

# Puritan Literature

Presented this \_\_\_ th day of \_\_\_ in Puritan-appropriate black and white.  
Please do not enjoy.

# Puritans



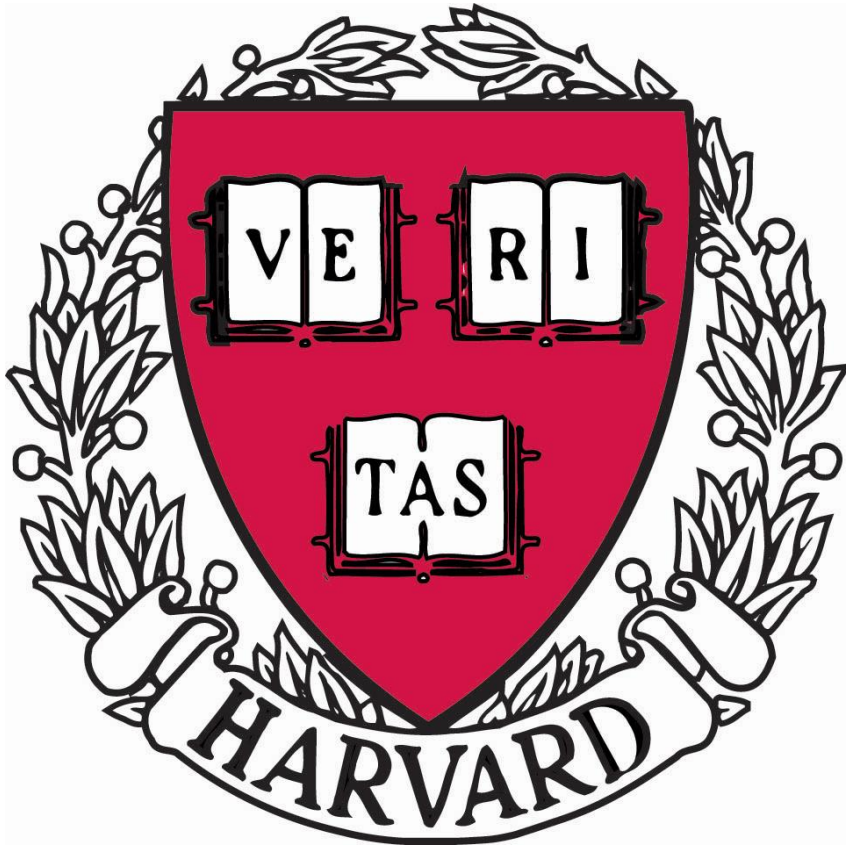
- Originated in England
- Sought to purify the Church of England
- Persecuted in England because of their strident beliefs
- Fled England and initially relocated in Holland (but then later, America)

# Some Puritan Terms

- Theocracy – government based on the word of God
- Puritan Paradox – fled England to escape persecution, yet proceeded to persecute others in the New World
- Original Sin – the belief that every human is born in sin and therefore all humans are innately sinful
- Predestination – the belief that God saves only a chosen few – “The Elect”; you strive to live a decent, sin-free life in order to insure your place in heaven should you be among “The Elect”
- Saved by Grace – the belief that a person can be “saved” (go to Heaven) through the grace of God.

# Core Puritan Values

(not necessarily bad)



- Hard work
- Simplicity in all aspects of life (dress, behavior, speech)
- Self-reliance
- Education (Puritans established Harvard College in 1636)

# TRAITS OF WRITING

1. Simple
2. Often religious (Biblically based)
3. Very few figures of speech/literary devices (metaphors, “flowery” language)

**Examples:** --journals

--poems

--sermons

# Anne Bradstreet (1612-1672)

- Born into a **Puritan** family and, at 16, married a zealous Puritan and moved to the New World
- Kept house and raised 4 boys and 4 girls
- Physically weak from illness and other New World hardships
- **Wrote poems privately without seeking an audience or publication**
- **Unbeknownst to her, Bradstreet's brother-in-law took her poems to England and had them published**
- Many in Puritan society criticized Bradstreet for being a poet, deeming it an inappropriate craft
- **now called "America's First Poet"**
- **her work reflects her love for family, home, and daily life**



# Jonathan Edwards (1703-1758)

- Believe religion was an “emotional” experience
- Entered what is now Yale at age of 12
- Aided in converting many to Christianity
- Preached nearly 1200 sermons as part of a revival movement known as “**the Great Awakening**” (1734-1750)
- Near the end of his life, was appointed as president of what is now Princeton U.

