

# **EARLY AMERICAN LITERATURE: A STUDY OUTLINE**

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Early American literature: a study outline by Anna Lorraine Guthrie

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**ANNA LORRAINE GUTHRIE**

**EARLY AMERICAN  
LITERATURE: A  
STUDY OUTLINE**



## The Study Outline and Its Use

The series will include outlines on art, literature, travel, biography, history and present day questions.

The outlines vary in length. If more topics are given than the number of club meetings for the season, those topics that are more difficult to handle or on which there is less available material, may be dropped. If there are fewer topics than the scheduled meetings, certain topics may be divided.

Lists of books are appended to most of the outlines. It would be well for the club to own some of the recommended books. Others can be obtained either from the local public library or from the state traveling library. When very full lists are given it is not necessary for any club to use all the books, but the longer list leaves more room for choice.

The best material on some subjects may be found, not in books, but in magazines. These may be looked up under the subject in the *Readers' Guide to Periodical Literature*. Magazine articles and illustrated material may be obtained from the *Wilson Package Library*. For terms see fourth page of cover.

A list of the study outlines now in print will be found on page three of this cover. For later additions to the list write to publisher.

# EARLY AMERICAN LITERATURE

## A STUDY OUTLINE

PREPARED BY  
ANNA LORRAINE GUTHRIE

THE H. W. WILSON COMPANY  
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1916

## INTRODUCTORY NOTE

In this outline the points given for each paper are suggestions which embody the salient facts about the author. They may be treated as questions to be looked up by the whole club, they may be assigned to individuals, or they may be treated as a whole by one person. Each one who is responsible for a main topic is advised to use his own judgment in handling his subject and in bringing out other phases than those outlined. The Readings are also suggestions for which other selections may be substituted. The Recommended Reading represents the general consensus of opinion of critics and writers as to the best work of the various authors.

Quotations have been freely given in the hope that they may help to a better and more sympathetic understanding of the author, and with the intent that each one may study and decide independently whether as estimates they are just and true.

Sometimes special references are given under individual topics. It has not been the intention to make these take the place of the general references which it is well to study in every case. They have been given simply as a help to material bearing on a particular phase of the subject.

The bibliography has been limited to a few books and to the best articles in periodicals most easily procurable.

If it is thought that too many histories of American literature are cited the critical comments in the Bibliography will serve as an aid in selecting those most helpful.

Brownell's "American Prose Masters" will not be needed if Scribner's Magazine is available, as it is a reprint of the Scribner articles.

Vedder's "American Writers of Today" is referred to for Parkman only. Pattee's "History of American Literature since 1870" is useful for material on Thoreau. Erskine's "Leading American Novelists" contains chapters on Brockden Brown, Cooper and Hawthorne. Canby in his "Short Story in English" writes of Poe, Irving and Hawthorne. These authorities will also be cited in the outline on "Contemporary American Literature."

Biographies of each of the more prominent authors are cited, but if the clubs in the smaller places cannot procure them from their libraries they may be dispensed with or other available lives substituted if they tend to make the book list too expensive for purchase. In selecting biographies preference has been given to the one volume life wherever possible.

The texts cited for Recommended Reading are suggestions only. Any available text may be used.

If but sixteen meetings are held the two meetings on Lowell may be combined into one.



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## STUDY OUTLINE ON EARLY AMERICAN LITERATURE

### I

#### COLONIAL AND REVOLUTIONARY LITERATURE

*Our literature even in its humble beginnings, contains a lesson that no American can afford to miss. Unless we know its ideals and moral aims and are swayed by them, we cannot keep our heritage.*—REUBEN POST HALLECK.

#### I. Colonial literature.

The writings of our colonial era have a much greater importance as history than as literature. . . . Those "stern men with empires in their brains" had more pressing work to do than the making of books.—*Henry A. Beers.*

- a General character of the colonial prose.
- b Cotton Mather and his writings.
- c Jonathan Edwards and his work.
- d Colonial poetry.
- e Anne Bradstreet.
- f Readings to illustrate the character of the literature.

#### *Recommended Reading*

- Bradstreet, Anne. Contemplations. In Bronson. American poems. p. 10-17.  
Her best known and most attractive poem.—*William E. Simonds.*
- Edwards, Jonathan. Nature and holiness. In Carpenter. American prose selections. p. 16-18.  
An almost poetic exposition of divine love.—*Reuben Post Halleck.*
- Mather, Cotton. Magnalia Christi. In Carpenter. American prose selections. p. 4-12 (extracts).  
"That quaint Magnalia Christi, with all strange and marvelous things,  
Heaped up huge and undigested, like the chaos Ovid sings."