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William Blake (28 November 1757 – 12 August 1827) was an English poet, painter, and printmaker. Largely unrecognised during his lifetime, Blake is now considered a seminal figure in the history of the poetry and visual arts of the Romantic Age. His prophetic works have been said to form "what is in proportion to its merits the least read body of poetry in the English language". His visual artistry led one contemporary art critic to proclaim him "far and away the greatest artist Britain has ever produced". In 2002, Blake was placed at number 38 in the BBC's poll of the 100 Greatest Britons.

1. Romantic Poet: William Blake. 2. William Blake: British Romantic poet, 1757-1827. One of the first writers of the Romantic Period. Not always a poet: 10. Drawing school. Royal Academy of Arts. Apprentice for a well-known engraver, James Basire. Read and wrote poetry in his free time. 3. Relief Etching. In 1788, Blake began to experiment with relief etching, also called illuminated printing. 1. Write the text and illustrations of the poems on copper plates with pens & brushes, using an acid-resistant medium. 2. Etch the plates in acid to dissolve the untreated copper, leaving the