

Romanticism

-a movement in the arts that flourished in Europe and America in the 19th century that emphasized emotion and insight over reason.

1800s

I. Common ideals of Romantic writers:

1. Glorified nature
2. Idealized the past
3. Celebrated human experience
 - common man is the center of all things
4. Valued intuition over reason
5. Condemned materialism
6. Saw beauty of the simple life -- common things
7. Described personal feelings

II. Romantic Sub Groups

A. Knickerbockers

-New York centered writers who focused on rural country and people

-geography tied these writers together

Included : James Fenimore Cooper
Washington Irving

Short Stories
Novels

B. Transcendentalists

-follower of transcendentalism which is an idealistic philosophy that relies on man's intuition and man's conscience.

-Focus is on knowledge that exists beyond reason and experience;
intuition

-disgusted with conformity

-praised individuality

-spiritual well-being

-close to nature

Includes: Ralph Waldo Emerson
Henry David Thoreau

Walt Whitman Emily Dickinson

essays
poetry

C. Brooding Romantics - Gothic

-dark, unusual themes

-deep awareness of human capacity for evil

-emotional

-man as tragic hero - overall good person
w/ one flaw that destroys him/her

-psychological insights

Includes:

Edgar Allan Poe
Herman Melville
Nathaniel Hawthorne

Short Stories
poetry
novels