

American Literature Period List:  
Revolutionary War to Civil War

1. Samson Occom
  - *A Short Narrative of My Life* (1768)
2. Benjamin Franklin
  - Autobiography (parts 1 and 2) (1771, 1781)
3. Phillis Wheatley
  - “To Maecenas” (1773)
  - “On Being Brought from Africa to America” (1773)
  - “On the Death of the Rev. Mr. George Whitefield, 1770” (1773)
  - “To the Right Honorable William, Earl of Dartmouth” (1773)
  - “To Samson Occom” (1774)
  - “To His Excellency General Washington” (1776)
4. Thomas Jefferson
  - “Declaration” (1776)
  - *Notes on the State of Virginia* (Queries 6, 8, 14, 18) (1781)
5. Thomas Paine
  - *Common Sense* (1776)
6. J. Hector St. John de Crevecoeur
  - *Letters from an American Farmer* (1782)
7. Philip Freneau
  - “To the Memory of the Brave Americans” (1781)
  - “The Indian Burying Ground” (1788)
8. James Madison (Alexander Hamilton and John Jay)
  - *Federalist Papers* (10, 39, 51) (1788)
9. Olaudah Equiano
  - *Interesting Narrative...* (1789)
10. Suzanna Rowson
  - *Charlotte Temple* (1791)
  - *Slaves in Algiers* (1794)
11. Sarah Wentworth Morton
  - “The African Chief” (1792)
12. Joel Barlow
  - “The Hasty Pudding” (1793)
13. Timothy Dwight
  - “Columbia” (1793)
14. Charles Brockden Brown
  - *Wieland* (1798)
15. Washington Irving
  - “Rip Van Winkle” (1819)
  - “Legend of Sleepy Hollow” (1819)
16. James Fenimore Cooper
  - *The Pioneers* (1823)

17. Oliver Wendell Holmes
  - “Old Ironsides” (1830)
18. William Cullen Bryant
  - “To a Waterfowl” (1815)
  - “Sonnet – to an American Painter Departing for Europe” (1832)
  - “The Prairies” (1833)
19. William Apess
  - “An Indian’s Looking-Glass for the White Man” (1833)
20. Alexis de Tocqueville
  - *Democracy in America* (Introduction; Part 1: Chapters 9, 14, 18; Part 2, Book 1: Chapters 8, 11, 13, 14, 16, 18; Part 2, Book 2: Chapters 6, 13; Part 2, Book 3: Chapters 5, 26; Book 4: Chapter 6) (1835, 1840)
21. Ralph Waldo Emerson
  - *Nature* (1836)
  - “The American Scholar” (1837)
  - “Self-Reliance” (1841)
  - “The Poet” (1844)
  - “The Divinity School Address” (1838)
22. Edgar Allan Poe
  - “Murders in the Rue Morgue” (1841)
  - “The Fall of the House of Usher” (1839)
  - “William Wilson” (1839)
  - “The Man of the Crowd” (1840)
  - “The Raven” (1845)
23. Henry Wadsworth Longfellow
  - “The Slave’s Dream” (1842)
  - “The Midnight Ride of Paul Revere” (1860)
24. James Russell Lowell
  - “To the Dandelion” (1845)
25. Anna Cora Mowatt
  - *Fashion; Or, Life in New York* (1845)
26. Frederick Douglass
  - *Narrative of the Life...* (1845)
27. Margaret Fuller
  - *Woman in the Nineteenth Century* (1845)
28. John Greenleaf Whittier
  - “Ichabod!” (1850)
29. Susan Warner
  - *Wide, Wide World* (1850)
30. Nathaniel Hawthorne
  - *The Scarlet Letter* (1850)
  - “My Kinsman, Major Molineux” (1832)
  - “Rappaccini’s Daughter” (1844)
  - “The Minister’s Black Veil” (1836)
31. Herman Melville

- *Moby Dick* (1852)
  - “Bartleby the Scrivener” (1853)
  - “Benito Cereno” (1856)
  - “The House-top” (1866)
  - “The Portent” (1866)
32. Harriet Beecher Stowe
- *Uncle Tom’s Cabin* (1852)
33. George Aiken
- *Uncle Tom’s Cabin* (1853)
34. Henry David Thoreau
- *Walden*(1854)
  - “Civil Disobedience” (1849)
35. Walt Whitman
- “Song of Myself” (1855)
  - “Crossing Brooklyn Ferry” (1856)
  - “When Lilacs Last in the Dooryard Bloom’d” (1865)
  - “O Captain! My Captain!” (1867)
  - “For You O Democracy” (1856)
  - “City of Orgies” (1856)
  - “Eighteen Sixty-One” (1867)
  - “Ethiopia Saluting the Colors” (1867)
36. William Wells Brown
- *The Escape; Or, a Leap for Freedom* (1858)
37. Emily Dickinson
- “To fight aloud, is very brave” (1860)
  - “Unto like Story – Trouble has enticed me” (1862)
  - “I like a look of Agony” (1862)
  - “After great pain, a formal feeling comes” (1862)
  - “The name – of it – is ‘Autumn’” (1862)
  - “He fought like those Who’ve nought to lose” (1862)
  - “When I was small, a Woman died” (1863)
  - “It feels a shame to be Alive” (1863)
  - “One Anguish – in a Crowd” (1863)
  - “They dropped like Flakes” (1863)
  - “If any sink, assure that this, now standing” (1863)
  - “The battle fought between the Soul” (1863)
  - “No Rack can torture me” (1863)
  - “My Portion is Defeat – today” (1863)
  - “My Life had stood – a Loaded Gun” (1863)
  - “Color – Caste – Denomination” (1864)
  - “Dying! To be afraid of thee” (1865)
38. Harriet Wilson
- *Our Nig* (1859)
39. Harriet Jacobs
- *Incidents in the Life...* (1861)

40. Rebecca Harding Davis

- *Life in the Iron Mills* (1861)

41. Abraham Lincoln

- “First Inaugural Address” (1861)
- “Gettysburg Address” (1863)
- “Second Inaugural Address” (1865)

#### Critical Texts

1. F.O. Matthiessen

- *American Renaissance* (1941)

2. Leslie Fiedler

- *Love and Death in the American Novel* (1960)

3. Benedict Anderson

- *Imagined Communities* (1991)

4. Perry Miller

- *The Raven & the Whale* (1957)

5. Christopher Looby

- *Voicing America* (1996)

6. Cathy Davidson

- *Revolution and the Word: The Rise of the Novel in America* (Expanded Edition: 2004)