

Reading Literature: Coming of Age



A Brief History

- *A Book of Courtesy* 1477
- *Le Morte d' Arthur* Malory
- *King James Bible* 1611
- *A Visible World in Pictures* 1629
- *Paradise Lost* Milton 1678
- *The Pilgrims Progress* Bunyon 1678

War with the Devil
Benjamin Keach

OR

*The Young Man's Conflict with the Powers of
Darkness, in a Dialogue Discovering the
Corruption and Vanity of Youth, the
Horrible Nature of Sin, and the Deplorable
Condition of Fallen Man*

1707

AND

*A Token for Children: Being an Exact
Account of the Conversation, Holy and
Exemplary Lives and Joyful Deaths of
Several Young Children to Which is Added:
a Token for the Children of New England.*

1700

Two Important Works

- *The Life and Strange Surprising Adventure of Robinson Crusoe*
- Daniel Defoe
- *Gulliver's Travels*
- Jonathan Swift

John Newbery



Vail of Tears

an opposing view



Repository Tracts

Hanna More

Mary Sherwood

The Nineteenth Century

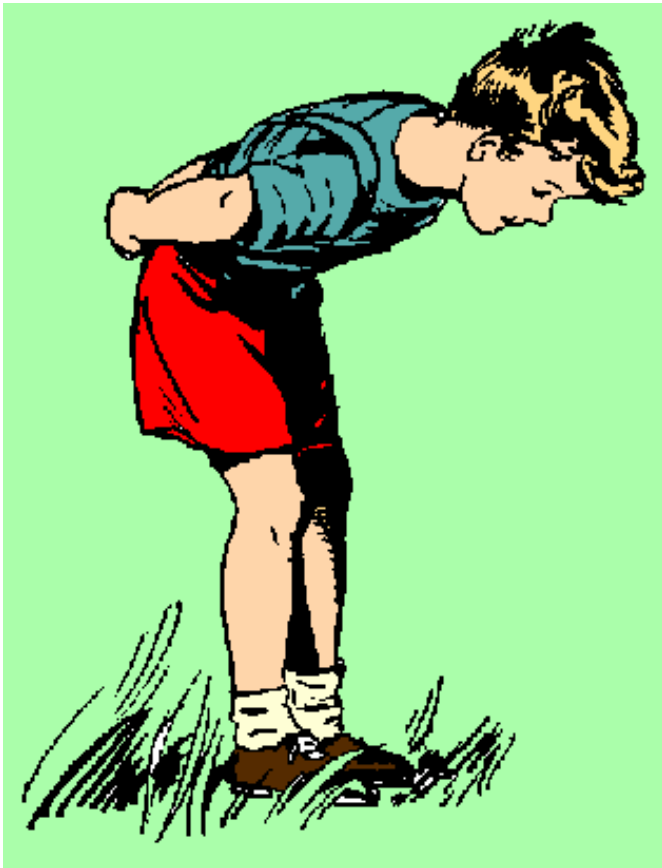
The First Great Age of
Children's Books

Young Women

- Home
- Family values
- Societal expectations

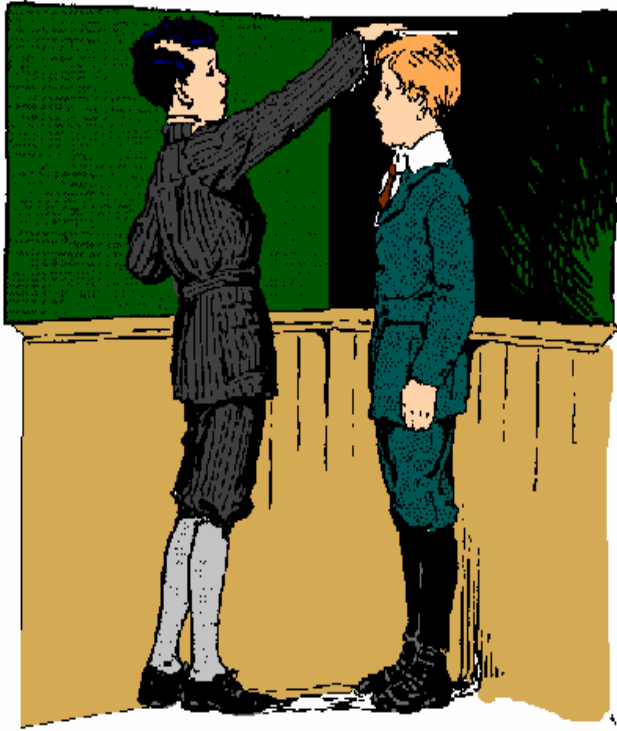


Young Men



- Hard work = Success
- Traditional values

Adventures of Tom Sawyer
&
Huckleberry Finn
Mark Twain



The Domestic Novel

The Wide, Wide World

Susan Warner

- Preached morality
- Woman's submission to man
- Cultural, social, political conservatism
- Religious heart
- Bible
- **THE GLORIES OF SUFFERING**

Heroines

Uniformly submissive

Uniformly distrustful

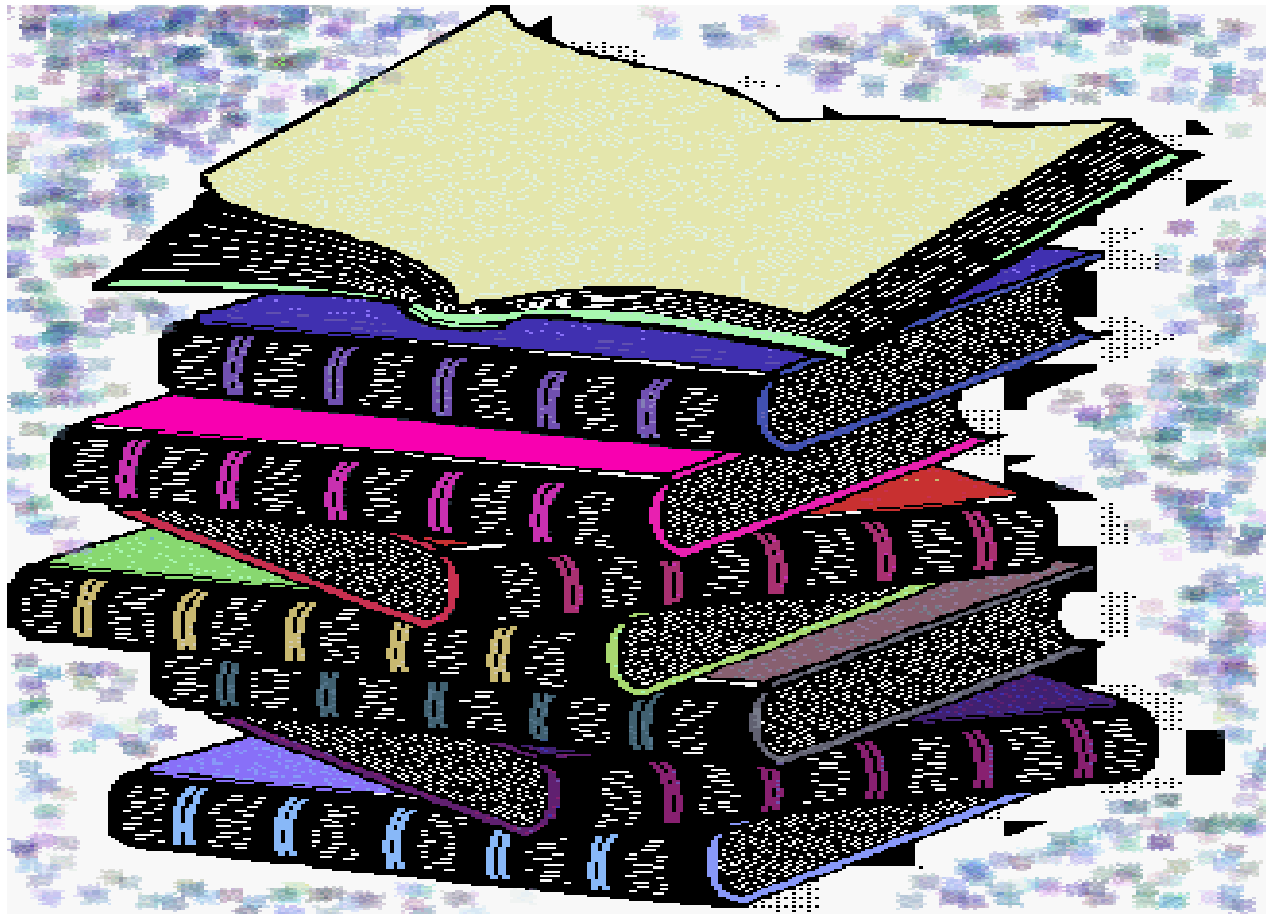
Self sacrificing & self
denying—beyond
belief

Primacy of the family

- Marriage is the goal
- Abhorred sin
 - Tobacco
 - Alcohol
 - Divorce
 - Adultry

❖ *St. Elmo*—Augusta
Jane Wilson

The Dime Novel



Almost Series!

- First—*Malaesha: The Indian Wife of the White Hunter*—Ann Stevens
- Characters:
 - Seth Jones
 - Nick Carter
 - Deadwood Dick

1940s & 1950s

Literature focuses on traditional social behavior

- Family
- Job
- Sports
- Dating

Themes—moralistic and superficial

Examples

- *17th Summer*
Marveen Daly
- *Two and the Town*
- *Hot Rod, Street Rod,
and Crash Club*
– Henry Gregor Felsen
- *The Catcher in the Rye*
– Salinger
- *Miracles on Maple
Hill*—Virginia Sorenson
- *To Kill a Mockingbird*
– Harper Lee

The Problem Novel

1960s



Young Adults in Ordinary Situations

- Premarital sex
- Unwed motherhood
- Abortion
- Illicit drugs

Characteristics of the Problem Novel

- Y/A point of view (narration)
- Unsympathetic/ incompetent parents
- Step toward maturity or self understanding
- Conversational language
- Few descriptive paragraphs
- Setting a backdrop for action

Examples of Problem Novels

- *The Pigman*
- *My Darling, My Hamburger*
 - Paul Zindel
- *The Outsiders*
 - S. E. Hinton
- *Where the Lilies Bloom*
 - Cleaver
- *Souder*
 - William Armstrong
- *The Contender*
 - Robert Lipsyte

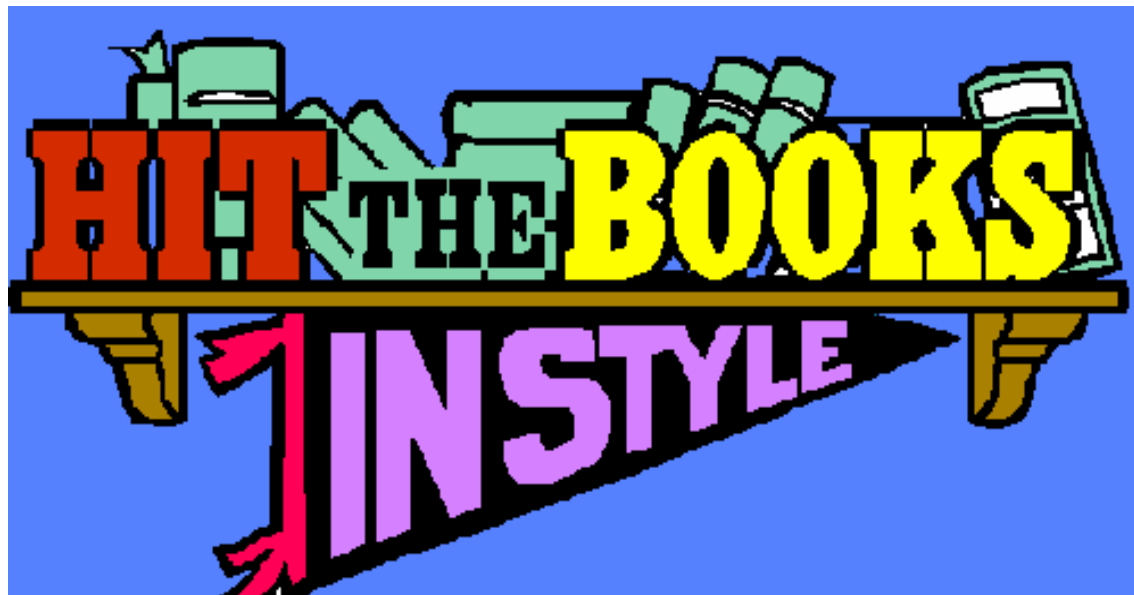
AND

- *Are You There God?
It's Me Margaret*
- *Blubber*
- *Then Again Maybe I
Won't*
- *Deenie*
- *Forever*
– Judy Blume
- *Soul Brother & Sister
Low*
– Mildred Taylor
- *The Cat Ate My Gym
Suit*
– Paula Danziger
- *Julie of the Wolves*
– Jean Craighead George

Robert Cormier

- *The Chocolate War*
- *I Am the Cheese*
- *After the First Death*
- *Fade*
- *We All Fall Down*
- *Beyond the Chocolate War*

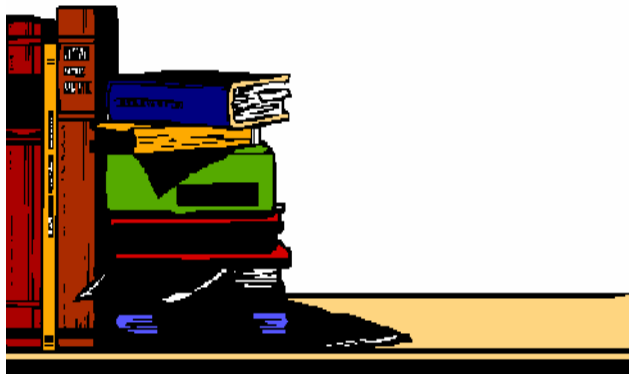
The Future of Young Adult Literature



- Less reliance on shock and titillation
- More excitement/romance/optimism
- More variety
 - Characters
 - Plots
 - Setting
- Less stereotyping
- More balanced view of parents
- More sophisticated approaches to problems
 - Racism
 - ethnicity

The Future

Increase in non fiction



Increase in series



Questions?



Assignment

- Read Chapter 3 of Bushman
- Complete Activity 1-3 (p. 75)
- Begin reading *A Long Way From Chicago*
 - Quiz on this book: Thursday, May 10, 2001
- Finish your reading biography—2-3 typed pages—these were due today. Make sure you turn it in by Tuesday morning.