

Teacher's Guide For
Great American Authors Since 1650
Program 4: 1907 - 1925

For grade 7 - College

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<u>Table of Contents</u>	<u>Page</u>
Table of Contents and Rights.....	2
Links to Curriculum Standards.....	2
Materials in the Programs.....	3
Instructional Notes.....	3
Introduction and Summary of Program.....	3
Summary of Program 4: 1907 - 1925.....	4
Answers to Blackline Master Quiz 4A.....	5

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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grades 5-12, Era 9 Postwar United States -Standard 4 for grades 5-12, and the California Public School Standards for Historical Content, Grade 8 - Standards 8.1, 8.2 and 8.3 (#4 - #7), Standard 8.8 (#1) and Grade 11, Standards 11.1 (#2, #3), 11.3 (#5), 11.5 - (#3, #4) and 11.10 (#2, #3) and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 Master 4A** 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 4: 1907 - 1925 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. The program follows the resurgence of American poetry under William Carlos Williams, Carl Sandburg and Robert Frost. It also examines America's first woman Pulitzer Prize winner, Edith Wharton, the innovative style of American authors after WWI, and ends with the first of the lost generation authors, F. Scott Fitzgerald.

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, lost generation authors, women authors and poets. These 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 and its 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 4: 1907 - 1925

1. 1913 - Poet William Carlos Williams Publishes His First Book of Poems, *The Tempers*
2. 1914 - Carl Sandburg Publishes his Poem *Chicago*
3. 1920 – Edith Wharton Wins a Pulitzer Prize for *The Age of Innocence*
4. 1922 – The Innovators: e.e.cummings, Ezra Pound, T.S. Eliot and Henry Miller
5. 1923 – Robert Frost Publishes *Stopping by Woods on a Snowy Evening*
6. 1925 – F. Scott Fitzgerald Writes *The Great Gatsby*

SUMMARY OF PROGRAM 4: 1907 - 1925

Program 4: 1907 – 1925

Program four examines how as America moved onto the world's stage, her authors reflected this loss of innocence as they struggled to cope with the problems accompanying this transition to modernization and industrialization.

Chapters one and two discuss the resurgence of American poetry at the beginning of the 20th century through two of the nation's greatest poets - Hispanic William Carlos Williams, and Carl Sandburg.

Edith Wharton's literary description of the old America – the intellectual east coast – is examined in Chapter three.

Chapter four shows how four American writers – e.e.cummings, Ezra Pound, T.S. Elliot and Henry Miller - challenged every rule of writing and shaped what would become the new model of American literature.

Robert Frost's poetry reminded Americans in the first half of the 20th century of who we were as a nation. His style and impact are discussed in chapter five.

Chapter six discusses how the brilliant writer F. Scott Fitzgerald launched the most innovative era of American literature – the lost generation.

1913 - Poet William Carlos Williams Publishes His First Book of Poems, *The Tempers*

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

- William Carlos Williams was a doctor who also was a poet
- Williams searched for a poetic style that embraced America's regional dialogues and idioms
- Williams won the Pulitzer Prize in 1963 the same year he died

1914 - Carl Sandburg Publishes his Poem *Chicago*

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

- Carl Sandburg was the leader of the realism style of American poetry
- Using everyday speech, Sandburg helped Americans understand the life of the nation
- In 1912 Sandburg moved to Chicago, where he worked as a newspaper journalist, gaining fame as a poet and, eventually, financial success as a biographer
 - His series *Abraham Lincoln* won the Pulitzer Prize for history in 1940
- By the 1920's America's literary scene had grown from the 19th century's elite group of

authors to a true cross-section of America

- *Poetry Magazine* launched the careers of Sandburg along with Edgar Lee Masters and Vachel Lindsay, linking these three in the minds of Americans as the leaders of the realist movement
 - Masters' *Spoon River Anthology* gave voice to the lives of Midwesterners through the imaginary citizens of an imaginary town
 - Lindsay's strong, chant-like rhythms and vivid imagery captured the pathos of Lincoln's presidency

1920 – Edith Wharton Wins a Pulitzer Prize for *The Age of Innocence*

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

- With the coming of the 20th century, America looked inward and faced the challenge of reform
- Edith Wharton would be a part of that reform
- Edith Wharton was literary dean of the lost generation, which featured writers like Ernest Hemingway, F. Scott Fitzgerald, Willa Cather and Gertrude Stein
- Wharton would win a Pulitzer Prize for her novel *The Age of Innocence*

1922 – The Innovators: e.e. cummings, Ezra Pound, T.S. Eliot and Henry Miller

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

- In the 1920's a new generation of writers was emerging from an era of war, progressivism and corruption
- They were the innovators
 - A talented and expressive group who would change the way writers wrote poems and novels
 - Unafraid to pursue new themes and new ideas
- The innovators were e.e. cummings, T.S. Eliot, Ezra Pound and Henry Miller
- e.e. cummings' poetry rejected standard punctuation and capitalization and twisting the arrangement of sentences
- Ezra Pound was a poet and essayist, but his greatest impact would be as a mentor to American writers such as William Carlos Williams and T. S. Eliot
- T.S. Eliot captured the angst and quiet desperation that had become part of modern life
- Henry Miller took on the utterly taboo subject of sex in his novels *Tropic of Cancer* and *Tropic of Capricorn*

1923 – Robert Frost Publishes *Stopping by Woods on a Snowy Evening*

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

- Robert Frost paid tribute to America by praising America's ideals and revealing America's boundless energy and rich traditions of life
- Robert Frost used New England themes that would serve him in becoming America's premier poet in the first half of the 20th century
- Frost's poetry won 4 Pulitzers
- His greatest acclamation came in 1960 when Congress voted Frost a gold medal, "In recognition of his poetry, which has enriched the culture of the United States and the philosophy of the world"

1925 – F. Scott Fitzgerald Writes *The Great Gatsby*

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

- America's great age of literature embraced the wild times of the roaring '20's and the despairing misery of the Great Depression
 - It was a time when American authors poured out their souls onto paper

- They were the voices of what Gertrude Stein christened *the lost generation*
- It was at the hands of these authors that the great American novel came into being
- F. Scott Fitzgerald's novels peered inward, chronicling the moral decline of the United States, and exploring the country's moral emptiness
- *The Great Gatsby* is Fitzgerald's greatest work
- The book showed how the wealthy classes' materialism had corrupted the American Dream
- Fitzgerald's popularity declined with the onset of the Depression

**Answers to Blackline Master Quiz 4A, Great American Authors Since 1650, Program 4:
1907 - 1925**

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