

The history of american literature flashcard



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The history of American Literature starts good before this land was even called America. It has been a great development to come from tribal symbols and drawings to today's Stephen King and Danielle Steele. Literature has gone through many stages and was impacted by great events and thoughts in American history. The earliest signifier of literature in what would one twenty-four hours be known as America were far from what modern twenty-four hours people would see " Literature" . The Natives who inhabited this land foremost had unwritten ways of going through on experiences, beliefs, and narratives. Natives relied to a great extent on the verbal relation of these narratives to younger coevals.

The same narratives, fabrications, or belief constructions were told repeatedly, each clip indistinguishable to the last, and were memorized by the hearers so they would be able to go through these on to the following coevals. They besides used images, carvings, or particular souvenirs such as castanets, dentitions, plumes, or skins as reminders of great Hunts or wars. If an full folk and all its posterities were killed away, the specific narratives and history of that folk would besides be gone. Other folk may talk of the first, but ne'er in the same item or with the same position as the original folk members.

Long before colonists arrived in America, adventurers reported on their ocean trips to the continent. Italian adventurer Amerigo Vespucci provided some of the earliest European descriptions of the American continent. Before 1600 Sir Walter Raleigh, Richard Hakluyt, Thomas Harriot, and John White had published histories of finds. The Hagiographas of Captain John Smith, an adventurer whose travels took him up and down the eastern seaside of

America. stand for a displacement from geographic expedition narrative toward early history. Early histories. nevertheless. were written largely by colonists instead than by adventurers.

William Bradford. the first governor of the Plymouth Colony. wrote his *Of Plymouth Plantation* from 1620 to 1647. Another of import historiographer of early America was Thomas Morton. whose *New English Canaan* used wit in portraying what he considered to be the overbearing and intolerant qualities of the Puritans. Histories of early America. particularly in New England. were filled with mentions to the Bible and to God's will. About all events could be explained from this spiritual position: Foul conditions and diseases were perceived as God's wrath ; a big crop represented God's approval.

Given the Puritans' relationship with God. it is non surprising that discourses and other spiritual Hagiographas dominated literature in America in the 1600s. John Cotton. Thomas Hooker. Roger Williams. and John Winthrop were among the most outstanding spiritual authors. *A Narrative of the Captivity and Restoration of Mary Rowlandson* (1682) . This work is a firsthand history by a settler who was taken confined by Indians during King Philip's War. It presents a dramatic narrative of enduring and of Rowlandson's attempts to do sense of that agony. Her narrative became the theoretical account for a new genre of early American literature: imprisonment narrations.

Such histories became basics of American literature and finally provided stuff for American fiction. While still spiritual in tone and intent. imprisonment narratives emphasized the experiences of persons. They besides

incorporated many of the basics of fiction. doing usage of characters. dramatic action and scene. The Salem enchantress tests of 1692 were another period in early American history that affected literature. As accusals of witchery in a Massachusetts town resulted in the executing of 14 adult females and 6 work forces. Cotton Mather's *The Wonders of the Invisible World* (1693) documented the events of the enchantress tests.

Cotton Mather remained an of import literary figure in the eighteenth century. His *Magnalia Christi Americana* (*The Great Works of Christ in America*. 1702) is a history of New England that celebrates the founding coevals of Puritans. Like his earlier plants. it is spiritual ; nevertheless. its involvement in the human side of the Puritan laminitiss marked a new accomplishment in American literary history. Mather's honoring calling included Hagiographas on scientific discipline and medical specialty every bit good as divinity and history. His *Sentiments on the Small Pox Inoculated* (1721) was instrumental in presenting the variola vaccinum to New England.

A new genre for American authors. the travel narrative. would go particularly influential tardily in the 1700s. Travel narrations include *Travels Through the Interior Parts of North America* (1778) by Jonathan Carver and *Travels Through North and South Carolina. Georgia. East and West Florida. the Cherokee Country. etc* (1791) by William Bartram. Travel narratives frequently blended observations on nature and landscape with narratives of personal bravery and accomplishment. The first American newspaper. the *Boston News-Letter*. was founded in 1704. and joined by the *Boston Gazette* in 1719.

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At a clip when newspaper news media was concerned chiefly with describing political events, the New-England Courant, started by James Franklin in 1721, became the first newspaper to include literary amusement. Franklin's younger brother Benjamin Franklin published humorous societal commentary in the Courant under the pen name of Silence Dogwood. Magazines besides appeared for the first clip in the settlements during the mid-1700s. Before 1800 magazines were concerned chiefly with mensurating America's developing civilization against the British theoretical account.

During the 1700s Boston and Philadelphia became centres of publication in add-on to being political and commercial centres. Benjamin Franklin was cardinal in set uping a composing community in Philadelphia. In 1727 he and a group of friends established a men's reading nine in Philadelphia called the Junto. Members shared printed plants and discussed subjects of the twenty-four hours. Such reading and treatment nines became an of import portion of American civilization. Women organized literary circles in the 1750s and 1760s. These groups, known as salons, resembled men's reading nines.

They besides encouraged members to compose their ain work, chiefly poesy, but really few of these plants were preserved. By the mid-1700s American authorship was chiefly political. In America the eighteenth century was known as the Age of Enlightenment. Americans held a turning belief in the domination of ground over church ; they besides stressed the importance of the person and freedom over governments and establishments. America's great Enlightenment authors included Benjamin Franklin, Thomas Paine, and Thomas Jefferson, who besides played of import functions in the American Revolution.

Thomas Paine became a prima figure in the cause of American independency with the booklet *Common Sense* (1776). This tremendously popular political papers stated that the American settlements received no advantage from Great Britain and that common sense called for them to set up an independent republican authorities. Written in a straightforward manner utilizing the linguistic communication of the common individual. *Common Sense* was published merely months before the Declaration of Independence was adopted. At that point, most settlers still believed that their grudges with Great Britain could be settled pacifically.

Paine shook this belief, doing his readers feel that each individual had the power and duty to take part in the revolution. The Declaration of Independence was a important accomplishment in both political relations and American prose. It was structured in the signifier of an averment that was so proven through specific illustrations. The declaration was written by a commission made up of Benjamin Franklin, Thomas Jefferson, John Adams, Roger Sherman, and Robert R. Livingston, though Jefferson was finally responsible for most of the authorship.

The declaration and the Constitution of the United States (1787) were cardinal statements of American freedom, but as collaborative papers they necessitated via medias to fulfill all of their writers. One of the most important via medias was the absence of any reference of bondage. Slavery was unethical from the positions of the American Revolution, but for the interest of integrity with the Southern settlements, whose (cotton) economic system was rooted in bondage, no protest was made against it. A

concluding bustle of political authorship at the stopping point of the century arose from the argument over confirmation of the Constitution.

Federalists supported the strong cardinal authorities outlined in the Constitution, while an anti-Federalist cabal opposed it. A series of essays backing confirmation was published in 1787 and 1788 and circulated in booklets. The essays, subsequently published as *The Federalist*, were written by James Madison, Alexander Hamilton, and John Jay. Slave narrations recorded another side of life in America. *The Interesting Narrative of the Life of Olaudah Equiano, or Gustavus Vassa, the African* (1789) has long been considered an important African American text.

American fiction was officially established after the American Revolution. *The Power of Sympathy* (1789), a tragic love narrative by William Hill Brown, is by and large considered the first American novel. Another literary milestone was Hannah Foster's *The Coquette* (1797), a novel in the signifier of letters, or an epistolary novel. Over the course of the nineteenth century the state progressed from an agricultural economic system concentrated on the Eastern seashore to an industrialized state that spanned the continent. With the dramatic alterations in the state came dramatic alterations in its literature.

At the start of the 1900's merely a smattering of novels had been written, but by mid-century American fiction rivaled the best in the universe. Biography and history remained strong; spiritual authorship, on the other hand, had well declined in importance. Among the first developments of the immature state was the realization that America had its own linguistic

communication and that American English differed from British English. Noah Webster, observing the alone American manners in linguistic communication and literature, set about the monolithic undertaking of developing an American lexicon.

He had already advocated alterations in American spellings of English words in such Hagiographas as *Dissertations on the English Language* (1789) . Webster published his first lexicon in 1806. The first edition of his major work, *American Dictionary of the English Language*, came out in 1828. What made this work group was his insisting on specifying words based non merely on traditional English use but besides on American fluctuations in use, called Americanisms, and his inclusion of at least 12. 000 new words non antecedently recognized by English lexicons. Deriving independency besides provided the United States with a history of its ain.

Samuel Miller's *A Brief Retrospect of the Eighteenth Century* (1803) was a history of 18th-century America, including the Revolution. Best known among these loyal histories was the monumental ten-volume *History of the United States* (1834-1876) by George Bancroft, who is frequently called the male parent of American history. America's westbound enlargement after the Louisiana Purchase generated a ample aggregation of political Hagiographas, particularly in visible radiation of manifest fate? a belief that the country's territorial enlargement was non merely inevitable but besides divinely ordained.

The term manifest fate was coined by author John Louis O'Sullivan in "Annexation," an article that argued for the appropriation of Texas and

appeared in the July-August 1845 issue of *United States Magazine and Democratic Review*. The Native American experience began to be told in autobiography. William Apess was the first Native American to bring forth extended Hagiographas in English. In *A Son of the Forest* (1829) he described his transition to Christianity and his engagement in the War of 1812 between the United States and Britain. The greatest development in American life was the slave narration.

The tenseness produced by bondage in America had already become evident by the Revolution. but it heightened well in the 1800s. compensate up until the American Civil War (1861-1865) . Frederick Douglass created a chef-d'oeuvre of the genre with *Narrative of the Life of Frederick Douglass, an American Slave* (1845) . a work that he revised and enlarged several times for ulterior editions. While depicting his life as a slave and his battle toward freedom. Douglass emphasized the primary function that literacy played in opening chances for African Americans.

He represented his ability to compose his ain narrative as the ultimate act of a free adult male. Harriet Jacobs offered a different but no less disconcerting representation of bondage in *Incidents in the Life of a Slave Girl* (1861) . In the book. Jacobs told of the sexual maltreatment experienced by immature female slaves. During the late 1700s and early 1800s. romanticism was the dominant literary genre in Europe. In reaction to the Enlightenment and its accent on ground. romanticism used emotion and imaginativeness. Until about 1870 romanticism influenced the major signifiers of American Hagiographas: transcendentalist Hagiographas. historical fiction. and sentimental fiction.

In New England, an rational motion known as transcendental philosophy developed as an American version of romanticism. The motion began among an influential set of writers based in Concord, Massachusetts, and was led by Ralph Waldo Emerson. Like romanticism, transcendental philosophy rejected both 18th-century rationalism and established faith, which for the transcendentalists meant Puritan traditions. The transcendentalists found their inspiration in nature and rejected philistinism. Emerson's essay "Nature" (1836) was the first major papers of the nonnatural school.

His other cardinal transcendentalist plants include " Self-Reliance" (1841) . an essay in which he stressed the importance of being true to one's ain nature. Henry David Thoreau, a friend of Emerson's, set transcendentalist thoughts into action. Walden, or Life in the Woods (1854) is his diary of a biennial experiment in life as merely and self-reliantly as possible in a little cabin that he built on the shores of Walden Pond, near Concord. His essay " Civil Disobedience" (1849) is a statement against authorities bullying that records his short stay in gaol after he refused to pay a revenue enhancement in support of the Mexican War (1846-1848) .

New England author Nathaniel Hawthorne was a maestro of historical fiction. Influenced to some extent by transcendental philosophy, Hawthorne's positions of the motion were assorted. His novel The Blithedale Romance (1852) is slackly based on a transcendentalist experiment in communal life at Brook Farm. Still, Hawthorne's work, with its deep ethical concern about wickedness, penalty, and expiation, is less optimistic than most nonnatural authorship. Hawthorne was a descendent of one of the Judgess at the Salem

enchanted tests, and he set many of his plants in Puritan New England and during early crises in American history.

The Scarlet Letter (1850) . a narrative of rebellion within an emotionally constricted Puritan society. is an unchallenged chef-d'oeuvre in its powerful psychological penetrations. Mosses from an Old Manse (1846) collects some of his best short narratives and studies. including " Roger Malvin's Burial" and " Young Goodman Brown. " Herman Melville became a close friend of Hawthorne's after Melville moved to Massachusetts in 1850. He worked on several whaling ships and lived life at sea. His early travel escapades brought Melville early success.

Ironically. Melville's popularity dropped after the publication of the book now considered a chef-d'oeuvre of American fiction. Moby Dick (1851) . Far removed from his earlier travel narrations. Moby Dick was dedicated to Hawthorne. and like Hawthorne's work was darkly metaphysical. symbolic. and complex. The narrative of the captain of a whaling boat. Ahab. and his relentless Hunt for one giant. Moby Dick is besides about the cryptic forces of the existence that overwhelm the person who seeks to face and fight against them.

Written in a powerful and varied narrative manner. the book includes a brilliant discourse delivered before the ship's seafaring. soliloquies by the ships' couples. and transitions of a proficient nature. such as a chapter about giants. While transcendental philosophy was profoundly optimistic. observing human creativeness and the beauty of nature. Hawthorne and Melville demonstrated that inquiring inquiries about the nature of the existence could

take to replies demoing the darker side of life. Edgar Allan Poe was another author who inverted transcendentalist ideas.

In his upsetting prose and poesy. Poe explored the nature of humanity and frightened readers with what he found. His narratives are obsessed with decease. lunacy. and force demonstrated in Tales of the Grotesque and Arabesque (1840) . Poe besides invented the detective narrative with such plants as “ The Murders in the Rue Morgue” (1841) and “ The Purloined Letter” (1844) . The sentimental novel is a major signifier of American fiction that grew out of the responses of white authors to slavery. The most celebrated and historically most important work of American sentimental fiction is Uncle Tom’s Cabin (1851) by Harriet Beecher Stowe.

Sentimental fiction aimed to stir up commiseration for the laden. In Stowe’s novel and in novels that followed in this tradition. commiseration for the oppressed did non necessitate radical alteration but instead called for an spring of Christian love. Sentimental fiction elicited this “ Christian” understanding from Northern white adult females in peculiar by showing how the slave system violated the most basic bonds of humanity. such as that between female parent and kid. President Abraham Lincoln is credited with holding greeted Stowe with “ So you’re the small adult female who wrote the book that started this great war!

” Uncle Tom’s Cabin was powerful as propaganda and expressed the deep antislavery feelings of the North. Two motions became progressively of import in American fiction after the Civil War: regionalism and pragmatism. As the state expanded in country and population. regional differences

became more evident and of greater involvement, particularly to people in the constituted cultural centres of the East. Increasing urbanisation and the enlargement of the railways had made more of the state accessible.

Regional literature would make the same. Post-Civil War America was big and diverse plenty to feel its own local differences.

With increasing urbanisation and more accessible transit, little, rural communities became a topic of literary involvement. Equally early as 1820 America had developed a gustatory sensation for fiction with specific, localised scenes and subjects. Toward mid-century, regional voices had emerged from freshly settled districts in the South and to the West of the Appalachian Mountains. In many of these plants local idioms, expressions, and spellings were used for wit. Narratives of the West besides became a popular signifier of regional authorship and created frontier criminals and heroes, such as Billy the Kid.

These narratives were particularly suited to the short-story signifier. 1860 introduced dime novels? cheap narratives with exciting secret plans intended for popular amusement. The first dime novels were set during cardinal events of early American history such as the Revolutionary War, but plots shortly incorporated frontier lore, struggles between cowpunchers and Indians, and the taming of the West for white colony. Dime novels may be seen as precursors of the Western, a genre that would make the tallness of its popularity in the first half of the twentieth century.

Ever since even before the White adult male set pes on this continent.

America has had its own manner of written communicating. Everything from

political relations. faith. westbound enlargement. wars. and engineering has altered and improved literature. Our society has shifted from taking influences from other societies' Hagiographas. to being influential. Many societal issues still greatly impact literature even today ; everything from wars. famous person chitchat. scientific discipline fiction escapades. existent life injury. and speaking animate beings can ensue in the newest book on top the Best Seller List.

Amidst the downward inclination and proneness of things. when every voice is raised for a new route or another legislative act. or a subscription of stock. for an betterment in frock. or in dental medicine. for a new house or a larger concern. for a political party. or the division of an estate. ? will you non digest one or two lone voices in the land. talking for ideas and rules non marketable or perishable? Soon these betterments and mechanical innovations will be superseded ; these manners of life lost out of memory ; these metropoliss rotted. ruined by war. by new innovations. by new seats of trade. or the geologic alterations: ?

all gone. like the shells which sprinkle the seabeach with a white settlement to-day. everlastingly renewed to be everlastingly destroyed. - Bibliography Apress. William. A Son of the Forest and Other Writings & It ; hypertext transfer protocol: //www. questia. com/PM. qst? a= o & A ; d= 23008220 & gt ; (7 November 2005) " Declaration of Independence" Wikipedia & It ; hypertext transfer protocol: //en. wikipedia. org/wiki/Declaration_of_Independence_ % 28United_States % 29? & gt ; (2 November 2005) " Dime Novel" Wikipedia & It ; hypertext transfer protocol: //en. wikipedia. org/wiki/Dime_novel & gt ; (3 November 2005) " <https://assignbuster.com/the-history-of-american-literature-flashcard/>

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