


Module 9: Nonfiction

Topic 2 Content: Authors of the Great American Novel

Introduction

Authors of the Great American Novel

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Some of the most highly praised novels in American literature have been referred to as the Great American Novel. What is a Great American Novel? It is a fiction novel that vividly captures American life and culture in a specific time and place. However, there is no single Great American Novel. Rather, it is more of an honorific title informally bestowed upon some of America's most cherished works of literature that provide a rich portrayal of a part of American society. People may disagree on which novels make the list, but very few deny the literary skill with which the most celebrated American authors have crafted their stories. In this interactivity, use the **NEXT** button or the numbered tabs to explore several writers who have authored a Great American Novel.

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James Fenimore Cooper

Authors of the Great American Novel

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Herman Melville

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Mark Twain

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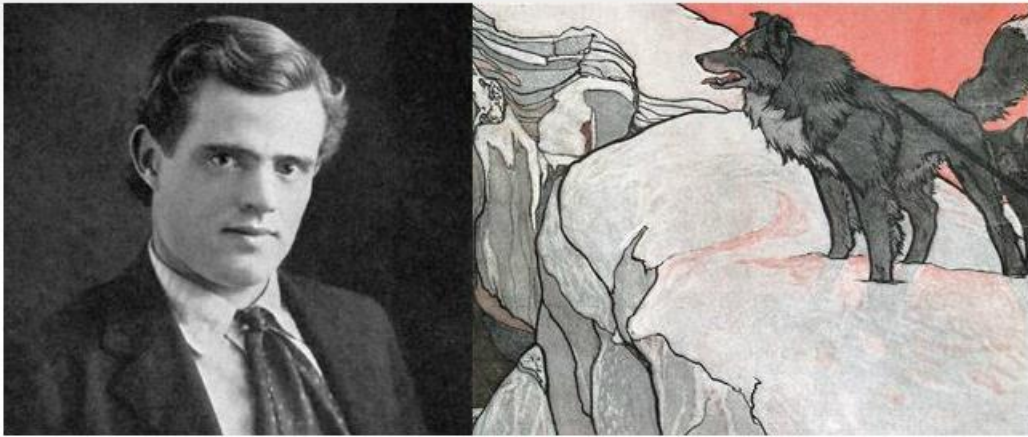
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Jack London

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F. Scott Fitzgerald

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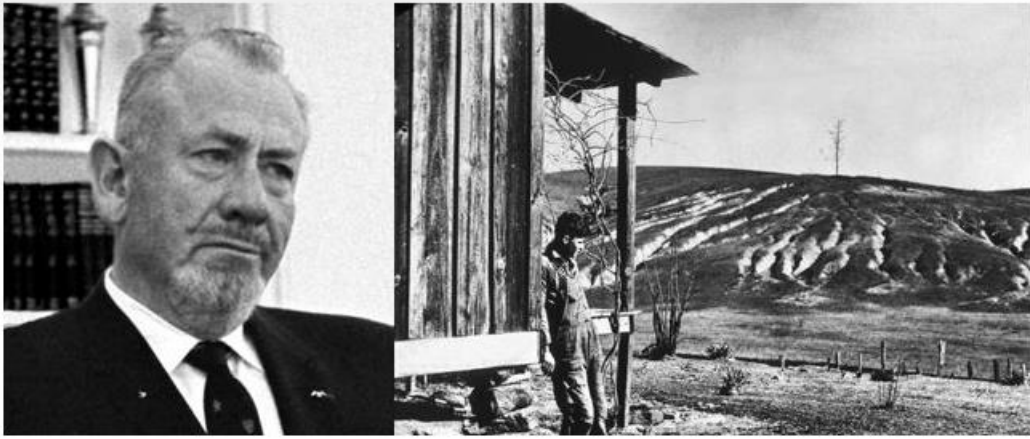
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John Steinbeck

Authors of the Great American Novel

John Steinbeck



John Steinbeck was born in California in 1902. His novel *The Grapes of Wrath* (1939) follows a poor family of Oklahoma farmers who migrate west during the Great Depression in hopes of escaping poverty and rebuilding their lives.

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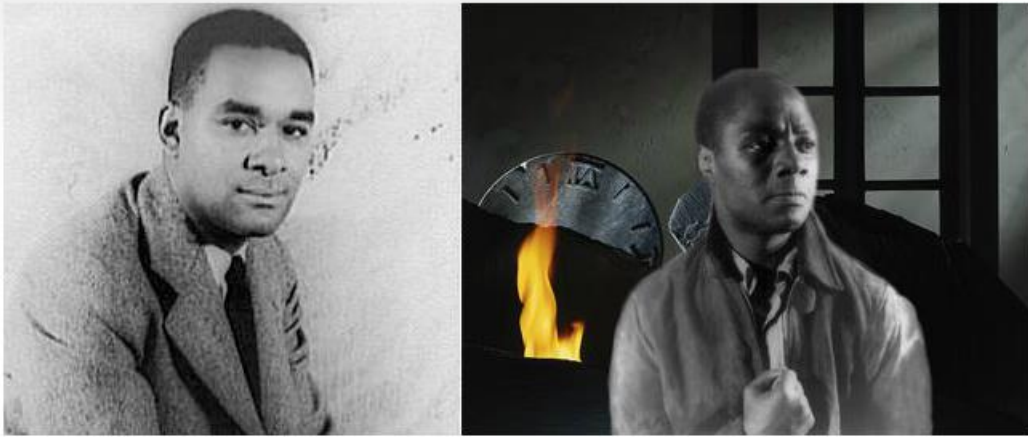
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Harper Lee

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