

Timeline for *Great American Authors Since 1650*

1607 – Jamestown Colony established

1620 – Plymouth Plantation founded in Massachusetts

- 1650 – Anne Bradstreet’s book of poems *The Tenth Muse Lately Sprung Up in America, By a Gentlewoman Those Parts* is published in London
- 1702 – Cotton Mather publishes *Magnalia Christi Americana - The Great Achievement of Christ in America*
- 1773 – Black poet Phillis Wheatley publishes her first book of poems

1776 – The Declaration of Independence is signed

- 1783 – Noah Webster releases his *Blue-Backed Speller*
- 1819 – Washington Irving publishes *Rip Van Winkle*
- 1826 – James Fenimore Cooper writes *The Last of the Mohicans*
- 1836 – Ralph Waldo Emerson publishes *Nature*, launching the American Transcendental movement
- 1845 – Edgar Allan Poe writes “The Raven”
- 1849 – Henry David Thoreau releases his essay *Civil Disobedience*
- 1850 – Nathaniel Hawthorne writes *The Scarlet Letter*
- 1851 – Herman Melville publishes *Moby Dick*
- 1852 – Emily Dickinson publishes her first poem
Harriet Beecher Stowe writes *Uncle Tom’s Cabin*, beginning the American tradition of social writing
- 1854 – Thoreau writes *Walden*
- 1855 – Frederick Douglass Publishes *My Bondage and My Freedom*
Henry Wadsworth Longfellow Writes *The Song of Hiawatha*
Walt Whitman Publishes *Leaves of Grass*

1861 - 1864 – The American Civil War is fought

- 1868 – Louisa May Alcott writes *Little Women*
- 1870 – Mark Twain writes *The Adventures of Tom Sawyer*
- 1878 – Henry James writes *Daisy Miller*
- 1884 – Mark Twain publishes *The Adventures of Huckleberry Finn*
- 1895 – Stephen Crane writes *The Red Badge of Courage*
- 1903 – Jack London writes *Call of the Wild*
- 1905 – America’s greatest short story writer, O Henry, writes his masterpiece, *The Gift of the Magi*
- 1906 – Upton Sinclair writes *The Jungle* and helps launch America’s tradition of investigative journalism
- 1913 – William Carlos Williams releases his first book of poems, *The Tempers*

1914 - 1918 – The First World War is fought

- 1914 – Carl Sandburg Publishes *Chicago*
- 1915 – Edgar Lee Masters releases *Spoon River Anthology*
- 1917 – T. S. Eliot writes *The Love Song of J. Alfred Prufrock*
- 1919 – Sherwood Anderson writes *Winesburg, Ohio*
- 1920 – Edith Wharton is the first woman to win the Pulitzer Prize for her novel *The Age of Innocence*
- 1922 – T.S. Eliot publishes *The Wasteland*
- 1923 – E. E. Cummings published his first book of poems, *Tulips and Chimneys*
1923 – Robert Frost Publishes “Stopping by Woods on a Snowy Evening”
- 1925 - 1940 – Era of the *lost generation* writers
- 1925 – Theodore Dreiser writes *An American Tragedy*
- 1925 – F. Scott Fitzgerald Writes *The Great Gatsby*

- 1926 – Ernest Hemingway writes *The Sun Also Rises*
- 1927 – Willa Cather writes *Death Comes for The Archbishop*
- 1929 – Faulkner writes *The Sound and the Fury*
Thomas Wolfe Writes *Look Homeward Angel*
- 1930 – Sinclair Lewis becomes the first American to win the Nobel Prize for Literature
- 1931 – Pearl Buck writes *The Good Earth*
- 1934 – Henry Miller writes *Tropic of Capricorn*
- 1936 – Playwright Eugene O'Neill wins the Nobel Prize for Literature
- 1938 – Pearl Buck wins the Nobel Prize for Literature
- 1939 – Henry Miller writes *Tropic of Capricorn*
- 1939 – John Steinbeck publishes *The Grapes of Wrath*

1939 - 1945 – The Second World War is fought

- 1940 – Ernest Hemingway's *For Whom the Bell Tolls* is Published
- 1941 – James Thurber writes *The Secret Life of Walter Mitty*
- 1947 – Robert Heinlein launches the golden age of science fiction with his short story “The Green Hills of Earth” published in *The Saturday Evening Post*
- 1948 – T.S. Eliot wins the Nobel Prize for Literature
Tennessee Williams Wins His First Pulitzer Prize for *A Street Car Named Desire*
- 1949 – William Faulkner becomes the fourth American to receive the Nobel Prize for Literature
Arthur Miller writes *Death of a Salesman*

1950 - 1953 – The Korean War is fought

- 1950 – Gwendolyn Brooks Becomes the First Black Recipient of the Pulitzer Prize
- 1951 – Isaac Asimov begins his *Foundation* trilogy with *Foundation*
J.D. Salinger writes *Catcher in the Rye*
- 1952 – Ernest Hemingway writes his masterpiece, *The Old Man and the Sea*
John Steinbeck writes *East of Eden*
Black author Ralph Ellison writes *Invisible Man*
- 1953 – Ray Bradbury writes *Fahrenheit 451*
Black author James Baldwin writes *Go Tell It on the Mountain*
- 1954 – Ernest Hemingway wins the Nobel Prize for Literature
- 1956 – Allan Ginsburg writes *Howl*
- 1957 – Dr Seuss Writes *The Cat in the Hat*
Jack Kerouac publishes *On the Road*
- 1958 – Lawrence Ferlinghetti writes *A Coney Island of the Mind*
- 1959 – William Burroughs writes *The Naked Lunch*
Playwright Lorraine Hansberry writes *A Raisin in the Sun*
- 1960 – John Updike begins his *Rabbit* Series with *Rabbit Run*
- 1961 – Joseph Heller writes *Catch-22*
- 1962 – John Steinbeck wins the Nobel Prize for Literature
- 1963 – Sylvia Plath writes *The Bell Jar*
- 1964 – Ken Kesey writes *Sometimes a Great Notion*

1965 - 1973 – The Vietnam War is fought

- 1966 – Truman Capote writes *In Cold Blood*
- 1968 – Tom Wolfe publishes *The Electric Koolaid Acid Test*
- 1969 – Kurt Vonnegut writes *Slaughterhouse Five*
Philip Roth writes *Portnoy's Complaint*

- 1976 – Saul Bellow wins the Nobel Prize for Literature
- 1982 – Black author Alice Walker writes *The Color Purple*
- 1987 – Black playwright August Wilson wins the Pulitzer Prize for *Fences*

1989 – The Cold War Ends

- 1989 – Asian American author Amy Tan writes *The Joy Luck Club*
- 1993 – Black author Toni Morrison wins the Nobel Prize for Literature

2003 – The Second Gulf War is fought

- 2006 – Cormac McCarthy wins a Pulitzer Prize for *The Road*