



# monarch

2018 - 2019 Curriculum Catalog

American Literature

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## American Literature Course Overview

American Literature is a five-unit elective that engages high school students in a literary conversation with some of the most colorful and influential minds in American history. Their words will give students a greater understanding of themselves, their culture, and the ideas of others. The course teaches students the various movements in American literature, starting with the roots of American literature in writings from the Puritans. The course concludes with works by Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., and other black writers who were part of the struggle for racial freedom during the civil rights era.

Through this course, students will do the following:

- Recognize the religious beliefs of selected founding fathers, as evidenced in their writings.
- Identify the birth of a distinctively American literature.
- Recognize the impact of slavery on individuals and society.
- Understand and identify the influence of modernism upon religion and the arts.
- Recognize the dominant themes and techniques used in literature at the end of the twentieth century.

Unit 1: Early American Literature 1600-1800	
Assignments	
American Literature	1. Course Overview
	2. Introduction: The Puritans
	3. John Smith
	4. William Bradford
	5. John Winthrop
	6. Quiz 1: The Puritans
	7. The Colonists: Mary Rowlandson
	8. Anne Bradstreet
	9. Essay: Comparing Authors' Views
	10. Edward Taylor
	11. Samuel Sewall
	12. Quiz 2: The Colonists
	13. Days of Change and Revolution 1700-1800
14. Jonathan Edwards	
15. Benjamin Franklin	
16. Essay: Authors' Views of Mankind	
17. Thomas Paine	
18. Thomas Jefferson	
19. Michel-Guillaume Jean de Crevecoeur	
20. Essay: Biblical Imagery and References*	
21. Quiz 3: Days of Change and Revolution	
22. Special Project*	
23. Test: Early American Literature	
24. Alternate Test: Early American Literature*	
25. Reference	

Unit 2: The Romantic Period 1800-1855	
Assignments	
American Literature	1. A New Nation 1800-1840: Introduction
	2. Washington Irving
	3. James Fenimore Cooper
	4. William Cullen Bryant
	5. Quiz 1: A New Nation
	6. American Naissance 1840-1855: Introduction
	7. The Fireside Poets: Henry Wadsworth Longfellow
	8. The Fireside Poets: John Greenleaf Whittier
	9. The Fireside Poets: Oliver Wendell Holmes
	10. The Transcendentalists: Ralph Waldo Emerson
	11. The Transcendentalists: Henry David Thoreau
	12. The Transcendentalists: Walt Whitman
	13. Quiz 2: The Fireside Poets and Transcendentalists
14. The Voices of Despair: Edgar Allen Poe	
15. The Voices of Despair: Nathaniel Hawthorne	
16. The Voices of Despair: Herman Melville	
17. The Voices of Despair: Emily Dickinson	
18. Project: Responding to Literature	
19. Quiz 3: The Voices of Despair	
20. Special Project*	
21. Test: The Romantic Period	
22. Alternate Test: The Romantic Period*	
23. Reference	

**Unit 3: War and Reconciliation 1855-1915****Assignments**

American Literature	1. Secession and Loyalty 1855-1865: Introduction	13. Naturalists, Regionalists and Realists: Stephen
	2. Frederick Douglass	14. Crane
	3. Harriet Beecher Stowe	15. Kate Chopin
	4. Spirituals	16. Paul Laurence Dunbar
	5. Robert E. Lee	17. Jack London
	6. Abraham Lincoln	18. Essay: Analysis and Response
	7. Quiz 1: Secession and Loyalty 1855 - 1865	19. Quiz 3: Naturalists, Regionalists, and Realists
	8. Realism and Naturalism 1865-1915: Introduction	20. Special Project*
	9. Samuel Langhorne Clemens (Mark Twain)	21. Test: War and Reconciliation
	10. William Dean Howells	22. Alternate Test: War and Reconciliation*
	11. Henry James	23. Reference
	12. Quiz 2: Realism and Naturalism 1865 - 1915	

**Unit 4: The Modern Age 1915-1946****Assignments**

American Literature	1. The Modern Age	12. Quiz 2: Modern Poetry
	2. Modern Prose: Ernest Hemingway	13. Other Modern Age Literature: Harlem Renaissance, Langston Hughes
	3. F. Scott Fitzgerald	14. Drama: Thornton Wilder
	4. Quiz 1: Modern Prose	15. Religious Works: J. Gresham Machen
	5. Modern Poetry: Ezra Pound	16. Quiz 3: Other Literature
	6. Carl Sandburg	17. Special Project*
	7. E. E. Cummings	18. Test: The Modern Age
	8. Wallace Stevens	19. Alternate Test: The Modern Age*
	9. Robert Frost	20. Reference
	10. W. H. Auden	
	11. Project: Poetry Models	

**Unit 5: From Modern to Postmodern 1946-Present****Assignments**

American Literature	1. The Birth of Postmodernism: Introduction	11. Social Issues: Martin Luther King, Jr.
	2. Flannery O'Connor (1)	12. Essay: Dr. King's Literary Allusions
	3. Flannery O'Connor (2)	13. Ralph Ellison
	4. Flannery O'Connor (3)	14. Gwendolyn Brooks
	5. Theodore Roethke	15. Project: Responding to Postmodernism
	6. Quiz 1: The Birth of Postmodernism	16. Quiz 3: Social Issues
	7. More Contemporary Writers: Eudora Welty	17. Special Project*
	8. John Updike	18. Test: From Modern to Postmodern
	9. Robert Trail Spence Lowell, Jr.	19. Alternate Test: From Modern to Postmodern*
	10. Quiz 2: More Contemporary Writers	20. Reference

Unit 5: From Modern to Postmodern 1946-Present		
Assignments		
American Literature	1. The Birth of Postmodernism: Introduction	11. Social Issues: Martin Luther King, Jr.
	2. Flannery O'Connor (1)	12. Essay: Dr. King's Literary Allusions
	3. Flannery O'Connor (2)	13. Ralph Ellison
	4. Flannery O'Connor (3)	14. Gwendolyn Brooks
	5. Theodore Roethke	15. Project: Responding to Postmodernism
	6. Quiz 1: The Birth of Postmodernism	16. Quiz 3: Social Issues
	7. More Contemporary Writers: Eudora Welty	17. Special Project*
	8. John Updike	18. Test: From Modern to Postmodern
	9. Robert Trail Spence Lowell, Jr.	19. Alternate Test: From Modern to Postmodern*
	10. Quiz 2: More Contemporary Writers	20. Reference

(\* ) Indicates alternative assignment