

Period VI. Early and 19th Century American Literature

Recommended Reading

For all selections where titles are not specified, use The Norton Anthology of American Literature. While we recommend studying the “headnotes” provided in the anthologies—for overviews of the period’s historical and literary movements as well as basic author biographies—feel free to contact Dr. Bechtold for additional secondary scholarship to complement your reading.

William Bradford (1590-1657): *Of Plymouth Plantation* (selections from Norton)

John Winthrop (1588-1649): *A Modell of Christian Charity*

Anne Bradstreet (c. 1612-1672): “The Prologue,” “The Author to her Book,” “To My Dear and Loving Husband,” “Here Follows Some Verses upon the Burning of Our House”

Jonathan Edwards (1703-1758): “Sinners in the Hands of an Angry God”

Mary Rowlandson (c. 1637-1711): *A Narrative of the Captivity and Restoration*

Benjamin Franklin (1706-1790): *The Autobiography*

J. Hector St. Jean de Crèvecoeur (1735-1813): “Letter Three,” from *Letters from an American Farmer*

Thomas Jefferson (1743-1826): “Query 14” and “Query 19” from *Notes on the State of Virginia*

Phillis Wheatley (c. 1753-1784): “On Being Brought from Africa to America,” “To S.M., A Young African Painter, on Seeing His Works”

Olaudah Equiano (1745?-1797): *The Interesting Narrative*

Susanna Rowson (c. 1762-1824): *Charlotte: A Tale of Truth*

Royall Tyler (1757-1826): *The Contrast*

Charles Brockden Brown (1771-1810): *Wieland*

Washington Irving (1783-1859): “Rip Van Winkle,” “Legend of Sleepy Hollow”

James Fenimore Cooper (1789-1851): *The Last of the Mohicans*

Ralph Waldo Emerson (1803-1882): *Nature*, “Self-Reliance”

Nathaniel Hawthorne (1804-1864): *The House of Seven Gables*, “The Minister’s Black Veil,” “Rappaccini’s Daughter”

Edgar Allan Poe (1809-1849): “Annabel Lee,” “The Raven,” “Ulalume—A Ballad,” “The Fall of the House of Usher,” “The Tell-Tale Heart,” “The Purloined Letter,” “The Philosophy of Composition”

Harriet Beecher Stowe (1811-1896): *Uncle Tom’s Cabin*

Harriet Jacobs (1813-1897): *Incidents in the Life of a Slave Girl*

Henry David Thoreau (1817-1862): *Walden*

Frederick Douglass (1818?-1895): *Narrative of the Life of Frederick Douglass*

Walt Whitman (1819-1892): *Leaves of Grass*,

Herman Melville (1819-1891): *The Piazza Tales*

Emily Dickinson (1830-1886): Poems and “Master Letters”

Rebecca Harding Davis (1831-1910): *Life in the Iron Mills*

Henry James (1843-1916): *The Portrait of a Lady*

Mark Twain (1835-1910): *Adventures of Huckleberry Finn*

William Dean Howells (1837-1920): *The Rise of Silas Lapham*

Sarah Orne Jewett (1849-1909): *The Country of the Pointed Firs*

Stephen Crane (1871-1900): *Maggie: A Girl of the Streets* and/or selected stories