

LITERATURE TO KNOW

- 1) Literature has helped bring about reform in America
- 2) Literature raises awareness of cultural problems
- 3) Literature reflects the time periods it is written in

TITLE	AUTHOR	YEAR	IMPACT	ERA
<i>Common Sense</i> (non-fiction)	Thomas Paine	1775	Convinces many colonists that they can and should declare a war for independence	King George III of Britain is accused of being a tyrant . Colonists and England fight over taxation, representation, and commerce
<i>Uncle Tom's Cabin</i> (fiction)	Harriet Beecher Stowe	1852	Brought attention to horrors of slavery. Led to northerners disgust of slavery.	Sectionalism was rising in America over the issue of slavery. Many believed states should have sovereignty (choice) to allow slavery.
<i>Influence of Sea Power Upon History</i> (non-fiction)	A.T. Mahan	1890	Encouraged the United States to put a greater effort into creating a large navy. Ultimately leads to naval race with other countries before WWI.	The United States was beginning to step outside domestic borders and wanted to protect investments in Latin America. A strong navy was necessary.
<i>How the Other Half Lives</i> (fiction)	Jacob Riis	1890	Brought attention to the poor immigrant populations in cities. Led to reform in tenement housing.	Industrialization led to the growth of poor, urban populations. Over 15,000 tenements existed with filthy conditions.
<i>The Jungle</i> (fiction)	Upton Sinclair	1906	Written to expose working conditions of immigrants it exposed the horrors of the meatpacking industry and led to the Meat Inspection Act of 1906 .	Industrialism resulted in more production and demand for more goods. Quality/Sanitation was sacrificed for speed and output. Book highlighted gross practices.
<i>Silent Spring</i> (non-fiction)	Rachel Carson	1962	Led to the ban of DDT pesticides on American crops and showcased the detrimental affects chemicals had on wildlife.	Industrialism led to more large-scale farms and the use of pesticides to protect crops.
<i>Feminine Mystique</i> (non-fiction)	Betty Friedan	1963	Led to women's rights and the beginning of the end of women's "traditional roles" as housewives in the US.	Friedan surveyed women and found many were unhappy in life as housewives. She wrote about the "new age woman" - one who desired and could achieve more.
<i>Unsafe At Any Speed</i> (non-fiction)	Ralph Nader	1965	Nader exposed the dangers of poor vehicle construction and the adverse affects cars had on pollution. Led to new safety regulations such as seatbelts and safer suspensions.	In the later 1900's cars were being produced at a much faster rate. Manufacturers ignored the dangers of faulty or non-existent mechanisms in cars.

1) Which generalization most accurately describes the literary works of Langston Hughes, Sinclair Lewis, and John Steinbeck?

- A) Politics and art seldom mix well
- B) The best literature concerns the lives of the wealthy.
- C) Literature often reflects the times in which it is created
- D) Traditional American themes are the most popular.

2) *How the Other Half Lives*, Jacob Riis (1890) *The Jungle*, Upton Sinclair (1906) *The Grapes of Wrath*, John Steinbeck (1939) *Unsafe at Any Speed*, Ralph Nader (1965)

What has been the impact of these authors and their books on American society?

- A) Most Americans have developed a preference for escapist and romantic literature.
- B) Most American authors have adopted a conservative viewpoint
- C) American business has corrected poor conditions quickly.
- D) These works have had significant influence on social, political, and economic reforms.

3) *The Feminine Mystique* by Betty Friedan was an influential book in the 1960s because it:

- A) Helped strengthen family values
- B) Led directly to the defeat of the Equal Rights Amendment
- C) Energized a new women's rights movement
- D) Reinforced the importance of women's traditional roles

4) Which event of the early 1900's is evidence that Upton Sinclair's novel *The Jungle* had an important impact on the United States?

- A) Adoption of reforms in public education
- B) Passage of legislation limiting immigration
- C) Adoption of the 18th amendment establishing Prohibition
- D) Passage of legislation requiring Federal inspection of mea

5) Jacob Riis, in *How the Other Half Lives*, and Lincoln Steffens, in *The Shame of the Cities*, contributed to reform movements in the United States by:

- A) Exposing poverty and corruption
- B) Opposing westward expansion
- C) Criticizing racial injustice
- D) Supporting organized labor

6) Rachel Carson's book, *Silent Spring*, was successful in raising awareness for which of the following issues:

- A) Lynching of African Americans
- B) Exposing the problems of poverty
- C) Environmental concerns over pesticides
- D) Raising awareness for women's rights

BOOK

HISTORICAL CONTEXT

IMPACT