

WARM-UP — 8/16/19

- Get out a notebook, we'll be developing ideas today:
- Start by answering the following question:

What does it mean to be an American?

- (You don't have to turn this in, but really take a minute to think.)

NOW WHAT?

- Objective:
 - Begin to build an understanding of the importance of American Literature in our culture and our lives.
- How:
 - Discussion...meaning you should participate!

CLASS DISCUSSIONS

- Participate – I can't tell what you know unless you show me.
- Be fair – We want to hear from a variety of voices.
- Think for yourself – Don't be afraid to offer a new idea.
- Be kind – Don't be jerks. You can challenge without being rude.
- Be intentional – Don't copy down every word on every slide.
- (Attention during discussion is the #1 way to do well in this class.)

HOW DID YOU ANSWER?

- We are free
- We are a democracy
- Are these absolutely true?



FREEDOM?

“We hold these truths to be self-evident: that all men are created equal; that they are endowed by their Creator with certain unalienable rights; that among **these** are life, liberty, and the pursuit of happiness.”

Life

- Life expectancy gap between rich and poor US regions is 'more than 20 years'
 - [The Guardian](#)

Liberty

- Your private information is being sold to the highest bidder.
 - [Chron.com](#)
- The government is restricting who can sign up for the U.S. Military.
 - [The New York Times](#)

Pursuit of Happiness

- “Between 1969 and 2008 the average US income went up by \$11,684. How much of that went to the top 10 percent? All of it. Income for the remaining 90 percent actually went down”
 - [Altnet.org](#)

TRUE DEMOCRACY?

- **Democracy**: A country in which laws (and other government decisions) are made predominantly by majority vote.
 - Is every law we have passed put to majority vote?
 - Is a tally sheet delivered to your home to vote on every time a law is considered?

SO...WHAT DEFINES US THEN?

- In the history of mankind...no country has lasted more than 100 years unless it produced literature and art.
 - Not military
 - Not economy
 - Literature, music, sculpting, painting.



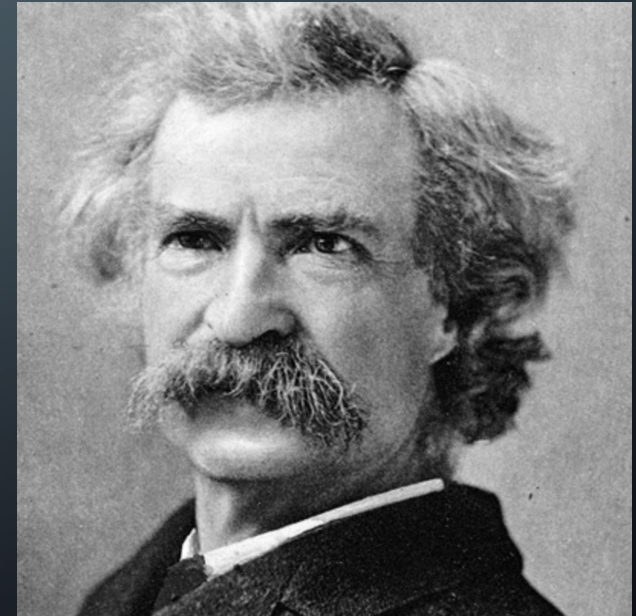
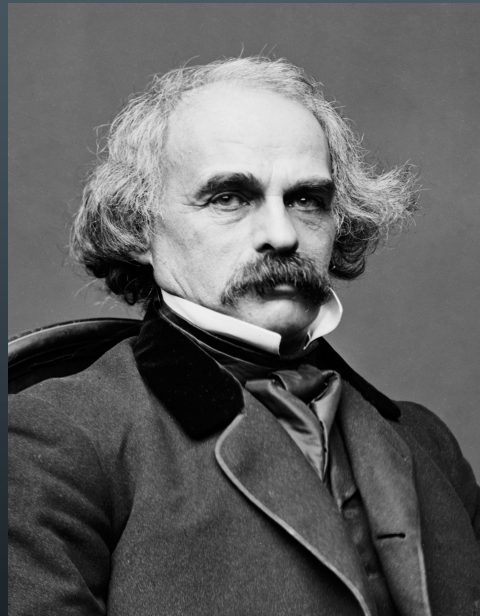
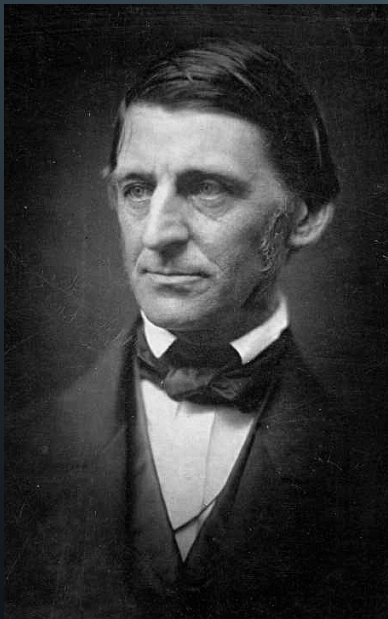
- Soviet Union
- North Korea (looking shaky)
- Cuba
- Cambodia
- Basically every dictatorship ever
 - Produce Propaganda, but not free-thinking expressions.

THE IMPACT

- Society, media, etc. all impacted by literature
 - Everything is based on an American literary character.
- Take a moment. Write down some traits and motivations of these three modern characters:
 - Katniss Everdeen
 - Captain America
 - Iron Man

WHY OLD WHITE DUDES?

- They were the ones listened to
- The only people who had a voice
- Give voice to other groups



WE SHALL STUDY...THE CANON

- No...not this...



- What is **Literary Canon**?
 - the works of an author that have been accepted as authentic & a staple to the country's culture
 - Other smart people/authors respond to that book.
- Allegory of the Cave
 - New knowledge (light) hurts too dang much to look at it. We stay stuck in the dark, or find a way to break out.
 - Fahrenheit 451 anyone?

YOUR GOALS FOR READING THIS YEAR

Enjoy the literature...

- Literature allows you to form your own opinions on what the author is trying to say.
- Find what's cool or weird or familiar or upsetting.

Learn About Yourself

- This is your history, more than just a log of the past.
- Some aspects of yourself are here...you just need to look for them.

SO...WHERE DO WE BEGIN?

