



# American Romanticism


## Traits

- ◆ Valued poetry because allowed one to use imagination
  - ◆ Preferred youthful innocence over educated sophistication
  - ◆ Looked to past for wisdom & distrusted progress
  - ◆ Found truth & beauty in: exotic locations, supernatural, & world of imagination.
  - ◆ Found inspiration in myths, legends, & folk culture
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# Historical Connection

- ◆ Industrial Revolution- towns & cities coming up & crime followed
  - ◆ Expansion North to cities which left farming communities struggling & bad for slave owners
  - ◆ Expansion Westward began
  - ◆ More technology like cotton gins, railroads, telegraphs, etc. with the rise of Industrial Revolution
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# Philosophies/Beliefs

- ◆ Nature held truths to the questions & problems of life
  - ◆ Valued feelings & intuition over reason (follow your heart & not your head)
  - ◆ Live & let live
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# Authors & Literature

- ◆ Washington Irving – “The Devil and Tom Walker,” “The Legend of Sleepy Hollow,” and “Rip Van Winkle”
- ◆ William Cullen Bryant – “Thanatopsis” & “To a Water Fowl”
- ◆ Harriet Beecher Stowe – Uncle Tom’s Cabin

# Literary terms

- ◆ Satire – literature that exposes the vices or follies of people or society to bring awareness and change.
- ◆ Tall tale – literature that is humorous & contain wild exaggerations and is not intended to be believable. Usually the heroes are bold but sometimes foolish characters that may have super human abilities.

# Literary terms

- ◆ Theme – central message of a work of literature that readers can apply to life.
  - ◆ Mood – emotional quality or atmosphere created by tone, diction, rhyme, rhythm, and setting
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- ◆ Tone – author's attitude toward subject matter and is conveyed through diction, punctuation, sentence structure, & figures of speech
- ◆ Plot – chain of events in a drama or narrative work of **fiction**.  
(exposition, rising action, climax, falling action, and denouement)