

**Franklin and Jefferson wrote their life stories (autobiography), what does this tell us about that age (the age of reason and American revolution)?**

- To give others an example or model of worldly success and how to pursue happiness in real life, and this indicates the dominant philosophy of the time (self-development and personal growth).

**What are the tenets of Transcendentalism found in Emerson’s “Nature”?**

- Divine Soul (Oversoul)
- Nonconformity
- Self-reliance
- Importance of nature
- Intuition over reason

What are the traces of this movement (Transcendentalism) in contemporary American life and culture?

**The Three Types of Romanticism**

<b>Romanticism (European)</b>	<b>Transcendentalism (Emerson)</b>	<b>Dark Romanticism (Edgar Allan Poe)</b>
General Glorifying nature Emotions Self-expression Freedom Simple language Creativity not imitation Optimistic	Romanticism + Spirituality Nonconformity Self-reliance Intuition over reason creativity	Romanticism + dark themes and atmosphere Gothic (supernatural), horror Architecture (type of building) Pessimistic Mystery Crime
<b>Nationalist Romanticism</b>		
Romanticism + Nationalism		

Find the elements of Dark Romanticism from the poem “The Raven”:

Or explain why this poem belongs to the tradition of Dark Romanticism:

1. Dark atmosphere: lonely speaker sitting in a dark room alone, thinking of his deceased beloved with fire in front of him, then suddenly he hears tapping on his window.
2. Supernatural: talking raven.
3. The setting itself (dark, gloomy)
4. Scary situation, fear
5. Mystery
6. Pessimistic, tragic, the loss of love
7. The raven as a symbol. Black, it fits this dark atmosphere.
8. Musical, melodic (repetition of sounds)

“Fantastic terrors”: in two ways (imaginary, I enjoy them, I am thrilled by them)

### **Walt Whitman “Song of Myself”**

#### **1. How different is this poetry in form?**

It is written in free verse, long prosaic sentences, simple language, colloquial terms (like loafe).

#### **2. What are the references to American identity?**

Individuality, equality, and freedom, national pride

#### **3. How is democracy expressed?**

What is the answer to the child’s question? What are the metaphors used?

1. The flag of my disposition.
2. The handkerchief of the Lord. (Bradstreet), Transcendentalism
3. A scented gift and remembrancer.
4. The grass is itself a child, the produced babe of the vegetation.
5. A uniform hieroglyphic. (the melting pot)
6. Uncut hair. (of earth), personification
7. The spirit of the dead. (Native American)

What does the grass in part 6 symbolize and can it be a symbol of democracy?  
How?

## **Themes of Huckleberry Finn:**

1. Racism and slavery.
2. Civilization vs. Nature (Nature vs. Nurture).
3. Nationalist Romanticism
4. Individualism.
5. Freedom.
6. Religion (Organized religion vs. Spirituality)

**What is the significance of using a first-person pov and how can we relate this to the themes of the novel?**

## **American Literature in the 20<sup>th</sup> Century:**

### **Comic books and Movies:**

A brief history of comic books, how is their rise related to American history and culture?

The Superhero = representing nation and good fighting evil (Hitler)

Super = superpowers + America as a superpower in the world.

Superhero = Epic hero, both of them have supernatural powers and represent good and national pride.

### **Film or Movies:**

#### **Movies and literature, what is the relation?**

- Some of them are adapted from novels.
- We find the same genres in film and literature.

What are the genres of film?

Film and American culture. The Superhero figure as an example.