

# The History of American Literature

15 pages | 3501 words

The history of American Literature begins well before this land was even called America. It has been a fantastic evolution to come from tribal symbols and drawings to today's Stephen King and Danielle Steele. Literature has actually gone through lots of phases and was impacted by excellent events and concepts in American history. The earliest kind of literature in what would one day be referred to as America were far from what contemporary individuals would think about "Literature". The Natives who inhabited this land initially had unwritten methods of handing down experiences, beliefs, and stories. Locals relied heavily on the spoken telling of these stories to younger generations. The same stories, myths, or belief structures were told consistently, each time similar to the last, and were memorized by the listeners so they would have the ability to pass these on to the next generation. They also utilized pictures, carvings, or special mementos such as bones, teeth, feathers, or skins as pointers of terrific hunts or wars. If an entire people and all its descendants were killed off, the specific stories and history of that tribe would likewise be gone. Other tribes might speak of the first, but never in the very same information or with the very same point of view as the initial people members. Long before settlers gotten here in America, explorers reported on their voyages to the continent. Italian explorer Amerigo Vespucci offered some of the earliest European descriptions of the American continent. Before 1600 Sir Walter Raleigh, Richard Hakluyt, Thomas Harriot, and John White had actually released accounts of discoveries. The works of Captain John Smith, an explorer whose travels took him up and down the eastern seaboard of America, represent a shift from expedition story towards early history. Early histories, however, were composed mostly by inhabitants rather than by explorers. William Bradford, the first governor of the Plymouth Colony, wrote his *Of Plymouth Plantation* from 1620 to 1647. Another important historian of early America was Thomas Morton, whose *New English Canaan* used humor in portraying what he considered to be the overbearing and intolerant qualities of the Puritans. Histories of early America, especially in New England, were filled with references to the Bible and to God's will. Nearly all events could be explained from this religious perspective: Foul weather and diseases were perceived as God's wrath; a bountiful harvest represented God's blessing. Given the Puritans' relationship with God, it is not surprising that sermons and other religious writings dominated literature in America in the 1600s. John Cotton, Thomas Hooker, Roger Williams, and John Winthrop were among the most prominent religious writers. A *Narrative of the Captivity and Restoration of Mary Rowlandson* (1682). This work is a firsthand account by a colonist who was taken captive by Indians during King Philip's War. It presents a dramatic tale of suffering and of Rowlandson's efforts to make sense of that suffering. Her story became the model for a new genre of early American literature: captivity narratives. Such accounts became staples of American literature and eventually provided material for American fiction. While still religious in tone and...

# Essays On English American Literature

**L Cohen**



## **Essays On English American Literature:**

## **Essays On English American Literature** Book Review: Unveiling the Magic of Language

In an electronic era where connections and knowledge reign supreme, the enchanting power of language has become more apparent than ever. Its capability to stir emotions, provoke thought, and instigate transformation is truly remarkable. This extraordinary book, aptly titled "**Essays On English American Literature**," compiled by a very acclaimed author, immerses readers in a captivating exploration of the significance of language and its profound impact on our existence. Throughout this critique, we shall delve to the book is central themes, evaluate its unique writing style, and assess its overall influence on its readership.

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