

Bridging the Gap

Timeline

**Frankenstein* 1818
The Scarlet Letter 1850
**A Tale of Two Cities* 1859

American Civil War 1861-1865

World War I 1914-1918 (1917-1918)

The Great Gatsby 1925
Of Mice and Men 1937

World War II 1939-1945 (1941-1945)

Fahrenheit 451 1953
**Night* 1956

GAP

American Transcendentalism
(Henry David Thoreau, Ralph Waldo Emerson,
Walt Whitman)

GAP

The Gilded Age
Mark Twain, Kate Chopin, et al

Stream of Consciousness
"An Occurrence at Owl Creek Bridge"

Natural Realism
"To Build a Fire" by Jack London

Bridging the Gap

The Gilded Age

Gild

- Gild – to cover with a thin layer of gold
 - Decorative process
 - Materials such as wood and metal are covered with a thin layer of gold leaf.



Gild

- Gilding the lily
- The Gilded Age, 1870s – 1910s
 - "What is the chief end of man?--to get rich. In what way?-dishonestly if we can; honestly if we must."- Mark Twain, 1871

The Gilded Age

- “Woe to you, teachers of the law and Pharisees, you hypocrites! You are like whitewashed tombs, which look beautiful on the outside but on the inside are full of the bones of the dead and everything unclean. In the same way, on the outside you appear to people as righteous but on the inside you are full of hypocrisy and wickedness.”

Matthew 23:27-28

The golden part...

- Rapid economic growth
- Advances in industry, technology, medicine
- Rags-to-riches
 - Andrew Carnegie (steel)
 - John D. Rockefeller (oil)
 - Cornelius Vanderbilt (railroad)
- New money
 - Rejected by Old Money

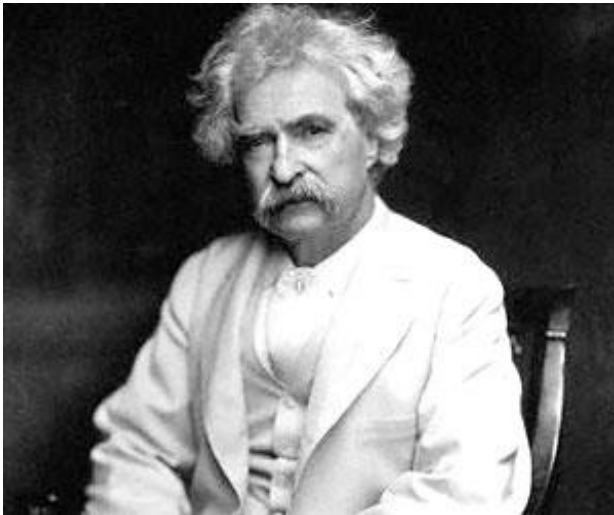


Beneath the thin layer of gold...

- Corruption
- Organized crime
- Child labor
- Poverty
- Inequality (especially among immigrants)



Writers of the Gilded Age



Mark Twain (satire)



Kate Chopin
(short story,
feminist ideals)