

# American Literature

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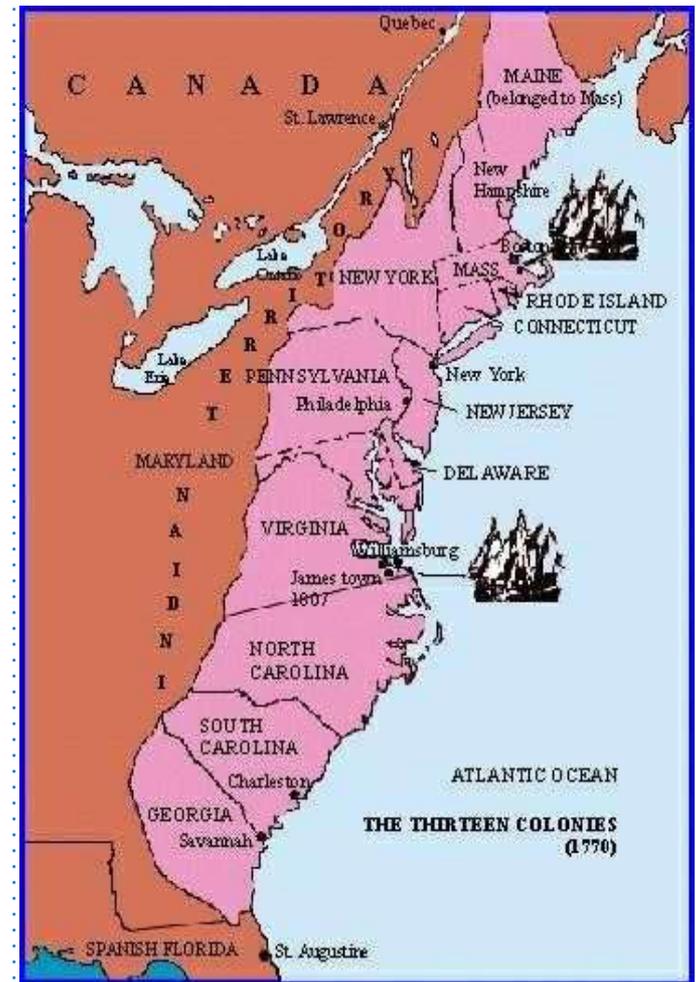
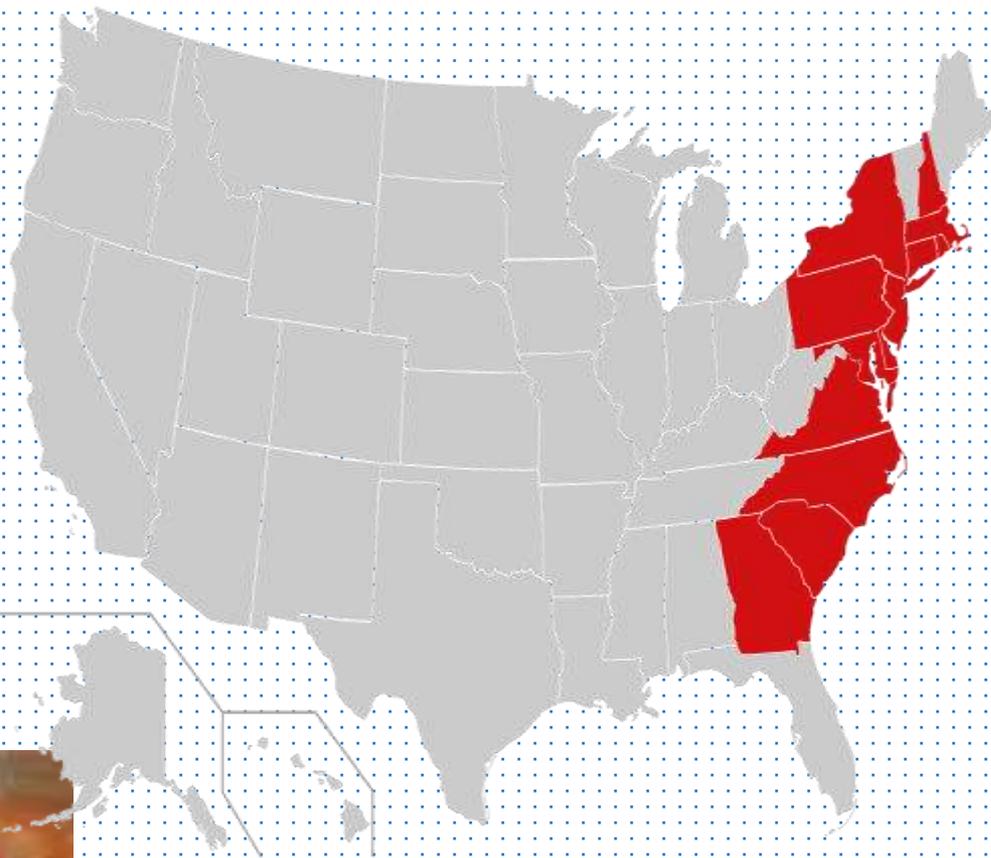


# American Literature

- Discover of America – 1492 by Columbus
- Puritan Age and Restoration Age
- Migration of the Puritan to American Colonies in the Reign of Charles II – Restoration Age



**Total 13 Colonies** - Delaware, Pennsylvania, New Jersey, Georgia, Connecticut, Massachusetts Bay, Maryland, South Carolina, New Hampshire, Virginia, New York, North Carolina, and Rhode Island and Providence Plantations.



# American Literary Periods

- **The Colonial Period (1607 – 1775)**
- **The Revolutionary Age (1765 – 1790)**
- **The Early National Period (1775 – 1828)**
- **The American Renaissance (1828 – 1865)**
- **The Realistic Period (1865 – 1900)**
- **The Naturalist Period (1900 – 1914)**
- **The Modern Period (1914 – 1939)**
- **The Beat Generation (1944 – 1962)**
- **The Contemporary Period (1939 – Present)**



# The Colonial Period (1607 – 1775)

- The majority of writings were historical, practical, or religious in nature.
- The first work published in the Puritan colonies was the *Bay Psalm Book (1640)* – Roger Williams and Thomas Hooker
- **Captain John Smith** could be considered the first American author with his works: *A True Relation of Such Occurrences and Accidents of Noate as Hath Happened in Virginia... (1608)* and *The Generall Historie of Virginia, New England, and the Summer Isles (1624)*.



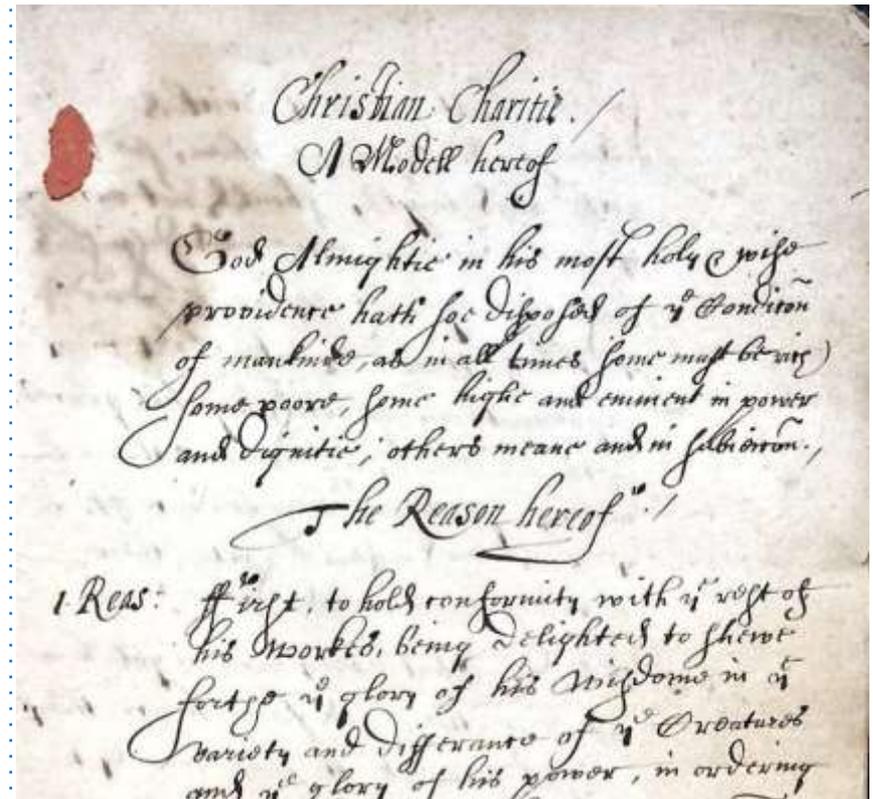
# The Generall Historie of Virginia, New England, and the Summer Isles (1624) By Captain Smith



# John Winthrop

(12 January 1587/88 – 26 March 1649)

- Though rarely published and relatively unappreciated for his literary contribution during his time, Winthrop spent his life continually producing written accounts of historical events and religious manifestations. Winthrop's major contributions to the literary world were ***A Modell of Christian Charity* (1630)** and ***The History of New England* (1630–1649; also known as *The Journal of John Winthrop*)**, which remained unpublished until the late 18th century.



Christian Charity.  
A Modell hereof

God Almighty in his most holy wise  
providence hath soe disposed of vs Condition  
of mankind, as in all times some must be rich  
some poore, some high and eminent in power  
and dignitie; others meane and in subjection.

The Reason hereof

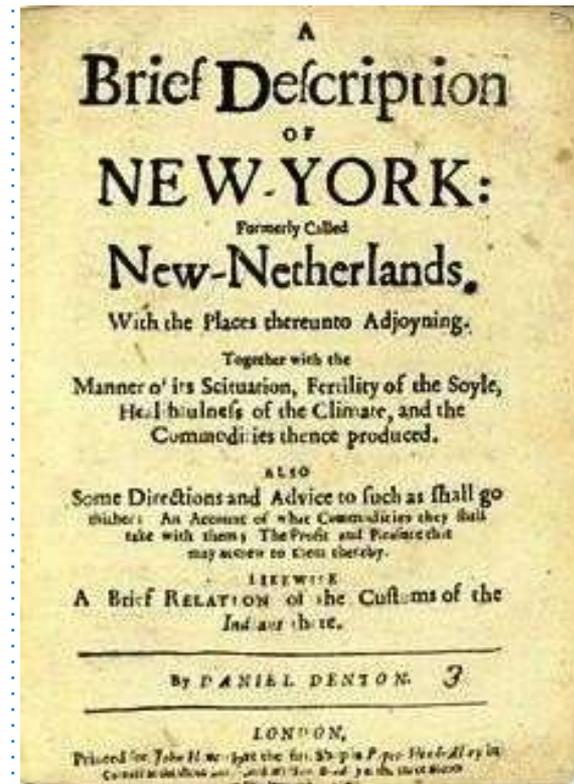
1 Reas: Ifirst, to hold conformity with vs rest of  
his Creatures, being delighted to shew  
forth vs glory of his wisdom in vs  
variety and difference of vs Creatures  
and vs glory of his power, in ordering



# Daniel Denton

(c. 1626 – 1703)

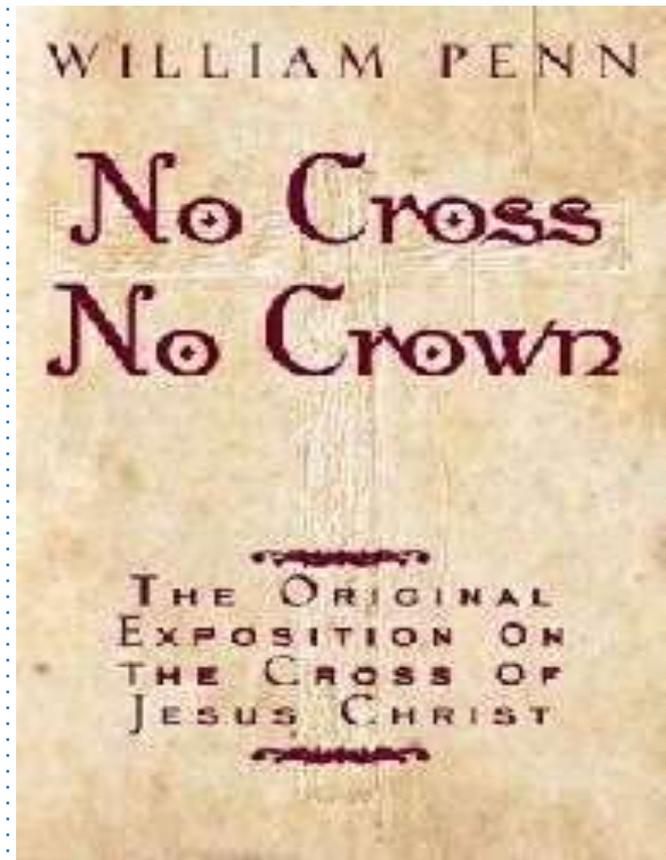
- In 1670 he wrote the first English-language description of the area.
- *A Brief Description of New-York: Formerly Called New-Netherlands in London in 1670*



# William Penn

(24 October 1644 (O.S. 14 October 1644) – 30 July 1718)

- In 1681, King Charles II handed over a large piece of his American land holdings to William Penn to satisfy a debt the king owed to Penn's father. This land included present-day Pennsylvania and Delaware.



# William Strachey

(4 April 1572 – 21 June 1621)

- An English writer whose works are among the primary sources for the early history of the English colonisation of North America.
- Shipwreck of **the Sea Venture**
- Source of – The Tempest
- Strachey wrote a sonnet, **Upon Sejanus**, which was published in the 1605 edition of the 1603 play **Sejanus His Fall** by **Ben Jonson**

## *Vpon SEIANVS.*

**H**ow high a Poore man shoues in low estate  
Whose Base is firme, and whole Frame competent,  
That sees this *Cedar*, made the Shrub of Fate,  
Th'on's litle, lasting; Th'others confluence spent.  
And as the Lightning comes behind the Thunder  
From the torne Cloud, yet first inuades our Sense,  
So euery violent Fortune, that to wonder  
Hoists men aloft, is a cleere euidence  
Of a vaunt-curring blow the *Fates* haue giuen  
To his forst state: swift Lightning blindes his eyes,  
While Thunder from comparision-hating Heauen  
Dischargeth on his height, and there it lyes:  
If men will shun swolne *Fortunes* ruinous blaffes,  
Let them v/e Temperance. Nothing violent lastes.

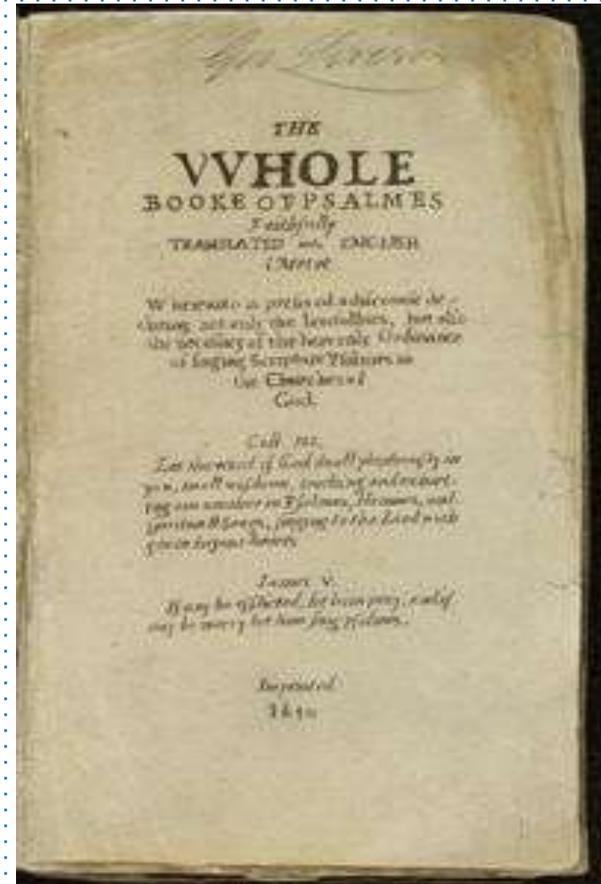
*William Strachey.*





# The Bay Psalm Book

- The first book printed in British North America
- First printed in 1640



# The Day of Doom

- By clergyman **Michael Wigglesworth** that became a best-selling classic in Puritan New England for a century after it was published in 1662
- Day of Judgment,



# More Colonial Writing

## Cotton Mather

- Magnalia Christi Americana,
- the Wonders of the Invisible World
- The Biblia Americana.
- The French immigrant J. Hector St. John de Crèvecoeur, whose Letters from an American Farmer addresses the question "What is an American?"

- The diary of William Byrd
- The History of the Dividing Line Betwixt Virginia and North Carolina is an account by William Byrd II of the surveying of the border between the Colony of Virginia and the Province of North Carolina in 1728.



# Beginning of 'Black Writing'

- **Phillis Wheatley** (c. 1753 – December 5, 1784) was the first published African-American female poet.
- *Phillis Wheatley, Negro Servant to Mr. John Wheatley, of Boston, in New England (published 1773)* is a collection of 39 poems written by Phillis Wheatley (1753 – December 5, 1784?) the first professional African-American woman poet in America and the first African-American woman whose writings were published.



# Colonial Slave Writer Olaudah Equiano

- Olaudah Equiano (c. 1745 – 31 March 1797), known in his lifetime as Gustavus, was a prominent African in London, a freed slave who supported the British movement to end the slave trade.
- He published his autobiography, **The Interesting Narrative of the Life of Olaudah Equiano** (1789), which depicted the horrors of slavery.



# Points to be noted

- Other late writings described conflicts and interaction with the Indians, as seen in writings by **Daniel Gookin, Alexander Whitaker, John Mason, Benjamin Church, and Mary Rowlandson**. **John Eliot** translated the Bible into the Algonquin language.
- The Algonquian languages are a subfamily of Native American languages which includes most of the languages in the Algic language family.
- **Nicholas Noyes** was also known for his doggerel verse.

*Sir Thopas was a doughty swain,  
White was his face as paindemain,  
His lippes red as rose.  
His rode is like scarlet in grain,  
And I you tell in good certain*



# **The Revolutionary Age (1765 – 1790)**



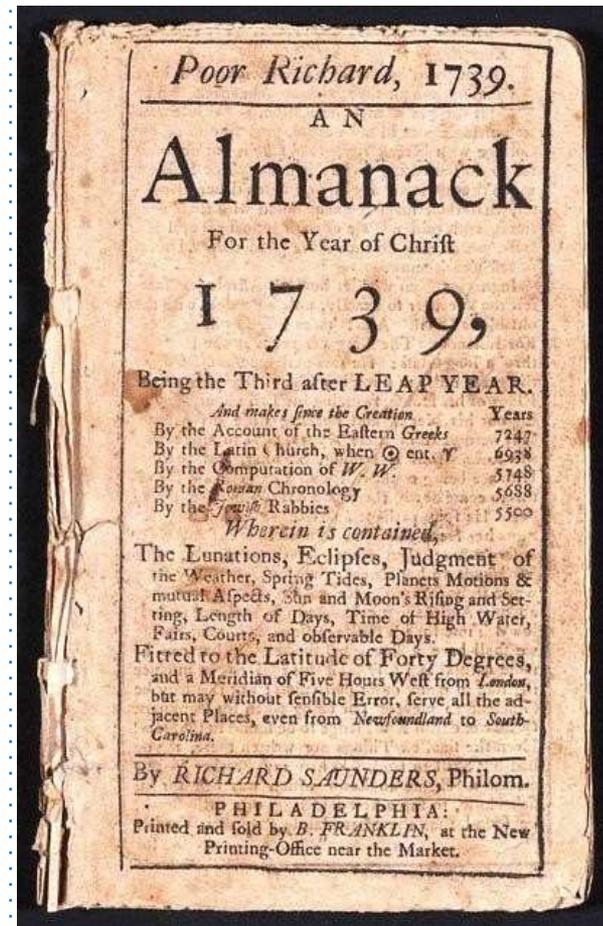
# Benjamin Franklin (1706 - 1790)

- The First American “for his early and indefatigable campaigning for colonial unity, first as an author and spokesman in London for several colonies. As the first United States Ambassador to France, he exemplified the emerging American nation.”
- Franklin had set up a printing house in partnership with **Hugh Meredith**; the following year he became the publisher of a newspaper called **The Pennsylvania Gazette**.



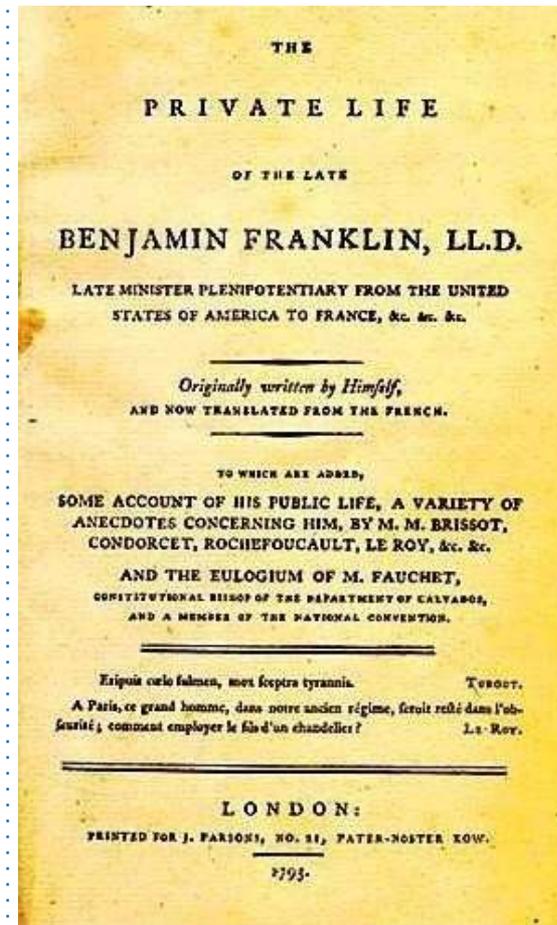
# Poor Richard's Almanack

- Poor Richard's Almanack (sometimes Almanac) was a yearly almanac published by Benjamin Franklin, who adopted the pseudonym of "Poor Richard" or "Richard Saunders" for this purpose. The publication appeared continually from **1732 to 1758**. It was a best seller for a pamphlet published in the American colonies; print runs reached 10,000 per year
- Franklin borrowed the name "Richard Saunders" from the seventeenth-century author of **Rider's British Merlin**, a popular London almanac which continued to be published throughout the eighteenth century.
- Franklin created the Poor Richard persona based in part on **Jonathan Swift's** pseudonymous character, "**Isaac Bickerstaff**"



# The Autobiography of Benjamin Franklin

- The Autobiography of Benjamin Franklin is the traditional name for the unfinished record of his own life written by Benjamin Franklin from 1771 to 1790
- The Autobiography remained unpublished during Franklin's lifetime. In 1791, the first edition appeared, 90.



# Thomas Paine

(January 29, 1737 – June 8, 1809)

- **Common Sense** is a pamphlet written by Thomas Paine in 1775–76 that inspired people in the Thirteen Colonies to declare and fight for independence from Great Britain in the summer of 1776.
- Constitution of the United States as proposed by Thomas Paine in **Common Sense**.
- **The Age of Reason; Being an Investigation of True and Fabulous Theology**.
- **Rights of Man (1791)** – Defends French Revolution
- **The American Crisis** is a pamphlet series by 18th century Enlightenment philosopher and author Thomas Paine, originally published from 1776 to 1783 during the American Revolution. Often known as **The American Crisis** or simply **The Crisis**, there are sixteen pamphlets in total. Thirteen numbered pamphlets were published between 1776 and 1777, with three additional pamphlets released between 1777 and 1783.



# **The Early National Period (1775 – 1828)**



## The Early National Period (1775 – 1828)

- This era in American Literature is responsible for notable first works, such as the first American comedy written for the stage (**The Contrast by Royall Tyler, 1787**) and the first American Novel (**The Power of Sympathy by William Hill, 1789**). Washington Irving, James Fenimore Cooper and Charles Brockden Brown are credited with creating distinctly American fiction.
- Edgar Allan Poe and William Cullen Bryant began writing poetry that was markedly different from that of the English tradition.



# First American Play

- **The Contrast**, written in 1787 by **Royall Tyler**, is an American play in the tradition of the English Restoration comedies of the seventeenth century; it takes its cue from **Sheridan's The School for Scandal**, a British comedy of manners that had revived that tradition a decade before. Royall uses the form to satirize Americans who follow British fashions and indulge in 'British vices'. Thus, the play is often concerned with portraying the **contrast between European and American culture**. It was the first American Comedy to receive production from a professional acting company.



# The Contrast by Royall Tyler

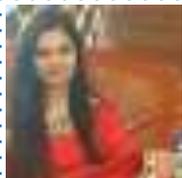
- ACT I. Scene, an Apartment at CHARLOTTE'S.  
CHARLOTTE and LETITIA discovered.

LETITIA

AND so, Charlotte, you really think the pocket hoop unbecoming.

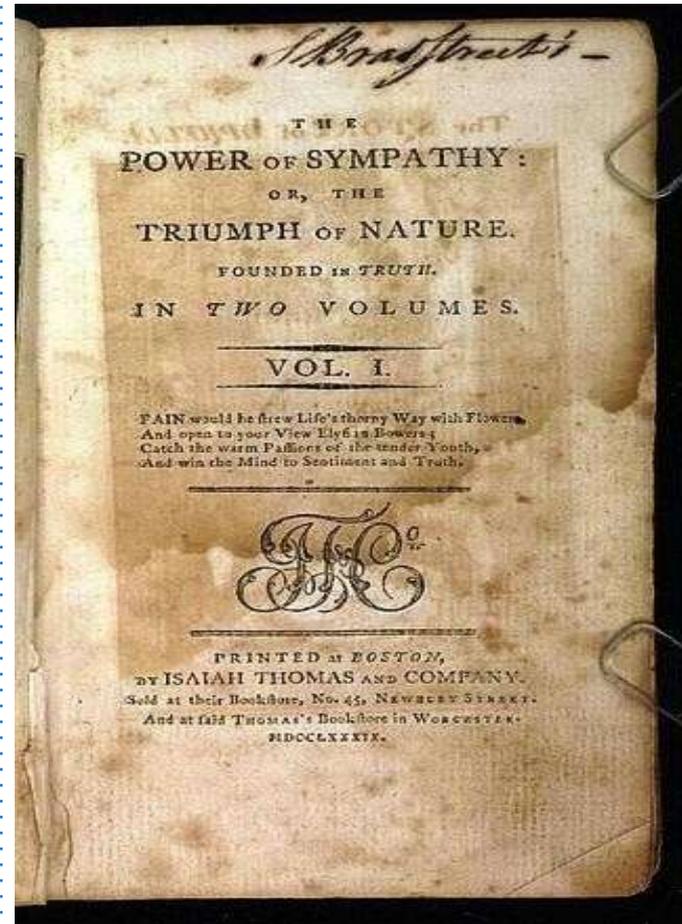
CHARLOTTE

No, I don't say so. It may be very becoming to saunter round the house of a rainy day; to visit my grand-mamma, or to go to Quakers' meeting: but to swim in a minuet, with the eyes of fifty well-dressed beaux upon me, to trip it in the Mall, or walk on the battery, give me the luxurious, jaunty, flowing, bellhoop....



# The Power of Sympathy

- **The Power of Sympathy: or, The Triumph of Nature** (1789) is an 18th-century American sentimental novel written in epistolary form by **William Hill Brown**, widely considered to be the first American novel.



# Washington Irving

- **The Sketch Book of Geoffrey Crayon, Gent.**, commonly referred to as **The Sketch Book**, is a collection of 34 essays and short stories.
- **"Rip Van Winkle"** is a short story by American author Washington Irving published in **1819** as well as the name of the story's fictional protagonist.
- **"The Legend of Sleepy Hollow"** is a short story of speculative fiction.
- His historical works include biographies of **George Washington**, **Oliver Goldsmith** and **Muhammad**, and several histories of 15th-century Spain dealing with subjects such as **Christopher Columbus**, the Moors and the Alhambra.
- He made his literary debut in 1802 with a series of observational letters to the **Morning Chronicle**, written under the pseudonym **Jonathan Oldstyle**.



# James Fenimore Cooper

- **1820-** *Precaution* (novel, set in England, 1813-1814)
- **1821-** *The Spy: A Tale of the Neutral Ground* (novel, located in Westchester County, New York, 1778)
- **1825-** *Lionel Lincoln: or The Leaguer of Boston* (novel, set during the Battle of Bunker Hill, Boston, 1775-1781)
- **1826-** *The Last of the Mohicans: A narrative of 1757* (novel, part of the Leatherstocking series, set during the French and Indian War, Lake George & Adirondacks, 1757)
- **1828-** *The Red Rover: A Tale* (novel, set in Newport, Rhode Island & Atlantic Ocean, pirates, 1759)



**The Leatherstocking Tales** is a series of five novels by American writer James Fenimore Cooper, each featuring the main hero Natty Bumppo, known by European settlers as "Leatherstocking," "The Pathfinder", and "the trapper" and by the Native Americans as "Deerslayer," "La Longue Carabine" and "Hawkeye".

| Publication Date | Story Dates | Title                           | Subtitle  |
|------------------|-------------|---------------------------------|---|
| 1841             | 1740-1755   | <i>The Deerslayer</i>           | <i>The First War Path</i>                                 |
| 1826             | 1757        | <i>The Last of the Mohicans</i> | <i>A Narrative of 1757</i>                                |
| 1840             | 1750s       | <i>The Pathfinder</i>           | <i>The Inland Sea</i>                                     |
| 1823             | 1793        | <i>The Pioneers</i>             | <i>The Sources of the Susquehanna; A Descriptive Tale</i> |
| 1827             | 1804        | <i>The Prairie</i>              | <i>A Tale</i>   |

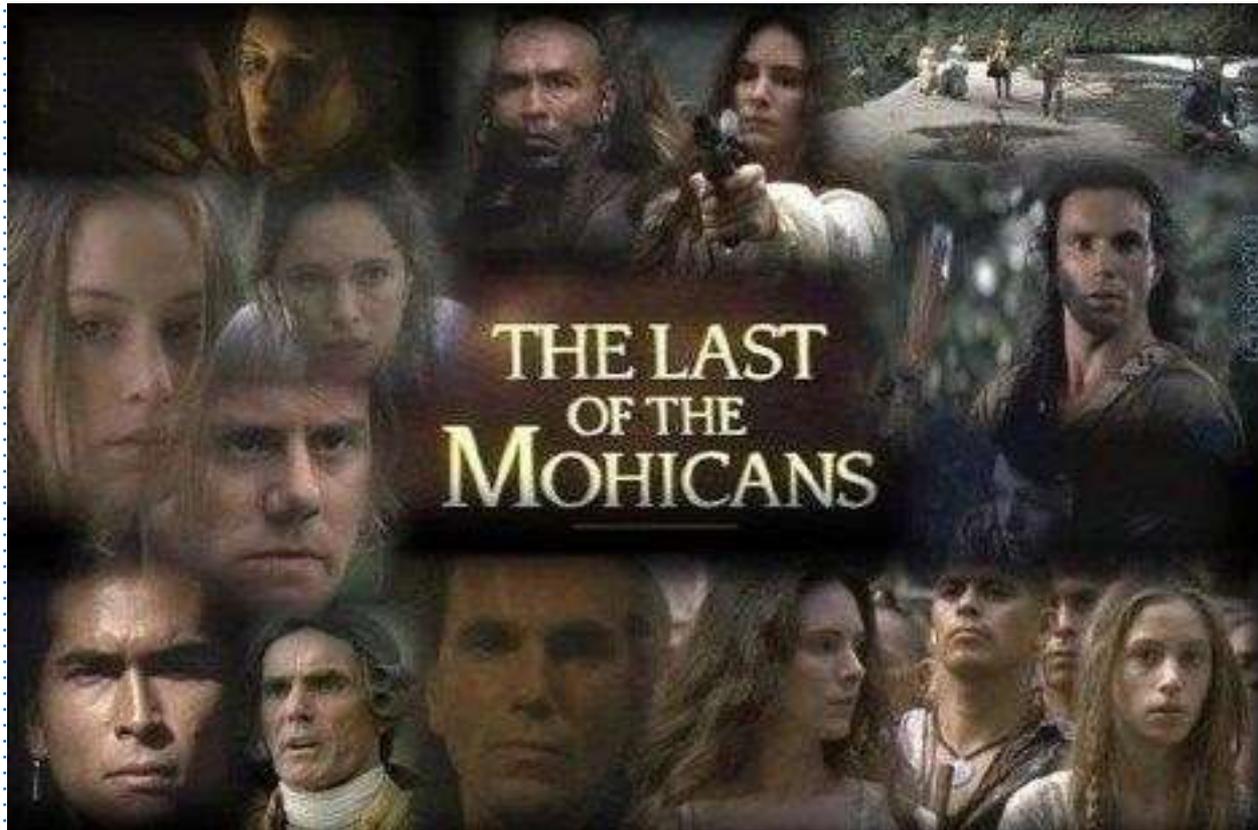


# The Last of the Mohicans

- A historical novel
- Set in 1757, during the French and Indian War (the Seven Years' War), when France and Great Britain battled for control of North America.
- Both the French and the British used Native American allies
- Alice and Cora



# The Last of The Mohicans – Movie Trailer



# Charles Brockden Brown

- He is the most frequently studied and republished practitioner of the "early American novel," or the US novel between **1789 and roughly 1820**.
- **Sky-Walk; or, The Man Unknown to Himself** (completed by March 1798 and partially typeset, but subsequently lost and never published)
- **Wieland**; or, the Transformation (September 1798)
- Ormond; or, the Secret Witness (January 1799)



# Charles Brockden Brown

- a) Arthur Mervyn; or, Memoirs of the Year 1793 (May 1799)
- Edgar Huntly; or, Memoirs of a Sleep-Walker (August 1799)
- Memoirs of Stephen Calvert (serialized from June 1799 to June 1800)
- b) Arthur Mervyn; or, Memoirs of the Year 1793, Second Part (September 1800)
- Clara Howard; In a Series of Letters (June 1801)
- Jane Talbot; A Novel (December 1801)



# Poe, Edgar Allan

- (1809-1849) American writer. Edgar Allan Poe's achievement may be measured in terms of what he has contributed to literature and how his work influenced later culture.
- Among his works are: "The Raven" (1845), "The Bells" (1849), "The Sleeper" (1831), "Lenore" (1831)--in poetry-- along with "The Gold Bug" (1843), "The Fall of the House of Usher" (1839), and other works.



# "The Raven"

- "The Raven" is a narrative poem by American writer Edgar Allan Poe. First published in **January 1845**, the poem is often noted for its musicality, stylized language, and supernatural atmosphere. It tells of a talking raven's mysterious visit to a distraught lover, tracing the man's slow fall into madness. The lover, often identified as being a student, is lamenting the loss of his love, Lenore. Sitting on a bust of Pallas, the raven seems to further instigate his distress with its constant repetition of the word "Nevermore". The poem makes use of a number of folk, mythological, religious, and classical references.



# Henry David Thoreau

- Thoreau's books, articles, essays, journals, and poetry total over 20 volumes.
- Thoreau's books, articles, essays, journals, and poetry total over 20 volumes.
- Thoreau was an American author, poet, philosopher, abolitionist, naturalist, tax resister, development critic, surveyor and historian.
- Thoreau was a leader in the Transcendentalist movement.

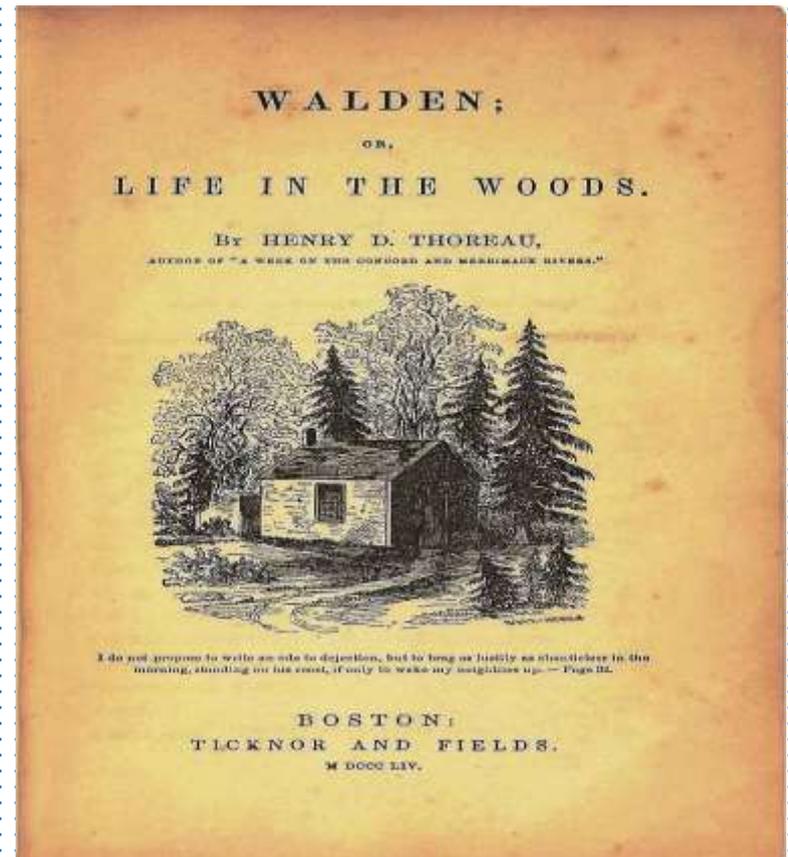


- Thoreau spent **two years, two months and two days in a cabin near Walden Pond where he wrote “Walden.”** Walden compresses the little over two years into one year using the four seasons as a metaphor for human development. The book inspired by the transcendentalist philosophy was an attempt at personal spiritual enlightenment and is somewhat of a manual for self-reliance.
- Thoreau’s essay **“Resistance to Civil Government”** often referred to as **“Civil Disobedience”**, was an argument for disobedience to an unjust state and later inspired leaders such as **Mohandas Gandhi, and Martin Luther King, Jr.**



# Walden: Life In the Woods

- Walden - first published as Walden; or, Life in the Woods, by noted transcendentalist Henry David Thoreau, is a reflection upon simple living in natural surroundings.
- The work is part personal declaration of independence, social experiment, voyage of spiritual discovery, satire, and manual for self-reliance.



# Chapters in 'Walden'

1. **Economy:** In this first and longest chapter, Thoreau outlines his project: a two-year, two-month, and two-day stay at a cozy, "tightly shingled and plastered", English-style 10' x 15' cottage in the woods near Walden Pond.
2. **Where I Lived, and What I Lived For:** Thoreau recollects thoughts of places he stayed at before selecting Walden Pond. Quotes Roman Philosopher Cato's advice "consider buying a farm very carefully before signing the papers".
3. **Reading:** Thoreau discusses the benefits of classical literature, preferably in the original Greek or Latin.
4. **Sounds:** Thoreau encourages the reader to be "forever on the alert" and "looking always at what is to be seen.



5. **Solitude:** Thoreau reflects on the feeling of solitude. He explains how loneliness can occur even amid companions if one's heart is not open to them.
6. **Visitors:** The entire chapter focuses on the coming and going of visitors, and how he has more comers in Walden than he did in the city.
7. **The Bean-Field:** Reflection on Thoreau's planting and his enjoyment of this new job/hobby.
8. **The Village:** The chapter focuses on Thoreau's second bath and on his reflections on the journeys he takes several times a week to Concord, where he gathers the latest gossip and meets with townsmen.



**9. The Ponds:** In autumn, Thoreau discusses the countryside and writes down his observations about the geography of Walden Pond.

**10. Baker Farm:** While on an afternoon ramble in the woods, Thoreau gets caught in a rainstorm and takes shelter in the dirty, dismal hut of John Field, a penniless but hard-working Irish farmhand, and his wife and children.

**11. Higher Laws:** Thoreau discusses whether hunting wild animals and eating meat is necessary.

**12. Brute Neighbors:** is a simplified version of one of Thoreau's conversations with William Ellery Channing, who sometimes accompanied Thoreau on fishing trips .

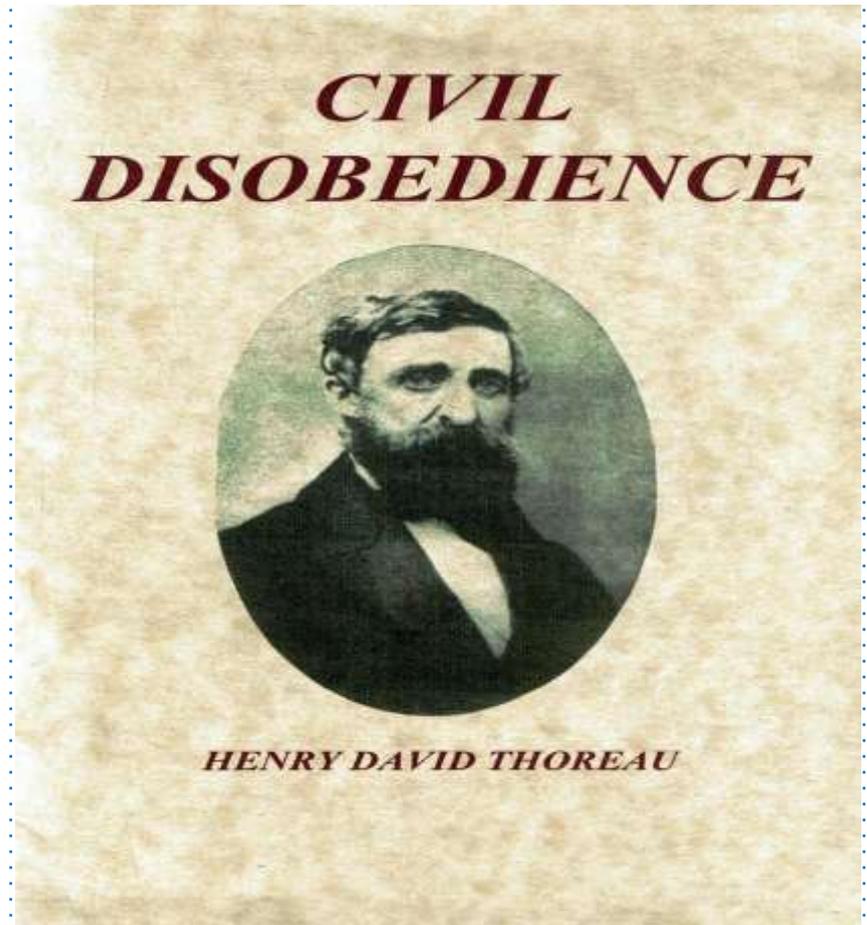


- 13. House-Warming:** After picking November berries in the woods, Thoreau adds a chimney, and finally plasters the walls of his sturdy house to stave off the cold of the oncoming winter. He also lays in a good supply of firewood, and expresses affection for wood and fire.
- 14. Former Inhabitants; and Winter Visitors:** Thoreau relates the stories of people who formerly lived in the vicinity of Walden Pond.
- 15. Winter Animals:** Thoreau amuses himself by watching wildlife during the winter.
- 16. The Pond in Winter:** Thoreau describes Walden Pond as it appears during the winter.
- 17. Spring:** As spring arrives, Walden and the other ponds melt with powerful thundering and rumbling.
- 18. Conclusion:** This final chapter is more passionate and urgent than its predecessors.



# CIVIL DISOBEDIENCE

- Resistance to Civil Government (Civil Disobedience) is an essay by American transcendentalist Henry David Thoreau that was first published in 1849.
- Thoreau was motivated in part by his disgust with slavery and the Mexican–American War
- Influenced - Mahatma Gandhi and Martin Luther King Jr.



# Nathaniel Hawthorne

- Born in Salem, Massachusetts in 1804, Nathaniel Hawthorne's short stories include "My Kinsman, Major Molineux" (1832), "Roger Malvin's Burial" (1832), "Young Goodman Brown" (1835), and the collection *Twice-Told Tales*. He is best known for his novels *The Scarlet Letter* (1850) and *The House of the Seven Gables* (1851). His use of allegory and symbolism make Hawthorne one of the most studied writers.



# Novels By Hawthorne

- Fanshawe (published anonymously, 1828)
- The Scarlet Letter (1850)
- The House of the Seven Gables (1851)
- The Blithedale Romance (1852)



# Novels By Hawthorne...

- The Marble Faun: Or, The Romance of Monte Beni (1860)
- The Dolliver Romance (1863) (unfinished)
- Septimus Felton; or, the Elixir of Life (1872)
- Doctor Grimshawe's Secret: A romance (unfinished), with Preface and Notes by Julian Hawthorne (1882)



# Short Story Collections

- Twice-Told Tales (1837)
- Grandfather's Chair (1840)
- Mosses from an Old Manse (1846)
- A Wonder-Book for Girls and Boys (1851)
- The Snow-Image, and Other Twice-Told Tales (1852)
- Tanglewood Tales (1853)
- The Dolliver Romance and Other Pieces (1876)
- The Great Stone Face and Other Tales of the White Mountains (1889)
- A Wonder-Book for Young and Old (1851)
- Twenty Days with Julian & Little Bunny (1851)



# The Scarlet Letter

1. Hawthorne Was So Ashamed Of His Puritan Ancestors, He Changed His Name – Hathorne – Hawthorne
2. He Started *The Scarlet Letter* After He Was Fired From His Job.
3. Hester and Dimmesdale's Affair May Be Modeled After A Public Scandal.
4. The Puritans Really Did Make People Wear Letters For Adultery.
5. Hawthorne's Editor Took Credit For Talking Him Into Writing The Novel. - *The Atlantic Monthly*, editor James T. Fields



6. The Novel Is One Of The First To Feature A Strong Female Character - Hester Prynne
7. *The Scarlet Letter* Is Full Of Symbols - As you probably know, Hawthorne hits you in the head with symbolism throughout *The Scarlet Letter*, starting with the characters' names—Pearl for an unwanted child, Roger Chillingworth for a twisted, cold man, Arthur Dimmesdale for a man whose education cannot lead him to truth. From the wild woods to the rosebush by the jail to the embroidered 'A' itself, it's easy to see why *The Scarlet Letter* is the book that launched a thousand literary essays.
8. Hawthorne Loved The Word Ignominy - In the 87,000-plus words that make up *The Scarlet Letter*, Hawthorne used "ignominy" 16 times, "ignominious" seven times, and "ignominiously" once. He apparently had affection for the word, which means dishonor, infamy, disgrace, or shame. Either that, or he needed a thesaurus.
9. People Thought The Novel Was Scandalous.
10. Hawthorne Didn't Make Much Money From The Novel - paid less than a penny per copy. Hawthorne only made \$1500 from the book over the remaining 14 years of his life.



# The Scarlet Letter – Movie Trailer



# THE HOUSE OF THE SEVEN GABLES

- **GENRE** · Satire, horror novel, moral fable
- **DATE OF FIRST PUBLICATION** · 1851
- **SETTING (TIME)** · 1850s
- **SETTING (PLACE)** · A town like those found in the county of Essex, Massachusetts.
- **PROTAGONISTS** · Hepzibah Pyncheon, Phoebe Pyncheon, Clifford Pyncheon, Holgrave
- **THEMES** · The sins of one generation are visited on the next; the deceptiveness of appearances; class status in New England
- **MOTIFS** · Decay; mesmerism; the Judge's smile
- **SYMBOLS** · The house; the portrait of Colonel Pyncheon; the chickens



# THE HOUSE OF THE SEVEN GABLES

- **MAJOR CONFLICT** · Judge Pyncheon tries to coerce Clifford into giving him information regarding their uncle's missing inheritance. Since Judge Pyncheon embodies the dogged ambition and greed that has characterized the Pyncheon family, his persecution of Clifford and Hepzibah plays out in microcosm their battle against the entire Pyncheon legacy.
- **RISING ACTION** · The Judge order Hepzibah to summon Clifford; Hepzibah fearfully goes to find Clifford
- **CLIMAX** · Judge Pyncheon dies of apoplexy before he can interrogate Clifford. The Judge's death effectively ends the curse of the Pyncheons.
- **FALLING ACTION** · Clifford and Hepzibah flee the house; Holgrave and Phoebe find the Judge's body; all the protagonists leave the house of the seven gables for good
- **THEMES** · The sins of one generation are visited on the next; the deceptiveness of appearances; class status in New England



# Short Stories of Hawthorne

- "Roger Malvin's Burial" (1832)
- "My Kinsman, Major Molineux" (1832)
- "Young Goodman Brown" (1835)
- "The Gray Champion" (1835)
- "The White Old Maid" (1835)
- "Wakefield" (1835)
- "The Ambitious Guest" (1835)
- "The Minister's Black Veil" (1836)
- "The Man of Adamant" (1837)
- "The Maypole of Merry Mount" (1837)
- "The Great Carbuncle" (1837)
- "Dr. Heidegger's Experiment" (1837)
- "A Virtuoso's Collection" (May 1842)
- "The Birth-Mark" (March 1843)
- "The Celestial Railroad" (1843)
- "Egotism; or, The Bosom-Serpent" (1843)
- "Rappaccini's Daughter" (1844)
- "P.'s Correspondence" (1845)
- "The Artist of the Beautiful" (1846)
- "Ethan Brand" (1850)
- "The Great Stone Face" (1850)
- "Feathertop" (1852)



# Herman Melville

- Herman Melville (August 1, 1819 – September 28, 1891) was an American novelist, short story writer, and poet from the American Renaissance period.
- Most of his writings were published between 1846 and 1857. Best known for his sea adventure **Typee (1846)** and his whaling novel **Moby-Dick (1851)**, he was almost forgotten during the last thirty years of his life. Melville's writing draws on his **experience at sea as a common sailor**, exploration of literature and philosophy, and engagement in the contradictions of American society in a period of rapid change. The main characteristic of his style is probably pervasive allusion, reflecting his written sources.



# Prose

1. *Billy Budd, Sailor* (1924)
2. *Israel Potter* (1855)
3. *Mardi* (1849)
4. *Moby-Dick, or the Whale* (1851)
5. *Omoo* (1847)
6. *Pierre, or The Ambiguities* (1852)
7. *Redburn* (1849)
8. *The Confidence-Man* (1857)
9. *The Piazza Tales Israel Potter* (1856)
10. *Typee: A Peep at Polynesian Life* (1846)  
*White-Jacket; or, the World in a Man-of-War* (1850)



# Poetry

1. *Battle-Pieces and Aspectsof the War: Civil War Poems(1866)*
2. *Clarel: A Poem and a Pilgrimage (1876)*
3. *John Marr and Other Sailors (1888)*
4. *Timoleon (1891)*



# MOBY-DICK

- **DATE OF FIRST PUBLICATION** · 1851
- **NARRATOR** · **Ishmael**, a junior member of the *Pequod's* crew, casts himself as the author, recounting the events of the voyage after he has acquired more experience and studied the whale extensively.
- **tone** · Ironic, celebratory, philosophical, dramatic, hyperbolic
- **TENSE** · Past
- **SETTING (TIME)** · 1830s or 1840s
- **SETTING (PLACE)** · Aboard the whaling ship the *Pequod*, in the Pacific, Atlantic, and Indian Oceans
- **THEMES** · The limits of knowledge; the deceptiveness of fate; the exploitative nature of whaling



- **SETTING (PLACE)** · Aboard the **whaling ship the *Pequod***, in the Pacific, Atlantic, and Indian Oceans
- **MAJOR CONFLICT** · Ahab dedicates his ship and crew to destroying Moby Dick, a white sperm whale, because he sees this whale as the living embodiment of all that is evil and malignant in the universe. By ignoring the physical dangers that this quest entails, setting himself against other men, and presuming to understand and fight evil on a cosmic scale, Ahab arrogantly defies the limitations imposed upon human beings.
- **RISING ACTION** · Ahab announces his quest to the other sailors and nails the doubloon to the mast; the *Pequod* encounters various ships with news and stories about Moby Dick.
- **CLIMAX** · In Chapter 132, “The Symphony,” Ahab interrogates himself and his quest in front of Starbuck, and realizes that he does not have the will to turn aside from his purpose.
- **FALLING ACTION** · The death of Ahab and the destruction of the *Pequod* by Moby Dick; Ishmael, the only survivor of the *Pequod*’s sinking, floats on a coffin and is rescued by another whaling ship, the *Rachel*.



# Moby Dick or the Whale – Trailer



# Margaret Fuller

- Sarah Margaret Fuller Ossoli (May 23, 1810 – July 19, 1850), commonly known as Margaret Fuller, was an American journalist, critic, and women's rights advocate associated with the American transcendentalism movement. She was the **first full-time American female book reviewer** in journalism. Her book **Woman in the Nineteenth Century** is considered the first major feminist work in the United States.
- She became the first editor of the transcendentalist journal **The Dial** in 1840, before joining the staff of **the New York Tribune** under Horace Greeley in 1844.



# Margaret Fuller – Her Works

- Summer on the Lakes (1844)
- Woman in the Nineteenth Century (1845)
- Papers on Literature and Art (1846)

## Posthumous editions

- Memoirs of Margaret Fuller Ossoli (1852)
- At Home and Abroad (1856)
- Life Without and Life Within (1858)



# *Woman in the Nineteenth Century*

- **Woman in the Nineteenth Century** is a book by American journalist, editor, and women's rights advocate **Margaret Fuller**. Originally published in July 1843 in The Dial magazine as "**The Great Lawsuit. Man versus Men. Woman versus Women**", it was later expanded and republished in book form in 1845.
- Famous Quote - "**there is no wholly masculine man, no purely feminine woman.**"
- Men refuse to acknowledge women's spirituality and thus hinder their intellectual growth. Because of this attitude, women cannot fully realize their God-given potential.
- Those who thought that slavery was wrong could certainly not approve of the submission of women.



# Henry Wadsworth Longfellow

- Henry Wadsworth Longfellow (February 27, 1807 – March 24, 1882) was an American poet and educator whose works include "Paul Revere's Ride", The Song of Hiawatha, and Evangeline. He was also **the first American to translate Dante Alighieri's Divine Comedy**, and was one of the five Fireside Poets.
- **The Fireside Poets** (also known as the Schoolroom or Household Poets) were a group of 19th-century American poets from New England.
- **The Fireside Poets** - Henry Wadsworth Longfellow, William Cullen Bryant, John Greenleaf Whittier, James Russell Lowell, and Oliver Wendell Holmes, Sr.



# H. W. Longfellow – Poetry

*Aftermath* (1873)  
*Ballads and Other  
Poems* (1841)  
*Christus: A Mystery* (1872)  
*Evangeline* (1847)  
*Flower-de-Luce* (1867)  
*Household Poems* (1863)  
*Keramos and Other  
Poems* (1878)  
*Poems on Slavery* (1842)  
*Tales of a Wayside  
Inn* (1863)

*The Belfry of Bruges and  
Other Poems* (1845)  
*The Courtship of Miles  
Standish* (1858)  
*The Golden Legend* (1851)  
*The Masque of Pandora and  
Other Poems* (1875)  
*The Seaside and  
Fireside* (1849)  
*The Song of  
Hiawatha* (1855)  
*Three Books of Song* (1872)  
*Ultima Thule* (1880)  
*Voices of the Night* (1839)



# Other Works of Longfellow

- **Prose**

*The New England Tragedies* (1868)

- **Drama**

*The Spanish Student* (1843)

- **Essays**

*Outre-Mer: A Pilgrimage Beyond the Sea* (1835)

- **Fiction**

*Hyperion: A Romance* (1839)

*Kavanagh: A Tale* (1849)

- **Poetry in Translation**

*The Divine Comedy of Dante Alighieri* (1867)



# Harriet Beecher Stowe

- Harriet Elisabeth Beecher Stowe (June 14, 1811 – July 1, 1896) was an American abolitionist and author. She came from a famous religious family and is best known for her novel **Uncle Tom's Cabin** (1852).
- It depicts the harsh life for African Americans under slavery. It reached millions as a novel and play, and became influential in the United States and Great Britain. It energized anti-slavery forces in the American North, while provoking widespread anger in the South.
- She wrote 30 books, including novels, three travel memoirs, and collections of articles and letters. She was influential for both her writings and her public stands on social issues of the day.



# UNCLE TOM'S CABIN

- **GENRE** · Ant
- **DATE OF FIRST PUBLICATION** · 1851
- **SETTING (TIME)** · Around the early 1850s
- **SETTING (PLACE)** · The American South (Kentucky and Louisiana). Eliza and George's escape takes them through Ohio and several Northern Quaker settlements, then into Canada.
- **THEMES** · The evil of slavery; the incompatibility of slavery and Christian values; the moral power of women

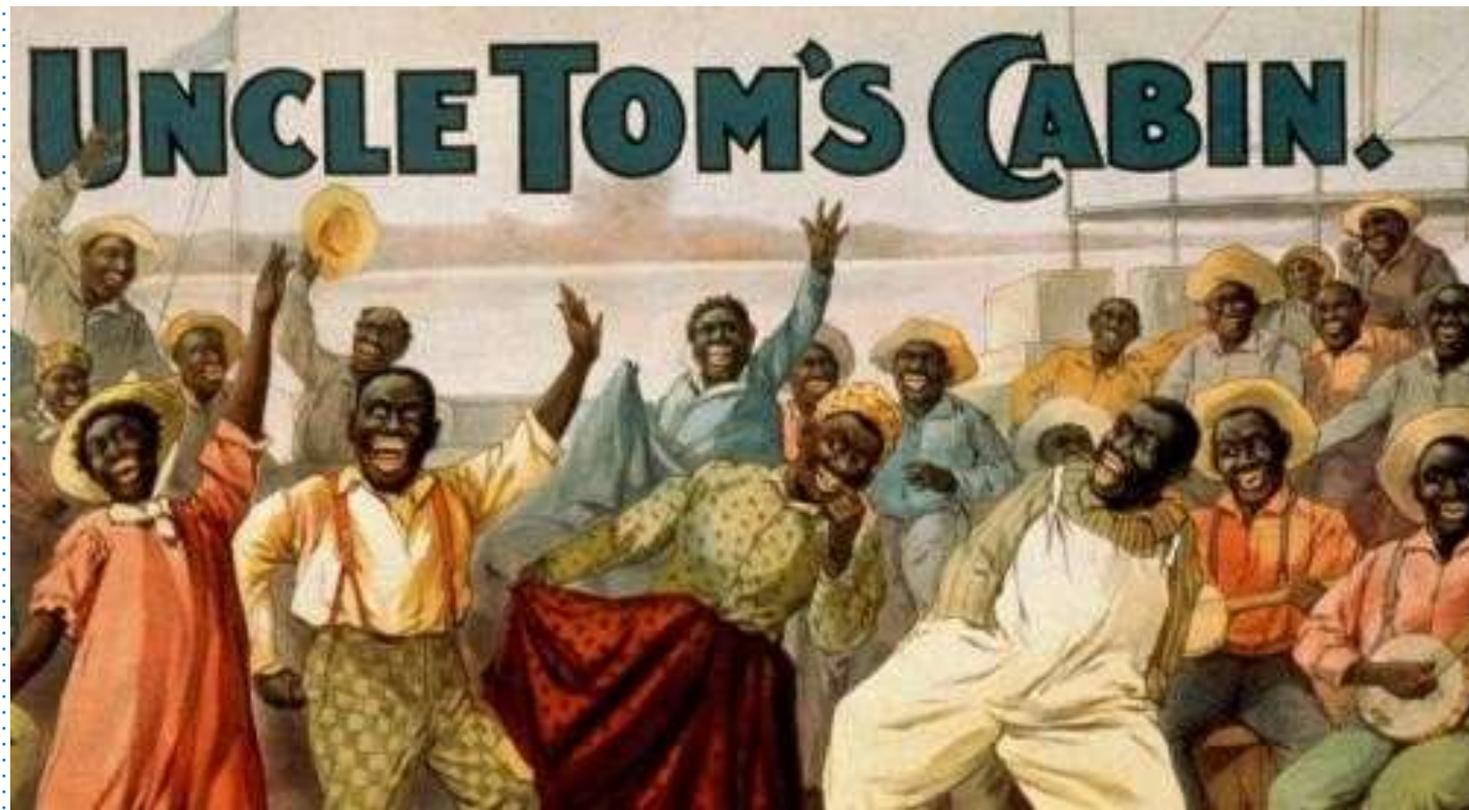


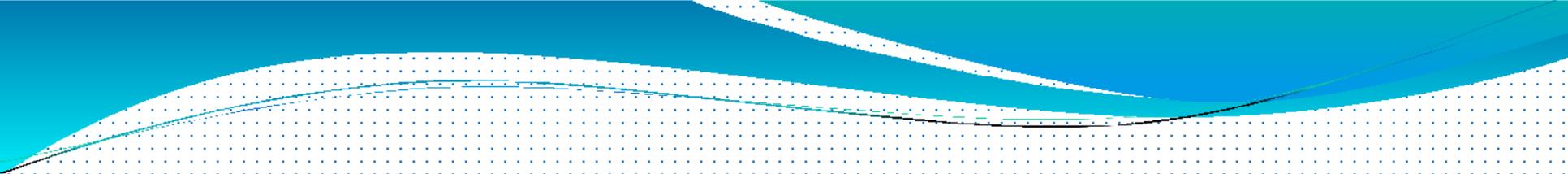
# UNCLE TOM'S CABIN

- **PROTAGONIST** · Uncle Tom in the main narrative; Eliza and George Harris in the subplot
- **MAJOR CONFLICT** · Whether practiced by kind or cruel masters, slavery injects misery into the lives of Southern blacks, testing their courage and their faith.
- **RISING ACTION** · Uncle Tom comes to live under increasingly evil masters; his faith begins to falter; while working at the Legree plantation, he encourages Cassy and Emmeline to escape; he refuses to compromise his values by helping Legree hunt them down
- **CLIMAX** · The sequence of events surrounding Uncle Tom's renewal of religious faith and his death, Chapters XXXVIII-LXI
- **FALLING ACTION** · George Shelby's emancipation of his slaves in Chapter XLIII, which is motivated by his witnessing Tom's death



# Uncle Tom's Cabin – Movie Trailer

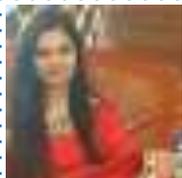




# **The Realistic Period (1865 – 1900)**

# The Realistic Period (1865 – 1900)

- As a result of the American Civil War, Reconstruction and the age of Industrialism, American ideals and self-awareness changed in profound ways, and American literature responded. Certain romantic notions of the American Renaissance are replaced by realistic descriptions of American life, such as those represented in the works of **William Dean Howells, Henry James and Mark Twain**. This period also gave rise to regional writing, such as the works of **Sarah Orne Jewett, Kate Chopin, Bret Harte, Mary Wilkins Freeman and George W. Cable**. In addition to **Walt Whitman**, another master poet, **Emily Dickinson**, appeared at this time.



# William Dean Howells

- William Dean Howells (March 1, 1837 – May 11, 1920) was an American realist author, literary critic, and playwright. Nicknamed "**The Dean of American Letters**", he was particularly known for his tenure as editor of *the Atlantic Monthly* as well as his own prolific writings, including the Christmas story "**Christmas Every Day**", and the novels **The Rise of Silas Lapham** and **A Traveler from Altruria**.



# Works

- Venetian Life (1866)
- Italian Journeys (1867)
- Suburban Sketches (1871)
- Their Wedding Journey (1872)
- The Parlor Car (1876)
- A Counterfeit Presentment (1877)
- The Lady of The Aroostook (1879)



- The following were written during his residence in England and in Italy, as was *The Rise of Silas Lapham* in 1885.
- *The Undiscovered Country* (1880)
- *A Fearful Responsibility* (1881)
- *Dr. Breen's Practice* (1881)
- *The Sleeping Car* (1882)
- *A Modern Instance* (1882)
- *A Woman's Reason* (1883)
- *Three Villages* (1884)
- *Tuscan Cities* (1885)
- *The Rise of Silas Lapham* (1885)



- Indian Summer (1886)
- The Minister's Charge (1886)
- Annie Kilburn (1887/88)
- Modern Italian Poets (1887)
- April Hopes (1888)
- Mark Twain's Library of Humor (1888, in conjunction with Mark Twain)
- A Hazard of New Fortunes (1889)
- The Shadow of a Dream (1890)
- A Boy's Town (1890)
- Criticism and Fiction (1891)



- Christmas Every Day (1892)
- The Quality of Mercy (1892)
- An Imperative Duty (1892)
- The Coast of Bohemia (1893)
- My Year In a Log Cabin (1893)
- A Traveler from Altruria (1894)
- Stops of Various Quills (1895)
- The Landlord At Lion's Head (1897)
- The Story of a Play (1898)
- Ragged Lady (1899)
- Their Silver Wedding Journey (1899)



- The Flight of Pony Baker (1902)
- The Kentons (1902)
- Questionable Shapes (1903)
- Son of Royal Langbrith (1904)
- Editha (1905)
- London Films (1905)
- Certain Delightful English Towns (1906)
- Between the Dark and the Daylight (1907)
- Through the Eye of the Needle (1907)
- Heroines of Fiction (1908)
- The Landlord At Lion's Head (1908)
- My Mark Twain: Reminiscences (1910)
- New Leaf Mills (1913)
- Seen and Unseen at Stratford-upon-Avon: A Fantasy (1914)
- The Leatherwood God (1916)
- Years of My Youth (autobiography) (1916)



# Henry James

- He is best known for a number of novels showing Americans encountering Europe and Europeans. His method of writing from a character's point of view allowed him to explore issues related to consciousness and perception, and his style in later works has been compared to impressionist painting. His imaginative use of point of view, interior monologue and unreliable narrators brought a new depth to narrative fiction.
- James was nominated for the Nobel Prize in Literature in 1911, 1912, and 1916.



# Henry James – Works

- The first period of James's fiction, usually considered to have culminated in **The Portrait of a Lady**, concentrated on the contrast between Europe and America. The style of these novels is generally straightforward and, though personally characteristic, well within the norms of 19th century fiction.
- **Roderick Hudson (1875)** is a Künstlerroman ("artist's novel") that traces the development of the title character, an extremely talented sculptor. Although the book shows some signs of immaturity—this was James's first serious attempt at a full-length novel—it has attracted favourable comment due to the vivid realisation of the three major characters: Roderick Hudson, superbly gifted but unstable and unreliable; Rowland Mallet, Roderick's limited but much more mature friend and patron; and Christina Light, one of James's most enchanting and maddening femmes fatales.



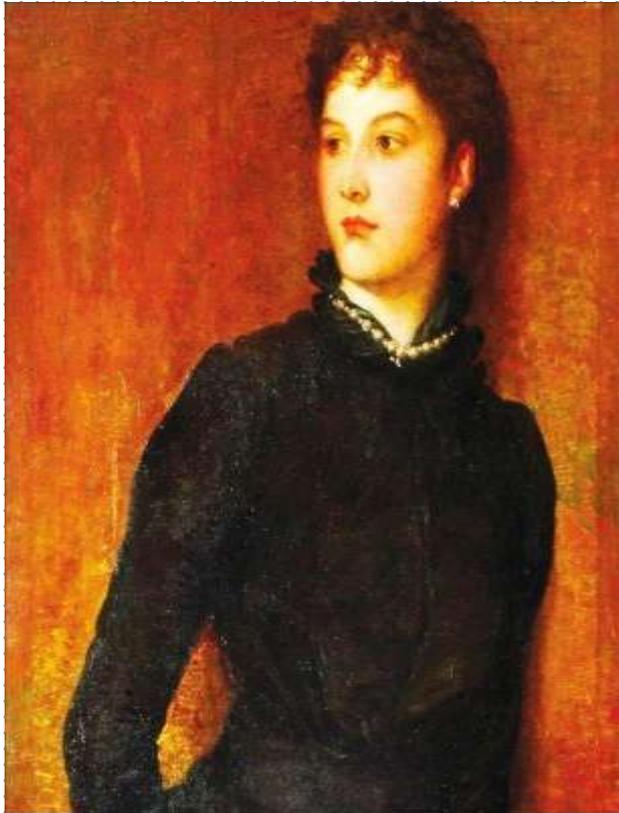
- His first published work was a review of a stage performance, "Miss Maggie Mitchell in Fanchon the Cricket," published in 1863.
- About a year later, *A Tragedy of Error*, his first short story, was published.
- James's first payment was for an appreciation of Sir Walter Scott's novels, written for the *North American Review*.
- He wrote fiction and non-fiction pieces for *The Nation* and *Atlantic Monthly*, where Fields was editor.
- In 1870 he published his first novel, *Watch and Ward*.
- He continued to be a prolific writer, producing *The American* (1877), *The Europeans* (1878), a revision of *Watch and Ward* (1878), *French Poets and Novelists* (1878), *Hawthorne* (1879), and several shorter works of fiction.



- While living in London, James continued to follow the careers of the "French realists", **Émile Zola** in particular. Their stylistic methods influenced his own work in the years to come.
- Hawthorne's influence on him faded during this period, replaced by **George Eliot and Ivan Turgenev**.
- 1879-1882 saw the publication of **The Europeans, Washington Square, Confidence, and The Portrait of a Lady**.
- He spent a long stay in Italy in 1887. In that year "**The Aspern Papers**", and **The Reverberator** were published. In 1897–1898 he moved to Rye, Sussex, and wrote "**The Turn of the Screw**".
- 1899–1900 saw the publication of **The Awkward Age** and **The Sacred Fount**.



# Major Novels by Henry James - 1



Henry James  
The Portrait of a Lady

- **The Portrait of a Lady** is a novel by Henry James, first published as a serial in *The Atlantic Monthly* and *Macmillan's Magazine* in 1880–81 and then as a book in 1881. It is one of James's most popular long novels, and is regarded by critics as one of his finest.
- *The Portrait of a Lady* is the story of a spirited young American woman, **Isabel Archer**, who in "affronting her destiny", finds it overwhelming. She inherits a large amount of money and subsequently becomes the victim of Machiavellian scheming by two American expatriates. Like many of James's novels, it is set in Europe, mostly England and Italy. Generally regarded as the masterpiece of James's early period,[2] this novel reflects James's continuing interest in the differences between the New World and the Old, often to the detriment of the former. It also treats in a profound way the themes of personal freedom, responsibility, and betrayal.



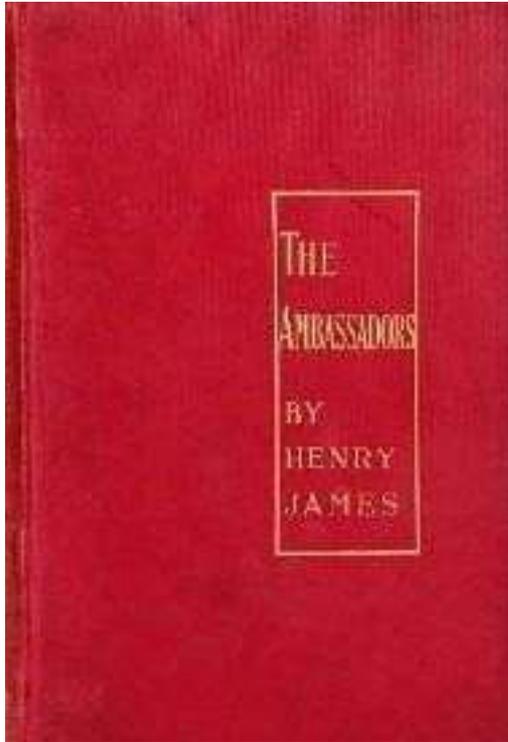
## Major Novels by Henry James - 2



- **The Wings of the Dove** is a 1902 novel by Henry James. This novel tells the story of **Milly Theale**, an American heiress stricken with a serious disease, and her effect on the people around her. Some of these people befriend Milly with honorable motives, while others are more self-interested.



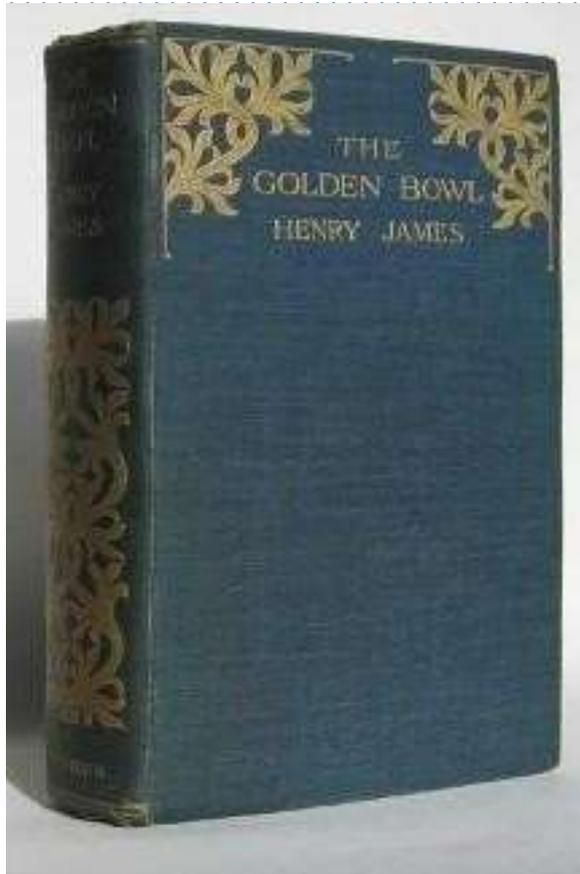
## Major Novels by Henry James - 3



- **The Ambassadors** is a 1903 novel by Henry James, originally published as a serial in the North American Review (NAR). This dark comedy, seen as one of the masterpieces of James's final period, follows the trip of protagonist **Lewis Lambert Strether** to Europe in pursuit of Chad Newsome, his widowed fiancée's supposedly wayward son; he is to bring the young man back to the family business, but he encounters unexpected complications



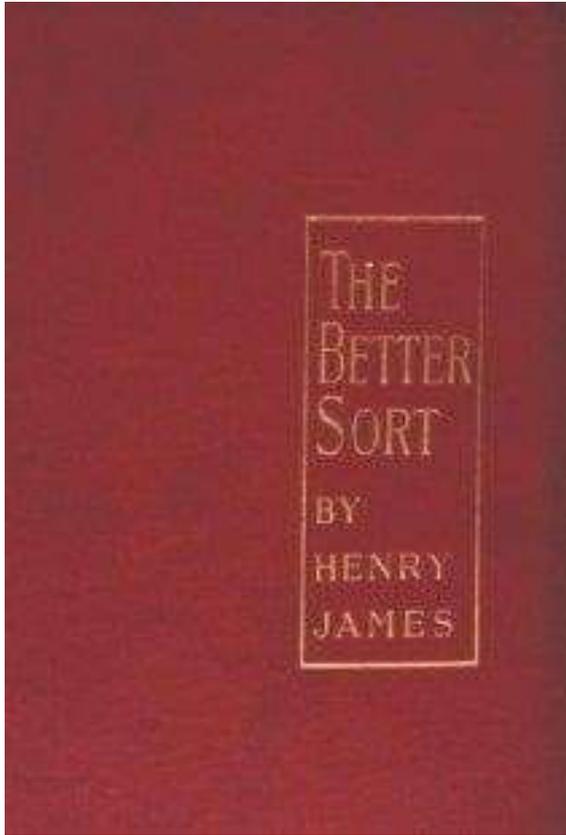
## Major Novels by Henry James - 4



- **The Golden Bowl** is a 1904 novel by Henry James. Set in England, this complex, intense study of marriage and adultery completes what some critics have called the "major phase" of James' career. The Golden Bowl explores the tangle of interrelationships between a father and daughter and their respective spouses.
- The novel focuses deeply and almost exclusively on the consciousness of the central characters, with sometimes obsessive detail but also with powerful insight. The title is a quotation from Ecclesiastes 12:6, "...or the golden bowl be broken, ...then shall the dust return to the earth as it was".



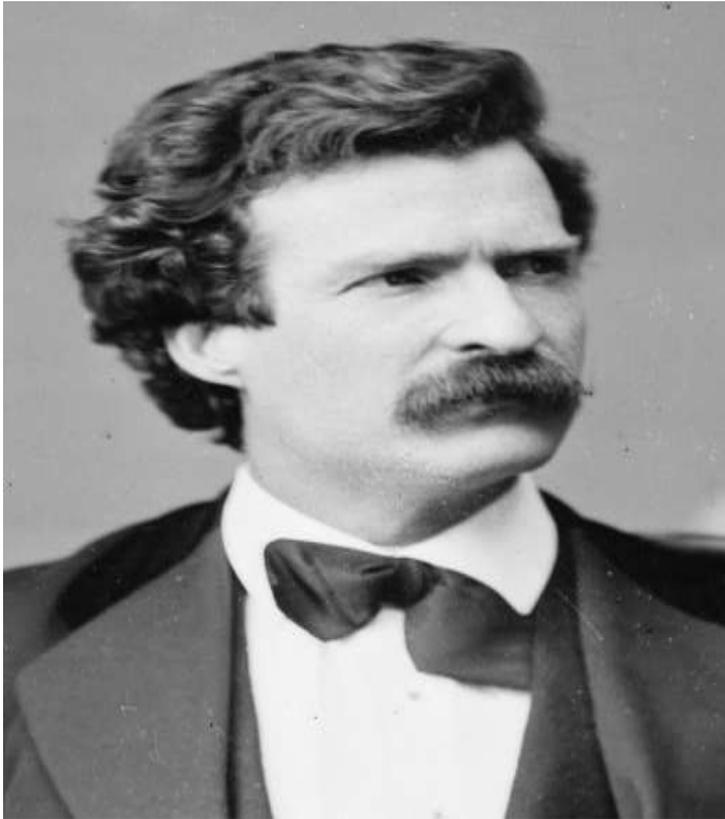
## Major Novels by Henry James - 5



- **The Beast in the Jungle** is a 1903 novella by Henry James, first published as part of the collection, *The Better Sort*. Almost universally considered one of James' finest short narratives, this story treats appropriately universal themes: loneliness, fate, love and death. The parable of John Marcher and his peculiar destiny has spoken to many readers who have speculated on the worth and meaning of human life.



# Mark Twain



- Born on November 30, 1835, in Florida, Missouri, Samuel L. Clemens wrote under the pen name Mark Twain and went on to author several novels, including two major classics of American literature: *The Adventures of Tom Sawyer* and *Adventures of Huckleberry Finn*. He was also a riverboat pilot, journalist, lecturer, entrepreneur and inventor. Twain died on April 21, 1910, in Redding, Connecticut.



# Interesting facts about Mark Twain

- Haley's Comet was visible in the sky both on the night that Mark Twain was born and on the night he passed away.
- Mark Twain published more than 30 books throughout his career.
- Hannibal, Mo. served as the inspiration for the fictional town of St. Petersburg in "The Adventures of Huckleberry Finn."
- "Roughing It" describes Twain's journey out West with his brother Orion.
- "Huckleberry Finn" was ranked as the fifth most frequently challenged book in the United States by the American Library Association.
- Prior to adopting Mark Twain as his pen name, Clemens wrote under the pen name Thomas Jefferson Snodgrass for a number of humorous pieces that he contributed to the Keokuk Post.



# Rhetoric Quotes by Mark Twain

- “If you tell the truth, you don't have to remember anything.”
- “Good friends, good books, and a sleepy conscience: this is the ideal life.”
- “I have never let my schooling interfere with my education.”
- “‘Classic’ - a book which people praise and don't read.”
- “A lie can travel half way around the world while the truth is putting on its shoes.”
- “God created war so that Americans would learn geography.”
- “Books are for people who wish they were somewhere else.”



# *The Adventures of Tom Sawyer*

- **GENRE** · Concerned with Tom's personal growth and quest for identity, *The Adventures of Tom Sawyer* incorporates several different genres. It resembles a bildungsroman, a novel that follows the development of a hero from childhood through adolescence and into adulthood. The novel also resembles novels of the picaresque genre, in that Tom moves from one adventurous episode to another. *The Adventures of Tom Sawyer* also fits the genres of satire, frontier literature, folk narrative, and comedy.
- **DATE OF FIRST PUBLICATION** · The novel appeared in England in June 1876, and six months later in the United States.
- **NARRATOR** · An adult who views the adult world critically and looks back on the sentiments and pastimes of childhood in a somewhat idealized manner, with wit and also with nostalgia



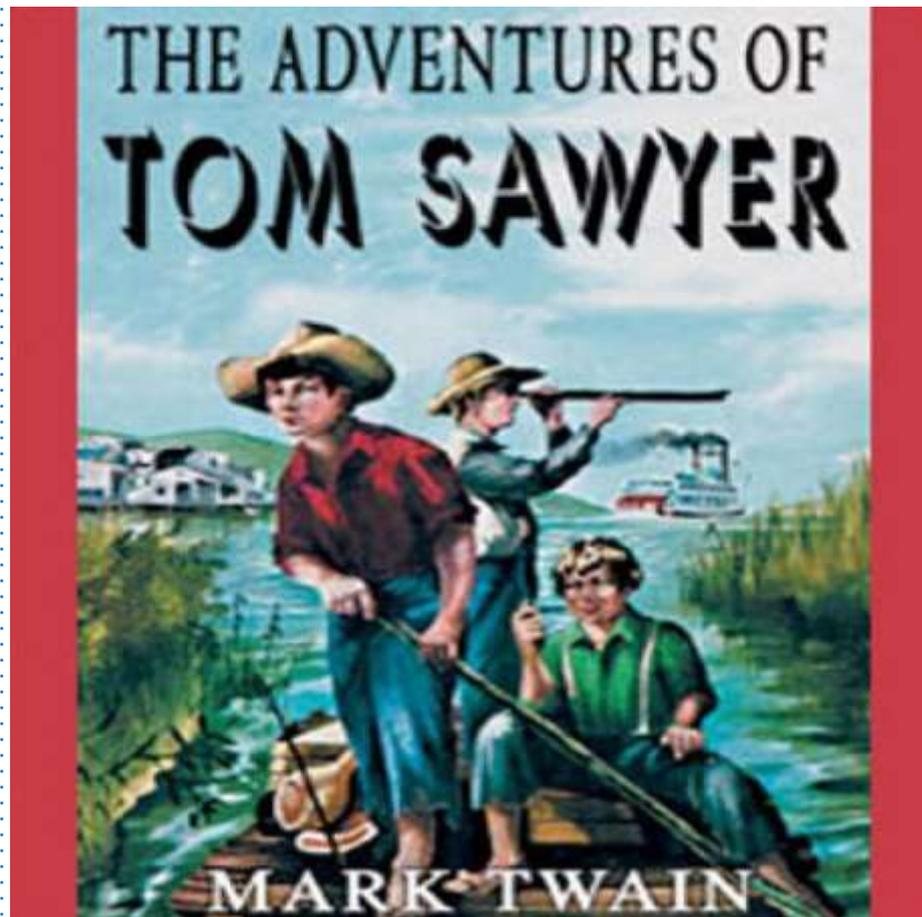
- **SETTING (TIME)** · Not specified, but probably around 1845
- **SETTING (PLACE)** · The fictional town of St. Petersburg, Missouri (which resembles Twain's hometown of Hannibal)
- **PROTAGONIST** · Tom Sawyer
- **MAJOR CONFLICT** · Tom and Huck perceive their biggest struggle to be between themselves and Injun Joe, whose gold they want and whom they believe is out to kill them. Conflict also exists between Tom and his imaginative world and the expectations and rules of adult society.
- **RISING ACTION** · Tom and Huck's witness of Dr. Robinson's murder; the search for the boys' bodies in the river when they escape to Jackson's Island; Tom's testimony at Muff Potter's trial; Tom and Huck's accidental sighting of Injun Joe at the haunted house; Tom and Becky's entrapment in the cave



- **CLIMAX** · Huck overhears Injun Joe's plan to kill the Widow Douglas, and Tom encounters Injun Joe when he and Becky are stranded in the cave.
- **FALLING ACTION** · Huck gets help from the Welshman and drives Injun Joe away from the Widow Douglas; Tom avoids conflict with Injun Joe and navigates himself and Becky out of the cave; Judge Thatcher seals off the cave, causing Injun Joe to starve to death; Tom and Huck find Injun Joe's treasure; Huck is adopted and civilized by the Widow Douglas.
- **THEMES** · Moral and social maturation; society's hypocrisy; freedom through social exclusion; superstition in an uncertain world
- **MOTIFS** · Crime; trading; the circus; "showing off"
- **SYMBOLS** · The cave; the storm; the treasure; the village

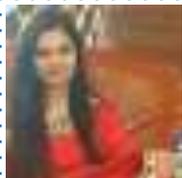


# The Adventures of Tom Sawyer – Movie Trailer

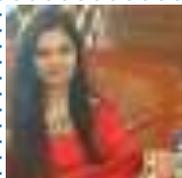


# THE ADVENTURES OF HUCKLEBERRY FINN

- **GENRE** · Picaresque novel (episodic, colorful story often in the form of a quest or journey); satire of popular adventure and romance novels; bildungsroman (novel of education or moral development)
- **DATE OF FIRST PUBLICATION** · 1884
- **SETTING (TIME)** · Before the Civil War; roughly 1835–1845; Twain said the novel was set forty to fifty years before the time of its publication
- **SETTING (PLACE)** · The Mississippi River town of St. Petersburg, Missouri; various locations along the river through Arkansas
- **PROTAGONIST** · Huck Finn
- **THEMES** · Racism and slavery; intellectual and moral education; the hypocrisy of “civilized” society



- **MAJOR CONFLICT** · At the beginning of the novel, Huck struggles against society and its attempts to civilize him, represented by the Widow Douglas, Miss Watson, and other adults. Later, this conflict gains greater focus in Huck's dealings with Jim, as Huck must decide whether to turn Jim in, as society demands, or to protect and help his friend instead.
- **RISING ACTION** · Miss Watson and the Widow Douglas attempt to civilize Huck until Pap reappears in town, demands Huck's money, and kidnaps Huck. Huck escapes society by faking his own death and retreating to Jackson's Island, where he meets Jim and sets out on the river with him. Huck gradually begins to question the rules society has taught him, as when, in order to protect Jim, he lies and makes up a story to scare off some men searching for escaped slaves. Although Huck and Jim live a relatively peaceful life on the raft, they are ultimately unable to escape the evils and hypocrisies of the outside world. The most notable representatives of these outside evils are the con men the duke and the dauphin, who engage in a series of increasingly serious scams that culminate in their sale of Jim, who ends up at the Phelps farm.
- **CLIMAX** · Huck considers but then decides against writing Miss Watson to tell her the Phelps family is holding Jim, following his conscience rather than the prevailing morality of the day. Instead, Tom and Huck try to free Jim, and Tom is shot in the leg during the attempt.
- **FALLING ACTION** · When Aunt Polly arrives at the Phelps farm and correctly identifies Tom and Huck, Tom reveals that Miss Watson died two months earlier and freed Jim in her will. Afterward, Tom recovers from his wound, while Huck decides he is done with civilized society and makes plans to travel to the West.



# THE ADVENTURES OF HUCKLEBERRY FINN – Trailer



# Walt Whitman

- Early in his career, he also produced a temperance novel, **Franklin Evans** (1842).
- Whitman's major work, **Leaves of Grass**, was first published in 1855 with his own money. The work was an attempt at reaching out to the common person with an American epic. He continued expanding and revisin
- Walt Whitman's work often included the topics of death and sexuality. Some critics praised his work while others were appalled by it. g it until his death in 1892.
- Although often referred to as the father of free verse he was not the inventor of that type of prose.



- Walt Whitman referred to himself as the '**American Bard at Last**'. In literature bard means great poet. Shakespeare was English Literature's bard.
- In 1848 Walt Whitman witnessed slavery first hand and returned to Brooklyn where he started a newspaper called the *Brooklyn Freeman*.
- In 1855 Walt Whitman self-published a collection of unnamed poems which he titled *Leaves of Grass*. He printed 795 copies.
- Ralph Waldo Emerson wrote Walt Whitman a letter after reading *Leaves of Grass*, praising his work. In the letter he wrote, "**The most extraordinary piece of wit and wisdom**" written by an American. Walt Whitman republished a revised edition of *Leaves of Grass* a year later. He included Ralph Waldo Emerson's letter in the revised edition.

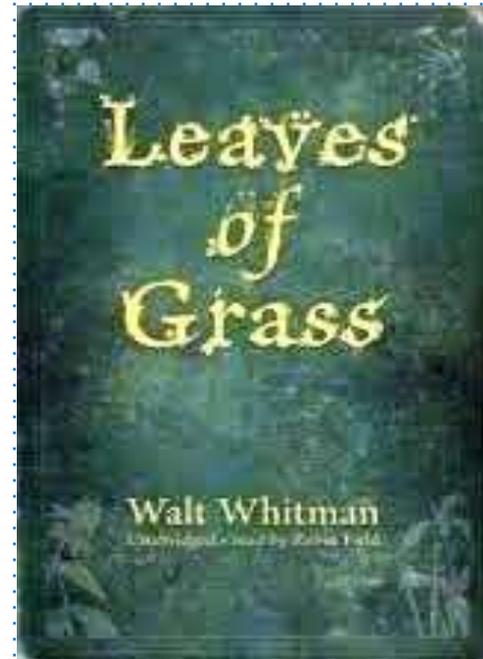


- He published a collection of poetry titled *Drum-Taps*, based upon his knowledge of the soldiers' experiences in the Civil War.
- Walt Whitman's most notable works include *Franklin Evans (1842)*, *Leaves of Grass* (multiple editions throughout the years), *Drum-Taps (1865)*, *Democratic Vistas (1871)*, *Memoranda During the War (1876)*, and *Specimen Days (1882)*.
- The final edition of *Leaves of Grass* was later nicknamed the Deathbed Edition, as Walt Whitman was nearing the end of his life at the time.



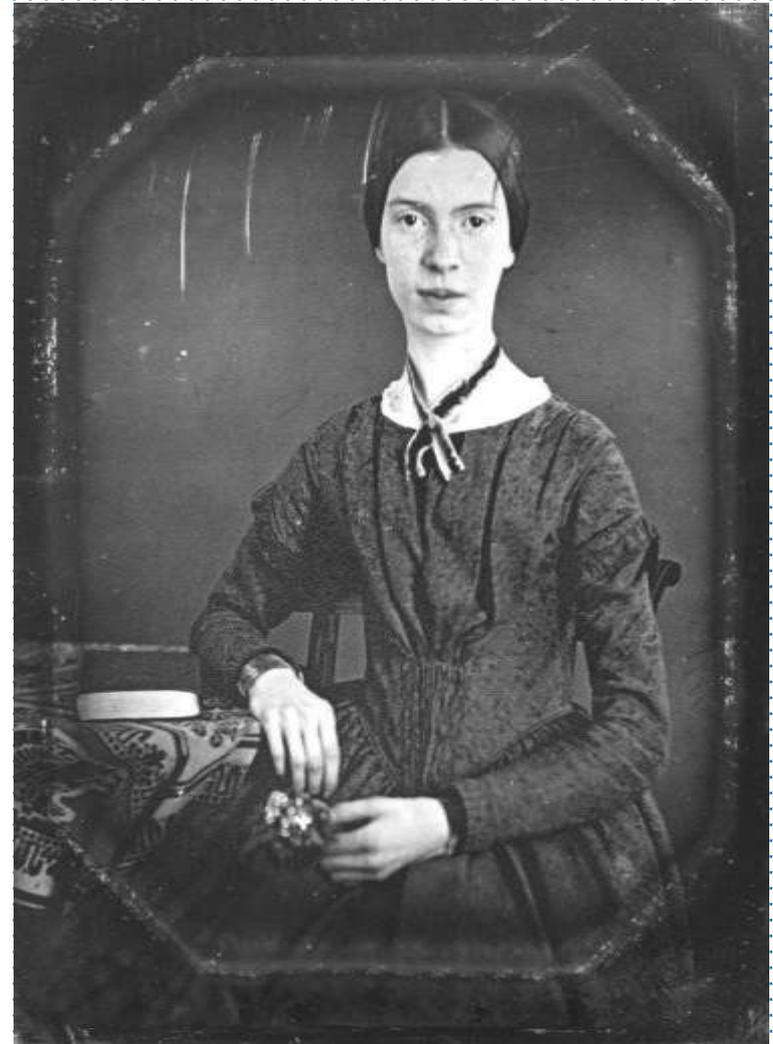
# Leaves of Grass 1855-1891-92

- The first a small book of **twelve** poems and the last a compilation of over **400**
- The poems of the first edition, which were given titles in later issues, were
- "Song of Myself",
- "A Song for Occupations",
- "To Think of Time",
- "The Sleepers",
- "I Sing the Body Electric",
- "Faces",
- "Song of the Answerer",
- "Europe: The 72d and 73d Years of These States",
- "A Boston Ballad",
- "There Was a Child Went Forth",
- "Who Learns My Lesson Complete?"
- "Great Are the Myths"



# Emily Dickinson

- Emily Elizabeth Dickinson Born December 10, 1830
- During her lifetime, only **seven** of her poems were published to a small circulation. This included publication in Samuel Bowles' Springfield Republican between 1858 and 1868. They were heavily edited from Emily's originals.
- After her death, her sister found **1,000 poems** in Emily's bureau. She had them edited and published in three series. In 1955, a total of **1,800** poems were published.
- Many of her poems deal with themes of **death and immortality**, two recurring topics in letters to her friends. died May 15, 1886



# Poetry of Emily Dickinson

- Most of the poems we have were written in just six years, between 1858 and 1864.
- During her lifetime only a few of her poems were published.
- After her death, 40 handbound volumes of nearly 1800 poems, or “fascicles” as they are often called, were found.
- Her bedroom looked on to a burial ground and she regularly saw people being buried, which might explain why so many of her poems were about death.



# Popular Poems By Emily Dickinson

- Hope is the Thing with Feathers
- Because I Could Not Stop For Death
- T'is So Much Joy
- Behind me dips Eternity
- The Only News I know
- If I Can Stop
- Much Madness



# **The Naturalist Period (1900 – 1914)**



# The Naturalist Period (1900 – 1914)

- This relatively short period is defined by its insistence on recreating life as life really is, even more so than the realists had been doing in the decades before. American Naturalist writers such as **Frank Norris**, **Theodore Dreiser** and **Jack London** created some of the most powerfully raw novels in American literary history. Their characters are victims who fall prey to their own base instincts and to economic and sociological factors. **Edith Wharton** wrote some of her most beloved classics, such as *The Custom of the Country (1913)*, *Ethan Frome (1911)* and *House of Mirth (1905)* during this time period.



# Naturalism in American Literature

- The term *naturalism* describes a type of literature that attempts to apply scientific principles of objectivity and detachment to its study of human beings.
- The laws behind the forces that govern human lives might be studied and understood Emile Zola's phrase, "human beasts"
- Naturalistic writers thus used a version of the scientific method to write their novels; they studied human beings governed by their instincts and passions as well as the ways in which the characters' lives were governed by forces of heredity and environment.



# Characteristics of Naturalism

- 1. Walcott identifies **survival, determinism, violence, and taboo** as key themes.
- 2. The "brute within" each individual, composed of strong and often warring emotions: passions, such as lust, greed, or the desire for dominance or pleasure; and the fight for survival in an amoral, indifferent universe. The conflict in naturalistic novels is often "**man against nature**" or "**man against himself**" as characters struggle to retain a "veneer of civilization" despite external pressures that threaten to release the "**brute within.**"
- 3. Nature as an **indifferent force** acting on the lives of human beings.
- 4. The forces of **heredity and environment** as they affect--and afflict--individual lives.
- 5. An indifferent, deterministic universe. Naturalistic texts often describe the futile attempts of human beings to exercise free will, often ironically presented, in this universe that reveals free will as an illusion.



# Frank Norris

- Benjamin Franklin Norris, Jr. (March 5, 1870 – October 25, 1902) was an American journalist and sometime novelist during the Progressive Era, whose fiction was predominantly in the naturalist genre
- His notable works include **McTeague (1899), The Octopus: A Story of California (1901), and The Pit (1903).**



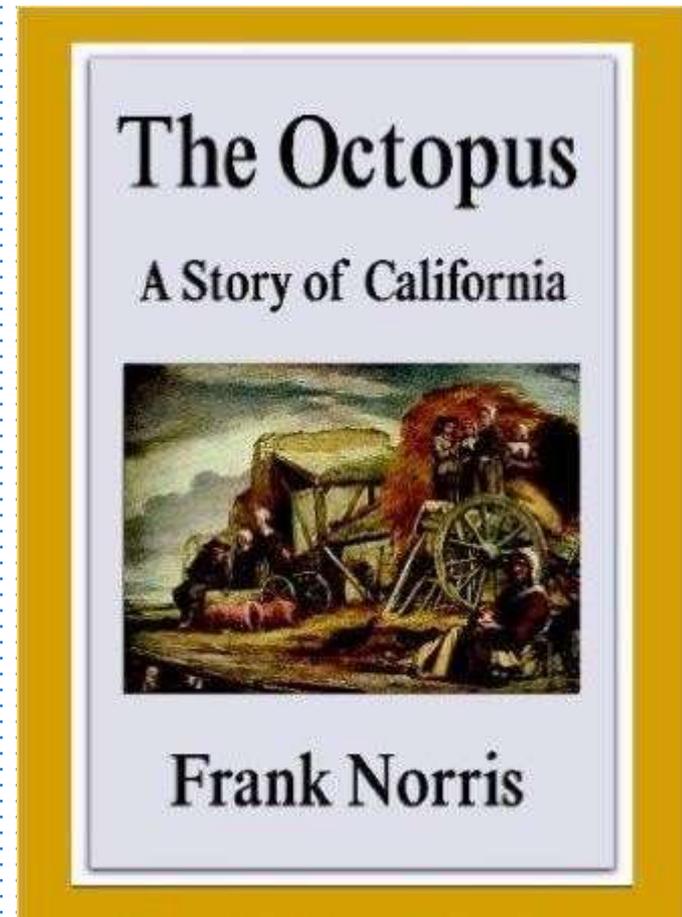
# McTeague

- McTeague is a novel by Frank Norris, first published in 1899. It tells the story of a couple's courtship and marriage, and their subsequent descent into poverty, violence and finally murder as the result of jealousy and greed.



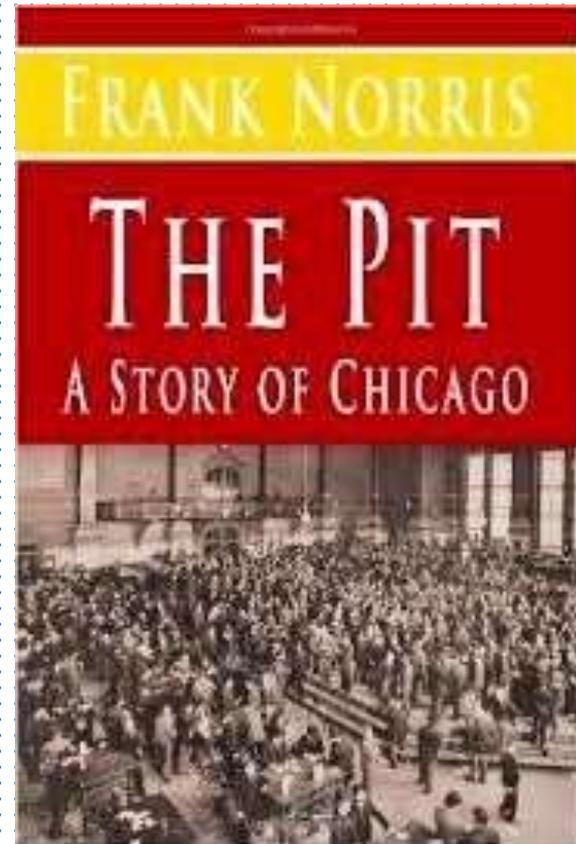
# The Octopus: A Story of California

- **The Octopus: A Story of California** is a 1901 novel **by Frank Norris** and was meant to be the first part of an uncompleted trilogy, **The Epic of the Wheat**. It describes the wheat industry in California, and the conflicts between wheat growers and a railway company.
- The book emphasized the control of "forces"—such as the power of railroad monopolies—over individuals. Some editions of the work give the subtitle as alternately, **A California Story**.



# The Pit

- A Story of Chicago is a 1903 novel by Frank Norris. Set in the wheat speculation trading pits at the Chicago Board of Trade Building, it was the second book in what was to be the trilogy The Epic of the Wheat.
- The first book, The Octopus, was published in 1901. Norris died unexpectedly in October 1902 from appendicitis leaving the third book, **The Wolf: A Story of Empire**, incomplete.
- Together the three novels were to follow the journey of a crop of wheat from its planting in California to its ultimate consumption as bread in Western Europe.



## The Modern Period (1914 – 1939)

- After the American Renaissance, the Modern Period is the second most influential and artistically rich age of American writing. Its major writers include such powerhouse poets as **e.e. cummings, Robert Frost, Ezra Pound, William Carlos Williams, Carl Sandburg, T.S. Eliot, Wallace Stevens and Edna St. Vincent Millay.**
- Novelists and other prose writers of the time include **Willa Cather, John Dos Passos, Edith Wharton, F. Scott Fitzgerald, John Steinbeck, Ernest Hemingway, William Faulkner, Gertrude Stein, Sinclair Lewis, Thomas Wolfe and Sherwood Anderson.**



## The Modern Period (1914 – 1939)

- The Modern Period contains within it certain major movements including **the Jazz Age, the Harlem Renaissance** and the **Lost Generation**. Many of these writers were influenced by World War I and the disillusionment that followed, especially the expatriates of the Lost Generation.
- Furthermore, the Great Depression and the New Deal resulted in some of America's greatest social issue writing, such as the novels of Faulkner and Steinbeck, and the drama of Eugene O'Neill.



# The Jazz Age

- The Jazz Age was a period in the 1920s, ending with the Great Depression, in which jazz music and dance styles became popular, mainly in the United States, but also in Britain, France and elsewhere. Jazz originated in New Orleans as a fusion of African and European music and played a significant part in wider cultural changes in this period, and its influence on pop culture continued long afterwards. The Jazz Age is often referred to in conjunction with **the Roaring Twenties**.



# The Harlem Renaissance

- The Harlem Renaissance, a cultural, social, and artistic explosion that took place in Harlem, New York, spanned the 1920s. During the time, it was known as the "**New Negro Movement**," named after the 1925 anthology by **Alain Locke**. The Movement also included the new African-American cultural expressions across the urban areas in the Northeast and Midwest United States affected by the Great Migration (African American), of which Harlem was the largest.
- The Harlem Renaissance was considered to be a rebirth of African American arts.



# The Harlem Renaissance – Writers

- **Wallace Thurman (1902-1934)**
- **Langston Hughes (1902-1967)**
- **Zora Neale Hurston (1891-1960)**



# Wallace Thurman (1902-1934)

- Within 10 years of arriving in Harlem he had many employments such as ghost writer, a publisher, an editor and a writer of novels, plays and articles. He became editor of *The Messenger*, a socialist journal aimed at blacks. He became the first to publish the adult-themed stories of Langston Hughes. Thurman left *The Messenger* to become editor of a white-owned magazine *World tomorrow*. He collaborated in publishing literary magazine *Fire* "a devotion to the younger negro artists." It was a collaboration with Langston Hughes, Zora Neale Hurston, Richard Bruce Nugent, Aaron Douglas and Gwendolyn B. Bennett. With only one issue ever published, *Fire* challenged the ideas of W.E.B Du Bois and many African American bourgeoisie who believed that black art should serve as propaganda for social equality and racial integration. Thurman and other members of the "Niggerati" (deliberately ironic name Thurman used for young African American artists and intellectuals of the Harlem Renaissance) wanted to show real lives of African Americans, good and bad. He believed that black artists should be more objective in their writings and celebrate the arduous conditions of African American lives.



# Langston Hughes (1902-1967)

- Langston Hughes is one of the most well known names of the Harlem renaissance. He was a writer, whose pieces ranged from novels, to plays. He wrote short stories, children's books, translations, and anthologies as well. However, his most well known pieces were his poems. Langston Hughes lived with his friends, the Reeds, after his grandmother died in 1910. He entered High School where he was very successful, and began to explore poetry. In 1921, Hughes went to Harlem and enrolled in Columbia University. He managed to be successful there, but he spent the majority of his time seeing Broadway shows. In 1922, he dropped out of Columbia and began to spend every waking moment in Harlem, supporting himself on odd jobs and writing. His writing reflected the idea that black culture should be celebrated, because it is just as valuable as white culture. He advocated many of these beliefs in his pieces. Some examples of these are "The Negro Artist and the Racial Mountain", "Let America Be America Again", "One Way Ticket", and many others. On May 22, 1967, Langston Hughes died of cancer. He spent the majority of his life writing great literature, which is appreciated by *all* races, to this day.



# Zora Neale Hurston (1891-1960)

- Zora Neale Hurston was born on January 7, 1891. Hurston was always interested in writing, and during the Harlem Renaissance, she befriended some very famous writers, such as Langston Hughes. By 1935, she had published a handful of short stories, articles, as well as a novel, *Jonah's Gourd Vine*. Some of her most famous works were *The Eyes Were Watching God*, and *Tell My Horse*, which studied Caribbean Voodoo. Hurston wrote many pieces, using very distinct dialect to show African American culture (see quote below). One of her stories, "Spunk" was selected to be a part of *The New Negro*, which focused African and African American art and literature. Her main goal was merely to celebrate African American culture. She wrote to W.E.B Du Bois, who she gave the title "The Dean of American Negro Artists" to, and suggested to make a cemetery for the "illustrious Negro Dead", on roughly 100 acres of land, in Florida, claiming that her people must be honored.



# The Beat Generation (1944 – 1962)

- Beat writers, such as **Jack Kerouac** and **Allen Ginsberg**, were devoted to anti-traditional literature, in poetry and prose, and anti-establishment politics. This time period saw a rise in confessional poetry and sexuality in literature, which resulted in legal challenges and debates over censorship in America. **William S. Burroughs** and **Henry Miller** are two writers whose works faced censorship challenges and who, along with other writers of the time, inspired the counterculture movements of the next two decades.



# The Beat Generation...

- Allen Ginsberg's *Howl* (1956), William S. Burroughs's *Naked Lunch* (1959) and Jack Kerouac's *On the Road* (1957) are among the best known examples of Beat literature.
- Both *Howl* and *Naked Lunch* were the focus of obscenity trials that ultimately helped to liberalize publishing in the United States. The members of the Beat Generation developed a reputation as new bohemian hedonists, who celebrated non-conformity and spontaneous creativity.
- The core group of Beat Generation authors – Herbert Huncke, Allen Ginsberg, William S. Burroughs, Lucien Carr, and Jack Kerouac – met in 1944 in and around the Columbia University campus in New York City. Later, in the mid-1950s, the central figures (with the exception of Burroughs and Carr) ended up together in San Francisco where they met and became friends of figures associated with the San Francisco Renaissance.



Thanks !

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