

Period	Time	Subject + other themes	Writers
The Colonial Period	1607-1776	The first settlement at Jamestown to the outbreak of the Revolution. Religious, practical, or historical themes.	<i>John Winthrop, Cotton Mather, Benjamin Franklin, and Anne Bradstreet.</i>
The Revolutionary Age	1765-1790	Some of the greatest documents of American history were authored. In 1787, The Constitution of the United States was drafted and in 1789 it was ratified.	Thomas Paine authored <i>Common Sense</i> and Thomas Jefferson wrote <i>The Declaration of Independence</i> . In 1781, The Articles of Confederation were ratified. Between 1787 and 1788, Alexander Hamilton, James Madison, and John Jay wrote <i>The Federalist Papers</i> .
The Early National Period	1775-1828	Saw the beginnings of literature that could be truly identified as "American".	Washington Irving, James Cooper, and Edgar Allan Poe.
Transcendentalism	1828-1865	Romantic Period\ Renaissance, The writers of this period produced works of originality and excellence that helped shape the ideas...	Ralph Waldo Emerson, Henry David Thoreau, Edgar Allan Poe, Herman Melville, Nathaniel Hawthorne, Harriet Beecher Stowe, Henry Wadsworth Longfellow, Emily Dickinson, and Walt Whitman
Realism	1865-1900	realistic fiction focuses on the ordinary and commonplace	Mark Twain, Henry James, Bret Harte, and Kate Chopin.
Naturalism	1900-1914	Naturalism claims to give an even more accurate depiction of life than realism(post-Darwinian thesis, higher-order animals, present subjects with scientific objectivity, writings are often frank, crude, and tragic)	Stephen Crane, Jack London, and Theodore Dreiser
Modernism	1914-1939	experimented with subject matter, form, and style and produced achievements in all literary genres	Poets: Robert Frost, William Carlos Williams, Edna St. Vincent Millay, and E.E. Cummings. Prose: Edith Wharton, Sinclair Lewis, and Willa Cather.
Modernism Continued	1920s, 1930s		F. Scott Fitzgerald is considered a writer of The Jazz Age, Langston Hughes and W.E.B. DuBois writers of The Harlem Renaissance, and Gertrude Stein, T.S. Eliot, Ezra Pound, and Ernest Hemingway writers of The Lost Generation
Postmodernism	1939-present	The Contemporary Period, marked, both stylistically and ideologically, by a reliance on such literary conventions as fragmentation, paradox, unreliable narrators, often unrealistic and downright impossible plots, games, parody, paranoia, dark humor and authorial self-reference. Reject outright meanings in their novels, stories and poems, and, instead, highlight and celebrate the possibility of multiple meanings, or a complete lack of meaning, within a single literary work.	