

American Literature to 1865

- John Smith, The General History of Virginia (Book 3, chapters 1 and 2)
- William Bradford, Of Plymouth Plantation
- John Winthrop, "A Model of Christian Charity"
- Anne Bradstreet, "The Prologue," "An Epitaph on My Dear and Ever-Honoured Mother . . . , " "Contemplations," "The Flesh and the Spirit," "The Author to Her Book," "Before the Birth of One of Her Children," "To My Dear and Loving Husband," "A Letter to Her Husband . . . , " "Another" ("As loving hind"), "In Reference to Her Children . . . , " "In Memory of My Dear Grandchild Elizabeth Bradstreet," "On My Dear Grandchild Simon Bradstreet," "Here Follows Some Verses Upon the Burning of Our House . . . , " "As Weary Pilgrim"
- Michael Wigglesworth, The Day of Doom 1-33, 66-80, 130-139, 156-182, 197-224
- Edward Taylor, "Prologue," "The Joy of Church Fellowship . . . , " "The Reflexion," Mediations 1.8, 1.19, 1.38, 1.39, 1.42, 2.7, 2.26, 2.150, "The Preface," "Upon a Spider . . . , " "Upon a Wasp . . . , " "Huswifery," "Upon Wedlock and Death of Children," "The Ebb and Flow," "Upon the Sweeping Flood," "A Fig for Thee Oh! Death"
- Roger Williams, Preface to "The Bloody Tennes"
- Mary Rowlandson, The Sovereignty and Goodness of God . . .
- John Williams, The Redeemed Captive
- Cotton Mather, "Galeacius Secundus" (Book II, chapter I) and "Thaumatrographia Pneumatica" (Book VI, chapter VII) of Magnalia Christi Americana
- Jonathan Edwards, Personal Narrative, A Divine and Supernatural Light, "Sinners in the Hands of an Angry God"
- Olaudah Equiano, The Interesting Life of Olaudah Equiano, or Gustavus Vasa The African, Written by Himself
- Benjamin Franklin, The Autobiography
- Thomas Paine, Introduction to Common Sense, and The Age of Reason (parts 1 and 2)
- Thomas Jefferson, The Declaration of Independence
- Philip Freneau, "A Political Litany," "The Hurricane," "On the Emigration to America," "To Sir Toby," "The Wild Honey Suckle," "The Indian Burying Ground," "On the Universality . . . , " "On the Religion of Nature," "On Observing a Large Red-Streak Apple"
- Charles Brockden Brown, Wieland
- Hannah Webster Foster, The Coquette
- Hector St. John de Crèvecoeur, Letters from an American Farmer
- Phillis Wheatley, "On Virtue," "On Imagination," "To the University of Cambridge, in New England," "On Being Brought From Africa to America," "To S. M. A Young African Painter, On Seeing His Works," "To His Excellency General Washington"
- Washington Irving, The Sketchbook
- William Cullen Bryant, "Thanatopsis," "The African Chief," "To a Waterfowl," "A Forest Hymn," "Sonnet—To an American Painter Departing for Europe," "To the Fringed Gentian," "The Prairies," "Abraham Lincoln"
- James Fenimore Cooper, The Deerslayer, The Prairie
- Henry Wadsworth Longfellow, Hiawatha XIV ("Picture-Writing") and XXII ("Hiawatha's Departure"), "A Psalm of Life," "Mezzo Cammin," "The Jewish Cemetery at Newport," "Divina Commedia," "Chaucer," "Milton," "Keats," "Nature"
- Edgar Allan Poe, Tales: "Ligeia," "The Fall of the House of Usher," "The Masque of the Red Death," "The Tell-Tale Heart," "The Black Cat," "The Purloined Letter," "The Imp of the Perverse," "The Cask of Amontillado;" Poems: "Sonnet--To Science," "Romance," "To Helen," "Israfel," "The City in the Sea," "The Raven," "Ulalume--A Ballad," "A Dream Within a Dream," "Annabel Lee;" "The Philosophy of Composition," Review of Twice-Told Tales

Ralph Waldo Emerson, Essays: "Nature," "The Divinity School Address," "The American Scholar," "Self-Reliance," "Experience," "The Poet"

Margaret Fuller, Woman in the Nineteenth Century

Nathaniel Hawthorne, "My Kinsman, Major Molineux," "Young Goodman Brown," "The Maypole of Merry Mount," "Wakefield," "The Minister's Black Veil," "The Birth-Mark," "Rappaccini's Daughter," "The Artist of the Beautiful," "Ethan Brand," The Scarlet Letter, The Blithedale Romance, The House of the Seven Gables, prefaces to the romances.

Herman Melville, "Bartleby the Scrivener," Moby Dick, Benito Cereno, Billy Budd

Henry David Thoreau, Walden, "Resistance to Civil Government," "A Plea for Captain John Brown," "Slavery in Massachusetts"

Harriet Beecher Stowe, Uncle Tom's Cabin

Harriet Jacobs, Incidents in the Life of a Slave Girl

Frederick Douglass, Narrative of the Life of Frederick Douglass, "What to the Slave is the Fourth of July?"

Walt Whitman, "Starting From Paumanok," Preface to Leaves of Grass (1855), "Song of Myself," "I Saw in Louisiana a Live-Oak Growing," "I Hear It Was Charged Against Me," "Crossing Brooklyn Ferry," "Out of the Cradle Endlessly Rocking," "As I Ebb'd with the Ocean of Life," "When I Heard the Learn'd Astronomer," "There Was a Child Went Forth," "To a Common Prostitute," "To a Noiseless Patient Spider"

Rebecca Harding Davis, Life in the Iron Mills

Emily Dickinson, "Faith' is a fine invention," "I taste a liquor never brewed—," "I felt a Funeral, in my Brain," "The Soul selects her own Society—," "There came a Day at Summer's full," "What Soft—Cherubic Creatures—," "Much Madness is divinest Sense," "This is my letter to the World," "This was a Poet—It is That," "I died for Beauty—but was scarce," "Title divine—is mine!," "I cannot live with You—," "I dwell in Possibility," "Because I could not stop for Death—," "A narrow Fellow in the Grass," "Tell all the Truth but tell it slant," "Some keep the Sabbath going to Church—," "A Bee his burnished Carriage"

In order to acquire critical perspective on the authors and texts listed above, students should consult the following:

Relevant articles in *The Cambridge History of American Literature*, ed. Sacvan Bercovitch (Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, 1994), vols. 1, 2, and 4.

Essays on the above authors and texts in the last ten years of the following journals: *Early American Literature*, *American Literature*, and *American Literary History*