

Naturalism

Definition:

- Naturalism is a literary movement that sought to depict life as accurately as possible.
 - Presents the story without distortions from literary convention or emotions.
 - Attempts to apply scientific principles of detachment to allow humans beings to be presented as they are in reality.
 - A defining characteristic of Naturalism is that the characters are ruled by their environment and circumstances, and that they do not excessive their free will.
 - Stories usually ends with depressing circumstances, but not as horrible as in tragedies.

Examples:

- In *The Red Badge of Courage*, by Stephen Crane, the main character is shown as helpless and unable to act of his own free will because he is boxed in by the restraints of the military. Nature cannot offer him comfort, and later he tries to run away as a result of his instinct, to which humans are always subject.
- *War is Kind*, by Stephen Crane, shows the ugly truth of human nature and their thirst for violence.

“Hoarse, booming drums of the regiment,
Little souls who thirst for fight,
These men were born to drill and die.
The unexplained glory files above them,
Great is the battle-god, great, and his kingdom—
A field where a thousand corpses lie. “

Helpful Links:

- <http://www.luc.edu/faculty/cschei1/teach/rnn3.html>
- <http://www.literary-articles.com/2010/02/use-of-naturalism-and-impressionism-in.html>