



1800s Literature – Part I

Syllabus

Course Description: An excerpt-based class, students are introduced to primary works of literature from the early and middle 1800s, including poems by William Wordsworth (1770-1850) and Samuel Taylor Coleridge (1772-1834), *The Swiss Family Robinson* (1812), Charles Dickens' *The Pickwick Papers* (1836) and *Oliver Twist* (1838), *Narrative of the Life of Frederick Douglass* (1845), poems by John Greenleaf Whittier (1807-1892), *Jane Eyre* (1847), and *Moby Dick* (1851). All texts are included as part of the class; no materials are required for purchase.

Prerequisite: *Essay Basics* or equivalent experience writing five-paragraph essays.

Course Outline:

Week One: Welcome to the 1800s

- Intro to Poetry
- William Wordsworth
- Samuel Taylor Coleridge

Week Two: How Stories Can Change

- Reviewing the Oral Tradition
- The “Robinsonade”
- *The Swiss Family Robinson*

Week Three: Cliffhangers & Characterization

- Introducing Charles Dickens
- *The Pickwick Papers*

Week Four: Addressing Society

- *Oliver Twist*

Week Five: Literature and the Slave Trade

- *Narrative of the Life of Frederick Douglass*
- The Importance of Reading
- A Turning Point

Week Six: Poetry and the Slave Trade

- John Greenleaf Whittier
- Anti-Slavery Poems
- *Snow-Bound: A Winter Idyl*

Week Seven: Literature and Culture

- *Jane Eyre*
- A Controversial Character

Week Eight: Going Deeper

- *Moby Dick*
- Literary Devices
- Final Response

Grading Information: All assignments will be graded using *The Growing Writer Rubric* and averaged to receive a final course grade.