of these based off Byron's life
10. ____ underdog	J. The title given to a young man who is eligible for knighthood

MULTIPLE CHOICE: Choose the BEST answer from the choices provided.

11. What was *Childe Harold's Pilgrimage* mostly about?

- A. A man who was tired of living the straight life and wanted to stop following the rules.
- B. A man who was bored with his life of debauchery and decided to travel.
- C. A man who saw the horrors of the world and wrote about them.
- D. A man who joined the battle for independence for nations controlled by Napoleon.

12. *Childe Harold's Pilgrimage* is somewhat autobiographical for which person?

- A. Napoleon Bonaparte
- B. John Murray
- C. Lord Byron
- D. Childe Harold

13. What views does Lord Byron express in *Childe Harold's Pilgrimage*?

- A. Religious
- B. Racial
- C. Political
- D. Family Values

14. What continent does *Childe Harold's Pilgrimage* discuss?

- A. North America
- B. South America
- C. Africa
- D. Europe

15. Which of the following does NOT describe the format of *Childe Harold's Pilgrimage*?

- A. Four cantos
- B. 9 line stanzas
- C. Rhyme Scheme of ABABABCCA
- D. Written in iambic meter