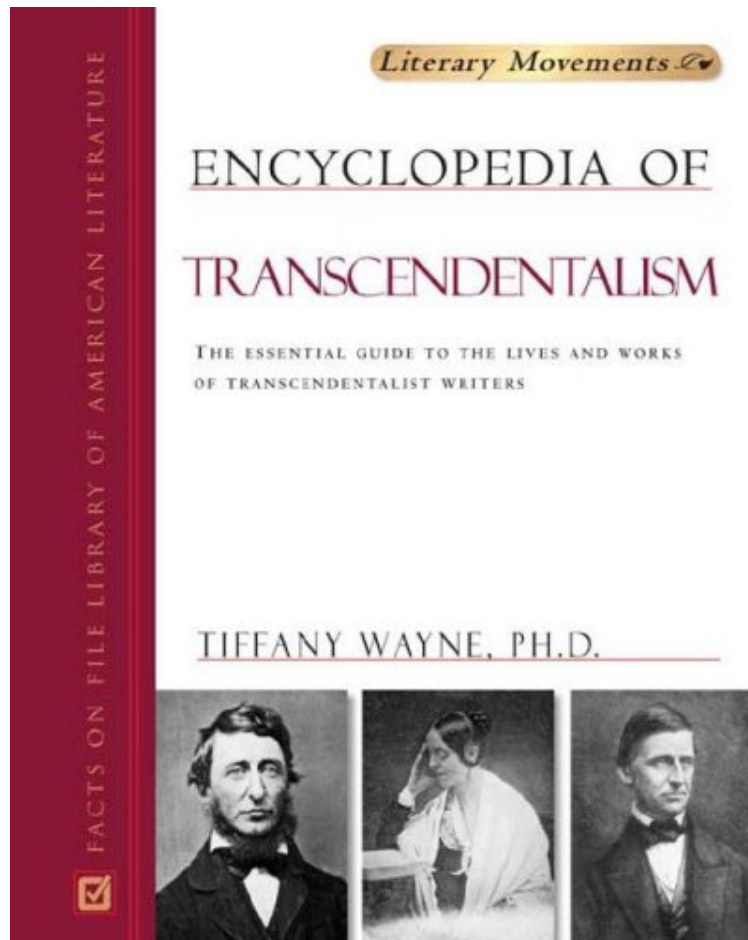


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## Encyclopedia of Transcendentalism (Literary Movements)

*Tiffany K Wayne PH.D.*

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**Tiffany K Wayne PH.D. : Encyclopedia of Transcendentalism (Literary Movements)** before purchasing it in order to gauge whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Encyclopedia of Transcendentalism (Literary Movements):

This is a comprehensive A-Z guide to the Transcendentalists, the legendary group of New England authors that included Ralph Emerson and Henry David Thoreau.

From School Library Journal Grade 9 Up Although Transcendentalism has come down to us as a respectable literary movement, its practitioners were more like the Beats of their day: radical and political writers who believed desperately in the importance of what they were doing. This handy work, written in a clear, informative, and engaging style, introduces the Transcendentalists' milieu and some of their more important works to a new generation, using

succinct and incisive biographical sketches, critical essays, and historical and explanatory entries. The articles also introduce lesser-known figures and works of the movement and make connections between them, moving serendipitously from Nathaniel Hawthorne to *The Blithedale Romance* and the failed Brook Farm commune. Including a list of Major Transcendentalist Authors and Works as well as a seven-page chronology, this wonderful yet modestly grand work is not so broad as to intimidate novices, nor so narrow as to alienate the curious. However, much of the information can be found in other resources, and libraries owning Wesley Mott's *Encyclopedia of Transcendentalism* (Greenwood, 1996), or with access to EBSCO's Literary Reference Center or Gale's Literature Resource Center, may not need this volume. Herman Sutter, Saint Agnes Academy, Houston, TX Copyright Reed Business Information, a division of Reed Elsevier Inc. All rights reserved. From Booklist The newest addition to Facts On File's Literary Movements series, the *Encyclopedia of Transcendentalism*, provides nearly 400 entries on people, places, institutions, and publications to guide readers to the literary, philosophical, political, and theological issues related to the American transcendentalist movement of the nineteenth century. Resisting a tidy definition, the encyclopedia hints at "the multifaceted cultural context and wide-ranging impact" of the movement in its own time. Author Wayne has also published *Woman Thinking: Feminism and Transcendentalism in Nineteenth-Century America* (2005). Alphabetical, cross-referenced entries are generally a page or so in length, and many are followed by short bibliographies. Enhancing the volume are a table of 16 transcendentalist authors and more than 150 of their works, a chronology spanning the period 1780 to 1909, an extensive bibliography, and an index. Access would be improved if there were a table of contents or list of entries. Entries include selected writers and influential thinkers ranging from Caroline Dall, Ralph Waldo Emerson, Margaret Fuller, and Henry David Thoreau to Jean Louis Agassiz, John Brown, Thomas Carlyle, Charles Darwin, and critic of transcendentalism Francis Bowen. Entries on publications treat not only the *Dial* and *Atlantic Monthly* but also the *Christian Examiner* and Orestes Brownson's *Boston Quarterly* and *Brownson's Quarterly* as well as the first paper devoted exclusively to women's rights, the *Una*. The greatest number of entries--roughly one-third--are devoted to named texts, both published and unpublished. Greenwood's 1996 publication with the same name was paired with a companion, the *Biographical Dictionary of Transcendentalism* (1996), which extended the number of authors beyond the scope of the current work. Although it includes many overlapping entries on persons, works, and concepts, the Facts On File encyclopedia has a greater focus on texts within and related to the transcendentalist movement. Particularly useful is the number of entries on works surrounding the relationship between transcendentalism and Unitarianism. The greatest strength of the *Encyclopedia of Transcendentalism* is its recognition of the influence and productivity of women in the transcendentalist movement. Recommended for undergraduate and large public libraries. Joseph Thomas Copyright American Library Association. All rights reserved ... "engaging and accessible... Recommended."