



American Literature

20th century



- *The Great Gatsby* by F. Scott Fitzgerald (1925)
- *An American Tragedy* by Theodore Dreiser (1925)
- *For whom the bell tolls* by Ernest Hemingway (1926)
- *The Sound and the Fury* by William Faulkner (1929)
- *The Tropic of Cancer* by Henry Miller (1934)
- *Gone with the Wind* by Margaret Mitchell (1936)
- *The Pearl* by John Steinbeck (1939)
- *All the King's Men* by Robert Penn Warren (1946)
- *The Naked and the Dead* by Norman Mailer (1948)
- *The Catcher in the Rye* by J.D. Salinger (1951)
- □ *Herzog* by Saul Bellow (1953)
- *Fahrenheit 451* by Ray Bradbury (1953)
- *To Kill a Mockingbird* by Harper Lee (1960)
- *Invitation to a Beheading* by Vladimir Nabokov (1958)

Depression-era literature

Depression era literature was blunt and direct in its social criticism. John Steinbeck (1902–1968). His style was simple and evocative, winning him the favor of the readers but not of the critics. Steinbeck often wrote about poor, working-class people and their struggle to lead a decent and honest life.

Henry Miller assumed a unique place in American Literature in the 1930s when his semi-autobiographical novels, written and published in Paris, were banned from the US. His major work is Tropic of Cancer .

Post–World War II

The period in time from the end of World War II up until the late 1960s and early 1970s saw the publication of some of the most popular works in American history such as *To Kill a Mockingbird* by Harper Lee.

Though born in Canada, Chicago-raised Saul Bellow would become one of the most influential novelists in America in the decades directly following World War II. In *Herzog* Bellow painted vivid portraits of the American city and the distinctive characters.

From J.D. Salinger's *The Catcher in the Rye* , the perceived madness of the state of affairs in America was brought to the forefront of the nation's literary expression.

Immigrant authors such as Vladimir Nabokov, with *Lolita*, forged on with the theme and took a concerted step away from their Lost Generation predecessors, developing a style and tone of their own.

Nobel Prize in Literature winners

- 1930: Sinclair Lewis (novelist)
- 1936: Eugene O'Neill (playwright)
- 1938: Pearl S. Buck (biographer and novelist)
- 1948: T. S. Eliot (poet and playwright)
- 1949: William Faulkner (novelist)
- 1954: Ernest Hemingway (novelist)
- 1962: John Steinbeck (novelist)
- 1976: Saul Bellow (novelist)
- 1978: Isaac Bashevis Singer (novelist, wrote in Yiddish)
- 1980: Czesław Miłosz (poet and essayist, wrote in Polish)
- 1987: Joseph Brodsky (poet and essayist, wrote in English and Russian)
- 1993: Toni Morrison (novelist)