

**American Romanticism 1800-1860**

**Study Questions**

**Directions: Use the following questions to guide your note-taking. Be sure to take good notes, as there will be TWO grades based on this reading.**

1. What point is Arpin making with contrasting Franklin’s journey with Brown’s? What really is Arpin contrasting? Why?

2. What is “The Romantic Sensibility”?

3. How do the Romantics “Celebrat[e] Imagination”? Why?

4. What is the “Romantic Escapism”?

5. In what two ways do the Romantics move “From Dull Realities to Higher Truths”?

6. How does “The American Novel” intertwine with “[T]he Wilderness Experience”?

7. What is the “New Kind of Hero”?

8. Why is “American Romantic Poetry” “Read at Every Fireside”? Explain.

9. Who are “The Transcendentalists?” and how is the “True Reality […] Spiritual?

10. What is Transcendentalism?

11. Who is Emerson, and how does he figure into Transcendentalism?

12. What is “Emerson’s Optimistic Outlook”?

13. What are two similarities between Puritans and Transcendentalists?

14. What is a difference between the two groups?

15. Who are “The Dark Romantics”? How do they differ from the rest?

16. Read Poe’s quote found on page 166. Explain the meaning.

17. Define archetype.

18. One archetype is the JOURNEY. What are the characteristics of the Romantic journey?

* Physical
* Psychological

19. List the Characteristics of American Romanticism

20. List the Characteristics of the American Romantic Hero

21. List the Transcendental View of the World

**Reading Check: “American Romanticism: 1800 – 1860”**

**Directions:** Using the information found in your notes and textbook, complete the following passage.

The Romantics believe primarily in \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ over reason. This way of thinking went against \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_, which is the belief that everyone can arrive at truth through order and that things in life can be proven and tested. Romanticism, on the other hand, celebrated the \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ and creativity through the arts: poetry, music, and literature were encouraged. During the Romantic period, a movement called \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ grew in popularity. It was during this time where writers tried to move away from their industrialized worlds and explore a supernatural realm, a beautiful new natural place, or the wilderness of the American frontiers. It was here that the \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ character was first born. Now we have many of these, such as Indiana Jones, Davy Crocket, Superman, and even Luke Skywalker. At the same time, a group of poets, commonly referred to as the \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ poets were growing in popularity. These men (Longfellow, Whittier, Holmes, and Lowell) came from Boston, and although they kept to the European poetic traditions, they paved the way for the future writers. The future came in the form of \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ which became popularized by the famous writer, Ralph Waldo Emerson. Transcendentalists believed that in order to truly become one with God and understand Him, one must \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ or go beyond everyday life. The followers of transcendentalism were extremely \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ and usually believed that God could be found directly in every aspect of \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_, whether it is something beautiful, like new life or something tragic, like death. No matter what, it could be explained on a \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ level. However, not all writers or people in the Romantic period agreed with the optimism of the transcendentalists. A group of writers, known as the \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ did believe in the same basic beliefs as the transcendentalists, but they chose to realize life’s \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ side. Writers, such as \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ and Nathaniel Hawthorne, explored the imagination as well as good and evil and the \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ effects of guilt and sin. They did not ignore humanity’s potential evil side, and this shaped some uniquely American literary pieces.