

# American Literature timeline - Fri 2

Made with a creative frenzy

## Outline/instructions

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### Colonial/Early

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↻ Period of early American history, includes ealy religious and political writers before/during the American Revolution as well as creation of an American identity soon afterwards.

(Religious leaders were influential in early colonies/settlements/communities and their sermons and intercommunication are some of the most organized records of early American writing available.)

Political writings such as the Federalist Papers and the AntiFederalist Papers were written by the "Founding Fathers" including the most famous, although they were published as essays and anonymously at the time. (Feds - James Madison, Alexander Hamilton, Antifeds - Jefferson)

Autobiography of Benjamin Franklin - combines the political with the idealized, "rags to riches" story (mostly fictionalized)

### Romanticism

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#### ↻ Basic info

Literary movement that spanned from 1820s to the end of the Civil War. It was the first real american movement, which helped to define society. It was reaction against the strict and rigid beliefs of the Puritans and the logical and rational thinking.

#### ↻ Characteristics

Romanticism can be seen as a rejection of the precepts of order, calm, harmony, balance, idealization, and rationality

a deepened appreciation of the beauties of nature; a general exaltation of emotion over reason and of the senses over intellect; a turning in upon the self and a heightened examination of human personality and its moods and mental potentialities;

a preoccupation with the genius, the hero, and the exceptional figure in general and a focus on his or her passions and inner struggles

an obsessive interest in folk culture, national and ethnic cultural origins, and the medieval era; and a predilection for the exotic, the remote, the mysterious, the weird, the occult, the monstrous, the diseased, and even the satanic.

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⇒ **More(?) poets, specific authors...**

Emerson- essays: First series: Self-reliance, The Conduct of Life  
Thoreau- The Service, Walden  
Poe- The Raven, The Black Cat, To Helen

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## Naturalism and Realism

⇒ **Naturalism - basic info**

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⇒ **Realism and Naturalism**

- two separate but closely linked literary movements
  - began in the 19th century
  - **Realism** depicts characters and settings as they would actually have existed
  - concentrate on middle class = readers can relate to
  - Character is not 🦋
  - urban settings
  - element of moral dilemma
  - makes a social or political comment
  - **naturalism** concentrates on the biological, social and economic aspects.
  - Uses Darwinian scientific theories such as the survival of the fittest
  - Presents characters as being controlled by their biological, economic and environmental circumstances
  - Has a pessimistic view of society
  - Both seek to represent real life
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## ↩️ Jack London

- an American author and journalist
  - for his adventure novels and short stories inspired by his experiences in the Klondike Gold Rush and his love for nature
  - "The Call of the Wild" and "White Fang."
  - lived from 1876 to 1916 and led a fascinating life filled with adventure and exploration.
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## ↩️ Mark Twain

- real name: Samuel Langhorne Clemens
  - American writer, humorist, and lecturer
  - "The Adventures of Tom Sawyer" and "Adventures of Huckleberry Finn,"
  - known for their wit, social commentary, and vivid characters.
  - lived from 1835 to 1910
  - called "Father of American Literature."
  - good at satire
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## ↩️ Another authors

American: Henry James

Nonamerican: Emile Zola, Gogol, Tolstoj

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## The Lost Generation

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↩️ ...

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↩️ They lost faith in humanity due to WWI

Values: friendship, love, trust

Jazz

Gertruda Stein came up with the label Lost generation.

They were often alcoholics.

Lost in this context refers to the disoriented, wandering, directionless spirit of many of the war's survivors in the early postwar period.

Authors:

Ernest Hemingway

Francis Scott Fitzgerald

William Faulkner

## The Beat Generation

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### ⇒ Basic info

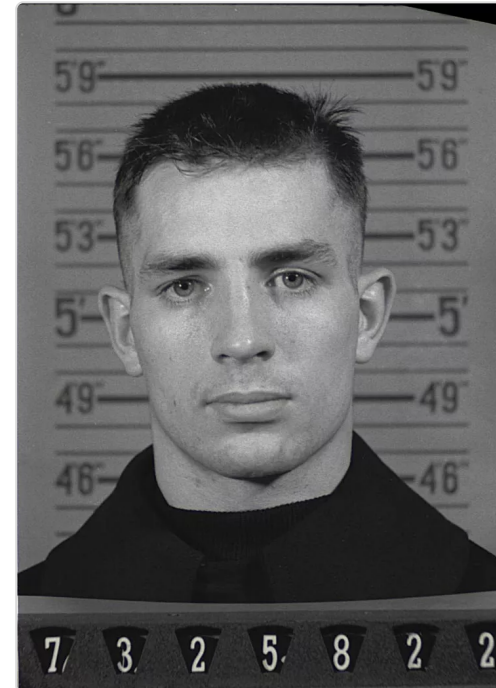
- 1950s and 1960s
  - originated in artist communities in LA, SF and NYC
  - rejection of literary formalism and capitalism
  - against Modernism
  - characterized by non-conformity and spontaneous creativity
  - refusing modern technology -> "returning back to nature"
  - connected with use of drugs, jazz, ...
  - inspiration in oriental philosophies (Zen-Buddhism)
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### ⇒ Writers

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#### ⇒ Jack Kerouac (1922 - 1969)

- during war Marine Merchant, then 8 days served as a marine, until diagnosed with "schizoid personality"
- after WWII joined the writers, later called "B.G."
- the name came from conversation between Kerouac and John Clellon Holme
- his book "On the Road" is considered as a BG manifesto
- antoher books include:
  - The Town and the City
  - Desolation Angels
  - The Subterraneans
- he also wrote a poetry - "Mexico city blue"
- he became popular and could not cope with it, solving it with alcohol
- dies in apathy, 47 years old, probably because alcoholism



↩ **Allen Ginsberg (1926 - 1997)**

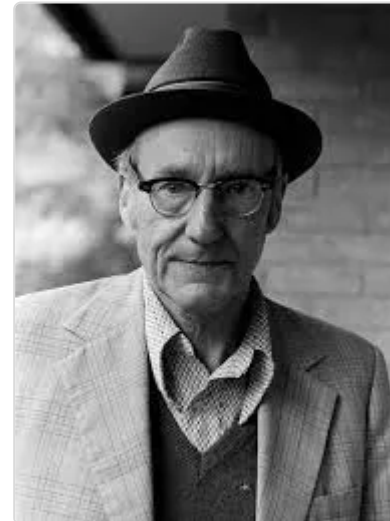
- Howl
- Kaddish
- Plutonian Ode
- Collected Poems



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↩ **William Burroughs (1914 - 1997)**

- Naked Lunch
- Queer
- Junky



↩ **Modernism and contemporary literature**

Modernism:

- Characteristics: Individualism, Experimentation, Absurdity, Symbolism, Formalism, Advances in science and technology

Period: 1910 - 1945

Contemporary lit.:

- literature that is being written in the now about the now

Characteristics:

reality-based stories, strong characters, believable story

