

Primary Texts

(A) Colonial and Early Republican Literature

Christopher Columbus, *Journal of the First Voyage to America* (selections)

Alvar Nunez Cabeza de Vaca, *The Relation of Alvar Nunez Cabeza de Vaca*

Bartolemé de Las Casas, *The Very Brief Relation of the Devastation of the Indies*

Captain John Smith, *A General History of Virginia, New England, and the Summer Isles*,
Book III, Chapters 1 and 2

John Winthrop, “A Model of Christian Charity,” *Journal* (selections)

William Bradford, *Of Plymouth Plantation* (selections)

Thomas Morton, *New English Canaan*, Book III

Roger Williams, *A Key Into the Language of America* (selections)

Anne Bradstreet, “The Prologue,” “In Honor of that High and Mighty Princess Queen Elizabeth of Happy Memory,” “A Dialogue Between Old England and New,” “Contemplations,” “The Flesh and the Spirit,” “The Author to Her Book,” “Before the Birth of One of Her Children,” “Here Follow Some Verses Upon the Burning of Our House, July 10th 1666,” all verse epistles to and elegies for family members inserted into the 1678 edition

Michael Wigglesworth, “The Day of Doom”

Mary White Rowlandson, *A Narrative of the Captivity and Restauration of Mrs. Mary Rowlandson*.

Edward Taylor, selections from *Preparatory Meditations*, First and Second Series, especially “Meditation 8 (First Series)”; selections from *God’s Determinations*, especially “The Preface,” “The Souls Grown to Christ for Succor,” “Christ’s Reply,” “The Joy of Church Fellowship Rightly Attended”; selected other poems, including “Upon a Spider Catching a Fly,” “Upon Wedlock and the Death of Children,” “Upon a Wasp Chilled with Cold,” “Huswifery,” “A Fig for Thee, Oh! Death”

Cotton Mather, *Wonders of the Invisible World*, selections from *Magnalia Christi Americana*

The Bay Psalm Book (1640) and *The New England Primer* (1683?)

Samuel Sewall, *Diary* (selections)

Sarah Kemble Knight, *The Journal of Madam Knight*

Ebenezer Cook, *The Sot-Weed Factor; or, A Voyage to Maryland*

Richard Lewis, "A Journey from Patapsco to Annapolis, April 4, 1730"

William Byrd, *The History of the Dividing Line Betwixt Virginia and North Carolina and The Secret History of the Dividing Line* (selections)

Elizabeth Ashbridge, "Some Account of the Fore-Part of the Life of Elizabeth Ashbridge"

John Woolman, "Some Considerations on the Keeping of Negroes," *The Journal of John Woolman* (selections)

Jonathan Edwards, "Sinners in the Hands of an Angry God," *Images and Shadows of Divine Things*, "Personal Narrative"

Benjamin Franklin, selected short prose pieces, *Poor Richard's Almanac*, "The Way to Wealth," *Autobiography*

Milcah Martha Moore's Book: A Commonplace Book from Revolutionary America (ed. Catherine La Courreye Blecki) (selections)

Phillis Wheatley, "To Maecenas," "To the University of Cambridge, in New-England," "On Being Brought from Africa to America," "On the Death of the Rev. Mr. George Whitefield, 1770," "On Imagination," "To the Right Honorable William, Earl of Dartmouth," "To S.M., a young African Painter," "To His Excellency, George Washington," selected letters

J. Hector St. John de Crevecoeur, *Letters from an American Farmer*

Thomas Paine, *Common Sense*, "The Crisis No. 1," *The Age of Reason*

Thomas Jefferson, *Notes on the State of Virginia* (selections), "Declaration of Independence" ("finished" version, and the annotated version presented in Jefferson's *Autobiography*).

The Federalist Papers, numbers 10, 51, 78

Olaudah Equiano, *The Interesting Narrative of the Life of Olaudah Equiano, or Gustavus Vassa, the African*.

Philip Freneau, Selected poems, including "On the Civilization of the Western Aboriginal Lands"

Timothy Dwight, *Greenfield Hill: A Poem in Seven Parts*

Joel Barlow, *The Columbiad* (selections), "The Hasty Pudding," "Advice to a Raven in

Russia”

Royall Tyler, *The Contrast*

Judith Sargent Murray, “On the Equality of the Sexes”

Hannah Webster Foster, *The Coquette*

Charles Brockden Brown, *Wieland*

(B) American Renaissance

Washington Irving, “Rip Van Winkle,” “The Legend of Sleepy Hollow”

James Fenimore Cooper, *The Last of the Mohicans*

Catherine Maria Sedgewick, *Hope Leslie*

William Cullen Bryant, “Thanatopsis,” “To a Waterfowl,” “The Prairie”

William Apess, *A Son of the Forest*, “An Indian’s Looking-Glass for the White Man”

Ralph Waldo Emerson, *Essays: Nature*, “The American Scholar,” “Divinity School Address,” “Self-Reliance,” “The Poet,” “Experience,” “The Over-soul,” “Letter” to Walt Whitman on the occasion of the publication of the first edition of *Leaves of Grass* (1855)

Nathaniel Hawthorne, Fiction: *The Scarlet Letter*, *The Blithedale Romance*, “Young Goodman Brown,” “Rappaccinni’s Daughter,” “The May-Pole of Merrymount,” “Roger Malvin’s Burial,” “My Kinsman, Major Molineux.” Read also: prefaces to each of his major works.

William Lloyd Garrison, Statement of purpose published in the first number of *The Liberator*

Henry Wadsworth Longfellow, selected poems

Humor of the Old Southwest (Ed. Cohen and Dillingham), selections, especially George Washington Harris, Thomas Bangs Thorpe, and Augustus Baldwin Longstreet

Edgar Allan Poe, Poems, Essays, and Tales: “The Raven,” “The Philosophy of Composition,” “The Fall of the House of Usher,” “The Purloined Letter,” “The Pit and the Pendulum,” “The Tell-Tale Heart,” “The Cask of Amontillado,” and “The Man of the Crowd”

John Greenleaf Whittier, Selected anti-slavery poems, “Snowbound: An Idyll”

Sarah Margaret Fuller, “The Great Lawsuit”

Fanny Fern (Sara Willis Parton), *Ruth Hall*

Elizabeth Cady Stanton, “Declaration of Sentiments” (from the 1848 Seneca Falls Convention).

Harriet Beecher Stowe, *Uncle Tom’s Cabin*

Henry David Thoreau, *Walden*, “Resistance to Civil Government,” “A Plea for Captain John Brown”

Frederick Douglass, *Narrative of the Life of Frederick Douglass*, “What to the American Slave is the Fourth of July?”

Herman Melville, Fiction: *Moby Dick*, *Typee*, *Billy Budd*, “Bartleby the Scrivener,” “Benito Cereno” Essays: “Hawthorne and His Mosses” Poetry: brief selection of Melville’s poetry

Maria Susanna Cummins, *The Lamplighter*

Walt Whitman, Preface and poems from *Leaves of Grass* (1855), sections from the “death-bed” edition of *Leaves of Grass*: “Children of Adam,” “Calamus,” “Drum Taps,” “Memories of President Lincoln”

Emily Dickinson, “Her breast is fit for pearls” (Fr 121), “Safe in their alabaster chambers” [all seven versions] (Fr 124), “Title divine is mine!” (Fr 194), “Come slowly Eden!” (Fr 205), “I’m “wife”--I’ve finished that” (Fr 225), “I’m nobody! Who are you?” (Fr 260), “Rearrange a “wife’s” affection!” (Fr 267), “Wild nights—wild nights!” (Fr 269), “I felt a funeral in my brain” (Fr 340), “I’m ceded—I’ve stopped being their’s” (Fr 353), “It was not death, for I stood up” (Fr 355), “A bird came down the walk” (Fr 359), “The soul has bandaged moments” (Fr 360), “I tend my flowers for thee” (Fr 367) “After great pain a formal feeling comes” (Fr 372), “The soul selects her own society” (Fr 409), “This was a poet” (Fr 446), “I died for beauty but was scarce” (Fr 448), “I dwell in possibility” (Fr 466), “Because I could not stop for death” (Fr 479), “I heard a fly buzz when I died” (Fr 591), “The brain is wider than the sky” (Fr 598), “Much madness is divinest sense” (Fr 620), “I cannot live with you” (Fr 706), “My life had stood a loaded gun” (Fr 764), “Publication is the auction” (Fr 788), “A narrow fellow in the grass” (Fr 1096), “In winter in my room” (Fr 1742)

Harriet E. Wilson, *Our Nig; or, Sketches from the Life of a Free Black*.

Harriet Jacobs, *Incidents in the Life of a Slave Girl*

Abraham Lincoln, “Address at the Dedication of the Gettysburg National Cemetery,” “Second Inaugural Address.”

Secondary Texts

Reference Works

For brief critical discussions, historical overviews, and biographical information, students should consult histories like the *Columbia Literary History of the United States* and the Cambridge History of American Literature, volumes one and two; Russell Reising's *The Unusable Past*; and various anthologies such as the *Norton* and *Heath*, as well as more specialized collections such as Perry Miller's anthology on the Puritans or Joel Myerson's on the Transcendentalists. Other useful books include the *Cambridge Companion* series, the *MLA Approaches to Teaching* series, and the *Dictionary of Literary Biography*.

(A) Colonial and Early Republican Literary Criticism

A. Owen Aldridge, *Benjamin Franklin and Nature's God* (1967)

Sacvan Bercovitch, *The Puritan Origins of the American Self* (1975) and *The American Jeremiad* (1978)

Mitchell R. Breitwieser, *American Puritanism and the Defense of Mourning* (1990)

Francis J. Bremer, *The Puritan Experiment: New England Society from Bradford to Edwards* (2nd edition, 1995)

Cathy N. Davidson, *Revolution and the Word: The Rise of the Novel in America* (1986)

William C. Dowling, *Poetry and Ideology in Revolutionary Connecticut* (1990)

Emory Elliott, *Revolutionary Writers: Literature and Authority in the New Republic, 1725-1810* (1982)

Perry Miller, *Errand into the Wilderness* (1956)

Carla Mulford, ed., *Teaching the Literatures of Early America* (1999)

David S. Shields, *Civil Tongues and Polite Letters in British America* (1997)

William C. Spengemann, *A New World of Words: Redefining Early American Literature* (1994)

Michael Warner, *The Letters of the Republic* (1990)

Colin Wells, *The Devil and Dr. Dwight: Satire and Theology in the Early American Republic*. (2002)

(B) American Renaissance Literary Criticism

Nina Baym, *Woman's Fiction: A Guide to Novels by and about Women in America, 1820-1870* (2nd edition, 1993)

Michael Davitt Bell, *The Development of American Romance: The Sacrifice of Relation* (1980)

Mutlu Konuk Blasing, *American Poetry: The Rhetoric of Its Forms* (1987)

Lawrence Buell, *New England Literary Culture: From Revolution Through Renaissance* (1986)

Richard Chase, *The American Novel and Its Tradition* (1957)

Barbara Leslie Epstein, *The Politics of Domesticity: Women, Evangelism, and Temperance in Nineteenth-Century America* (1981)

Leslie Fiedler, *Love and Death in the American Novel* (2nd edition, 1966)

Michael T Gilmore, *American Romanticism and the Marketplace* (1985)

D. H. Lawrence, *Studies in Classic American Literature* (1923)

Christine Levecq, *Slavery and Sentiment: The Politics of Feeling in Black Atlantic Antislavery Writing, 1770-1850* (2008)

David Leverenz, *Manhood and the American Renaissance* (1989)

F. O. Matthiessen, *American Renaissance: Art and Expression in the Age of Emerson and Whitman* (1941)

Roy Harvey Pearce, *The Continuity of American Poetry* (1961)

David Reynolds, *Beneath the American Renaissance: The Subversive Imagination in the Age of Emerson and Melville* (1988)

John Carlos Rowe, *At Emerson's Tomb: The Politics of Classic American Literature* (1997)

Barbara L. Packer, *The Transcendentalists* (2007)

Karen Sanchez-Eppler, *Touching Liberty: Abolition, Feminism, and the Politics of the Body* (1993)

Stephanie Smith, *Conceived by Liberty: Maternal Figures in Nineteenth-Century American Literature* (1994)

Jane P Tompkins, *Sensational Designs: The Cultural Work of American Fiction, 1790-1860* (1985)

Core List: Primary Sources

- 1) **William Bradford**, *Of Plymouth Plantation* (selections).
- 2) **Mary White Rowlandson**, *A Narrative of the Captivity and Restauration of Mrs. Mary Rowlandson*.
- 3) **Jonathan Edwards**, “Sinners in the Hands of an Angry God,” “Images of Divine Things,” “Personal Narrative”
- 4) **Benjamin Franklin**, *Autobiography*.
- 5) **J. Hector St. John de Crevecoeur**, *Letters from an American Farmer*.
- 6) **Charles Brockden Brown**, *Wieland*.
- 7) **James Fenimore Cooper**, *The Last of the Mohicans*.
- 8) **Ralph Waldo Emerson**, Essays: *Nature*, “The American Scholar,” “Divinity School Address,” “Self-Reliance,” “The Poet,” “Experience,” “The Over-soul,” “Letter” to Walt Whitman on the occasion of the publication of the first edition of *Leaves of Grass* (1855).
- 9) **Nathaniel Hawthorne**, *The Scarlet Letter*.
- 10) **Edgar Allan Poe**, Poems, Essays, and Tales: “The Raven,” “The Philosophy of Composition,” “The Fall of the House of Usher,” “The Purloined Letter,” “The Pit and the Pendulum,” “The Tell-Tale Heart,” “The Cask of Amontillado,” and “The Man of the Crowd.”
- 11) **Harriet Beecher Stowe**, *Uncle Tom’s Cabin*.
- 12) **Harriet Jacobs**, *Incidents in the Life of a Slave Girl*.
- 13) **Henry David Thoreau**, *Walden*
- 14) **Frederick Douglass**, *Narrative of the Life of Frederick Douglass*
- 15) **Herman Melville**, *Moby-Dick*
- 16) **Walt Whitman**, *Leaves of Grass* (1855), including the preface. Also read these sections from the “death-bed” edition of *Leaves of Grass*: “Children of Adam,” “Calamus,” “Drum Taps,” “Memories of President Lincoln.”
- 17) **Emily Dickinson**, “Her breast is fit for pearls” (Fr 121), “Safe in their alabaster chambers” [all seven versions] (Fr 124), “Title divine is mine!” (Fr 194), “Come slowly Eden!” (Fr 205),

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18) Colonial American Poetry

Anne Bradstreet, “The Prologue,” “In Honor of that High and Mighty Princess Queen Elizabeth of Happy Memory,” “A Dialogue Between Old England and New,” “Contemplations,” “The Flesh and the Spirit,” “The Author to Her Book,” “Before the Birth of One of Her Children,” “Here Follow Some Verses Upon the Burning of Our House, July 10th 1666,” all verse epistles to and elegies for family members inserted into the 1678 edition

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19) American Enlightenment

Thomas Paine, *Common Sense* and *The Age of Reason Part I*

Thomas Jefferson, *A Summary View of the Rights of British America* and “Declaration of Independence” from his *Autobiography*

Philip Freneau, “The Power of Fancy,” “The Wild Honeysuckle,” “The Indian Burying Ground,” “On the Universality and Other Attributes of the God of Nature,” and “On the Religion of Nature”

Joel Barlow, *The Columbiad* [selections]

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Timothy Dwight, *Greenfield Hill*

20) Literature of Reform and Resistance

Henry David Thoreau, “Resistance to Civil Government,” “A Plea for Captain John Brown”

Margaret Fuller, “The Great Lawsuit”

Angelina Grinké, *Appeal to the Christian Women of the South*

Elizabeth Cady Stanton, “Declaration of Sentiments”

David Walker, “An Appeal . . . to the colored Colored Citizens of the World”

William Lloyd Garrison, Editorial from the first issue of *The Liberator*

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