

American Romanticism
Early 1800's to 1865

Despite the name of the literary period, Romanticism does not deal with sappy love stories.
This is not the kind of literature that we are going to study

Romanticism is the name for the period that followed the Age of REason
Due to the fact that the country was now established, writer moved their focus away from political matters and revolutionary governmental ideas, and began to focus on other aspects of life (emotions, possibilities, imagination, etc)

- values feeling and intuition over reason
- places faith in inner power of imagination
- shuns the artificiality of civilization and seeks unspoiled nature
- prefers youthful innocence to educated sophistication
- champions individual freedom and the worth of the individual
- contemplates nature's beauty as a path to spiritual and moral development
- looks backward to the wisdom of the past and distrusts progress
- finds beauty and truth in exotic locals, the supernatural realm, and the inner world of the imagination

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