

A typed report
concerning herman
melville's overall
style, typical subjects,
infl...



Herman Melville's Works. Herman Melville's most famous novel is the Moby-Dick. His most famous short story is Bartleby the Scrivener. He is less famous for his poetry, one of which was

John Marr And Other Sailors. This essay examines a few selected works of Melville to discuss his style, subjects and influences.

Herman Melville wrote Moby-Dick in 1851. This story belonged to the genre of novels. It is about the sea voyage of a whaling ship named Pequod, whose Captain Ahab searches for a huge whale called Moby-Dick. The style uses symbolic language. The themes are on society, nature, human survival, happiness and salvation. Melville questioned social, political and aristocratic cultures of the Enlightenment Period. He did not believe in the reasoning of nature and was anti-rationalism. The Enlightenment encouraged emotions as aesthetics. Melville believed in the American Romanticism which was a way of contradicting the Enlightenment Period. Melville shows his criticism of the rich Dives who prospers at the expense of orphans at the end of Chapter Two. Melville's narrator, Ishmael says; ' Now, that Lazarus should lie stranded there on the curbstone before the door of Dives, this is more wonderful than that an iceberg should be moored to one of the Moluccas. Yet Dives himself, he too lives like a Czar in an ice palace made of frozen sighs, and being a president of a temperance society, he only drinks the tepid tears of orphans.' Melville incorporated stage directions in his character's monologues. These helpful directions are in brackets. For example, Ishmael narrates this in Chapter Two; ' Euroclydon! says old Dives, in his red silken wrapper- (he had a redder one afterwards) pooh, pooh!' The narrator has long soliloquies in order to explain to the reader what is happening.

<https://assignbuster.com/a-typed-report-concerning-herman-melvilles-overall-style-typical-subjects-influences-etc-incorporating-specific-references-to-works/>

Melville's *Bartleby the Scrivener* is his famous short story because it deals with Existentialist and Absurdist elements. The character Bartleby works for his lawyer boss. Initially he is hardworking but he changes when he stops working but stays around the office doing nothing. The lawyer tries to help him but Bartleby refuses to cooperate when he answers all requests with; 'I prefer not to.' Eventually, Bartleby is imprisoned for being a nuisance to society and he slowly starves himself to death because he prefers not to eat. Bartleby demonstrates his Existentialist unique position as a responsible individual who makes his own choices. Melville incorporates his philosophies of anti-rationalism and anti-empiricism into *Bartleby*. Melville wanted this work to have absurdist ideas so he made Bartleby behave in absurd ways. Melville's poem, *John Marr And Other Sailors*, speaks to the reader in a direct manner which is typical of Melville's style of narration that he used in his novel and short story. His philosophies of anti-rationalism are found in his first verse;

' Taking things as fated merely,
Childlike though the world ye spanned;
Nor holding unto life too dearly,

Melville was consistent in his writing voice to express his personal philosophies. His greatest work was *Moby-Dick* and this shows Melville's typical style with all the elements as discussed in this essay.

The end.

Works Cited.

The Literature Network. " Herman Melville". *Moby Dick*. 2000. The Literature

Network.

30 Mar. 2007. < [http://www. online-literature. com/melville](http://www.online-literature.com/melville) >.