

Viewing Guide for *The Last of the Mohicans*



This video presents a Romantic view of colonial America. Author James Fenimore Cooper wrote about the French and Indian War in 1826, more than 65 years after it had ended, comparable to writing about WW II today. He used the war as a backdrop for scenes of greatness: great courage, great treachery, and great love.

Your task is to write an essay analyzing the video for Romantic traits. You are answering a specific question: If I had not told you that this video is Romantic, how would you have known anyway?

Consider the following traits of Romanticism (p. 144 in your textbook):

- values feeling and intuition over reason
- places faith in inner experience and the power of the imagination
- shuns the artificiality of civilization and seeks unspoiled nature
- prefers youthful innocence to educated sophistication
- champions individual freedom and the worth of the individual
- contemplates nature's beauty as a path to spiritual and moral development
- looks backward to the wisdom of the past and distrusts progress
- finds beauty and truth in exotic locales, the supernatural realm, and the inner world of the imagination

The names of the characters are listed below so you can spell them correctly.

Hawkeye, also called Nathaniel
adopted Mohican

Uncas, his Mohican brother

Chingachgook, their Mohican father

Cora Munro

Alice Munro

Colonel Munro, also called "the Gray Hair"
their father

Major Duncan Heyward, British officer

General Webb, British officer

Magua, Native American

General Montcalm, the French general

John Cameron and family
friends of the Mohicans

Jack Winthrop
civilian militia "leader"

the **Sachem**
leader of the Huron Indians
