

Characteristics of Romanticism

Romantic Characteristic	Description of Characteristic
Interest in the common man and childhood	Romantics believed in the natural goodness of humans which is hindered by the urban life of civilization. They believed that the savage is noble, childhood is good and the emotions inspired by both beliefs causes the heart to soar.
Strong senses, emotions, and feelings	Romantics believed that knowledge is gained through intuition rather than deduction. This is best summed up by Wordsworth who stated that "all good poetry is the spontaneous overflow of powerful feelings."
Awe of nature	Romantics stressed the awe of nature in art and language and the experience of sublimity through a connection with nature. Romantics rejected the rationalization of nature by the previous thinkers of the Enlightenment period.
Celebration of the individual	Romantics often elevated the achievements of the misunderstood, heroic individual outcast.
Importance of imagination	Romantics legitimized the individual imagination as a critical authority.