

2009

GREAT AMERICAN AUTHORS

Literature
U.S. History



5 30-min. Programs
Grades 7-12
Teacher's Guide
SOL Correlations Below



Hosted by Jane Kaczmarek, this series presents the rich, literary tradition of American storytelling. It has been an incredible journey of finding the nation's voice, beginning with the first colonists in the 17th century to a small cadre of brilliant, 19th century New England writers who defined the unique American experience and soul, to the whole country speaking out in the 20th Century against war, poverty, racism and alienation.

1. 1907 - 1925 — During this time frame, America lost its innocence. Its writers now began to struggle with the problems that accompanied modernization and industrialization. It was also the beginning of the Lost Generation of American authors. Chapters:
1913 - Poet William Carlos Williams Publishes his First Book of Poems, *The Tempers*
1914 - Carl Sandburg Publishes His Poem, *Chicago*
1920 - Edith Wharton Wins a Pulitzer Prize for *The Age of Innocence*
1922 - The Innovators: e. e. cummings, Ezra Pound, T.S. Eliot and Henry Miller
1923 - Robert Frost Publishes *Stopping by Woods on a Snowy Evening*
1925 - F. Scott Fitzgerald Writes *The Great Gatsby*
English: 9.1, 9.3, 10.3, 10.5, 11.3, 11.5
Social Studies: USII.6, USII.7, VUS.8, VUS.10

2. 1926 - 1939 — This was the most turbulent period in American history. It encompassed the Roaring Twenties and the Great Depression. It gave rise to America's greatest writers, known collectively as the Lost Generation. Chapters:
1929 - Thomas Wolfe Writes *Look Homeward Angel*
1929 - William Faulkner Showcases the South with *The Sound and the Fury*
1930 - Sinclair Lewis Becomes the First American to Win the Nobel Prize for Literature

1931 - Pearl Buck Writes *The Good Earth*
1936 - Playwright Eugene O'Neill Wins Nobel Prize for Literature
1939 - Steinbeck Writes *The Grapes of Wrath*
English: 9.1, 9.3, 10.3, 10.5, 11.3, 11.5
Social Studies: USII.6, USII.7, VUS.8, VUS.10

3. 1940 - 1949 — America entered the technological age through the darkness of WWII and its aftermath. American authors were now becoming legends in their own time through mass media and popular culture. Their response was as diverse as the nation's response to living in the nuclear age. Chapters:
1940 - Ernest Hemingway's *For Whom the Bell Tolls* is Published
1941 - James Thurber Writes *The Secret Life of Walter Mitty*
1947-1953 - Robert Heinlein, Ray Bradbury and Isaac Asimov Usher in the Era of Popular Science Fiction
1948 - Tennessee Williams Wins His First Pulitzer Prize for *A Street Car Named Desire*
1949 - Arthur Miller Produces *Death of a Salesman*
English: 9.1, 9.3, 9.5, 10.3, 10.5, 10.6, 11.3, 11.5, 11.6
Social Studies: USII.7, USII.8, VUS.11, VUS.12, VUS.13

4. 1950 - 1957 — If the Lost Generation authors were searching for identity and meaning, the group of authors in this program rejected everything about mainstream America. Ultimately, they would speak to the baby boomer generation. Chapters:
1950 - Gwendolyn Brooks Wins the Pulitzer Prize
1951 - Salinger and Plath Set the Stage for the Baby Boomer Generation
1952 - Ralph Ellison and James Baldwin Speak for the American Black Male
1957 - Jack Kerouac Begins the Beat Generation in American Literature
1957 - Dr. Seuss Writes *The Cat in the Hat*
English: 9.1, 9.3, 9.5, 10.3, 10.5, 10.6, 11.3, 11.5, 11.6
Social Studies: USII.8, USII.9, VUS.14, VUS.15

5. 1958 to Present — This generation of writer witnessed and participated in WWII ... Korea ... The Cold War ... The Civil Rights movement ... And Vietnam. These experiences shaped the intellectually, spiritually and emotionally in ways that were translated into their writing. Chapters:
1959 - Lorraine Hansberry's Play *A Raisin in the Sun* is Produced
1961 - Joseph Heller Writes *Catch-22*
1966 - Truman Capote Writes *In Cold Blood*
1969 - Kurt Vonnegut Writes *Slaughterhouse Five*
1982 - John Updike's *Rabbit Is Rich* Wins Pulitzer Prize for Literature



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GREAT AMERICAN AUTHORS (Continued)

1989 - Asian American Amy Tan Publishes

The Joy Luck Club

1993 - Toni Morrison, Alice Walker and
August Wilson Redefine the Black Expe-
rience

2007 - Cormac McCarthy Wins the Pulitzer
Prize for *The Road*

English: 9.1, 9.3, 9.5, 10.3, 10.5, 10.6, 11.3,
11.5, 11.6

Social Studies: USII.8, USII.9, VUS.14,
VUS.15

Additional Resource Information:

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