

EARLY AMERICAN LITERATURE, UPDATED QUESTION LIST

1. Edgar Allan Poe, life & work; Poe's theoretical views on literature
2. Edgar Allan Poe's short stories: style, themes, symbols (provide examples of stories other than "The Black Cat" and "The Fall of the House of Usher")
3. Edgar Allan Poe's short stories: style, themes, symbols; "The Black Cat" and "The Fall of the House of Usher"
4. Edgar Allan Poe's influence on French symbolism; Interpretation of Poe's poetry ("The Raven"—the first and last stanza by heart, "Annabel Lee"—the first and last stanza by heart)
5. Emily Dickinson, life & work; Interpretation of Dickinson's poetry and a poem / stanza of your choice by heart
6. American transcendentalism and its influence on the literature of the age: Emerson, Thoreau, Whitman
7. Walt Whitman, life & work; Interpretation of Whitman's poetry ("O Captain, My Captain"—the first stanza by heart)
8. Nathaniel Hawthorne, life & work; Melville and Hawthorne
9. Nathaniel Hawthorne's *The Scarlet Letter*, the plot and characters
10. Nathaniel Hawthorne's *The Scarlet Letter*, the context and symbolism
11. Herman Melville, life & work other than *Moby Dick*; Melville and Hawthorne
12. Herman Melville's *Moby Dick*: plot, characters, themes, symbolism, style
13. Harriet Beecher Stowe, life and work; *Uncle Tom's Cabin*
14. Stephen Crane, life and work; *The Red Badge of Courage*
15. Mark Twain, life & work; *The Adventures of Tom Sawyer* and *The Adventures of Huckleberry Finn*
16. Henry James, life & work; *Daisy Miller*
17. Ambrose Bierce, life & work; "The Damned Thing", "An Occurrence at Owl Creek Bridge"

CHECKLIST:

1. The author's significance and contribution to (American) literature;
2. The author's style;
3. The author's relation to other writers of the time – similarities and differences;
4. The author's philosophy / worldview;
5. The author's works: titles mentioned in class and a comment on each;
6. Obligatory reading: regardless of the question they pick, students may be asked an additional question about the obligatory reading if deemed necessary.