**TRANSCENDENTALISM**

How much of a role does the natural world play in your life?

Think of a time when you were in the natural world…How did it affect you? How did it make you think / feel?

What is the modern attitude towards nature? What tells you this?

**TRANSCENDENTALISM NOTES**

Timeframe

* After Romantic movement
  + Interest in feelings, nature, humanity
  + Romanticism builds to it

Role in Literature

* Blend of romanticism with the concepts of intuition and the mystical
* Development of the self through intuition & nature
* Themes of love & nature & individualism

Transcendentalism Definition

* Transcend – to surpass or go beyond – going beyond the senses & relying on intuition
* Intellectual movement that directly or indirectly affected most writers during this time period
* Lack of systematic set of beliefs

Tenets of Transcendentalism

* Faith in human nature and human potential
  + Belief in the good of all people
* All are connected by universal “Over-Soul”
* Reverence for nature
  + Natural world relates to humanity
  + Meaning is found in nature, natural world and the self
* Individualism / Self-Reliance
* Simplicity
* Intuition – knowledge comes from within