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Why should we study American Literature?

- To help us understand our past.
 - ↳ so we learn from it
- To see how we've changed
 - ↳ history repeats itself
 - ↳ improvement
- ↳ Our nation was founded under God
 - ↳ to see how far we strayed
 - ↳ to see how we could change for the better

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Who am I?

- *I am often made fun of in modern day movies and literature.
- *In the 1920s and 1930s, I was made a whipping boy for all the weaknesses in American society and was often equated with the worst parts of Victorianism.
- *H.L. Mencken defined me as "the haunting fear that someone somewhere might be happy."
- *In actuality, I am a realist. I planned for the worst and expected no better.
- *I believed that it was my job to be a "city on the hill," an example for the world to follow.
- *Every minute of my existence was charged with meaning. (I saw God in every situation.)
- *I used the Bible to educate my children in their English studies.
- *I did, at times, have some pretty strange laws: a man may not kiss his wife in public.
- *I prefer the plain style of writing to the ornate style.
- *I helped found America and traces of my beliefs are still seen in its government.
- *Who am I with the letter "P"?

Answer: Puritans

What skills must a good reader possess?

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What skills must a good reader possess?

- pronunciation = comprehend
- concentration / focus
- be able context clues to help with understanding
- to think / process
 - ↳ make connections
 - ↳ org. structure
 - ↳ conversations w/ author, yourself, text
 - ↳ slow down
 - ↳ reread
- grammar - periods = stop, comma = pause, ; = pause, ↑ connections

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Outline:

ERA OF CHANGE

Introduction: Two Puritan Themes

1. The role of the nation
2. The role of the Christian

I. European to American: Social Change

A. The early immigrants

1. The first settlements
 - a. Jamestown
 - b. Plymouth Plantation
 - c. Massachusetts Bay
2. Motives of the immigrants

a. Religious reasons for immigr.

- (1) To escape persecution
- (2) To realize ideals

b. Secular reasons for immigration

- (1) For adventure
- (2) For national pride
- (3) For self-improvement

B. The transitional colonists

C. The Americans

II. Puritanism to Deism: The Religious Change

A. The essence of Puritanism

1. The origin and growth of Puritanism

- a. Elizabeth I's reign
- b. Purification of English Church from non-Scriptural elements

2. The influence of John Calvin

a. Institutes

b. Five Points of Calvinism (TULIP)

3. The creation of a theocracy

B. The Causes of Puritanism's Decline

1. Rising secularization
2. The Halfway Covenant

C. The revivals of the eighteenth century

1. The Great Awakening
2. The Second Great Awakening

D. The Rise of Deism

1. Beliefs

- a. Nonintervention of God in world
- b. Unfallen man
- c. Reward/Punishment in afterlife
- d. Elevation of man by education

2. Influence of documents

III. Colonies to Nation: The Political Change

A. Political Foundations

1. The limited rights of immigrants
2. The first govt. by compact

B. Colonial Unrest

1. Political restrictions on the colonies
2. Change in economic issues

C. American Independence

1. Sovereign individual states
2. Constitution (1789)

IV. Imitation to Maturity: The Literary Change

A. Literary Form

1. Imitative

2. Native

B. Subject matter

1. Personal

2. Religious

3. Political

C. World View

1. Spiritual Interpretation

2. Scientific observation

D. Literary Purpose

1. Religious Instruction

2. Secular Instruction

E. Style

1. Qualities of Style

a. Clarity

b. Simplicity of word choice +

c. Sarcasm of elaborate expression

d. Naturalness

2. Criticism of the Style

a. Religious subject matter

b. Didactic Purpose

c. Plain style