

William Blake A True Visionary



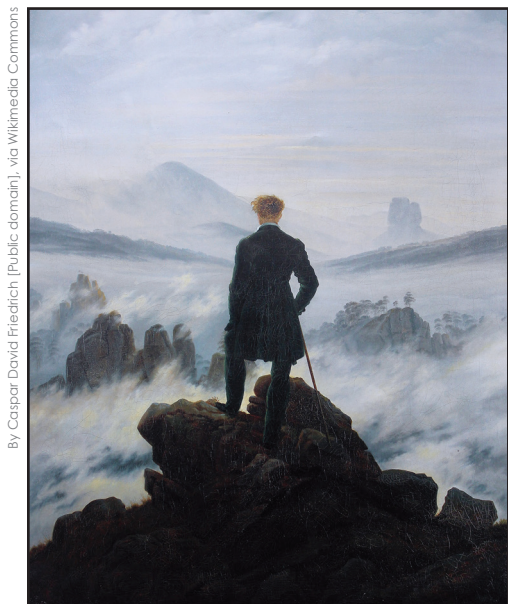
By Thomas Phillips [Public domain], via Wikimedia Commons

William Blake in 1807

A visionary is a person who sees possibilities where others do not. Usually, visionaries are leaders in some way. In many ways, William Blake was a visionary of the Romantic era.

Throughout history, there have been many different eras. An era is a period of time. The era we live in now is called the Information Age. That is because we use technology and science to find out how things work. Some visionaries of the Information Age include Steve Jobs and Bill Gates. Steve Jobs helped start Apple Computers. He had the idea for the iPad and iPhone. Bill Gates started the software company Microsoft.

William Blake



**“Wanderer Above the Sea” by
Caspar David Friedrich**

The Romantic era started in the late 1700s. It lasted until around the 1850s. During this era, many artists and writers created work about feelings and nature. Writers wrote about romance and love. They wrote about things that couldn't be real, like fairies or monsters.

William Blake was both an artist and a writer. He wrote and painted in the Romantic style. He was one of the first people to do this. He is called a visionary for this reason. But he was also literally a visionary! A visionary is also a person who sees visions. William Blake claimed to see visions many times over the course of his life.

William Blake was both an artist and a writer. He



**This shows an engraving (left) and
a print from the engraving (right)**

William Blake was born in 1757. He showed artistic talent from a very young age. When he was 10, he went to art school. He became a talented painter and artist. He also became an engraver. He

carved images onto a flat piece of copper. Then he put ink on them and printed the images. Engraved images can be reproduced over and over.

Blake was also a printer and inventor. He invented new ways to print books. He even invented a way to print books in color. In this way, he printed many of his stories and poems.

William Blake

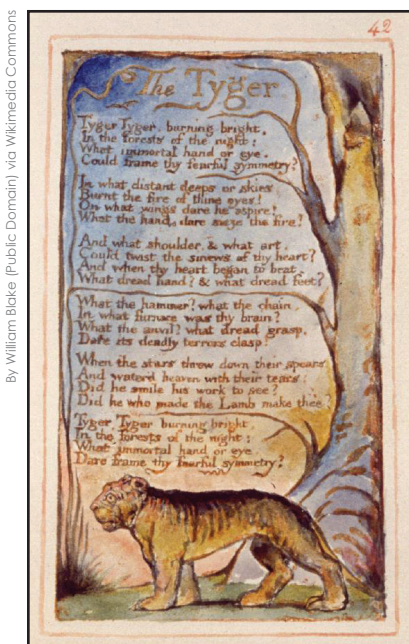


By William Blake (Public Domain) via Wikimedia Commons

“Ghost of a Flea” by William Blake

When it comes to his visions, Blake claimed to have had a lot of them. He said that he had his first vision when he was four years old. At age 10, Blake claimed to have seen a tree full of angels. When his brother died, Blake claims to have seen his brother’s spirit rising from his body. Later, he created many paintings of people long dead or of

unreal creatures. He claimed that they appeared to him in visions. He said they posed for him while he painted the pictures. Some of them were really weird. Like this one, which he said was a painting of the ghost of a flea.



By William Blake (Public Domain) via Wikimedia Commons

“The Tyger” by William Blake

Blake wrote and illustrated a number of books. He also wrote a lot of poetry. Many people consider his poem *The Tyger* to be his best-known poem.

William Blake did not become famous during his lifetime. He became famous after his death. His work inspired many other artists and writers of the Romantic era. Only after he died did people begin to see William Blake as a true visionary.