

# Romanticism



# Historical "location" of Romanticism



Enlightenment  
(Age of Reason)

**ROMANTICISM**

end of 18th - mid 19th c.

realism  
&  
naturalism

**for starters:**  
**A Comparison of Enlightenment and  
Romantic Senses of Nature**



Butterfly Lakes, Middleton Place



Thomas Cole, *The Oxbow* (1836)

# Key Ideas and Tendencies of Romanticism



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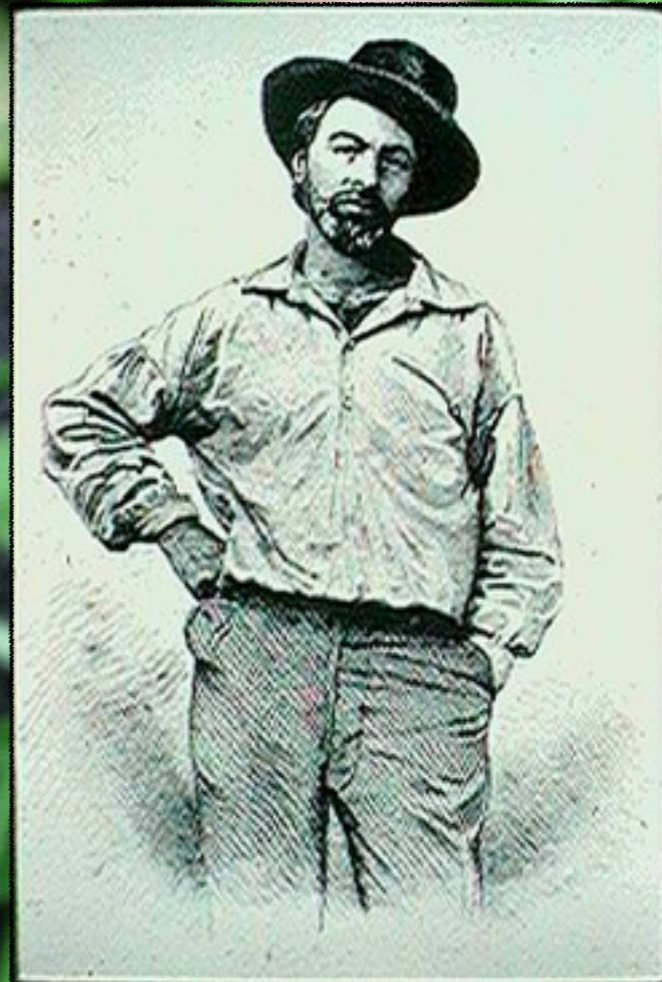
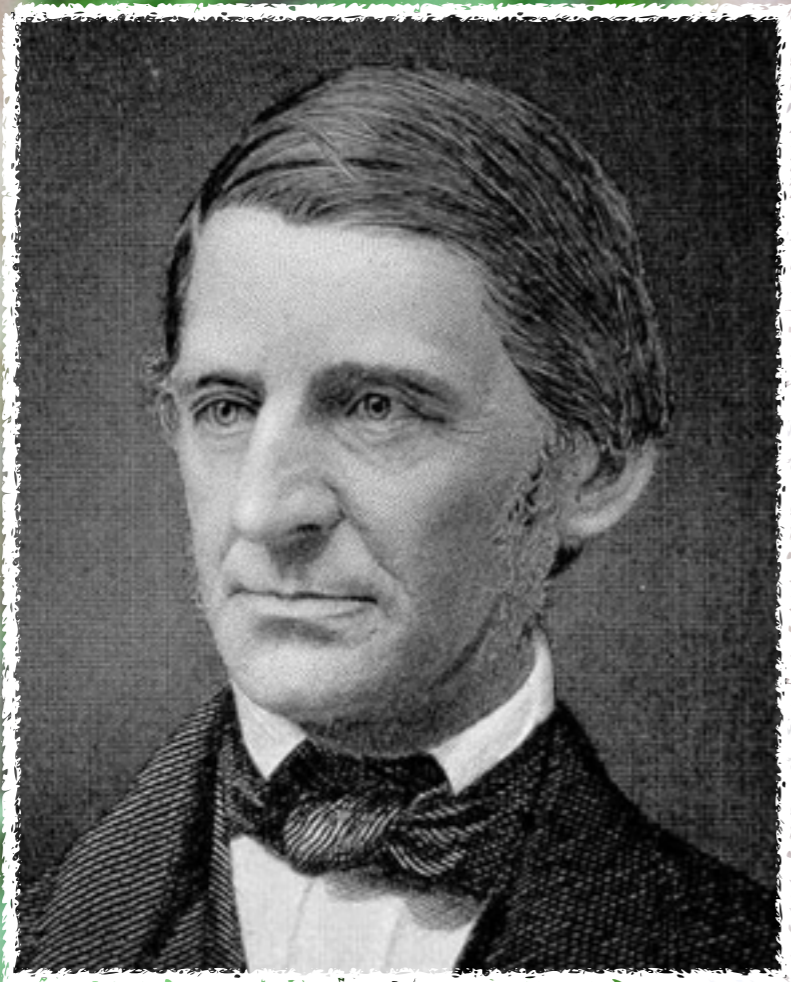
- Privileging the imagination and the intuition over reason/rationality and formal rules
- Exploring untamed, boundless, sublime nature, unveiling hidden things
- Reveling in the mysterious, the unplumbed depths, the hidden recesses of nature and the psyche
- Concerned with false surfaces, facades (especially in social phenomena); focused on ambiguity and the need for interpretation
- Setting improbable action and actors in remote, exotic locations and times



Two Strands of American Romanticism:  
Transcendentalism & Dark Romanticism



# Transcendentalists



# Dark Romantics

