**ROMANTICISM vs. REALISM**

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| Romanticism1820-1865 | Realism1865 - 1914  |
| Characters may be “larger than life” -- e.g. Rip Van Winkle, Ichabod Crane, Brom Bones, Natty Bumppo, Ralph Hepdurn, Bartleby | Characters resemble ordinary people -- e.g. Huck Finn, Editha, Frederick Winterbourne, Daisy Miller, Sylvia, Louisa, Edna Pontellier |
| Plot contains unusual events, mystery, or high adventure -- e.g. Poe's stories, Melville’s *Typee* | Plot is developed with ordinary events and circumstances |
| Ending is often happy | Ending might be unhappy |
| The language is often “literary” (inflated, formal, etc.) | Writer uses ordinary speech and dialect -- common vernacular (the everyday language spoken by a people) |
| Settings often made up; if actual settings are used, the focus is on the exotic, strange, mysterious -- e.g. Melville’s Marquesas islands (S. Pacific), Cooper’s woods and frontier, Poe's gothic chambers | Settings actually exist or have actual prototypes |
| Writer is interested in history or legend -- e.g. Irving, Poe | Writer is interested in recent or contemporary life |