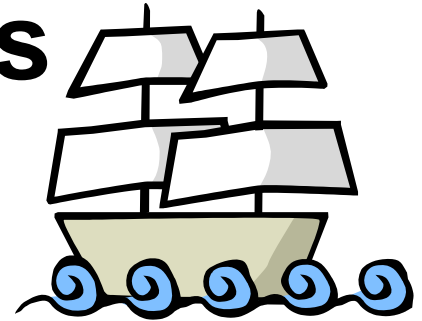


# Pilgrims and Puritans

## Plymouth Colony



- Mayflower, 1620 → Plymouth Colony
- Passengers were **Puritans** who were critical of the Church of England.
- Left England for Holland then came here.
- Later called “**Pilgrims**” by William Bradford.
  - In the past: tried to purify the Church from within
  - Became known as Separatists: chose to withdraw from the Church.
- Eventually, Plymouth Colony was absorbed by Massachusetts Bay Colony

# Massachusetts Bay Colony--1630

- Like Plymouth, MBC was founded by Puritans who wanted religious reform.
- Led by [John Winthrop](#) on the *Arbella*
- Unlike Separatists because they wanted to reform the church from within.
- Established a **theocracy**
- Settlements in Boston, Charlestown, Watertown, Lynn, Medford, etc.
- Poet Anne Bradstreet came on the *Arbella*.



# The Puritans' Grand Purpose



“We shall be as a City upon a Hill, the eyes of all people are upon us; so that if we shall deal falsely with our God in this work we have undertaken and so cause him to withdraw his present help from us, we shall be made a story and a by-word through the world.”

-John Winthrop, Governor of the  
Massachusetts Bay Colony

# Pilgrims and Puritans

## Values and Beliefs

- Humans exist for the glory of God.
- Natural depravity (wickedness) of humans
- The Bible is the sole expression of God's will.
- Predestination (Calvinism): God has already determined an individual's salvation
- Hard work, self-discipline ("Puritan Ethic")
- Education (The Puritans founded Harvard.)

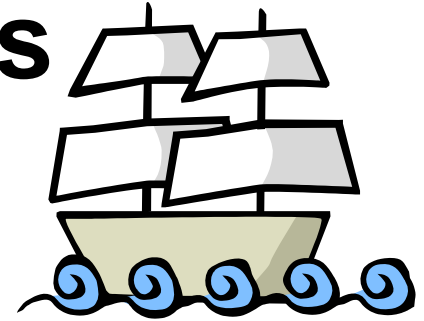


# How does Predestination work?

- No one knows if they are “chosen,” so all devout Puritans searched their souls with great rigor and frequency for signs of grace.
- The “elect” that would be saved could not take election for granted. They were supposed to live as if they knew they were the predestined for salvation.

# Pilgrims and Puritans

## Rationale



- Mayflower, 1620 → Plymouth Colony
- Passengers were **Puritans** who were critical of the Church of England.
- Later called “**Pilgrims**” by William Bradford.
  - tried to purify the Church from within
  - chose to withdraw from the Church.
    - Because of this, they became known as **Separatists**

# Rationale continued

- What was the Puritans' Purpose?
- Hoped to establish the Massachusetts Bay Colony as a “city upon a hill,” a model community guided in all aspects by the Bible

# Puritan Form of Government

- The Puritan community was a ***theocracy***, a government which blends church and state.
- The church's officials were the government's officials. Thus, church and state were not separate.



# The Decline of Puritanism Followed by the Great Awakening



By the early 1700s, people were attracted to more liberal Protestant groups.

## Great Awakening: 1720

- Series of religious revivals—conservative reaction to the “Enlightenment”
  - Led in part by Jonathan Edwards
  - Preaching and religion itself became more emotional
- Strict Puritanism was seen as “old fashioned,” but “the ideals of hard work, frugality, self-improvement, and self-reliance are still regarded as basic American virtues” (8).

# Puritan Literature

- Wrote theological studies, hymns, histories, biographies and autobiographies with the purpose of spiritual insight and instruction.
- Fiction and Drama = Sin
- Puritans did write poetry as a vehicle for spiritual enlightenment and moral instruction.

# Puritan Literature

- The writing style of the Puritans reflected the plain style of their lives – spare, simple, straightforward.
- **Puritan Plain Style** → characterized by short words, direct statements, and references to ordinary, everyday objects.

# Preview

- Literature of the Colonies
  - from *The General History of Virginia* by John Smith
  - from *A Description of New England*
  - from *Of Plymouth Plantation* by William Bradford
  - Captivity narratives

# 5 main points of Puritan ideology (beliefs)

- total depravity
- unconditional election
- limited atonement
- irresistible grace
- perseverance of saints

# Puritan Literature

- Poetry of Anne Bradstreet, Edward Taylor
- “Sinners in the Hands of an Angry God,” a sermon by Jonathan Edwards
- *Of Plymouth Plantation* – a journal by William Bradford

## Literature set but not written during the Puritan period:

- *The Scarlet Letter* by Nathaniel Hawthorne (Romantic period – 1850)
- *The Crucible* by Arthur Miller (1953 – reaction to McCarthyism)

# Apostrophe

- a figure of speech in which a speaker directly addresses a person who is dead or physically not present, a personified object, a non-human thing, or an abstract concept, such as God.
  - Example: “To My Dear and Loving Husband”

# Puritan Plain Style

- Puritan's sole purpose for writing was for moral instruction
- The writing style reflected the plain style of their lives—sparse, simple, straightforward
- Puritan Plain Style is characterized by short words, direct statements, and references to ordinary everyday objects.



# Puritan Plain Style

- **Puritan plain style:** an aesthetic that influenced the written language, architecture and other design, and the visual arts in early America. Characteristics of plain style writing include 1) artful simplicity, 2) accessibility, 3) an absence of rhetorical ornamentation, and 4) the presence of didactic (instructional) intent.

# “Self”

- They always believed they could improve themselves (the “self”) to help the community and be the people they were intended to be.
- Connection to hyphens:
  - Self-esteem ( a respect for oneself)
  - Self-assured (be sure of oneself)
  - Self-examination (reflect on oneself)
  - Self-discipline (avoid sin and temptation)

# Bandwagon effect

- Well documented form of ***groupthink***
- As more people begin to believe in something, others also “hop on the bandwagon” regardless of any underlying evidence.

# Bandwagon Effect

- Example:
  - “New World” becomes “New Eden”
    - Reports spread about the new world and were mainly exaggerations
    - People “hopped on the bandwagon” because they were desperate for a better world.
    - Because of this, more people begin to arrive and more permanent settlements were established.

# Additional Literary Terms

- Extended metaphor: a metaphor that takes up a larger space to complete a thought
- Introspection: looking w/in oneself, often used in the form of diaries by Puritans
- Inversion: Opposite of the normal syntactical structure of a sentence, switches the subject and the verb. Ex. "Ready are you?" (Yoda 😊)

# Additional Literary Terms

- Slant rhyme: like an "almost rhyme"
- Paradox: self-contradicting statement
- Hyperbole: extreme exaggeration
- Allusion: to make a reference within a passage to something literary, historic, classical, or BIBLICAL

# Literary Conceit

- A literary and rhetorical term for an elaborate or strained figure of speech, usually a metaphor or simile.
- a fanciful, particularly clever extended metaphor that takes a lot of thought and is played out over a large space. not too obvious, usually associated w/ metaphysical poetry. (edward taylor= weaving conceit)

# Example of Conceit

- "In general one may say that a juxtaposition of [images](#) and comparisons between very dissimilar objects is a common form of **conceit** in the 17th c. and the so-called *metaphysical conceit* is the kind that most readily springs to mind. A famous example is [John] Donne's "A Valediction Forbidding Mourning." He is comparing two lovers' souls:
- If they be two, they are two so  
As stiff twin compasses are two;  
Thy soul, the fix'd foot, makes no show  
To move, but doth, if th' other do.

And though it in the centre sit,  
Yet, when the other far doth roam,  
It leans, and hearkens after it,  
And grows erect, as that comes home.

Such wilt thou be to me, who must,  
Like th' other foot, obliquely run;  
Thy firmness makes my circle just,  
And makes me end where I begun.



# Imagery

- **Imagery:** a figure of speech in which abstract ideas are described with vivid language in order to make those abstractions concrete for the reader. In everyday speech, we associate the word *image* with visual pictures, but in literature, imagery may refer to other senses or associations as well.

# Irony

- **An incongruity between appearance and reality.**
- **Verbal irony: when what is said is different from what is meant**
- **Situational irony: when what happens is the opposite of what one would expect.**
- **Dramatic irony: when the audience knows something significant that the characters do not know**