Sequencing of Literary Texts

The outline of texts is a chronological order of American Literature. The texts highlighted in the chart are a vast representation of genre and eras. The evolution of American Literature is clearly outlined in a timeline that follows the development of America as a nation. The selections are a glimpse of texts that can clearly define the relationship between place and literature. The defining characteristics of the settings and the clearly defined purpose make these selections strong pieces to provide evidence for the evolving relationship between place and literature. When considering time as a defining tool between “Old World” and “New World” the progression of text shapes our views leading towards contemporary society. Although this is not a complete outline of American Literature or in-depth study of literary eras, the essential question being examined is a beginning reflection of a triad. The texts would work in conjunction with other literary pieces that would answer: what makes American Literature American and how does Literature shape society.

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| “When Grizzlies Walked Upright” | Modoc |
| “The Earth on Turtle’s Back” | Onondaga |
| “Origin Legend” | Navajo |
| “The Iroquois Constitution” | Iroquois |
| “A Journey through Texas” | Cabeza de Vaca |
| “Commission of Merriweather Lewis” | Thomas Jefferson |
| “Crossing the Great Divide” | Merriweather Lewis |
| “The Minister’s Black Veil” | Nathaniel Hawthorne |
| “The Fall of the House of Usher” | Edgar Allen Poe |
| “An Occurrence at Owl Creek Bridge” | Ambrose Bierce |
| “Civil War” | Mary Chesnut |
| “Recollections of a Private” | Warren Lee Goss |
| “A Confederate Account of the Battle of Gettysburg” | Randolph McKim |
| “Go Down, Moses” / “Swing Low, Sweet Chariot” | Spirituals |
| “To Build a Fire” | Jack London |
| “Heading West” | Miriam Davis Colt |
| “I Will Fight No More Forever” | Chief Joseph |
| “Luke Havergal”/”Richard Cory” | Edwin Arlington Robinson |
| “Spoon River Anthology” | Edgar Lee Masters |
| The Imagist Poets | Ezra Pound/William Carlos Williams/H.D. |
| “A Worn Path” | Eudora Welty |
| Selected Poems | Robert Frost |