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American Literature

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Vocabulary Quarter 1 Week 3

Sentiment: *Properly* a thought prompted by passion or feeling. [Webster’s 1828] I have my sentiments.

Composition: A written or printed work; a writing, pamphlet or book. [Webster’s 1828] Alex writes composition for a living.

Transcendentalism: A philosophy which says that thought and spiritual things are more real than ordinary human experience and material things. [Merriam-Webster] Some people during the 1820s believed in transcendentalism, and some people still do.

Satirical: A way of using humor to show that someone or something is foolish, weak, bad, etc. **:** humor that shows the weaknesses or bad qualities of a person, government, society, etc. [Merriam-Webster] He responded with a satirical statement, and was promptly slapped on the face.

Ingratiating: intended to gain someone's favor or approval [Merriam-Webster] They spoke with ingratiating words, so as to convince their father.

Literary Terms

Hyperbole: In rhetoric, a figure of speech which expresses much more or less than the truth, or which represents things much greater or less, better or worse than they really are. An object uncommon in size, either great or small, strikes us with surprise, and this emotion produces a momentary conviction that the object is greater or less than it is in reality. The same effect attends figurative grandeur or littleness; and hence the use of the *hyperbole* which expresses this momentary conviction. The following are instances of the use of this figure. [Webster’s 1828]

Dramatic Irony: Pertaining to the drama; represent by action; theatrical; not narrative. A mode of speech expressing a sense contrary to that which the speaker intends to convey; as, Nero was a very virtuous prince; Pope Hildebrand was remarkable for his meekness and humility. When *irony* is uttered, the dissimulation is generally apparent from the manner of speaking, as by a smile or an arch look, or perhaps by an affected gravity of countenance. *Irony* in writing may also be detected by the manner of expression. [Webster’s 1828]