

The Age of Faith (1607-1750) (TWO phases: Pilgrims/religion & Patriots/politics)

The Crucible, by Arthur Miller (Salem Witch Trials a metaphor for McCarthyism)

The Age of Reason (1750-1800)

Autobiography of Ben Franklin

ROMANTICISM (1800-1855)

The Scarlet Letter by Nathaniel Hawthorne (sin and guilt; consequences of pride, selfishness)

Moby Dick by Herman Melville (1819-1891)

Red Badge of Courage by Stephen Crane (1871-1900) (Naturalist) Crane attacked patriotism, individualism, organized religion; confronted the meaninglessness of the world. Crane's writing known for its images & symbolism. His most famous work is set in Civil War.

Modernism (1915-1945)

The Sun Also Rises by Ernest Hemingway (1899-1961)

1. Writing style: concise, direct, spare, objective, precise, rhythmic
2. A larger-than-life hero; big-game hunter; sport fisherman; headliner
3. He won the Pulitzer Prize and Nobel Prize for Literature

The Great Gatsby by F. Scott Fitzgerald (1896-1940)

1. Ironic and tragic treatment of the American success myth
2. His work and life illustrate American culture of the 1920's

The Sound and the Fury by C. William Faulkner (1897-1962) primary subject was his heritage: Southern memory, reality, myth

Ragtime by E.L. Doctorow (1931-)

1. A historical collage of converging plots, highlighting the major events of the early 20th Century. (Includes many historical allusions to events and people.)