

HONORS AMERICAN LITERATURE

COURSE MANUAL

ENG314_19A

**HONORS
LEVEL**



LESSON PLANS - TESTS - ANSWER KEYS - QUARTER REPORT FORMS

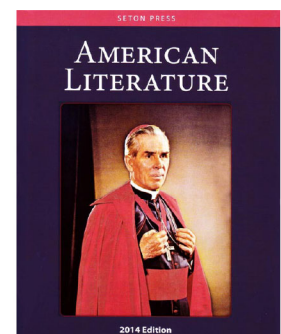
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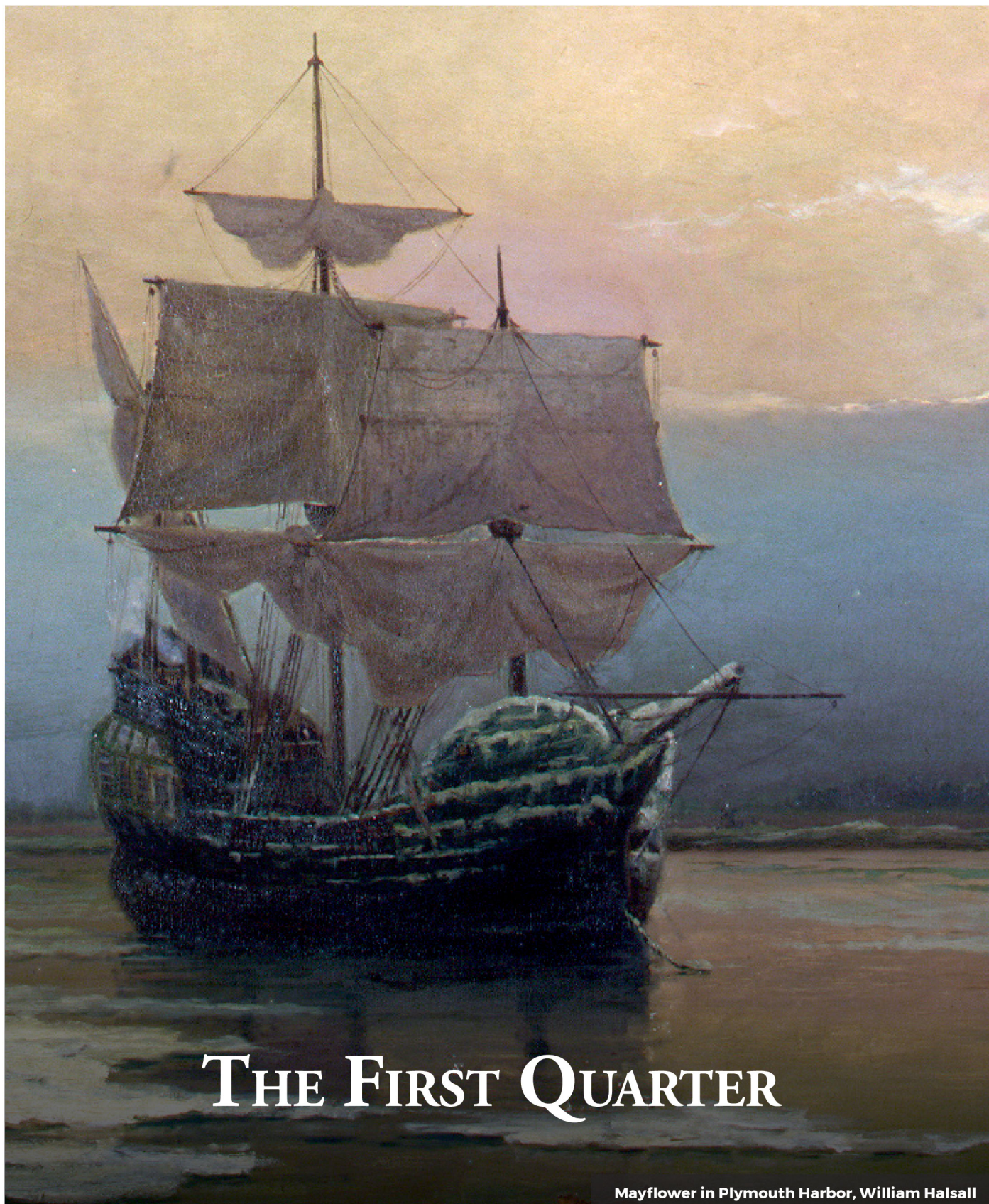
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INCLUDED TEXTBOOK

This course includes the *American Literature* textbook, originally published in 1944. This text is an overview of American Literature from the Colonial period (1492-1775) to the time the book was originally published in 1944. Selections from Capt. John Smith, St. Isaac Jogues, Benjamin Franklin, George Washington, Ralph Waldo Emerson, Henry Wadsworth Longfellow, Edgar Allan Poe, Walt Whitman, Emily Dickinson, Mark Twain, Robert Frost, and TS Eliot.





THE FIRST QUARTER

Mayflower in Plymouth Harbor, William Halsall

Week Eight

Continue working on the First Quarter Book Analysis. Use the guidelines in the Handbook section of this manual. Write the second essay this week.

Day 1

Ralph Waldo Emerson



Read “Self-Reliance” by Ralph Waldo Emerson on pp. 152 to 154. Emerson expresses the ideas of transcendentalism.



Do you feel like you are reading a sermon about his philosophy of life? The style is not easy to read, but look for the epigrams. An epigram is a short, clever, and often paradoxical saying. Example: “envy is ignorance” (p. 152).



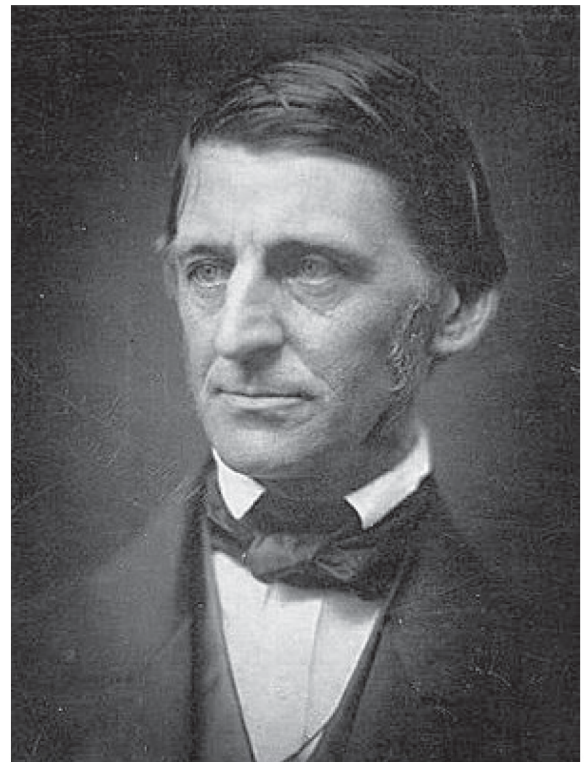
Answer the Viewing questions 1 to 7 on p. 154.
Read and think about the Evaluating questions on p. 154.



Day 2

FOR DISCUSSION

1. Writing in the nineteenth century, Emerson in “Self-Reliance” recognized that the influence of the culture, the power of peer pressure, and the spirit of the age are temptations that interfere with intelligent thinking: “The virtue in most request is conformity,” and “It is easy in the world to live after the world’s opinion.” What examples of conformity in modern life at the end of the twentieth century illustrate Emerson’s point?
2. Living in the nineteenth century when the idea of progress (that science and technology constantly improve the quality of life and lead man closer to utopia or a perfect society on earth) was popular, how does Emerson criticize the idea of progress and expose its shortcomings?





Read "Concord Hymn" by Emerson on p. 155.

Read and think about the Viewing and Evaluating questions on p. 155.



FOR DISCUSSION:

Synecdoche is a poetic device in which a part represents the whole. What line in "Concord Hymn" refers to one small event that signifies some great episode?

Day 3



Read "The Humblebee" by Emerson on pp. 155 and 156.

Read and think about the Viewing and Evaluating questions on p. 156.



Notice Emerson's spelling of "Porto Rique" (instead of "Puerto Rico") and "daffodel" (instead of "daffodil"). When a poet changes the spelling of words in order to keep the rhythm or rhyme of his poem, this is known as poetic license; it is acceptable for him to do so for his poem.

FOR DISCUSSION:

Why does Emerson call "The Humblebee" a philosopher? How does the bee's knowledge go beyond mere bookish learning or vast information?



Read "The Rhodora" by Emerson on p. 157.

Read and think about the Viewing and Evaluating questions on p. 157.



FOR DISCUSSION:

Paraphrase in your own words these famous lines from Emerson's poem "The Rhodora":

"Rhodora! If the sages ask thee why
This charm is wasted on the earth and sky,
Tell them, dear, that if eyes were made for seeing,
Then Beauty is its own excuse for being."



Read "Forbearance" by Emerson on p. 157. Read and think about the Viewing questions on p. 157.





Concord, Massachusetts - Former Home of Ralph Waldo Emerson

FOR DISCUSSION:

In “Forbearance,” what other Christian virtues does this quality resemble?

Biographical information about Emerson is on pp. 133 to 135. Additional information can be read in the encyclopedia or on the Internet.

When you read some of these authors, always keep your own Catholic ideas in mind and think about what you read.

Day 4**Henry David Thoreau**

Read “Where I Lived and What I Lived For” by Henry David Thoreau on pp. 158-160.



Listen to the
Lecture available on
SetonOnline



Thoreau’s writings express simplicity in life and self-improvement. He detached himself from all social and religious organizations.



Henry David Thoreau



Answer Viewing questions 1 to 5 and Evaluating questions 1 to 3 on p. 160.

We know that God is Three Divine Persons. He is not nature. He is the Creator of nature. He said in the Garden to Adam and Eve that the world was made for us to enjoy and to use for food, shelter, and clothes. While we must be custodians of nature, preserving it as well as possible, people, made in the image of God, are more important than animals and trees.

Legislation exists today making it a crime to kill certain animals, as well as sucker fish, and turtle eggs, but there is no legislation to protect the life of the unborn baby. Now legislation is being considered to protect owls by not cutting down trees, which could mean a shortage of paper products and jobs for people. We need to look at everything from a Catholic perspective so that even in non-religious matters, we can know God's Truth.

FOR DISCUSSION:

In *Walden*, Thoreau reacted against the industrialism and materialism of nineteenth century America: the pursuit of money, possessions, and comforts. The obsession with work, business, and the accumulation of more and more things, according to Thoreau, makes man lose touch with the rhythms of nature and the "great and worthy things" which have "permanent and absolute existence." To overcome this problem, Thoreau advises, "Simplicity, simplicity, simplicity." What does it mean to simplify life, and how does Thoreau's life at Walden Pond illustrate this art of simplicity?

Biographical information about Thoreau is on pp. 135-136. Additional information can be read in the encyclopedia or on the Internet.

SUGGESTION:

Read selections from *Walden* from a book at the library or on the Internet.

Day 5

Nathaniel Hawthorne



Listen to the
Lecture available on
SetonOnline



Read “The Great Carbuncle” by Nathaniel Hawthorne on pp. 160 to 167. This story is an allegory.



An allegory is a story written in prose or poetry in which characters, events, or objects represent moral or religious principles or abstract ideas.

Notice the comment on p. 160: “Confident that evil can be remedied only by the eradication of sin from the hearts of men, Hawthorne had no sympathy with those who considered man divine and capable of reaching God by his own unaided powers.” Hawthorne thought like a Catholic in many ways.



Answer the Viewing questions 1 to 5 and the Evaluating questions 1 to 3 on p. 167-168.



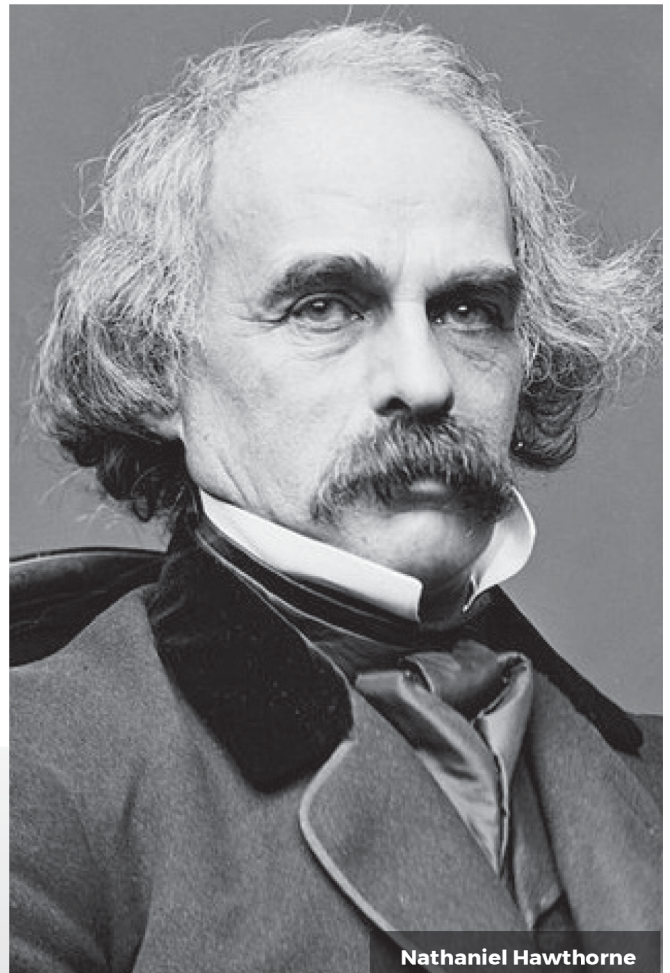
FOR DISCUSSION

1. To the characters who seek the great carbuncle, the jewel promises worldly happiness, wealth, fame, pleasure, and honors. What worldly ideas about happiness motivate the following characters in their search for this priceless jewel: The Seeker, Doctor Cacaphodel, Master Ichabod Pignort, the Cynic, the Poet, the Lord de Vere, and Matthew and Hannah?
2. How does the Cynic who claims that the Great Carbuncle is a “humbug” or fraud prove to be correct in recognizing the worthlessness of the carbuncle?

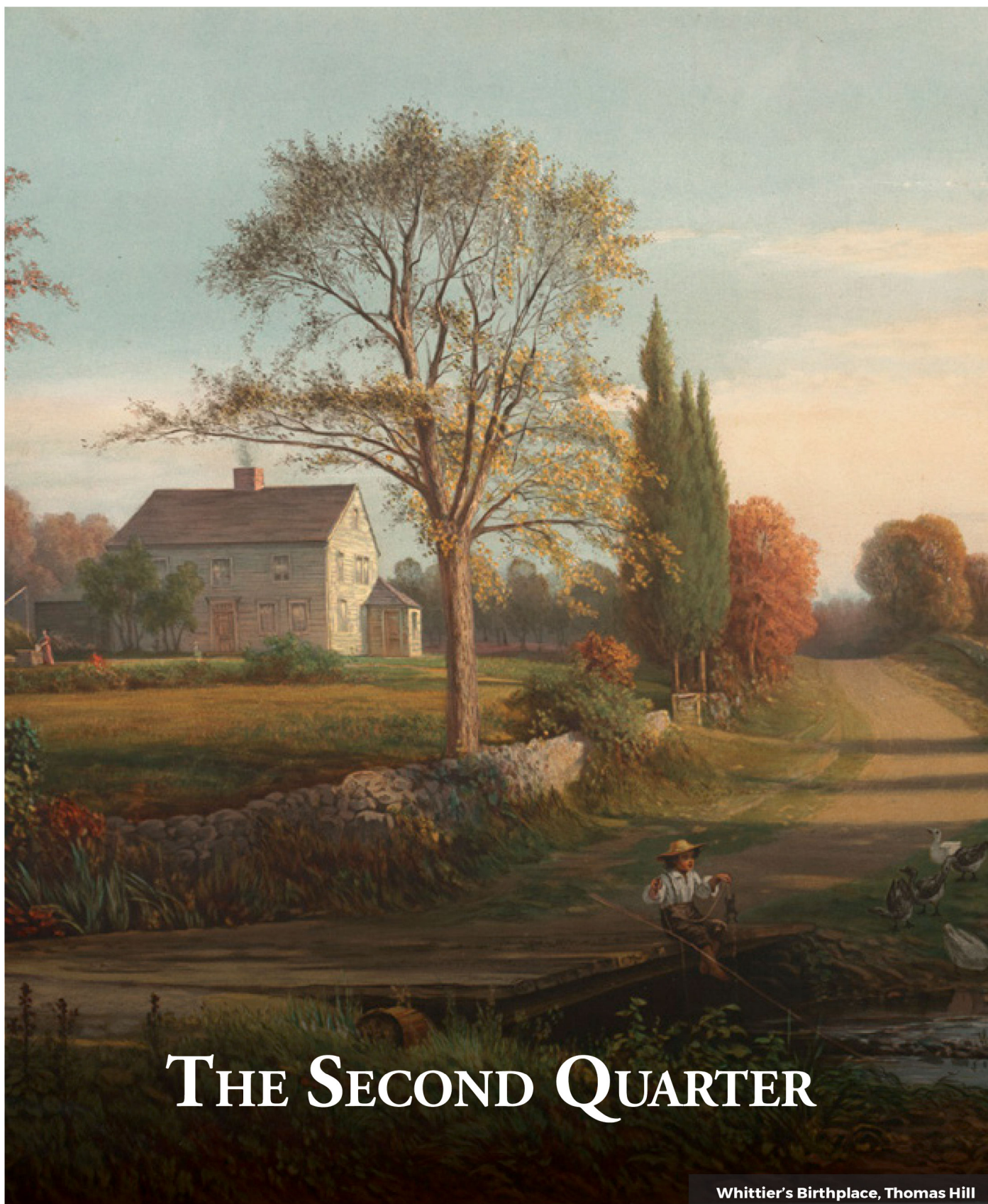
Hawthorne was a Christian. His daughter Rose became a Catholic who became famous for her charitable work in hospitals. Biographical information about Hawthorne is on pp. 136 to 137. Additional information can be read in the encyclopedia or on the Internet.

SUGGESTION:

Find other short stories in the library by Hawthorne, such as “Dr. Heidegger’s Experiment” and “The Minister’s Black Veil.” Skim or read the famous classic by Hawthorne, *The House of Seven Gables*.



Nathaniel Hawthorne



THE SECOND QUARTER

Whittier's Birthplace, Thomas Hill

Week Twelve

Continue reading the book for the Second Quarter Book Analysis in the evenings and on the weekends. Be sure to highlight or underline phrases which might be relevant for the essays you will write at the end of the quarter.

Day 1

LITERATURE OF THE SOUTH



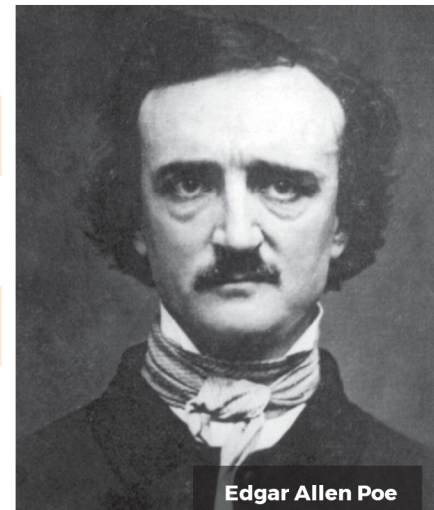
Read Literature of the South on pp. 213 to 218 (up to The Drama).

Edgar Allan Poe



Read “To Helen” by Edgar Allan Poe on p. 220.

“To Helen” is a lyric poem. A lyric is a brief poem that focuses on the emotions and the thoughts of the speaker. Melody is characteristic of the verse. The whole poem creates for the reader a single, unified impression. (In ancient Greece, certain poems were recited to the strumming of a lyre, a harp like-instrument, thus the term lyric developed.)



Edgar Allan Poe



Answer Viewing questions 1 to 4; read and think about the Evaluating questions on p. 220.

Day 2



Read “Israfel” by Poe on p. 221. Read and think about Viewing questions 1 and 5 and Evaluating questions 1 and 2 on pp. 221-222.

FOR DISCUSSION:

Lyrical poetry consists of poems such as hymns, sonnets, and odes that are marked by strong, intense feelings and expressions of emotion—often the experiences of death and love that reach the heights and depths, the agony and the ecstasy. How does “Israfel” illustrate the nature of lyrical music and poetry, and its haunting, spellbinding power?



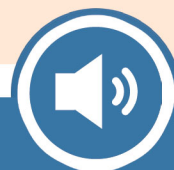
Read "The Raven" by Poe on pp. 222 to 225.



Answer the Viewing questions 1 to 5 on p. 225.



Read "Eldorado" by Poe on p. 226. Read and think about Viewing questions 1 and 2 on p. 226.



Listen to the narration available on SetonOnline

Day 3



Read "Annabel Lee" by Poe on p. 227. Read and think about the Viewing and Evaluating questions on p. 227.



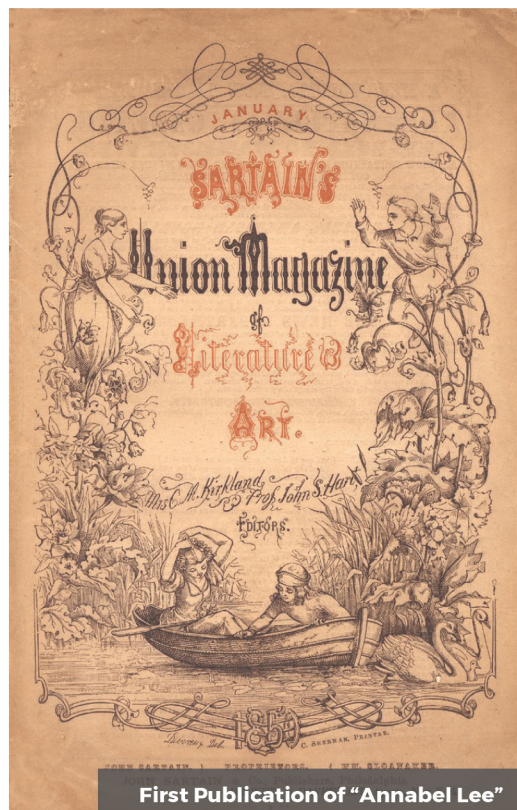
Listen to the Lecture available on SetonOnline

FOR DISCUSSION:

Lyric poetry touches the heart "Whose heartstrings are a lute" in its entire range of sensitive emotions. How do "The Raven" and "Annabel Lee" as lyric poems reveal the depths of sorrow and love in the human heart?



The Raven, John Tenniel



First Publication of "Annabel Lee"

Day 4



Read “The Masque of the Red Death” by Poe on pp. 228 to 231.



Answer the Viewing questions 1 to 4 and the Evaluating questions 1 to 4 on p. 231.

FOR DISCUSSION:

1. In “The Masque of the Red Death,” what Biblical Christian truths about the nature and reality of death does Poe illuminate?
2. Poe’s theory of the short story argued that all the elements of the story plot (setting, imagery, and character) should create a single, unified effect. How does “The Masque of the Red Death” illustrate Poe’s idea of a short story?

SUGGESTION:

With your parent’s permission, read other selections by Edgar Allan Poe from the library, such as his horror short stories: “The Cask of Amontillado,” “The Murders in the Rue Morgue,” “The Pit and the Pendulum,” “The Fall of the House of Usher.” Read two famous poems: “The Bells” and “City in the Sea.”

Poe is considered the “inventor of the detective story.” (p. 214) Biographical information about Poe is on pp. 213 to 215. Additional information can be read in the encyclopedia or on the Internet.



Poe’s Gravesite in Baltimore, Maryland

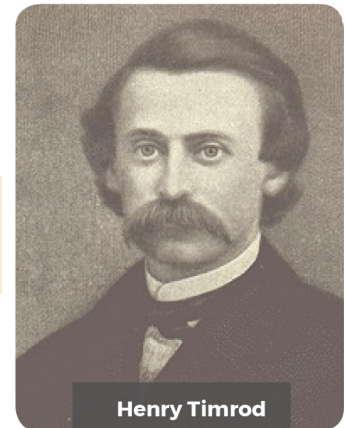


Day 5

Henry Timrod



Read “Ode” by Henry Timrod on pp. 231 and 232. Read and think about the Viewing and Evaluating questions on p. 232.



Henry Timrod

TERM:

An **ode** is usually a lengthy lyrical poem written to honor a person or occasion.

Biographical information about Timrod is on p. 215. Additional information can be read in the encyclopedia or on the Internet.

Paul Hamilton Hayne



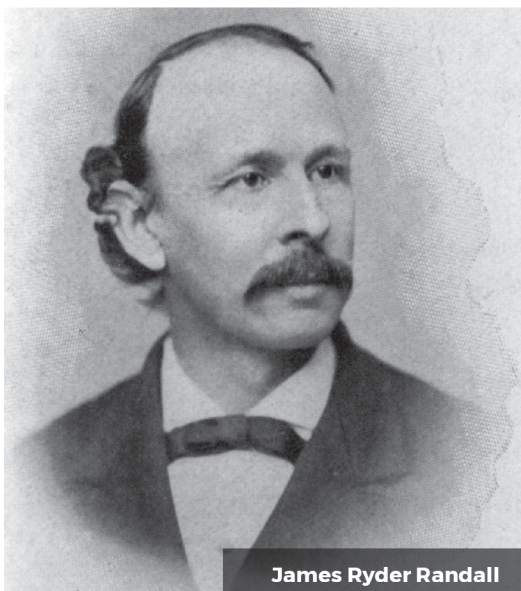
Read “Aspects of the Pines” by Paul Hamilton Hayne on p. 232. Read and think about the Viewing and Evaluating questions on p. 232.

Biographical information about Hayne is on p. 216. Additional information can be read in the encyclopedia or on the Internet.

James Ryder Randall



Read “Maryland, My Maryland” by James Ryder Randall on pp. 233 and 234. Read and think about the Viewing and Evaluating questions on p. 234.



James Ryder Randall

Biographical information about Randall is on pp. 147-148. Additional information can be read in the encyclopedia or on the Internet.

FOR DISCUSSION:

C. S. Lewis in his famous book *The Four Loves* classifies four different kinds of love: philia (the bond of friendship), eros (the powerful attraction between men and women), storge (the affection humans feel for old familiar places, things, and animals), and agape (Christian charity for all human beings as images of God and human dignity). How does “Aspects of the Pines” and “Maryland, My Maryland” illustrate the type of love which storge represents, and why do the pines and the state of Maryland inspire such love?

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Updated 4/30/2019