**Romantics (and Transcendentalists): Unit Test Study Guide**

**Essay:**

Make note of the essential questions listed on the back board. One of those questions will be the source of the essay, which will be worth 25 points. Clearly, the characteristics of the Romantic and Transcendental Movement are important to this task, whatever the specific essay question may be. It is imperative that you understand the characteristics of each movement and be able to articulate how these characteristics are represented within the literature pieces we’ve studied. It is also important to understand how the pieces fit within the context of American Literature as a whole, how they fit within the time period, and how they fit within the context of the developing American Dream.

**History:**

Basic Facts about the time period in American History will be asked, such as the major expansion of our territory, the major social movements of the time and their unintended consequences, and the general feeling / perception of the people. (4 questions)

**Author’s Lives: Understand the basic essential events and characteristics of the lives of…**

Emerson:

Thoreau:

Poe:

Hawthorne:

**The Pieces:**

* “The Devil and Tom Walker”
  + The author
  + The time period in which it takes place (setting)
  + Characteristics that classify it as a Romantic piece of literature
  + Message/Theme of the story
* “The Black Cat”
  + Author
  + The basic plot events of the story that intensify the character’s descent/decay
* “The Minister’s Black Veil”
  + Author
  + Characteristics that classify it as a Romantic piece of literature
  + The symbol of the veil
  + Basic facts of the plot events
* “from *Nature*”
  + Author
  + Characteristics that classify it as a Romantic piece of literature
  + Grand imagery and its/their meaning(s)
  + The understanding gained by the author (or illustrated by the narrator) of the piece
* “Self Reliance”
  + Author
  + Characteristics that classify it as a Romantic piece of literature
  + How to paraphrase key thoughts/ideas
  + The reason behind major allusions to various figures of history
* “from *Walden*”
  + Author
  + Author’s motivation/fuel for writing the piece
  + Thoughts about human behavior and characteristics that are major concepts of the piece
* “Civil Disobedience”
  + Author
  + Characteristics that classify it as a Transcendentalist piece of literature
  + Inferences you can make about the author’s political philosophy
  + Central message/idea of the work

Quote Identification for the following pieces:

1. Self Reliance
2. The Black Cat
3. Walden
4. Nature
5. The Minister’s Black Veil
6. Civil Disobedience