

“I Am” by John Clare



John Clare (William Hilton, 1820)

“I Am”

- The enigmatic lyric “I Am” describes **the dissolution of subjectivity** so frequently invoked by Romantic-era authors.
- It is possible to understand “I Am” within the context of Clare’s long struggle with mental illness, but it’s also useful to read it as one of many Romantic texts exploring **the instability of the self**.

Source

- *Teaching with The Norton Anthology of English Literature: A Guide for Instructors*, 9th ed., W. W. Norton & Company, 2012. (Slide 2)