**Characteristics of Romantic Age (1775-1835)**

Age of Reason vs. Romantic Era

In the Age of Reason, Writers stressed:

* Reason and Judgement
* Concern with the universal experience
* The value of society as a whole
* The value of rules

In the Romantic Era, Writers stressed:

* Imagination and Emotion
* Concern with the particular experience
* The value of the individual human being
* The value of freedom

**1. Common Man and Childhood over Urban Sophistication**

 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.

**2. Emotions over Reason**

 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.”

**3. Nature over Artificial**

 Romantics stressed the awe of nature in art and language and the experience of sublimity through a connection with nature. Romantics rejected the ideas of the industrial revolution .

**4. The Individual over Society**

 Romantics often elevated the achievements of the misunderstood, heroic individual outcast.

**5. Imagination over Logic**

 Romantics legitimized the individual imagination as a critical authority.

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