



# Understanding Primary Sources and Literary Movements

Unit 2 Lesson 4

# Primary Sources

- **Definition:** Primary sources are materials written or made by people who took part in or witnessed the events portrayed.
- **Examples:**
  - Letters and diaries
  - Photographs
  - Official documents (e.g., military orders)
  - Newspapers from the era
- **How to Analyze:**
  1. **Contextualize** - Understand the historical context.
  2. **Source Evaluation** - Determine the author's perspective and purpose.
  3. **Cross-Reference** - Compare with other primary sources for accuracy.

# Realism

- **Definition:** Realism refers to literature that offers an accurate and detailed portrayal of actual life.
- **Characteristics:**
  - Focus on everyday activities and experiences.
  - Complex, multi-dimensional characters.
  - Exploration of social issues and conditions.
  - Emphasis on objectivity and factual representation.
- **Examples:**
  - **Mark Twain's "Adventures of Huckleberry Finn"** - Depicts the realities of American society and issues like slavery and racism.
  - **Stephen Crane's "The Red Badge of Courage"** - Presents a realistic portrayal of the psychological experiences of a soldier in battle.

# Romanticism

- **Definition:** Romanticism is an artistic and literary movement that glorified the individual and celebrated the emotions and imagination.
- **Characteristics:**
  - Emphasis on emotion and individualism.
  - Celebration of nature and the sublime.
  - Focus on imagination, intuition, and creativity.
  - Often includes elements of the supernatural and exotic.
- **Examples:**
  - **Edgar Allan Poe's poetry and stories** - Explore themes of human emotion, imagination, and the macabre.
  - **Nathaniel Hawthorne's "The Scarlet Letter"** - Delves into individual conscience and moral complexities, set against a richly described historical background.