

Module 6: Examining the World to Discover Truth Getting Started: American Romantic Authors

Introduction

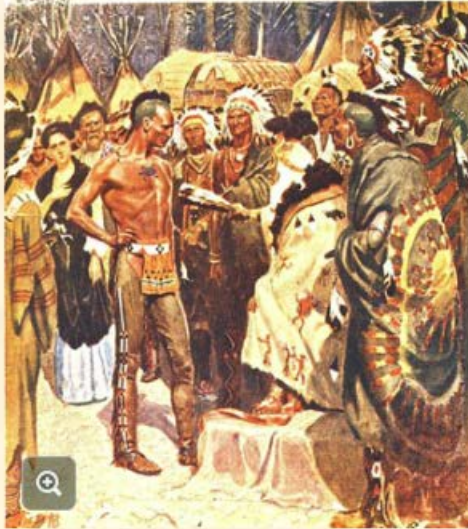


American literature thrived in the era of Romanticism. Are you familiar with some of its most famous authors? Click each of the author portraits to learn more about the author's life and literary contributions. Click *NEXT* to get started.

Module 6: Examining the World to Discover Truth Getting Started: American Romantic Authors

James Fenimore Cooper

James Fenimore Cooper



The Last of the Mohicans (1826)


James Fenimore Cooper was born in New Jersey in 1789 but grew up in the frontiers of New York. As a young student, he attended Yale but was expelled. He went on to serve in the U.S. Navy and would later travel throughout Europe. As a successful writer, he published numerous works about naval history and fiction set in frontier territory, but his most famous work is the novel *The Last of the Mohicans*, among the first American novels.

James Fenimore Cooper was born in New Jersey in 1789 but grew up in the frontiers of New York. As a young student, he attended Yale but was expelled. He went on to serve in the U.S. Navy and would later travel throughout Europe. As a successful writer, he published numerous works about naval history and fiction set in frontier territory, but his most famous work is the novel *The Last of the Mohicans*, among the first American novels.

Module 6: Examining the World to Discover Truth Getting Started: American Romantic Authors

Washington Irving

Washington Irving



Washington Irving was born in 1783 and named after George Washington. He was a lawyer but preferred writing to practicing law. After the War of 1812, he went to England but fell upon hard times. Irving turned to writing to earn an income, and his work was well received. When he returned to America, he was a literary celebrity.

He is most famous for publishing a book of short stories that includes "Rip Van Winkle" and "The Legend of Sleepy Hollow."

Washington Irving was born in 1783 and named after George Washington. He was a lawyer but preferred writing to practicing law. After the War of 1812, he went to England but fell upon hard times. Irving turned to writing to earn an income, and his work was well received. When he returned to America, he was a literary celebrity. He is most famous for publishing a book of short stories that includes "Rip Van Winkle" and "The Legend of Sleepy Hollow."

Module 6: Examining the World to Discover Truth Getting Started: American Romantic Authors

Walt Whitman

Walt Whitman



"When I Heard the Learn'd Astronomer" (1861)

published the first edition of a poetry collection called *Leaves of Grass*. It would eventually encompass several hundred poems, including "O Captain! My Captain!" and "When I Heard the Learn'd Astronomer."


Born on Long Island in 1819, Whitman grew up in Brooklyn where he held a number of jobs including, office clerk, printer, schoolteacher, and reporter. Whitman later uprooted himself to travel across the country, quietly observing and putting together a collection of poems that would later have a lasting influence on American literature. In 1855, Whitman

Born on Long Island in 1819, Whitman grew up in Brooklyn where he held a number of jobs, including office clerk, printer, schoolteacher, and reporter. Whitman later uprooted himself to travel across the country, quietly observing and putting together a collection of poems that would later have a lasting influence on American literature. In 1855, Whitman published the first edition of a poetry collection called *Leaves of Grass*. It would eventually encompass several hundred poems, including "O Captain! My Captain!" and "When I Heard the Learn'd Astronomer."

Module 6: Examining the World to Discover Truth Getting Started: American Romantic Authors

Henry David Thoreau

Henry David Thoreau



Walden Pond from *Walden* (1854)

Henry David Thoreau was born in Massachusetts in 1817. After deciding to devote his life to studying Transcendentalism, he set out to live alone for two years in a simple cabin he built. This experience became the fodder for his most noted piece, *Walden*. He condensed his experiences living by Walden Pond into one year and set up the book in a structural framework that reflects the four seasons. He is also known for his essay *Civil Disobedience*.

Henry David Thoreau was born in Massachusetts in 1817. After deciding to devote his life to studying Transcendentalism, he set out to live alone for two years in a simple cabin he built. This experience became the fodder for his most noted piece, *Walden*. He condensed his experiences living by Walden Pond into one year and set up the book in a structural framework that reflects the four seasons. He is also known for his essay *Civil Disobedience*.

Module 6: Examining the World to Discover Truth Getting Started: American Romantic Authors

Edgar Allan Poe

Edgar Allan Poe



"The Raven" (1845)

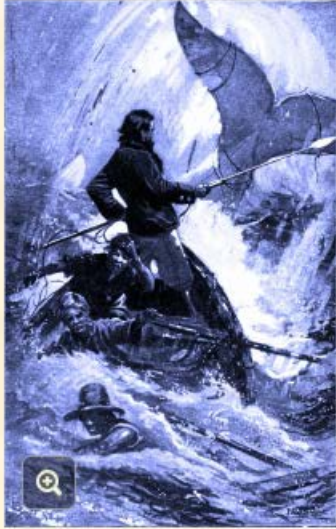
Edgar Allan Poe was born in Massachusetts in 1809 but spent most of his childhood in Virginia. He studied briefly at the University of Virginia and served in the military, but he later decided to devote himself full-time to a writing career. Although his poems, short stories, and literary criticisms earned him fame, he was often poorly paid and lived mostly in poverty. Poe's exploration of the dark side of humanity still fascinates readers today. He is considered the father of the detective story as well as an important contributor to the genres of horror and psychological thrillers. His most famous work is the poem "The Raven."

Edgar Allan Poe was born in Massachusetts in 1809 but spent most of his childhood in Virginia. He studied briefly at the University of Virginia and served in the military, but he later decided to devote himself full-time to a writing career. Although his poems, short stories, and literary criticisms earned him fame, he was often poorly paid and lived mostly in poverty. Poe's exploration of the dark side of humanity still fascinates readers today. He is considered the father of the detective story as well as an important contributor to the genres of horror and psychological thrillers. His most famous work is the poem "The Raven."

Module 6: Examining the World to Discover Truth Getting Started: American Romantic Authors

Herman Melville

Herman Melville



Moby-Dick (1851)

Herman Melville was born in New York City in 1819. As a young man, he sailed around the world on merchant and whaler ships, traveling as far as present-day French Polynesia. These experiences inspired many of his works, including his most famous novel, *Moby-Dick*. This classic story takes readers sailing around the world aboard a whaling ship in the early 1800s. However, the ship's captain is actually on a quest to seek revenge on a dangerous white whale. Melville dedicated the novel to his friend and fellow Romantic author Nathaniel Hawthorne, who helped to energize his creativity.

Herman Melville was born in New York City in 1819. As a young man, he sailed around the world on merchant and whaler ships, traveling as far as present-day French Polynesia. These experiences inspired many of his works, including his most famous novel, *Moby-Dick*. This classic story takes readers sailing around the world aboard a whaling ship in the early 1800s. However, the ship's captain is actually on a quest to seek revenge on a dangerous white whale. Melville dedicated the novel to his friend and fellow Romantic author Nathaniel Hawthorne, who helped to energize his creativity.