

American Literature - Tue 3 - 6.C

Made with a creative frenzy

Outline/instructions

- ↻ Colonial/Early
Romanticism
Realism and Naturalism
Modern/Contemporary
 - "beat" and "lost" (generations)
-

↻ Main instructions

As a group find some information and try to summarize it into a short form. (does not need to be in complete sentences), list some authors and some works that are considered good examples...

Describe the period and choose at least one author to describe (some of their works and/or why they are the best representative of the period).

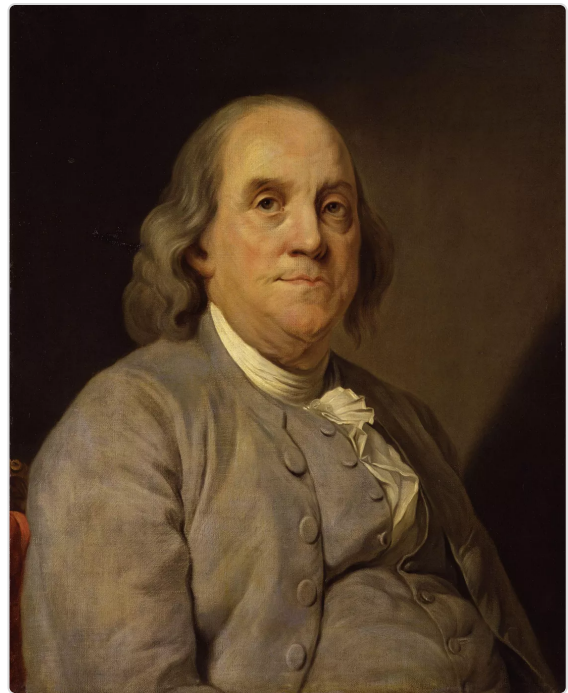
Colonial/Early

- ↻ Period of early American history, includes early 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)

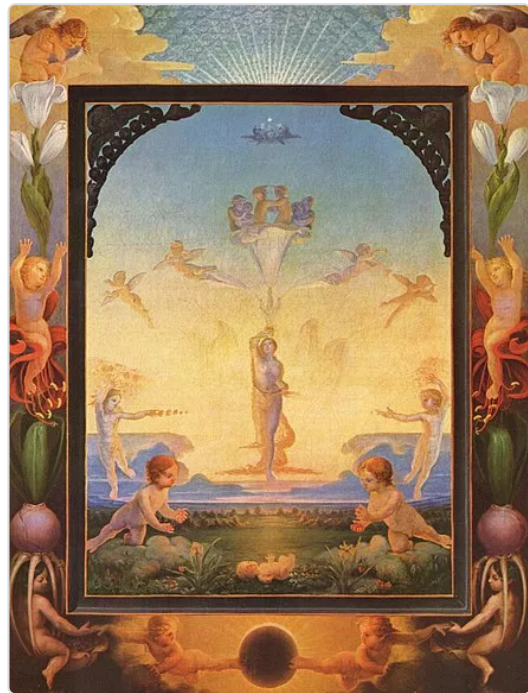
Autobiography of Benjamin Franklin - combines the political with the idealized, "rags to riches" story (mostly fictionalized)



Romanticism

↩ Basic info

Romanticism was an artistic and intellectual movement that originated in Europe towards the end of the 18th century. Romanticism was characterized by its emphasis on emotion and individualism as well as glorification of the past and nature. It was embodied most strongly in the visual arts, music, and literature; it also had a major impact on historiography, education, chess, social sciences, and the natural sciences. The place of origin was England.



↩ Characteristics

Romanticism placed the highest importance on the freedom of the artist to authentically express their sentiments and ideas. Romantic artists also shared a strong belief in the importance and inspirational qualities of Nature. Romantics were distrustful of cities and social conventions.

- a new and restless spirit, seeking violently to burst through old and cramping forms, a nervous preoccupation with perpetually changing inner states of consciousness, a longing for the unbounded and the indefinable, for perpetual movement and change, an effort to return to the forgotten sources of life, a passionate effort at



self-assertion both individual and collective, a search after means of expressing an unappeasable yearning for unattainable goals

⇒ William Blake - "The Tyger"

William Blake

- was an English poet, painter, and printmaker. Largely unrecognised during his life, Blake is now considered a seminal figure in the history of the poetry and visual art of the Romantic Age.
- 28 November 1757 – 12 August 1827
- His paintings and poetry have been characterised as part of the Romantic movement and as "Pre-Romantic"
- Was influenced by the ideals and ambitions of the French and American revolutions.

- **"The Tyger"** is a poem by the English poet William Blake, published in 1794 as part of his *Songs of Experience* collection and rising to prominence in the romantic period. The poem is one of the most anthologised in the English literary canon



*Tyger Tyger, burning bright,
In the forests of the night;
What immortal hand or eye,
Could frame thy fearful symmetry?*

*In what distant deeps or skies.
Burnt the fire of thine eyes?
On what wings dare he aspire?
What the hand, dare seize the fire?*

- discussing God's intention and motivation for creating both the tiger and the Lamb

Naturalism

⇒ Naturalism - basic info

Realism

The Lost Generation

⇒ The Lost Generation

1920s – changes in American literature
– experience of the First World War

1930s – depression era – blunt
and direct in its social criticism

The term refers to group of American writers
who moved to, and lived in, Paris during the 1920s.

Characteristics - values and expectations
of the older generations were no longer

applicable in the post-war context.

⇒ **Ernest Hemingway**
1899 - 1961

seven novels and six short story collections

in 1954 he received the Nobel Prize in Literature.

He experienced the WW1 as a
Red Cross ambulance driver.

The war had a influence on his work.

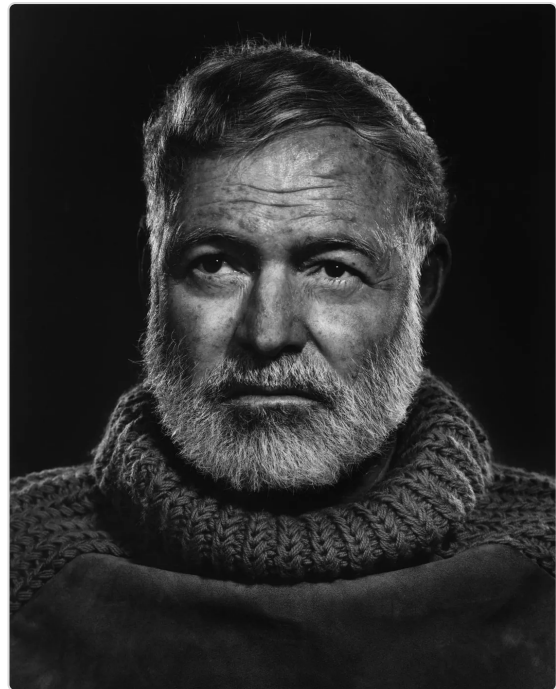
In 1921 he moved to Paris, forming a key part of the
community of writers known as The Lost Generation.

Notable works:

The Old Man and the Sea

For whom the Bell Tolls

The Sun Also Rises



⇒ **F. Scott Fitzgerald**
1896-1940

Fitzgerald's writing is known for its lyrical
prose, exploration of the American Dream.

He often depicted the lives of wealthy,
glamorous characters struggling
with personal and moral dilemmas.

Notable works:

The Great Gatsby

The Side of Paradise

The Beautiful and Damned

THEMES: love, ambition and pursuit of happiness



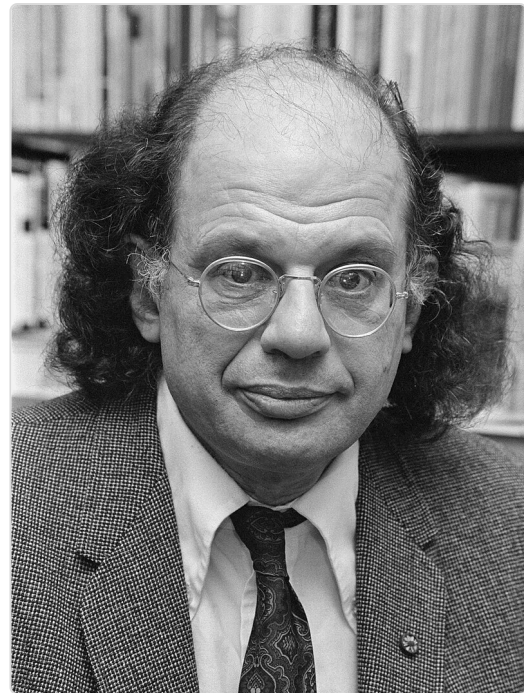
The Beat Generation

⇒ **Basic info**

was a literary subculture movement
started by a group of authors
post-World War II era
rejection of standard narrative values,
the rejection of economic materialism
experimentation with psychedelic
drugs, and sexual liberation

↩ **Allen Ginsberg**

- born in New Jersey, in Jewish family
- his mother's illness was an inspiration for him
- **work** - Howl and Other poems, kaddish and Other poems
- travelled to several communist countries to promote free speech
- deported from Cuba, Czechoslovakia (Kin of May)
- fought for freedom for gay people



↩ **Jack Kerouac**

- raised in French
- fought in the second world war
- achieved widespread fame with his second novel **On The Road**
- influenced many cultural icons - the Beatles, Bob Dylan



Modern/Contemporary

↩ **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



↩ **Mark Twain**

real name - **Samuel Langhorne Clemens**

was an American writer, humorist and essayist

nicknames - "the father of American literature"

and "greatest humorist the United States"

born in Florida in 1835

died in 1910

when he was young he used to work as a pilot

had 4 children

the most famous books:

Adventures of Huckleberry Finn

The Prince and the Pauper

The Adventures of Tom Sawyer

Life on the Mississippi

Mysterious Stranger (not done)

The Jumping Frog

The 1000000 bank-note and other stories

