

## Great American Literature: Authors, Playwrights, and Poets

### American Literature

With around 200 years of literary works, American literature forms a good foundation for the study of literature. Students will find novels, plays, and poetry written by American authors easier to understand because students share a common history, perspective, and culture with the authors.

Consider literature written by the following list of recognized authors:

Novelists & Playwrights		
Ben Franklin	O. Henry	John Steinbeck
Nathaniel Hawthorne	Stephen Crane	Ernest Hemmingway
Harriet Beecher Stowe	Jack London	Jack Schaefer
Herman Melville	Upton Sinclair	Arthur Miller
Mark Twain	F Scott Fitzgerald	Harper Lee
Louisa May Alcott	Thornton Wilder	Chaim Potok
Booker T. Washington	William Faulkner	

Students will benefit from beginning their study of poetry with American poets first. As the highest form of literature, poetry requires more analysis to understand. Consider poems written by the following recognized poets:

Poets		
Henry Wadsworth Longfellow	Carl Sandburg	Margaret Walker
Edgar Allan Poe	William Carlos Williams	Adrienne Rich
Walt Whitman	Langston Hughes	Natasha Trethewey
Emily Dickenson	Theodore Roethke	
Robert Frost	Weldon Kees	