

1: Emotion and Passion The Romanticists were deeply in touch with their feelings. Many Romanticists glorified the Middle Ages and revived elements of literature--such as knights in shining armor and damsels in distress--that were perceived as more medieval.

8: The Celebration of the Individual Many Romanticists saw themselves as self-reliant, independent individuals who stood apart from the rest of society, and some even chose to lead largely isolated, solitary lives.

2: The Critique of Progress Romanticists viewed urbanity and industrialization in a largely negative light. Many Romanticists traveled to Greece and Italy to glean inspiration from Greek and Roman ruins. Unfortunately, this idealization meant that the Romantic Movement typically saw women as objects for male admiration rather than as people with their own dreams and ambitions.

6: The Purity of Childhood At the time, many children were forced to work in factories or as chimney sweeps, which was dangerous and grueling work for which they were paid extremely low wages. In stories written by Romantic writers, characters often focus on the more sentimental sides of the story, including their inner struggles, dreams, and passions. There are countless Romantic poets who wrote lyrical ballads about everything from birds and flowers to mountains and clouds.

5: The Idealization of Women In the Romantic era, women were seen as innocent, pure creatures who should be admired and respected. Many Romantic poets and novelists centered their narratives around celebrating the purity and beauty of a woman. The French Revolution, and other movements toward democracy, inspired many Romantic philosophers. Many Romantic poets, such as William Wordsworth and Samuel Taylor Coleridge, broke the conventions of the time.

10: Spirituality and the Occult Romanticists were interested in the infinite and the divine. Similarly, Romantic writers were interested in ruins and old artifacts of history.