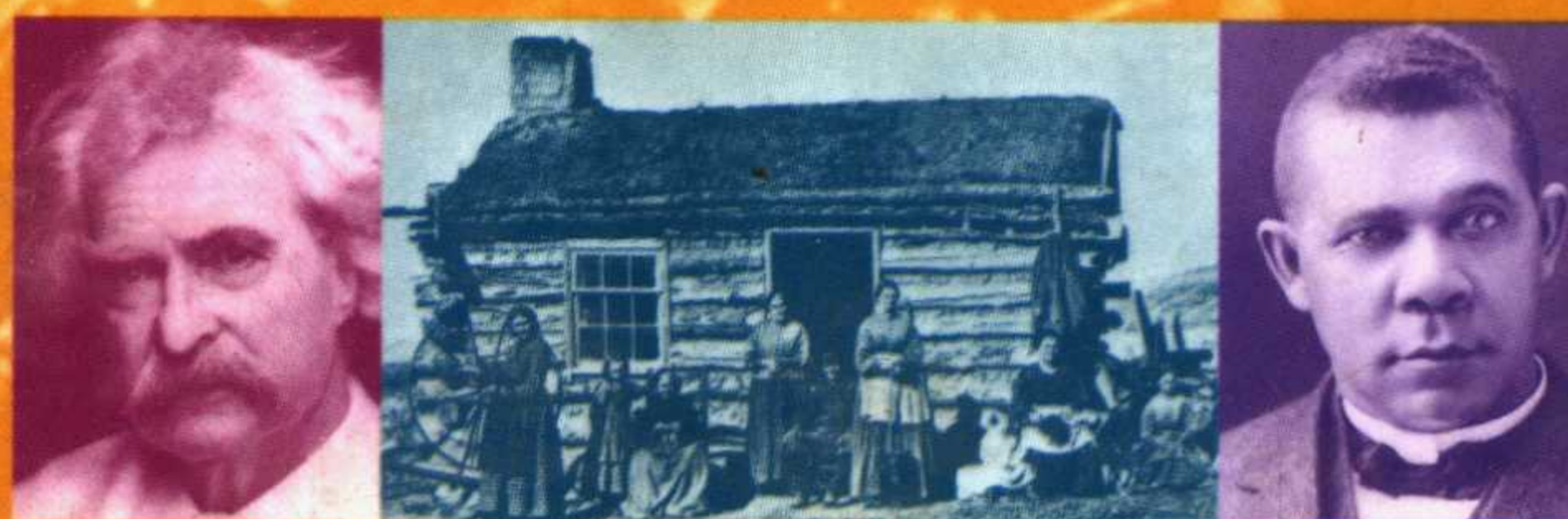


VOLUME 2

Civil Wars to Frontier Societies
(1800-1880s)



Literature and Its Times

Profiles of 300 Notable Literary Works and
the Historical Events that Influenced Them

Joyce Moss • George Wilson

VOLUME 2

Civil Wars to Frontier Societies

(1800-1880s)

Literature and Its Times

Profiles of 300 Notable Literary Works and
the Historical Events that Influenced Them

Joyce Moss • George Wilson



DETROIT NEW YORK TORONTO LONDON

Literature and Its Times

Profiles of 300 Notable Literary
Works and the Historical Events
that Influenced Them

VOLUME **2**
Civil Wars to Frontier Societies
(1800-1880s)

JOYCE MOSS • GEORGE WILSON

STAFF

Jeff Hill and Lawrence J. Trudeau, *Production Editors*
Susan Trosky, *Permissions Manager*
Kimberly F. Smilay, *Permissions Specialist*

Mary Beth Trimper, *Production Director*
Evi Seoud, *Production Manager*
Shanna Heilveil, *Production Assistant*

Cynthia Baldwin, *Product Design Manager*
Mary Claire Krzewinski, *Senior Art Director*

Barbara J. Yarrow, *Graphic Services Supervisor*
Randy Bassett, *Image Database Supervisor*
Robert Duncan, *Scanner Operator*
Pamela Hayes, *Photography Coordinator*

©™The paper used in this publication meets the minimum requirements of American National Standard for Information Sciences—Permanence Paper for Printed Library Materials, ANSI Z39.48-1984.

This publication is a creative work fully protected by all applicable copyright laws, as well as by misappropriation, trade secret, unfair competition, and other applicable laws. The authors and editors of this work have added value to the underlying factual material herein through one or more of the following: unique and original selection, coordination, expression, arrangement, and classification of the information.

All rights to this publication will be vigorously defended.

Copyright © 1997
Joyce Moss and George Wilson

All rights reserved including the right of reproduction in whole or in part in any form.

ISBN 0-7876-0606-5 (Set)
ISBN 0-7876-0608-1 (Volume 2)

Printed in the United States of America
10 9 8 7 6 5 4 3 2

Library of Congress Cataloging-in-Publication Data

Literature and its times : profiles of 300 notable literary works and
the historical events that influenced them / [edited by Joyce Moss and George Wilson].

p. cm.

Includes bibliographical references and index.

Contents: v. 1. Ancient times to the American and French Revolutions, (pre-history-1790s) --
v. 2. Civil wars to frontier societies (1800-1880s) -- v. 3. Growth of empires to the Great
Depression (1890-1930s) -- v. 4. World War II to the affluent fifties (1940-1950s) -- v. 5. Civil
rights movements to future times (1960-2000).

ISBN 0-7876-0607-3 (vol. 1 : alk. paper). -- ISBN 0-7876-0608-1 (vol. 2 : alk. paper). -- ISBN
0-7876-0609-X (vol. 3 : alk. paper). -- ISBN 0-7876-0610-3 (vol. 4 : alk. paper). -- ISBN 0-
7876-0611-1 (vol. 5 : alk. paper)

1. Literature and history. 2. History in literature. 3. Literature--History and criticism.

I. Moss, Joyce, 1951- . II. Wilson, George, 1920- .

PN50.L574 1997

809'.93358--dc21

97-34339
CIP

Preface



“E ven a great writer can be bound by the prejudices of his time . . . we cannot place Shakespeare in a sealed container. He belonged to his time,” notes Alexander Leggatt in his essay “*The Merchant of Venice: A Modern Perspective*” (William Shakespeare, *The Merchant of Venice* [New York: Washington Square Press, 1992], 217). This reasoning, applicable to any work and its author, explains why *Literature and Its Times* fixes a wide range of novels, short stories, biographies, speeches, poems, and plays in the context of their particular historical periods.

In the process, the relationship between fact and fantasy or invention becomes increasingly clear. The function of literature is not necessarily to represent history accurately. Many writers aim rather to spin a satisfying tale or perhaps to convey a certain vision or message. Nevertheless, the images created by a powerful literary work—be it the Greek poem *Iliad*, the Spanish novel *The Adventures of Don Quixote*, or the American play *The Crucible*—leave impressions that are commonly taken to be historical. This is true from works that depict earlier eras to ones that portray more modern occurrences, such as the world wars or race relations. The fourteenth-century poem *Inferno* from the *Divine Comedy* by Dante Alighieri is probably the most powerful example. So vividly does *Inferno* describe Hell that for more than two centuries people took its description as truth, going so far as to map Hell according to the details of the poem.

In taking literature as fact, then, one risks acquiring a mistaken or an unverified notion of history. Yet, by the same token, history can be very well informed by literary works. An author may portray events in a way that for the first time aptly captures the fears and challenges of a period, enabling readers to better understand it and their own place in the historical continuum. This is easily illustrated by tracing novels that feature women’s issues, from Nathaniel Hawthorne’s *The Scarlet Letter* (1640s setting) to Leo Tolstoy’s *Anna Karenina* (1870s) to Alice Walker’s *The Color Purple* (1920s–40s) and Amy Tan’s *The Joy Luck Club* (1940s–80s).

Placing a given work in historical context involves pinpointing conditions in the society in which it was written as well as set. Stephen Crane’s *Red Badge of Courage* is set in the early 1860s. Published three decades later, it was written in a different social context and, in this case, in response to a literary trend of Crane’s own era. Only by gaining insight into this era as well as the one in which the work takes place can it be fully appreciated; *Literature and Its Times* therefore addresses the author’s time frame too.

The task of reconstructing the historical contexts of a work can be problematic. There are stories—the tales of England’s King Arthur, for example—that defy any attempt to fit them neatly into a particular time. Living in a later era, their authors, consciously or not, mixed events that actually belong to two or more different pe-

Preface

riods. In some cases, this is an innocent mistake by a writer who did not have the benefit of accurate sources. In other cases, fidelity to the actual events of the time is of little concern to the writer; his or her main interest is the fictional world to be portrayed. In still other cases, the mixture of times is intentional. Happily, present-day knowledge makes it possible for this series to begin unweaving the historical mixture in these types of works.

Literature and Its Times relates history to literature on a case-by-case basis, intending to help readers respond fully to a work and to assist them in distinguishing fact from invention in the work. The series engages in this mission with a warm appreciation for the beauty of literature independent of historical facts, but also with the belief that ultimate regard is shown for a literary work and its author by positioning it in the context of pertinent events.

Selection of Literary Works

Literature and Its Times includes novels, short stories, plays, poems, biographies, essays, speeches, and documents. The works chosen for inclusion have been carefully selected on the basis of how frequently they are studied and how closely they are tied to pivotal historical events. Reflected in the selection are works not only by classic and still widely read authors but also by noteworthy ethnic and female authors. To finalize the selection, the complete list of titles was submitted to a panel of librarians, secondary teachers, and college professors. Please see "Acknowledgments" for a specific listing of these reviewers.

Format and Arrangement of Entries

The five volumes of *Literature and Its Times* are arranged chronologically from ancient times to the present. The set of entries within each volume is arranged alphabetically by title. As the series progresses, the range of years covered in each successive volume grows narrower due to the increasing number of works published in more recent times.

Each entry is organized according to the following sections.

1. **Introduction**—identifying information in three parts:
The literary work—describes the genre, the time and place of the work, and the year(s) it was first performed or published;

Synopsis—summarizes the storyline or contents;

Introductory paragraph—introduces the literary work in relation to the author's life.

2. **Events in History at the Time the Literary Work Takes Place**—describes social and political events that relate to the plot or contents of the literary work and that occurred during the period the story takes place. Subsections vary depending on the literary work. The section takes a deductive approach, starting with events in history and telescoping inward to events in the literary work.
3. **The Literary Work in Focus**—describes in brief the plot or contents of the work. Generally this summary is followed by a subsection on one or more elements in the work that illuminate real events or attitudes of the period. The subsection takes an inductive approach, starting with the literary work and broadening outward to events in history. It is usually followed by a third subsection detailing the sources used by the author to create the work.
4. **Events in History at the Time the Literary Work Was Written**—describes social, political, and/or literary events in the author's lifetime that relate to the plot or contents of the work. When relevant, the section includes events in the author's life. Also discussed in the section are the initial reviews or reception accorded to the literary work.
5. **For More Information**—provides a list of all sources that have been cited in the entry as well as sources for further reading about the different issues or personalities featured in the entry.

If a literary work is set and written in the same time period, sections 2 and 4 of the entry on that work ("Events in History at the Time the Literary Work Takes Place" and "Events in History at the Time the Literary Work Was Written") are combined into the single section "Events in History at the Time of the Literary Work."

Additional Features

Whenever possible, primary source material is provided through quotations in the text and material in sidebars. There are also sidebars with historical details that amplify issues raised in the main text and with anecdotes that give readers a

fuller understanding of the temporal context. Timelines appear in various entries to summarize intricate periods of history. To enrich and further clarify information, historically noteworthy illustrations have been included in the series. Maps as well as photographs provide visual images of potentially unfamiliar settings.

Comments and Suggestions

Your comments on this series and suggestions for future editions are welcome. Please write: Editors, *Literature and Its Times*, Gale Research, Inc., 835 Penobscot Building, Detroit, Michigan 48226-4094; or call toll-free: 1-800-877-4253.

Preface

Acknowledgments



For their careful review of entries in *Literature and Its Times*, the following professors and lecturers from the University of California at Los Angeles (UCLA) deserve the deepest appreciation:

English Department

Robert Aguirre
Martha Banta
Lynn Batten
A. R. Braunmuller
Daphne Brooks
King-Kok Cheung
Michael Colacurcio
Ed Condren
Jack Kolb
Jinqui Ling
Chris Mott
Michael North
Barbara Packer
David Rodes
Karen Rowe

Comparative Literature Department

Eric Gans
Kathryn King
Mary Kay Norseng
Ross Shideler

Slavic Languages and Literature Department

Micheal Heim
Peter Hodgson

Gratitude is also extended to professors from other institutions for their valuable review of selected entries, and to history department chairman Robert Sumpter for his guidance and reviews:

Rabbi Stanley Chyet, Hebrew Union College
Agnes Moreland Jackson, Pitzer College, English and Black Studies
Michael McGaha, Pomona College, Romance Languages and Literatures—Spanish Section
Robert Sumpter, Mira Costa High School, History Department

A host of contributors assisted in collecting and composing data for the entries in *Literature and Its Times*. Their painstaking hours of research and composition are deeply appreciated.

Diane R. Ahrens
Eric A. Besner
Suzanne C. Borghei
Luke Bresky
Anne Brooks
Corey Brettschneider
Thomas Cooper
Patricia Carroll
Terence Davis
Mark Druskoff
Shelby Fulmer
Betsy Hedberg-Keramidas

Acknowledgments

Ryan Hilbert
 Lisa Gabbert
 Anne Kim
 Amy Merritt
 Michael Le Sieur
 Barbara A. Lozano
 Michele Mednick
 Michelle Miller
 Larry Mowrey
 Evan Porter
 Edward R. O'Neill
 David Riemer
 Monica Riordan
 Jane E. Roddy
 George Ross
 Rita Schepergerdes
 Roberta Seid
 Shira Tarrant
 Benjamin Trefny
 Pete Trujillo
 Lorraine B. Valestuk
 Colin Wells
 Sandra Wade-Grusky
 Allison Wiesz
 Jeannie Wilkinson
 Denise Wilson
 Brandon Wilson
 Antoine Wilson

A special thank you is extended to Lorraine B. Valestuk, Ph.D., for her refinement of data and to Cheryl Steets, Ph.D., for her deft copy editing. Anne Leach indexed the volumes with proficiency and literary sensitivity. The editors also thank Larry Trudeau and Jeff Hill of Gale Research for their careful editorial management.

Lastly the editors express gratitude to those

who guided the final selection of literary works included in the series:

Neil Anstead, Director of Humanities,
 Los Angeles Unified School District
 William Balcolm, Librarian,
 Villa Park Public Library, Villa Park, IL
 Marth Banta, Professor,
 University of California at Los Angeles
 Carol Clark, Head Librarian,
 Robert E. Lee High School, Springfield,
 VA
 Chris García, Head Librarian,
 Beverly Hills Children's Library, Beverly
 Hills, CA
 Nancy Guidry, Young Adult Librarian,
 Santa Monica Public Library, Santa Monica,
 CA
 Kenneth M. Holmes, Ph.D.,
 Educational Consultant,
 Educational Concepts Unlimited, Bellville,
 IL
 Carol Jago, Mentor Teacher,
 English Department, Santa Monica Public
 High School, Santa Monica, CA
 Jim Merrill, Instructor,
 Oxnard Community College, Oxnard, CA
 Mary Purucker, Head Librarian,
 Santa Monica High School, Santa Monica,
 CA
 Karen Rowe, Professor,
 University of California at Los Angeles
 Hilda K. Weisburg, Librarian,
 Sayreville War Memorial High School,
 Parlin, NJ
 Dr. Brooke Workman, Teacher,
 West High School, Iowa City, IA
 Richard Yarborough, Professor,
 University of California at Los Angeles

Introduction to Volume 2



Volume 2 of *Literature and Its Times* opens with works set during the aftermath of the French Revolution at the turn of the nineteenth century, and closes with literature that takes place at the turn of the twentieth century, as Americans put their own Civil War behind them and continued to spread westward. The American population increased greatly in the post-war years, with newcomers emigrating from Europe and with a rise in emigration from Asia. Across the continents, the century is characterized by war and insurrection. Included here is a collection of literary works that documents the struggle of peoples on both sides of the Atlantic Ocean to achieve a democratic society and to define the proper role of the individual within that society.

As the century unfolded, Napoleon Bonaparte conquered most of Europe and then lost it, Europeans overthrew their kings and governments, and United States citizens fought over frontiers with the British, the Spanish, the Mexicans, and the American Indians. Writers meanwhile pondered political concepts such as justice, social hierarchies, and the rights to which various members of society were entitled. In England, Charlotte Brontë (*Jane Eyre*) and Jane Austen (*Pride and Prejudice*) wrote novels featuring legally and socially powerless English women without money. In Russia, Leo Tolstoy examined gender inequalities (*Anna Karenina*). England's Charles Dickens (*Oliver Twist*) and France's Victor Hugo (*Les Mis-*

érables) portrayed the plight of the urban poor. In America, nonfiction works produced in the period by Henry David Thoreau ("Civil Disobedience") and John Brown (John Brown's Last Speech) question the relative authorities of personal conviction and government legislation. Other works set in the period focus on the American West, raising equally troublesome questions about the legitimacy and moral implications of frontier justice, whether it involves tactics to subdue Indian tribes (Dee Brown's *Bury My Heart at Wounded Knee*), the hanging of accused thieves (Walter Val Tilburn Clark's *The Ox-Bow Incident*), or the blurred distinction between criminals and lawmen (Jack Schaefer's *Shane*).

In 1859 England's Charles Darwin published *On the Origin of Species by Means of Natural Selection*, a work that changed the way many people think about social structures. Darwin's study speaks of an evolutionary principle that has become known as "survival of the fittest" (a phrase coined by Herbert Spencer and one that Darwin himself used in the fifth edition of his work). The principle states that animals whose bodies are best adapted to their physical surroundings tend to be most successful. Applying Darwin's ideas to society resulted in the development of a school of thought known as *social Darwinism*. Its proponents taught that human beings divide naturally along lines of strength and power, and that the poor, weak, and powerless are simply less

Introduction

well equipped to adapt to the changes surging through society. Progress comes from human competition, the social Darwinists reasoned, which separates the strong from the weak, whom nature will eventually eliminate. Thus, charity and other efforts on behalf of the weak are pointless. Objecting to this reasoning, various writers have created literary works that are nevertheless affected by it, such as Bernard Pomerance's *The Elephant Man*.

The social Darwinists assumed that nature had made the white man superior to everyone else, an assumption that during the reign of Queen Victoria (1837–1901) led to potent social hierarchies and objections to them. Works of literature like W. E. B. Du Bois's *The Souls of Black Folk*, William Gibson's *The Miracle Worker*, and Charlotte Perkins Gilman's "The Yellow Wallpaper" all contest the idea that some people—blacks, the disabled, women—are naturally inferior to white men. Yet larger society stubbornly held onto the assumption of white male superiority well into the twentieth century.

Separate roles were prescribed for women and men in the Victorian Age, resulting in a gender hierarchy that, along with an ethnic hierarchy, would long determine the structure of Anglo-American culture. Around mid-century, however, on both sides of the Atlantic Ocean, women began struggling for emancipation. Issues of education, legal rights, profession, and freedom in courtship and marital choice run through the literature of and about the period, from Henrik Ibsen's *A Doll's House* to William Luce's *The Belle of Amherst* to Henry James's *Daisy Miller*. In fact, Darwin had suggested that women are the hardier, more necessary sex, who, as mothers, guarantee the preservation of the species. Others have used his work to argue both for and against the desirability of women leaving the home to pursue education and careers.

In the 1880s and 1890s social Darwinism began to take a different tack, focusing on competition between nations rather than among individuals. Proponents turned to dividing the world into advanced and less advanced races, assuming that white Europeans were superior and thus had the right to control the destinies of other peoples—whether they were Africans, Asians, or the formerly colonized white, black, and native Americans. This mind set gave rise to a missionary spirit, in which European white men and women felt obligated to bring their

"superior" culture to "inferior" colonized peoples in, for example, Africa (as in Joseph Conrad's *Heart of Darkness*). Created from the perspective of native peoples, some of the literature set in their lands (in Africa—Chinua Achebe's *Things Fall Apart*; in America—Chief Joseph's "I Will Fight No More Forever") portrays just how unwelcome these whites often were.

For much of the century, another kind of tension loomed above such difficulties in the United States. The conflicts between North and South in the Civil War era dominated the history of the nation for some forty years. Prior to the war, concerns about racial relations and the nature of the American union escalated in light of the social revolutions sweeping through Europe; autobiographies by Southern black slaves (like Frederick Douglass and Harriet Jacobs) made their way north and found a sympathetic audience. During four years of Civil War and the troubled period of reconciliation and renewal known as Reconstruction, Americans faced the difficult chore of living up to their image as defenders of equality and freedom. What would the new America be like? In the South at least, the new America wound up resembling to a great extent the old America, as creative new ways of depriving black people of their civil rights emerged. Works like Booker T. Washington's *Up from Slavery* and Toni Morrison's *Beloved* reflect America's continuing debate about racial equality long after the postwar Thirteenth, Fourteenth, and Fifteenth amendments to the American constitution tried to put the matter to rest.

The collection closes during America's "Gilded Age," a time of increasing wealth and power, with its attendant technological innovations—the harnessing of electricity, the invention of the automobile and the telephone. Migrants flocked from rural areas, such as the one in which Edith Wharton's *Ethan Frome* is set, to the cities to labor in factories and benefit from the new inventions. For many, life improved in material comfort, but there was a seamy side to city living too, as shown in Theodore Dreiser's *Sister Carrie* and in the first part of Horatio Alger's poor-boy-succeeds tale, *Ragged Dick; or, Street Life in New York with the Boot-Blacks*. The so-called Gilded Age saw the spread of unscrupulous business practices and of unsanitary living and working conditions for people whose labor made life easier for the wealthy to enjoy.

One literary work, whose development spanned half a century, stands out in relation

to nineteenth-century American history. From 1855 to 1892, Walt Whitman's poetic collection, *Leaves of Grass*, was published in nine different editions, each of which reflects the dominant concerns of the poet and the nation at the time of publication. Taken together, the collec-

tion reveals the moods, conflicts, and innovations of a people from their pre-Civil War decade, through the bloody years of the gruesome conflict, to the assassination of President Abraham Lincoln and the postwar promise of the Western frontier.

Introduction

Chronology of Relevant Events

1800–1880s



THE ROMANTIC MOVEMENT

Romanticism refers to a pan-European movement that involved literature, the arts, and philosophy, and that heavily influenced pre-Civil War writings in the United States. The movement valued liberty over governmental and church authority, and the emotional and instinctive over the rational and deliberate. Romantics championed the weak and oppressed in society, took seriously dreams and the unconscious, and, in their bleaker moments, focused on death, evil, and pain. A reaction against the earlier Enlightenment era and its focus on the human intellect, Romanticism was above all a movement of rebellion. It was closely related to a movement among U.S. writers—transcendentalism.

	Historical Events	Literary Works Set in the Period
1790	1789 French Revolution ushers in a period of rebellion in politics and social life in various parts of Europe	
	1798 Romantic movement officially begins in England with the appearance of <i>Lyrical Ballads</i> by William Wordsworth and Samuel Taylor Coleridge	
1800	1799 William Wordsworth publishes first edition of <i>The Prelude</i> , another of English Romanticism's founding texts	
	1804 Napoleon Bonaparte becomes emperor of France; Napoleonic Code becomes basis of French law	early 1800s <i>Pride and Prejudice</i> by Jane Austen
	1805 Napoleon defeats Austrian and Russian troops at Austerlitz	early 1800s "The Cask of Amontillado" by Edgar Allan Poe
1810	1808 Napoleon defeats Spanish king Charles and exiles his heir Ferdinand VII; Spanish colonies in the Americas begin independence movements	
	1812 Napoleon invades Russia, retreats in disarray; U.S. declares war on Great Britain	

	Historical Events	Literary Works Set in the Period
	<p>1813 Duke of Wellington invades France</p> <p>1814 Spain, England, and Prussia attack France; Napoleon is exiled to Elba; the British burn Washington, D.C.; Francis Scott Key writes "Star-Spangled Banner"</p> <p>1815 Napoleon returns to France; is defeated by the English and Prussians at Waterloo and exiled to St. Helena; United States defeats Britain in Battle of New Orleans</p> <p>1816 Divorce, available since 1792, is outlawed in France</p> <p>1818 Mary Shelley publishes <i>Frankenstein; or, The Modern Prometheus</i>, a Gothic-style novel, full of mystery and terror</p> <p>1820 1821 Revolution breaks out in Greece</p> <p>1823 Monroe Doctrine proclaims the Americas off-limits to European colonization</p> <p>1825 Czar Nicholas I suppresses December Revolution in Russia</p>	<p>1815–35 <i>Les Misérables</i> by Victor Hugo</p> <p>1815–38 <i>The Count of Monte Cristo</i> by Alexandre Dumas</p> <p>1818 <i>Frankenstein</i> by Mary Shelley</p>
	<p>1830 1830s Hudson River School, the first school of American landscape painting, is founded</p> <p>1830 Charles X of France abolishes freedom of the press, dissolves lower house of French Parliament, and reduces the electorate drastically; Louis Philippe, Duke of Orleans, replaces him as "citizen king"; in America, Gothic architecture is in vogue and Joseph Smith publishes the <i>Book of Mormon</i>, inspiring the birth of a new religion</p> <p>1832 Riot breaks out in Paris as Republicans try to dethrone Louis Philippe; cholera epidemic kills 20,000 in Paris</p> <p>1834 New Poor Law in England cuts off aid to outdoor workers</p> <p>1834–39 Spanish Civil War</p> <p>1838 Ralph Waldo Emerson delivers "The American Scholar" address, heralding the transcendental movement</p>	<p>1830s <i>Oliver Twist</i> by Charles Dickens</p> <p>1830s "Self-Reliance" by Ralph Waldo Emerson</p>
	<p>1840 1843 Governesses' Benevolent Institution opens in London</p> <p>1845 Henry David Thoreau moves to Walden Pond</p>	<p>1840s <i>Jane Eyre</i> by Charlotte Brontë</p> <p>1843 <i>The Turn of the Screw</i> by Henry James</p>
	<p>1850</p>	<p>1851 <i>Walden</i> by Henry David Thoreau</p>

THE VICTORIAN AGE

The Victorian Age (1837–1901) saw the height of European colonization of Africa and Asia, America's expansion west into territory owned or inhabited by Spanish-speaking mestizos and Indians, and persistent social hierarchies that distinguished conquerors from the conquered. While the Europeans continued to explore continents other than their own, Latin Americans, newly freed from Spanish rule, struggled to establish independent republics. On the home front, white society's females began to challenge the "separate spheres" philosophy that divided the domestic culture of women from the worldly culture of men.

1830	1830 Colombia becomes an independent South American republic	1830s–1930s <i>One Hundred Years of Solitude</i> by Gabriel García Márquez
------	--------------------------------------------------------------	----------------------------------------------------------------------------

Historical Events

Literary Works Set in the Period

	1837 Victoria crowned Queen of England; in United States, Oberlin College enrolls first (4) women; Georgia Female College, the first women's college in America, opens	
	1839 Opium War breaks out between England and China	
1840	1840 Queen Victoria marries Prince Albert; Samuel Cunard establishes trans-Atlantic steamship line	
	1842 England forms its first detective force; China gives Hong Kong to Great Britain in Treaty of Nanking	
	1844 British abolish imprisonment for debts less than £20	
	1845 Potato Famine decimates Ireland; Frederick Engels publishes <i>Condition of the Working Class in Great Britain</i> ; Margaret Fuller publishes <i>Woman in the Nineteenth Century</i> , the first work of feminism in America	1845–86 <i>The Belle of Amherst</i> by William Luce
	1845–48 Britain annexes Punjab in India	
	1846 Smithsonian Institution opens in Washington, D.C.	
	1848 Lucretia Mott and Elizabeth Cady Stanton organize first women's rights meeting in America at Seneca Falls, New York	
	1849 Elizabeth Blackwell receives medical degree, the first American or European woman to do so	
1850		1850–1900 <i>Things Fall Apart</i> by Chinua Achebe
	1858 First trans-Atlantic telegraph cable links North America with Europe	
	1859 Darwin publishes <i>On the Origin of Species</i> , introducing the idea of survival of the fittest	
1860		
	1863 London's subway opens	1862 <i>Alice's Adventures in Wonderland</i> by Lewis Carroll
	1865 Leopold II becomes Belgian king	
	1869 John Stuart Mill publishes <i>The Subjection of Women</i> , an essay in support of domestic reform; Suez Canal begins operation	
1870	1870s Circus owner P. T. Barnum tours America with "Greatest Show on Earth"; Henry Morton Stanley explores Congo River	
	1870 French eliminate the monarchy, establish Republican France	
	1872 Susan B. Anthony is arrested for leading women voters to polls	
	1876 Queen Victoria is proclaimed "Empress of India"	
	1878 Afghanistan and Britain are at war	
1880	1880 Guy de Maupassant writes first acclaimed story, a tale about the Franco-Prussian War (1870–71), "Boule de Suif"	1880s "The Yellow Wallpaper" by Charlotte Perkins Gilman
		1880–1905(?) "The Open Window" by Saki
		1884–90 <i>The Elephant Man</i> by Bernard Pomerance
		1885 "The Necklace" by Guy de Maupassant
	1886 American poet Emily Dickinson dies	
	1887 Queen Victoria's Golden Jubilee celebrates her fifty-year rule	1889 <i>The Hound of the Baskervilles</i> by Arthur Conan Doyle
		late 1800s <i>Tess of the D'Urbervilles</i> by Thomas Hardy
		late 1800s <i>A Doll's House</i> by Henrik Ibsen
		late 1800s <i>Daisy Miller</i> by Henry James

	Historical Events	Literary Works Set in the Period
1900	1899 Charlotte Perkins Gilman publishes <i>Women and Economics</i> ; civil war (the Thousand Days' War) erupts in Colombia	1890s <i>Heart of Darkness</i> by Joseph Conrad late 1890s <i>Sons and Lovers</i> by D. H. Lawrence
	1901 Queen Victoria dies; Britain claims Nigeria, forming a protectorate from the Niger delta to the interior	
<p>MID- TO LATE NINETEENTH-CENTURY GLOBAL UNREST</p> <p>Beginning in 1848, famine, unemployment, disease, and political oppression led Europeans to dethrone kings and dissolve governments; as in a huge game of dominoes, monarchies and governments across the continent toppled one after another. Across the Atlantic Ocean, the European revolutions were often seen as a confirmation of American ideals of heroic revolt and personal freedom. There was nonpolitical ferment around this time too. Cultures on both sides of the Atlantic saw the spread of challenges and innovations in literature and education.</p>		
1840	1828–42 Thomas Arnold serves as headmaster of Rugby Public School in England, introducing policies that affect England's entire public school system	1830s–56 <i>Madame Bovary</i> by Gustave Flaubert 1834–42 <i>Tom Brown's Schooldays</i> by Thomas Hughes
	1840 American author Herman Melville pens essay contesting the idea that no author can surpass Shakespeare 1846–47 Great Potato Famine devastates Ireland 1846–48 Mexican-American War is fought 1848 Ferdinand II, tyrant of Naples and Sicily, is driven out; "Socialist" revolution in France drives out King Louis Philippe; more than 50 separate revolutions break out in Europe, from Ireland to Spain to Denmark, Prussia, Hungary, Austria, Switzerland, and Germany; Karl Marx and Frederick Engels publish <i>Communist Manifesto</i>	1848 "Civil Disobedience" by Henry David Thoreau
1850	1852 Publication of <i>Uncle Tom's Cabin</i> fuels North-South rivalry in United States; Louis Napoleon (Napoleon III) becomes emperor of France 1853–56 Crimean War (Russia-Turkey) is fought 1855 Czar Alexander II assumes power in Russia 1857 Gustave Flaubert is charged with outraging public morals in <i>Madame Bovary</i> ; Indian Mutiny occurs 1859 War of Italian Liberation erupts; John Stuart Mill publishes <i>On Liberty</i>	1850 <i>Uncle Tom's Cabin or, Life among the Lowly</i> by Harriet Beecher Stowe 1851 <i>Moby Dick</i> by Herman Melville 1851 <i>Leaves of Grass</i> (1st edition) by Walt Whitman 1856 <i>Leaves of Grass</i> (2nd edition) by Walt Whitman

	Historical Events	Literary Works Set in the Period
1860	<p>1861 Serfs are emancipated in Russia</p> <p>1861–65 American Civil War is fought</p> <p>1863 Polish insurrection against Russia occurs</p> <p>1865–69 Leo Tolstoy publishes <i>War and Peace</i></p> <p>1866 Fyodor Dostoevsky publishes <i>Crime and Punishment</i></p> <p>1867–94 Karl Marx publishes three volumes of <i>Das Kapital</i></p>	<p>1866–1868 <i>Twenty Thousand Leagues under the Sea</i> by Jules Verne</p>
1870	<p>1870 Franco-Prussian War breaks out; fall of Napoleon III issues in French Third Republic</p> <p>1875 Irish independence movement begins</p> <p>1877 Russo-Turkish War is fought</p>	<p>1870s <i>Anna Karenina</i> by Leo Tolstoy</p>
1880		

ANTEBELLUM AMERICA

The forces that would divide the United States were gathering strength in the decades immediately preceding the Civil War. Along with other factors, protests and uprisings about the nation’s slave community helped carve a rift between North and South, despite juridical and political maneuvering to avoid confrontation.

1800	<p>1804 Underground Railroad begins helping slaves escape to the North</p> <p>1808 Federal law against importing slaves is passed</p>	<p>1800s? <i>Uncle Remus: His Songs and His Sayings</i> by Joel Chandler Harris</p>
1810		<p>1809–1861 <i>Abraham Lincoln: The Prairie Years</i> by Carl Sandburg</p>
1820	<p>1816 African Methodist Episcopal Church is founded in Philadelphia</p> <p>1820s–30s Religious revival known as “Second Great Awakening” ushers in tide of reform throughout America</p> <p>1820 Missouri Compromise bans slavery north of 36°30’; U.S. becomes world’s largest cotton producer</p>	<p>1813–58 <i>Incidents in the Life of a Slave Girl Written by Herself</i> by Harriet Jacobs</p> <p>1818–1838 <i>Narrative of the Life of Frederick Douglass, An American Slave</i> by Frederick Douglass</p>
1830	<p>1831 William Lloyd Garrison and Isaac Knapp establish antislavery journal <i>Liberator</i>; Nat Turner stages antislavery uprising</p> <p>1833 American Anti-Slavery Society is founded</p> <p>1834 Slavery is abolished in British Empire</p>	<p>1831 <i>The Confessions of Nat Turner</i> by William Styron</p>
1840	<p>1840s The “minstrel show” becomes popular in American theaters</p>	<p>1840 <i>The Adventures of Huckleberry Finn</i> by Mark Twain</p> <p>1848 “Civil Disobedience” by Henry David Thoreau</p>

	Historical Events	Literary Works Set in the Period
1850	<p>1850 Fugitive Slave Law mandates forcible return of runaway slaves to the South, raises accomplice's penalty to \$1,000 for criminal damages and \$1,000 for civil damages</p> <p>1851 <i>The New York Times</i> is first printed</p> <p>1854 Kansas-Nebraska Act leaves issue of slavery to territories' inhabitants; Republican Party is formed</p> <p>1856 John Brown leads protest against Kansas-Nebraska Act; five proslavery people are killed</p> <p>1856–61 "Bleeding Kansas": pro- and antislavery factions battle for control of the state</p> <p>1857 Supreme Court hands down <i>Dred Scott</i> decision, saying that a slave is not a citizen and Congress does not have power to outlaw slavery, which makes Missouri Compromise invalid</p> <p>1858 Abraham Lincoln battles Stephen Douglas in Illinois senatorial race and loses; the "Lincoln-Douglas Debates" prefigure Civil War conflict; Lincoln delivers "A House Divided" speech</p> <p>1859 John Brown conducts raid on Harper's Ferry</p>	<p>1851 "Ain't I a Woman?" by Sojourner Truth</p>
1860	<p>1860 Abraham Lincoln is elected president; Oliver Winchester invents repeating rifle</p>	<p>1859 John Brown's Final Speech by John Brown</p> <p>1860 <i>Leaves of Grass</i> (3rd edition) by Walt Whitman</p>

GOLD RUSH AND WESTERN EXPANSION

In 1804 Thomas Jefferson commissioned ex-soldiers Meriweather Lewis and William Clark to explore the upper Missouri region (now the Pacific Northwest), partly to establish relations with the Indians there who worked the lucrative fur trade with the British and the French in Canada. The pair reached the Pacific Ocean and returned with information about the West: which mountain passes to use, what the geography and climate were like, and who the Indians were. Other American explorers and settlers used this information to populate the resource-rich region that would soon become part of America. "Manifest Destiny," the philosophy that Anglo-Saxon Americans had a providential mission to spread throughout the continent, gained currency in the mid-1840s and remained popular for at least another fifty years.

1800

1803 Louisiana Purchase

1805 Lewis and Clark reach Pacific Ocean

1810

1811 John Jacob Astor's Pacific Fur Company establishes trading posts on the Columbia River

1820

1825 Texas is opened to American settlers; Erie Canal begins operation

1830

1834–36 *Two Years before the Mast* by Richard Henry Dana, Jr.