

# American Literature

Name \_\_\_\_\_

1. Nathanael Hawthorne's first collection of short stories, known as \_\_\_\_\_, was published in 1837.
2. In *The House of the Seven Gables*, what does Nathaniel Hawthorne say is the darkest dungeon?  
\_\_\_\_\_
3. In *The Scarlet Letter*, what two things does Hawthorne say that even Utopian colonies require?  
\_\_\_\_\_
4. In *Wakefield*, where does the title character tell his wife that he is going? \_\_\_\_\_
5. How long did Wakefield stay away from his home? \_\_\_\_\_
6. What job did Herman Melville take at the age of 21 that greatly impacted his writing career?  
\_\_\_\_\_
7. Herman Melville wrote the longest poem in the English language, which is entitled \_\_\_\_\_."
8. What Civil War general is mentioned in Melville's "The March to the Sea"? \_\_\_\_\_
9. What is the famous first line from Melville's novel *Moby Dick*? \_\_\_\_\_
10. What happens to Ahab and to Ishmael at the end of *Moby Dick*? \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_
11. Why did Walt Whitman leave school at the age of eleven? \_\_\_\_\_
12. What collection of poems did Whitman work on for over 35 years? \_\_\_\_\_
13. Whitman said that "the genius of the United States" is found in the \_\_\_\_\_.
14. Complete the following quotes by Whitman:
  - a. "Be \_\_\_\_\_, not \_\_\_\_\_."
  - b. "How beggarly appear \_\_\_\_\_ before a defiant \_\_\_\_\_."
  - c. "Whatever \_\_\_\_\_ the soul is \_\_\_\_\_."
15. Whose death does Whitman mourn in his poem, "O Captain! My Captain"? \_\_\_\_\_
16. Name two professions Whitman mentions in "I Hear America Singing."
  - a. \_\_\_\_\_
  - b. \_\_\_\_\_
17. Why does Whitman say he does not need to ask for good fortune in "Song of the Open Road"? \_\_\_\_\_
18. In Emily Dickinson's poetry, it is clear that she was extremely interested in \_\_\_\_\_.
19. What does it mean when it is said that Emily Dickinson lived her life as a recluse?  
\_\_\_\_\_
20. For whom does Emily Dickinson say, "Success is counted sweetest..."? \_\_\_\_\_
21. What does Dickinson say takes her to far-away lands? \_\_\_\_\_
22. Why does Dickinson say, "I Measure every Grief I meet"? \_\_\_\_\_
23. Dickinson says we live our lives between what two things? \_\_\_\_\_
24. Give one thing Dickinson says she must do in order not to live her life in vain. \_\_\_\_\_
25. \_\_\_\_\_ is considered the father of American literature.
26. In what town did Mark Twain live most of his life, providing the setting for his most famous books?  
\_\_\_\_\_
27. In *The Adventures of Tom Sawyer*, how did Aunt Polly know Tom had skipped school?  
\_\_\_\_\_

28. What punishment did Aunt Polly give Tom for this crime? \_\_\_\_\_

29. What "great law of human nature" did Tom learn from this punishment? \_\_\_\_\_

30. What were three of the improvements the narrator felt were needed in *A Connecticut Yankee in King Arthur's Court*?

a. \_\_\_\_\_

b. \_\_\_\_\_

c. \_\_\_\_\_

31. What was significant about the day Tom Canty was born in *The Prince and the Pauper*? \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_32. Nathaniel Hawthorne

a. *The House of the Seven Gables*

\_\_\_33. Herman Melville

b. "I'm Nobody!"

\_\_\_34. Walt Whitman

c. *The Adventures of Tom Sawyer*

\_\_\_35. Emily Dickinson

d. *Leaves of Grass*

\_\_\_36. Mark Twain

e. "Shiloh"

How much of your book did you finish reading? \_\_\_\_\_