

THE AMERICAN 19TH CENTURY 1800-1899

highlights

Nineteenth-century American literature is marked by a quest for social justice and personal liberation and by an effort to define a distinctly American subject matter and aesthetic. Literature in the first half of the century, produced almost entirely on the east coast, was imbued with the spirit of Romanticism and paid new attention to nature and other-worldly experience. The fundamental belief in an empowered citizenry and the ideals of the Transcendental movement enlivened demands for the abolition of slavery, educational and labor reform, and the increased enfranchisement of women. In the second half of the century, Realist fiction took a cue from journalism and the new social sciences to chronicle the lives of the working and middle classes in a nation that now spanned the continent.

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1899

1800

REPRESENTATIVE LITERARY WORKS

..... *Life of George Washington*, Washington Irving, 1820

..... *Leatherstocking*, James Fenimore Cooper, 1826

First tales of Edgar Allan Poe, 1832

“The American Scholar,” Ralph Waldo Emerson, 1837

..... *Life*, Frederick Douglass, 1845

..... *Worthen Lectures*,
Margaret Fuller, 1845

“Resistance to Civil Government,”
Henry David Thoreau, 1849

..... *Mosses from an Old Manse*, Nathaniel Hawthorne, 1851

..... *Typee*, Herman Melville, 1851

..... *Uncle Tom's Cabin*, Harriet Beecher Stowe, 1852

..... *Drum Taps*, Walt Whitman, 1855

..... *Little Women*, Louisa May Alcott, 1868

..... *The Bostonians*, Henry James, 1881

..... *Alton*, William Dean Howells, 1882

..... *A Connecticut Yankee in King Arthur's Court*, Mark Twain, 1884

Poems of Emily Dickinson (posthumous), 1890

..... *Maggie*, Stephen Crane, 1895

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