***Romantic Writers’ Biographies*** *(source: biography.com)*

Poet and journalist **Walt Whitman** was born May 31, 1819 in West Hills, New York. Considered one of America's most influential poet Whitman aimed to transcend traditional epics, eschew normal aesthetic form, and reflect the nature of the American experience and its democracy. In 1855 he self-published the collection Leaves of Grass (which includes Song of Myself), now a landmark in American literature. **(*Song of Myself- poem)***

Born January 19, 1809, Boston, Massachusetts, U.S. American short-story writer, poet, critic, and editor **Edgar Allan Poe's** tales of mystery and horror initiated the modern detective story, and the atmosphere in his tales of horror is unrivaled in American fiction. His The Raven (1845) numbers among the best-known poems in national literature. **(*Tell Tale Heart)***

Author and editor **Washington Irving was** born in New York City on April 3, 1783. Irving achieved international fame for his fictional works, including the stories Rip Van Winkle and The Legend of Sleepy Hollow, as well as for his biographies and historical writings. Irving served as the United States ambassador to Spain and helped to promote international copyright before his death in 1859. **(*Devil and Tom Walker)***

Born on February 27, 1807, in Portland, Maine, **Henry Wadsworth Longfellow** became a Harvard scholar versed in several European languages. He was heavily influenced by romanticism and made a name as a poet and novelist with works like Hyperion, Evangeline, Poems on Slavery and The Song of Hiawatha. Known for his translation of Dante’s Divine Comedy as well, Longfellow died on March 24, 1882, in Cambridge, Massachusetts. ***(A Psalm of Life- poem)***

Born in Cockermouth, Cumberland, England, on April 7, 1770, **William Wordsworth** is known for writing Lyrical Ballads (1798) with Samuel Taylor Coleridge, considered by many to have launched the *English Romantic* movement. Wordsworth's literary credits also include "Tintern Abbey," and his poetry is perhaps most original in its vision of the relation between man and the natural world—a vision that culminated in the metaphor of nature as emblematic of the mind of God. Wordsworth died in Rydal Mount, Westmorland, England, on April 23, 1850. **(*I Wandered Lonely as a Cloud- poem)***