

AMERICAN LITERATURE, 2nd Edition Lesson Plan Overview

Day(s)	Topic	Pages	Support Materials*	Bible Integration
Part 1: Early American Literature				
Unit 1: Literature of Settlement				
1	Course Introduction	iii		Introduction: Approaching the culture from a Christian worldview
2–4	Part 1 Opener	2–13	Appendix A Appendix B Appendix C	Part 1 Opener: The biblical source of many Puritan influences on American culture; the gradual change from a broadly biblical worldview to a deistic worldview
5–6	John Smith	16–22		
7–8	William Byrd II	22–27		Analysis: Separating faith and works, resulting in a merely surface form of religion
9–10	William Bradford	28–35	Appendix D	Analysis: Christians as pilgrims (Heb. 11:13; 1 Pet. 2:11; etc.); God's providence; receiving comfort from the Scriptures Thought and Discussion: God's care for the godly; relying on God's grace and providence
11–12	John Winthrop	36–41		Analysis: The Bible on economic and political theory (liberty versus license in light of man's sinful nature) Application: A Christian approach to the current political and economic environment Thought and Discussion: God's goodness and providential care
13	Mary Rowlandson	42–47		Application: Responding to adverse circumstances in a Christlike way Thought and Discussion: The sovereignty and grace of God
14	Samuel Sewall	47–51		Analysis: Spiritual growth through keeping a diary Application: The problem of materialism and possible solutions Thought and Discussion: Providing for those in our care (Deut. 22:8)
15	Unit 1 Review			
16	Unit 1 Test			
Unit 2: Literature of Religious Experience				
17	The Bay Psalm Book Geneva Bible	54–55	Appendix E	Application: Discussing Puritan hymns; Isaac Watt's poetic versions of the Psalms
18	Roger Williams	56–59		Application: Examining the separation of church and state Thought and Discussion: Christ as the only way to salvation and unity among mankind

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19–21	Anne Bradstreet	60–70	Writing Rubric 2-1: Poem	Introduction: The feminist view of Bradstreet; avoiding bias when interpreting literature; evaluating literature biblically Analysis: Finding comfort from loss in the knowledge of God's sovereignty; biblical versus modern meditation Application: Christian resolutions to loss and to one's purpose in life
22–24	Edward Taylor	70–78		Headnotes: God as one's source of strength; spiritual highs and lows; being changed into Christ's image; the creation, fall, and redemption of man Analysis: The process of meditating Application: The helpfulness of religious poetry that is both biblical and well written Thought and Discussion: Money imagery in Scripture (Lam. 4:2; Mal. 3:3; etc.); the parable of the marriage guest (Matt. 22)
25–26	Jonathan Edwards	78–91	Writing Rubric 2-2: Autobiography	Analysis: The worth of inner spiritual beauty being greater than mere outer beauty; real Christian dedication; acknowledging man's utter sinfulness (1 Cor. 15:9; 2 Cor. 11:5; etc.) and God's absolute sovereignty Application: Writing spiritual autobiographies
27	Unit 2 Review		Appendix F	
28	Unit 2 Test			
Unit 3: Literature of Revolution				
29–31	Benjamin Franklin	94–109		Biography: Franklin and the American shift toward materialism Analysis: The main tenets of deists and their concern with earthly life at the expense of life hereafter Analysis: Comparing Franklin's list of virtues and his motivations to biblical expectations; the benefits of actively striving to be conformed to Christ's image Analysis: Franklin's sayings and biblical proverbs (Prov. 1:5; 9:9; 17:10) Application: Comparing Franklin and Edwards Thought and Discussion: Biblically evaluating Franklin's general worldview as well as his morality, methods, and definition of success
32–34	Thomas Paine	110–19		Potential Problems: Paine's disingenuous orthodox appeals Analysis: Valuing Paine's contributions while rejecting his rationalism, deism, and propagandistic devices;

				evaluating Paine's arguments against the divinity of Christ Application: Evaluating modern views similar to Paine's
35	William Bartram	120–25		Biography and Introduction: Bartram's view of God and nature, from Puritanism to Romanticism Thought and Discussion: Comparing Bartram to Sewall on nature and God
36–37	Philip Freneau	126–32		Analysis: The rise of deism and a biblical evaluation of its view of God, the Bible, man, and man's reason; parallels to 1 Peter 1:24 Application: The effects of shifting moral absolutes
38	Phillis Wheatley	132–35		Analysis: Freedom in Christ Application: Balancing knowledge with wisdom (Daniel); responding to life's difficulties (Rom. 8:28)
39	Unit 3 Review			
40	Unit 3 Test			
41–45	Midterm Review and Midterm Examination			
Part 2: American Romanticism				
Unit 4: Knickerbockers				
46–47	Part 2 Opener	138–45	Appendix C Appendix G Appendix H	Part 2 Opener: Biblically evaluating key Romantic tenets about man, nature, and the source of truth; biblically evaluating unitarianism and transcendentalism; the failure of Romanticism as an opening for Darwinism Analysis: "Young Goodman Brown" and Hawthorne's theme of man's flawed nature compared to Scripture (Rom. 7-8; Heb. 3-5; etc.)
48–49	Washington Irving	148–61	Writing Rubric 4-1: Historical Sketch	
50–51	James Fenimore Cooper	162–70	Writing Rubric 2-2: Autobiography	Analysis: Christianity as the basis for Cooper's moral vision
52–53	William Cullen Bryant	171–75		Analysis: Contrasting Bryant's rationalistic view of death with a Christian perspective; avoiding hasty generalizations when biblically evaluating an author's work Application: Nature in support of a Christian view of death
54	Unit 4 Review			
55	Unit 4 Test			
Unit 5: New England School				
56	Henry Wadsworth Longfellow	178–80		Potential Problems: Distinguishing Longfellow's humanism from any Christian values present in the poems
57	John Greenleaf	181–84		

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	Whittier			
58	James Russell Lowell	184–89	Appendix G Writing Rubric 2-1: Poem	Analysis: Man’s attempts to lower God to his level (Rom. 1:21)
59	Oliver Wendell Holmes	190–93		Thought and Discussion: Biblically evaluating Holmes’s theme of self-improvement (2 Cor. 4:17–5:9)
60	Unit 5 Review			
61	Unit 5 Test			
Unit 6: Transcendental Optimists				
62–64	Transcendentalism Ralph Waldo Emerson	196–207		Transcendentalism: Transcendentalism versus a biblical worldview Biography and Analysis: Emerson’s ideas of man, nature, the Bible and the perfectibility of society Analysis: Comparing views of God and man (Edward Taylor, Benjamin Franklin, and Emerson) Thought and Discussion: Biblically evaluating individual statements from Emerson’s work
65–67	Henry David Thoreau	208–21		Headnotes: Christians and government (Rom. 13:1–7; 1 Pet. 2:13–14; etc.); a Christian view of self-reliance (Col. 1:17; Acts 17:28), asceticism (Col. 2:20–23; 1 Tim. 4:1–3), man, and nature Application: A biblical view of conscience (1 Cor. 8:7, 12; 1 Tim. 4:2; etc.)
68–70	Walt Whitman	222–37		Biography and Analysis: Biblical evaluation of Whitman’s ideas (divinity of man, freedom from restraints) and influence Potential Problems: Rejecting man’s sinfulness Analysis: A Christian view of death Application: Whitman reflecting 2 Tim. 3:2 Thought and Discussion: Whitman’s pantheistic symbol compared to Scripture
71	Unit 6 Review		Appendix I	
72	Unit 6 Test			
Unit 7: Transcendental Pessimists				
73–76	Edgar Allan Poe	240–62	Writing Rubric 2-1: Poem Writing Rubric 4-1: Historical Sketch	Biography: Biblical assessment of Poe’s pessimistic portrayal of life and man’s nature Application: Using biblical allusions to reinforce tone
77–80	Nathaniel Hawthorne	262–306		Biography and Analysis: Hawthorne’s biblical view of man and man’s state in the world Analysis: Hawthorne’s condemnation of transcendentalism and Unitarianism

				Application: Evaluating modern views of man and God and tracing the desires that motivate these views based on history and the Bible Thought and Discussion: The sinfulness of man (1 John 1:8–10) and the hope of Christ
81–83	Herman Melville	307–32		Biography and Analysis: Melville’s view of man and God as well as his resulting pessimism Application: Comparing Melville’s view of God to Scripture; a biblical view of God’s love Thought and Discussion: Evaluating Melville’s theme in light of Scripture
84	Unit 7 Review		Appendix J	
85	Unit 7 Test			
86–90	Final Review and Final Examination			
Part 3: American Realism and Naturalism				
Unit 8: Regionalists				
91–93	Part 3 Opener	336–47	Appendix C Appendix K Appendix L	Part 3 Opener: The effects of Darwinism and religious modernism on American thought and culture; an evaluation of realism and naturalism as seen in American literature; why read literature written from a false worldview
94–95	Bret Harte	350–62	Writing Rubric 8-1: Local Color	Biography and Introduction: Evaluating Harte’s moral framework from a biblical perspective
96–97	Ambrose Bierce	363–72		Biography: The spiritual source of Bierce’s bitterness and pessimism
98	Sidney Lanier	372–81		Analysis: Evaluating characters’ actions by the Bible; the Bible and vengeance (Deut. 32:35; Rom. 12:19; etc.) Analysis: Comparing Lanier’s poem on Gethsemane and Calvary to the biblical account (Matt. 26:36–46; Mark 14:32–42; etc.) Thought and Discussion: Romans 12:19 and revenge
99–100	Hamlin Garland	381–90		
101	James Whitcomb Riley	391–93	Writing Rubric 2-1: Poem	
102–3	Sarah Orne Jewett	393–403		Biography: Biblical assessment of Jewett’s worldview Application: Finding guidance from God’s Word and the Holy Spirit
104–6	Emily Dickinson	403–17	Appendix M	Biography: A biblical perspective on Dickinson’s influence Analysis: The importance of words to Christians in light of God’s Word (Matt. 4:4)

				Application: Scriptural perspective on Dickinson's themes (majority opinion, aspirations, and hope) as well as her reclusive living
107	Unit 8 Review		Appendix N	
108	Unit 8 Test			
Unit 9: Masters of Realism				
109–10	William Dean Howells	420–31		Application: Being swayed from a proper view of reality by others' opinions
111–13	Henry James	432–51		Application: Why wicked men seem to go unpunished (Ps. 73)
114–16	Samuel Langhorne Clemens	452–75	Appendix O	Biography and Potential Problems: Assessment of Clemens's view of God and life Introduction: Tracing the evolution of Clemens' worldview and contrasting it with a biblical worldview (Job 13:15; 23:10). Analysis: Explaining Clemens's false moral dilemma in <i>The Adventures of Huckleberry Finn</i> Application: The blessing of the Holy Spirit's guidance; the danger of making decisions based on feelings
117	Unit 9 Review			
118	Unit 9 Test			
Unit 10: Naturalists				
119–20	Stephen Crane	478–92		Biography: Biblical analysis of Crane's major themes Analysis: The painful reality of hell (Matt. 13:42; 25:41; etc.) Application: The tragedy that results from rejecting God Thought and Discussion: Determining the biblical truths Crane rejects in his poetry
121–22	Jack London	493–501		Biography: The moral effects of London's naturalism and Darwinism in his writing and life Potential Problems and Analysis: Contrasting London's view of old age, death, and the soul with a biblical view Application: Contrasting London's worldview with a biblical perspective on what is truly lasting and important in earthly life, particularly in light of death
123–24	Frank Norris	501–11	Appendix R	Application: Contrasting the naturalist and Christian worldviews in the context of power struggles in modern society Thought and Discussion: Naturalism's lack of moral basis on which to form moral judgments

Unit 11: Anti-Naturalists				
125	Edwin Markham	514–17		Analysis: Markham’s position that man has no need for God Thought and Discussion: A biblical balance of work
126	William Sidney Porter	517–23	Writing Rubric 2-2: Autobiography	Thought and Discussion: Naturalistic authors’ refutations of God’s providence; love in Matthew 26:6–13 and Luke 7:36–50
127	Fanny Crosby	523–29		Introduction: Crosby’s joyful and hopeful worldview compared to the naturalist worldview Analysis: Three types of songs for believers; desiring God’s favor, drawing near to God, and becoming inwardly righteous; God as the eternal King and our faithful leader Application: Applying Crosby’s themes to personal issues Thought and Discussion: Soul healing (Heb. 4:16; Mark 9:24; etc.); preformed prayers (1 Sam. 2:1–10; Hos. 14:2; etc.)
128–29	Units 10 and 11 Review		Appendix Q Appendix R	
130	Units 10 and 11 Test			
131–34	Midterm Review		Appendix P	
135	Midterm Examination			
Part 4: Modern American Literature				
Unit 12: Modern American Poetry				
136–38	Part 4 Opener	532–47	Appendix C Appendix S Appendix T	Part 4 Opener: The response of American writers to the decline of traditional values and the profound effects of Darwinism, Freudianism, Marxism, and secular humanism on American culture Overview: The liberalization of traditional Christianity in America
139–40	Edwin Arlington Robinson	550–59		Analysis: A Christian response to life’s difficulties (Job 23:10; Luke 6:21–23; etc.); Robinson’s view of Christ (Isa. 59:9–10) Application: The Bible and happiness (Pss. 1; 32; 41:1–4; 46; etc.); avoiding materialism (Josh. 1:8–9; Prov. 3:5–6; etc.)
141–43	Robert Frost	559–75	Appendix U	Biography: Frost’s skeptical humanism compared to Scripture Analysis: Comparison with Paul’s consideration of death (Phil. 1:21–25); finding rest in the midst of life (Exod. 23:12; 33:14; etc.); the cure for spiritual loneliness (Pss. 34:4; 46; Prov. 1:33; etc.)

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				Application: Choices in the Christian life (Pss. 32:8; 37:23; 48:14; Isa. 30:21; etc.); individuality (Ps. 139; Isa. 45:4; etc.) and conformity (Ps. 133:1; Gal. 5:14–15; etc.) in the Bible
144	John Crowe Ransom Theodore Roethke	575–77		
145	Edna St. Vincent Millay W. H. Auden	578–82		
146	Ezra Pound William Carlos Williams Archibald MacLeish	582–87		Thought and Discussion: The Scriptures and aesthetic values; aestheticism and didacticism from a biblical perspective
147–48	Carl Sandburg E. E. Cummings	588–99	Appendix V Writing Rubric 2-1: Poem	Biography, Thought and Discussion: Biblical evaluation of Sandburg's propagandistic tendencies and prominent themes Biography: Biblical assessment of Cummings's emphasis on individuality and the sensual
149	Wallace Stevens James Weldon Johnson	600–610		Biography and Introduction: Stevens's neo-paganism (rejection of Christ's atonement in favor of nature as God) Analysis: Biblically evaluating Stevens's arguments for primitivism and the rejection of God (Phil. 3:20–21; Rev. 21:1–22:5) Application, Thought and Discussion: Worship of nature in today's society; question of whether rejecting man's immortality shows strength or gives comfort (John 14:1–3; 1 Cor. 15); living for earthly pleasure alone; developing compassion and praying for people living without hope Application: Anthropomorphism in Scripture Thought and Discussion: Anthropomorphizing God while retaining reverence for Him; the biblical acceptability of the poem's style and narrative
150	T. S. Eliot	611–13		Introduction: Eliot's prescription for the problems of twentieth century man Analysis: Portraying the total change that the new birth in Christ brings Application: Combating the idea that education is incompatible with faith in Christ's divinity or the inspiration of Scripture Thought and Discussion: Evaluating

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				Eliot's indirectness in proclaiming the truth; obstacles in the path to conversion; the spiritual paradox symbolized by birth and death
151	Unit 12 Review			
152	Unit 12 Test			
Unit 13: Modern American Prose				
153–54	Shirley Jackson	616–20	Appendix W	Thought and Discussion: Evaluating tone from a biblical perspective
155–56	Richard Connell	620–35		Analysis: Biblically evaluating Connell's moral tone and his conception of goodness in the story
157–58	James Thurber	636–43		Potential Problems, Introduction, Thought and Discussion: Thurber's lack of moral foundation in the story and pessimistic outlook on life Application: The antihero and the hero
159–60	Archibald Rutledge	643–50	Writing Rubric 13-1: Character Sketch	Analysis, Thought and Discussion: Trusting in the providential workings of God
161–62	Eudora Welty	651–58		
163–64	Ernest Hemingway	658–68		Biography: Evaluating Hemingway's view of morality Application: Finding healing from the wounds of life (2 Kings 20:5; Ps. 30:2; etc.) Thought and Discussion: Nature as a healer
165	Ray Bradbury	668–73		Introduction: Bradbury's pessimistic worldview compared to the Bible Application: Understanding God's plan for the world and communicating that plan to others Thought and Discussion: Biblically evaluating Bradbury's vision of the future (1 Thess. 4:15–17; Matt. 24:3–31; etc.)
166	Review			
167	Test			
168–69	Thornton Wilder	674–89		Biography and Discussion: A biblical assessment of Wilder's worldview and its lack of modern pessimism Application: A Christian description of "the good life" (Ps. 1) Thought and Discussion: Evaluating Wilder's worldview toward God, death, life, family, and materialism
170	Jesse Stuart	690–95	Writing Rubric 2-2: Autobiography	Introduction and Analysis: Biblically assessing Stuart's vision of what both teachers and students should be Analysis: A Christian attitude toward personal victories Thought and Discussion: A biblical view of the importance of teachers

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171	James Saxon Childers	695–99	Writing Rubric 13-1: Character Sketch	
172	Bruce Catton	699–705		
173	James B. Stockdale	706–9	Writing Rubric 13-2: Freedom	Thought and Discussion: Freedom—a gift from God
174	Unit 13 Review		Appendix W	
175	Unit 13 Test			
176–80	Final Review and Final Examination			

* The scheduling of writing assignments has been left to the teacher's discretion. However, when pages containing a suggested assignment are scheduled, the accompanying writing rubric is noted in the Support Materials column. These rubrics are in the back of the Teacher's Edition following the Appendices.