The purpose of this thesis is to analyse two short stories by E.T.A. Hoffmann, *Der Sandmann* and *Das öde Haus*. The goal of this thesis is to compare and contrast both stories and, by doing so, mediate a complex look at social and socio-psychological connections of the then era with regards to the contemporary. Firstly, I am going to present a closer look at the era of German romanticism, which will contribute to the understanding of Hoffmann’s work. The next chapter talks about E.T.A. Hoffmann in the romantic context and his biography. The core of the thesis is represented by the practical part, where both stories are contrastively analysed. The analysis emphasises childhood trauma of both protagonists, which follows them throughout their lives.