

# Romanticism

*1820s-1860s*



# First, a quick review

- The Puritan Era: Religion > Reason  
(Emphasis on theocracy, order, simplicity, etc.)
- The Colonial Period: Reason > Religion  
(Emphasis on progress, government, education, etc.)

# Romanticism

- Began in Europe and influenced many British writers such as Keats, Shelley, and Byron. (These are all writers you will read next year.)
- Was both an artistic era (art, music, literature) AND a philosophy about life.



# Fundamental beliefs of Romanticism

- Power and beauty of nature (in particular humanity's relationship with nature)
- Concern for the common man
- Emphasis on mystery and the supernatural
- Imagination > reason
- Intuition > facts
- Natural / primitive > elegant / cultivated

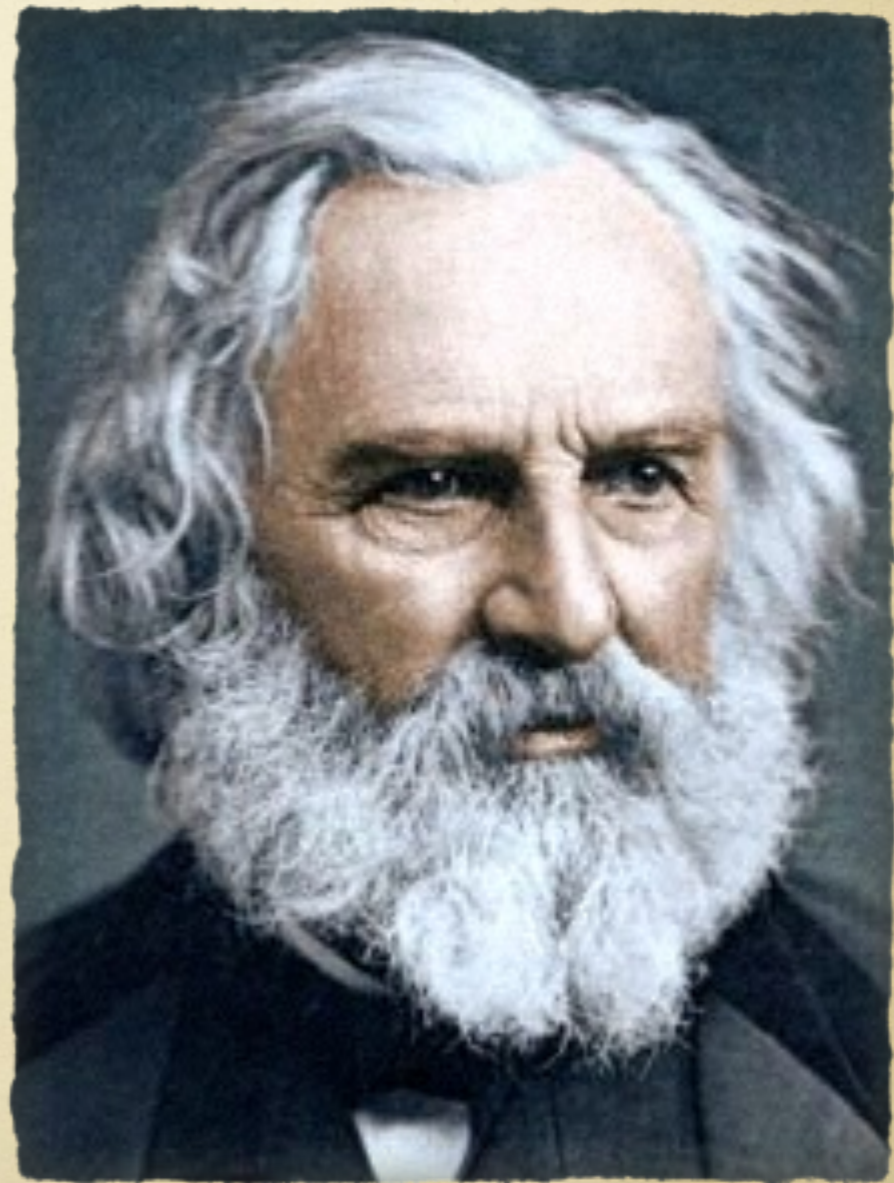
# Romanticism contributed to....

- the beginnings of the anti-slavery movement.
- the beginnings of the feminist movement.
- a soaring interest in national pride and the “American” identity.



# Romantic Poets

- The “Fireside Poets” —  
Longfellow and Lowell
- William Cullen Bryant
- Edgar Allan Poe
- (Emily Dickinson)
- (Walt Whitman)



# Romantic Prose Writers

- Nathaniel Hawthorne
- Washington Irving
- Edgar Allan Poe
- Transcendentalists  
Ralph Waldo Emerson  
and Henry David  
Thoreau (non-fiction)

