19th Century American Authors, Literature, Informational Texts, and Visual Representation

(Correlating to Cottonwood Middle School’s 8th Grade Language Arts textbook: The Elements of Literature)

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NEH Summer Institute 2009
Introduction and Rationale

Having participated in this year’s *Picturing Early America: People, Places, and Events 1770-1870*, a four-week-long summer institute on interpreting and teaching early American art, my goal for the upcoming 2009-2010 school year is to incorporate visual references to EACH of my 8th grade Language Arts literature lessons.

Being a Title One, low income school, our classroom materials are limited. We do have, however, classroom sets of the Holt textbook, *Elements of Literature*. The text contains fictional prose from the American authors Edgar Allen Poe, Mark Twain, and Nathanial Hawthorne. Additionally, the text also contains a nonfiction piece on Harriet Tubman and The Underground Railroad.
Goals

I have begun to build files with 19th century images of authors and illustrations of their works. These files will be available for any other teachers who would like to use them and who teach similar content in their English/Language Arts classrooms.

This Power Point is just the beginning presentation of my files.
National Endowment for the Humanities “Picturing America” Images

Because our district was awarded a set of these images, I hope to enrich our current Language Arts curriculum by creating lessons connecting the images to as many reading and writing activities as possible.

This endeavor to couple texts with images will be an ongoing, continuous process for me this year: I will need to find images of prints, paintings, and illustrations that are suitable and engaging for my students and pair them with activities that will extend and enrich our already existing texts.
These objectives would address the following Arizona Academic Standards in 8th Grade Language Arts:

**Strand 1: Reading Process**
**Concept 6: Comprehension Strategies**

PO 1. Predict text content using prior knowledge and text features (e.g., illustrations, titles, topic sentences, key words).

PO 5. Connect information and events in text to experience and to related text and sources.
Strand 2: Comprehending Literary Text
Concept 1: Elements of Literature
Concept 2: Historical and Cultural Aspects of Literature

PO 2. Compare (and contrast) themes across works of prose, poetry, and drama.
PO 5. Analyze the relevance of the setting (e.g., time, place, situation) to the mood and tone of the text.
PO 6. Draw conclusions about the style, mood, and meaning of literary text based on the author’s word choice.
PO 8. Identify various genres of fiction (e.g., mysteries, science fiction, historical fiction, adventures, fantasies, fables, myths) based upon their characteristics.
19th Century American Authors

James Fenimore Cooper (1789 – 1851) Burlington, New Jersey
Ralph Waldo Emerson (1803 – 1882) Boston, Massachusetts
Nathaniel Hawthorne (1804 – 1864) Salem, Massachusetts
Edgar Allen Poe (1809 -1849) Boston, Massachusetts
Harriet Beecher Stowe (1811-1896) Litchfield, Connecticut
Henry David Thoreau (1817 – 1862) Concord, Massachusetts
Mark Twain (1835 – 1910) Florida, Missouri
First photograph
Joseph Niépce, 1826

“The First Photograph, housed in its original presentational frame and sealed within an atmosphere of inert gas in an airtight steel and plexiglas storage frame, must be viewed under controlled lighting in order for its image to be visible. In general, this procedure also requires viewing within a darkened environment free of other incidental light sources. This effect, suggestive of Gernsheim's first viewing of the mirror-like effect of the pewter plate, attempts to give each viewer the chance to experience the effect of discovery.”

Harry Ranson Center, University of Texas
Images of Edgar Allen Poe (1809-1849)

Stillman engraving, 1845
The best-known image of Edgar Allan Poe was a daguerreotype taken in 1848 by W.S. Hartshorn.
Photograph, 1848
Only known full-length photo of Poe, from a daguerreotype in the Lilly Library, Indiana University, n.d.
1860 portrait
TALES OF MYSTERY, IMAGINATION, & HUMOUR.
By EDGAR ALLAN POE.
SECOND SERIES.
ILLUSTRATED WITH SIXTEEN ENGRAVINGS ON WOOD.
Images from Edgar Allen Poe’s “The Raven”

Dore Illustration, 1884
The Tales of Edgar Allen Poe

Tales of the Folio Club
1832-1836, unpublished as a collection. The tales were printed separately.

The Narrative of Arthur Gordon Pym
1838 — PYM

Tales of the Grotesque and Arabesque
1840, volume I and volume II — TGA

Phantasy Pieces
1842, unpublished second edition of Tales of G&A — TGAPP

The Prose Romances of Edgar A. Poe
1843 — PRRMS

Tales by Edgar A. Poe
1845, TALES

J. Lorimer Graham copy of Tales
Poe’s personal copy of TALES, with numerous several important corrections and changes, TALES-JLG

The Works of the Late Edgar Allan Poe
1850, volume I: Tales and volume II: Poems and Miscellanies; and 1856, volume IV: Arthur Gordon Pym, &c. — WORKS
Images of Mark Twain
(1835-1910)

Coburn photograph, 1908
“Well, I don’t see why I oughtn’t to like it. Does a boy get a chance to whitewash a fence every day?”
"He spied the beetle; the drooping tail lifted and wagged."
“Lemme see him, Huck. My, he’s pretty stiff!”
"The master's arm performed until it was tired and the stock of switches notably diminished."
"He meow'd with caution once or twice."