

**Teacher's Guide For
Great American Authors Since 1650**

Program 3: 1856 - 1906

For grade 7 - College

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LINKS TO CURRICULUM STANDARDS

The design for this program was guided by the National Center for History in the Schools, United States History curriculum Era 3: Revolution and the New Nation-Standards 1 and 3 for grades 5-12, Era 9 Postwar United States -Standard 4 for grades 5-12, and the California Public School Standards for Historical Content, Grade 8 - Standards 8.1, 8.2 and 8.3 (#4 - #7), Standard 8.8 (#1) and Grade 11, Standards 11.1 (#2, #3), 11.3 (#5), 11.5 - (#3, #4) and 11.10 (#2, #3) and Grade 12, Standards 12.1, 12.4 and 12.5; and the California State Board of Education English Language Arts Grade 8, Section 3.0 – 3.5 Literary Response and Analysis; Grades 9 and 10, Section 3.0 – 3.5 Literary Response and Analysis; and Grades 11 and 12, Section 3.0 – 3.5 Literary Response and Analysis.

MATERIALS IN THE PROGRAM

Teacher's Guide -This Teacher's Guide has been prepared to aid the teacher in utilizing materials contained within this program. In addition to this introductory material, the guide contains the following:

- *Suggested Instructional Notes*
- *Student Learning Goals*
- *Test Questions on Blackline Masters Quizzes for duplication and handout to students.*
- *Gallery of Great American Authors*

INSTRUCTIONAL NOTES

It is suggested that you preview the program and read the related Student Goals and Teacher Points. By doing so, you will become familiar with the materials and be better prepared to adapt the program to the needs of your class. Please note that this show is set up to be played continuously and you will probably find it best to follow the program in the order in which it is presented, but this is not necessary. The program can be divided into chapters accessed through the DVD's Menu Screen under Chapter Selects. It is also suggested that the program presentation take place before the entire class and under your direction. As you review the instructional program outlined in the Teacher's Guide, you may find it necessary to make some changes, deletions, or additions to fit the specific needs of your students. After viewing the programs you may wish to copy the **Test Questions on Blackline Masters 3A** and distribute them to your class to measure their comprehension of the events.

INTRODUCTION AND SUMMARY OF PROGRAM

A DVD of Great American Authors Since 1650, Program 3: 1856 – 1906 is a new approach to presenting in an exciting way the great literary tradition of the United States. The program is designed to present American authors and literature in a way that promotes successful student learning. Program 3 begins with the foundation of the modern American novel, through the brilliant works of late 19th century authors, Louisa May Alcott, Henry James and Mark Twain. It then shows the country's literary transition from a cadre of New England authors to the whole nation, from the Atlantic to the Pacific, telling its stories.

The program is laid out so it can be viewed in its entirety, or by individual chapters accessed through the DVD's Menu Screen under Chapter Selects. Each chapter presents a complete story of an exceptional American literary figure, as well as themes of American literature, including the unique and innovative American voice, New England authors, and women authors. The chapters show how American authors told the story of America as its chroniclers and interpreters. Most importantly, historical themes and figures are clearly presented using state of the art visuals.

Below is a list of the program's chapters. Using these chapters, teachers can create a lesson plan to cover the specific issues, themes and historical figures mentioned.

Great American Writers Since 1650

Program 3: 1856 - 1906

1. 1868 - Louisa May Alcott Writes *Little Women*
2. 1878 - Henry James Writes *Daisy Miller*
3. 1885 - Mark Twain Publishes *The Adventures of Huckleberry Finn*
4. 1906 – Upton Sinclair’s Novel *The Jungle* is Published
5. 1906 – The Whole Country Speaks

SUMMARY OF PROGRAM 3: 1856 - 1906

Program 3: 1856 – 1906

Program three shows how in the second half of the 19th century, the American literary voice expanded from a small group of New England intellectuals to include the entire country.

Chapters one and two discuss how Louisa May Alcott and Henry James laid the foundation for the modern American novel.

Mark Twain’s humor and his establishment of the quintessential American literary voice are examined in chapter three.

America’s investigative journalism tradition is looked at with Upton Sinclair’s *The Jungle* in chapter four.

Chapter Five examines how authors from all over America began to write about their experiences, shaping a new American style of literature.

1868 - Louisa May Alcott Writes *Little Women*

Student Goals - In this chapter of Great American Authors, students will learn:

- The second half of the nineteenth century was a time of great progress for American women
- A series of sensational stories under the pen name A. M. Barnard started Alcott on the path to fame and fortune
- Alcott was the first female writer to earn a living at writing fiction
- *Little Women*, set in New England during the Civil War, was based on the experiences of Louisa and her sisters while growing up
- *Little Women* was the first novel to present a realistic and psychologically detailed portrait of American womanhood

1878 - Henry James Writes *Daisy Miller*

Student Goals - In this chapter of Great American Authors, students will learn:

- Henry James would grow up to become 19th century America’s most introspective author
 - James was the father of the American psychological novel
 - Henry James blended provocative points of view and unusual characters with psychological settings unexplored by other writers
 - Over his fifty year career, James style evolved from straightforward and realistic, to a complicated and rich, almost poetic symbolism
 - Of his novels, *Daisy Miller* was the public’s favorite
- James along with Mark Twain set the stage for a great flood of American writers in the 20th

century

1885 - Mark Twain Publishes *The Adventures of Huckleberry Finn*

Student Goals - In this chapter of Great American Authors, students will learn:

- Twain was part of a new cadre of American writers, whose writing was more realistic, dealing directly with social themes and the inner urgings of characters
- *Huckleberry Finn* used satire to show the short comings of American life
- Ernest Hemingway declared that all modern literature came from Twain's *Huckleberry Finn*

1906 – Upton Sinclair's Novel *The Jungle* is Published

Student Goals - In this chapter of Great American Authors, students will learn:

- Modern investigative journalism has its roots in the early part of the Twentieth Century
- Journalists like Upton Sinclair and Ida Tarbell made the case for industry being held accountable for its unethical and unsafe practices
- These investigations led to progressive reforms under the leadership of Teddy Roosevelt and Woodrow Wilson, spurring politicians to regulate such industries as meat-packing
- Investigative journalists' bold writing style and demand for accountability by industry and political leaders brought upon them the appellation 'Muckrakers'

1906 – The Whole Country Speaks

Student Goals - In this chapter of Great American Authors, students will learn:

- By the beginning of the 20th century, the whole country began to write, to tell the story of America
 - Writers told their stories in an amazing range of voices and styles
 - These new writers showed what a vast and diverse nation America had become at the start of the 20th century
- Crane's *Maggie: A Girl of the Streets* pioneered the genre of psychological realism
- Crane fulfilled the promise of psychological realism in his brilliantly written, and best remembered novel, *The Red Badge of Courage*, published in 1895
- O Henry was the 20th century's most skillful short story writer
- Theodore Dreiser wrote in the Naturalism Movement style, a pessimistic form of realism
- Willa Cather epitomized the new voice that James and Twain spoke about
 - She wrote with a genuine love for traditional family values, but at the same time questioned customary ways of living
 - Her characters were complex and a part of the American landscape
 - Her women characters were strong and confident, fulfilling roles usually reserved for men
- Jack London's life experiences shaped the major theme of his novels – the struggle for survival
- Sherwood Anderson never achieved great success with his work, but he was a major influence on American authors, especially the *lost generation*

Answers to Blackline Master Quiz 3A, Great American Authors Since 1650, Program 3: 1856 – 1906

1-c; 2-b; 3-d; 4-d; 5-a; 6-c; 7-b; 8-a; 9-b; 10-d; 11-b; 12-c