PURITAN AUTHOR

COMPARE AND CONTRAST CHART
INTRODUCTION

• Essential Question: How have colonial and Puritan ethics shaped us as modern Americans?

• In this chart-inspired assignment, six Puritan-era authors’ works will be synopsized, analyzed and evaluated upon their impact and relevancy in the 21st Century. This task will not be without its difficulties. I am at liberty to say that the exact time of my writing this very line is 6:55 pm........ Moving on...

• The basic layout consists of two slides dedicated to each author, one for the three areas that will assessed, these being writing style, overall content, and their respective biographies, along with sufficient support. The second slide will be devoted towards summarizing the previous slide and assigning that author a “grade”, much like the scale used today, with an “A” to an “F” with + - in between.

• After the next 12 slides, there will be an additional slide to wholly summarize this assignment and to review the most relevant author.

• The order will the that in which they were discussed in class: Bradford to Taylor.
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<th>Writing Style</th>
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<td>William Bradford was a simple man, or so his writing tells us. He used broad, user-friendly lingo and phrasing. He was also very direct in the way he included his faith. With his “plain” style, he read more like a textbook than a hardy man of action in an untamed land of myth. Since he had the knowledge that his writings would be read and spread about the civilized world, he was not that inclined to veer off with emotions and opinion, only did he veer as his road did. He uses third person, as well. Bradford’s overall content can be summed up with as “monkey see, monkey write”. Clearly, this statement is a poke at Bradford, for his works were verbatim recordings of the events and circumstances (as per God) of his ventures in America. As aforementioned, he does not include personal input at all in his scrawls, well, other than that of his fervor with God. He uses common vocabulary that conveys the events to a common reader commonly. Quite unlike modern literature.</td>
<td>William Bradford was born in Yorkshire, England to a prosperous farming family. He received an education only to the level necessary to function on the farm. He joined a small group of Nonconformists who would later venture to the New World from persecution. Here, in America, Bradford became a prominent governor and led his group to prosperity. His story is one of almost “rags-to-riches” and diligence in his religious quest. His tale feels very much modern American, from “poverty to Pulitzer”, so to speak.</td>
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WILLIAM BRADFORD VERDICT

• In total, William Bradford was a dedicated, guided leader in a time of need for his faith and his world at large, or getting larger. He wrote as he lived, simple yet enduring, as can be assumed as his intent. He did not stray from his purpose and provided a solid firsthand account of the journey from English rural to American urban, as a way of speaking. His life is surprisingly modern, but his writings are still archaic. So very…archaic.

• VERDICT: C-
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<td>Mary Rowlandson expresses her narrative with the similar adherence to simplicity as Bradford, but frequently delves into her emotions and personal notes throughout. She speaks of her faith as a guiding force and a force to test her piety. Her word choice is often flat, yet she expands occasionally to provide her potential readers with more to truly understand her predicament. And also, she writes in the first person and chronicles her struggles in a personal reflection format.</td>
<td>Rowlandson’s overall content was expanded from that of William Bradford, with more intimate details of feelings and reactions. She included now-modern devices such as attitude and allegory, both of which are on display. She includes God often, but only to remind herself that she is not abandoned, only tested. Unlike Bradford, who puts God as evidence for everything beneficial. Rowlandson conveys her content well, with more engaging details, extenuating her relevance.</td>
<td>Mary Rowlandson was born in America and lived in Lancaster, a rough settlement west of Boston. In 1676, her town was raided by the local Wampanoag as part of “King Phillip’s war” and she and her children were kidnapped and held as hostages, waiting for a ransom. After nearly 4 months, she was released and only lived two more years afterward. Her narrative was published and began a series of usually fictional imitators. Her life is less like that of modern Americans, and more like that of an unfortunate individual in an unstable nation.</td>
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In summary, Mary Rowlandson is an exemplary Puritan author with extended styling and colorful content in her tale of misfortune. She uses her experiences to use as a conduit for her faith, as she believes as a trial, as in the Bible. But at the same time, we see her reactions and emotions as she migrates, waiting to return to her people.

**VERDICT:** C+
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<td>Jonathan Edwards had a vivid, persuasive approach to his writings, utilizing strong metaphors and wicked descriptions of a fervent subject that Puritans do not take lightly. He executes his purpose with fiery vocabulary and intent, literally. He used fear and spiteful phrasing to instill his purpose in a strikingly modern way. Though in this modern age, his methodology would be labeled extremist, much like Jim Jones and his Peoples’ Temple. His words still reverberate though.</td>
<td>Edwards includes intense religious fervor and intelligence in his sermon. “O sinner!” Even three centuries before any modern musical artist, he knew how to make a nice hook. And also how to hold his audience to his will, and have them quickly heed his message. As before mentioned, he instilled fear and unsettlement in his listeners with his piercing imagery and comparisons. As he was a graduate of Harvard, he definitely had the intellect and ability to convey his.</td>
<td>Edwards was born in the 18th century, after Puritanism was fully established, and he was caught between a developing nation and a way of life on its last leg. Unfortunately, he didn’t really fit into either one. He was intelligent, insightful and moderate. Though he is remembered for his strongly-worded, hellish sermon, he had more depth. His story is very much American, with his higher education and practical application, helping others find their place in the grace of God.</td>
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JONATHAN EDWARDS VERDICT

- In synopsis, Jonathan Edwards was a well-rounded preacher who had more depth than his fire-and-brimstone legacy. He instilled the concept of “scaring the hell out of someone”. His life story of a college education and using his talents to his people as a preacher, helping others in his community and ultimately his world, even to us.

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<td>Anne Bradstreet has a unique approach to her style, being that she is a poet and not a novelist or “historian”. She writes using inversions, which allow her to fit the meter she has picked for her poem. Her poem is full of extended metaphors and imagery regarding her misfortune and ultimate, hopeful transmission of her new house of God. Her word choice is beyond her predecessors and set the standard for those who came after, like Edward Taylor.</td>
<td>Bradstreet uses the event of her house catastrophe as a vivid topic for a poem. After she describes her losses, she counts her blessings and gazes into the heavens, finding fortune in the grace of God. Her lines are filled with rhythm and detail and convey her purpose and intent quite well. But using a healthy dose of God, just like Bradford before her. Therefore, she is not completely revolutionizing.</td>
<td>Anne Bradstreet was the first American poet, and she was published against her knowledge and it cemented her in history. Born in England and educated like that of a man, she had already set herself apart, and she brought the poetic style with her to the New World. As a Puritan, she was happily vested in the grace of God, like authors of her lifetime. Her story is uncommon for the modern American, but not unheard of.</td>
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In whole, Anne Bradstreet was a special individual, both pious and educated, who brought poetry to America and set the stage for later poets in history. Were it not for a loving brother-in-law’s efforts, she would have never been realized. The world is thankful for this. Her poetry was straightforward, but since it was the first, no one is angry.

VERDICT: B
### Writing Style

William Byrd was special. Why? Because he used a novel concept called sarcasm! In his writings, he mocked and poked fun at the topics he discussed. He used sufficient detail and a almost comical insight. Even though both Bradford and Byrd wrote about the same thing, their tones were polarly opposite. Bradford dictated his encounters, while Byrd sat back and manipulated his words to find a hidden effect in his content. His style is quite modern, or modern style is based on his work.

### Overall Content

Byrd’s words are witty and shrewd and appear to focus on one thing, but actually affect a whole different party. Sarcasm is a very prevalent concept included in nearly all modern writings. Byrd was brilliantly ahead of his time and is surprisingly relevant in his ideas. Byrd also writes about topics that are even a little toasty today such as intermarriage and tolerance. Allow me to delve into opinion and say that as I read one of Byrd’s works, it felt very modern. I know by this time “modern” is so overused. Byrd’s words are witty and shrewd and appear to focus on one thing, but actually affect a whole different party. Sarcasm is a very prevalent concept included in nearly all modern writings. Byrd was brilliantly ahead of his time and is surprisingly relevant in his ideas. Byrd also writes about topics that are even a little toasty today such as intermarriage and tolerance. Allow me to delve into opinion and say that as I read one of Byrd’s works, it felt very modern. I know by this time “modern” is so overused.

### Biography Details

Byrd was born into wealth in Virginia, and lived and learned in England for half his life. He split his time between London and his home in Virginia. Though Byrd was considered Puritan, he was more concerned with his own matters than those of the Divine. He had a interest in women and flirtation. This life styling help him craft his barbed lines in his works that helped shape history’s “insight literature”, kind of like satire. I speak in terms that I use exclusively. Byrd was a special one.
In recap, Mr. William Byrd was a visionary of sorts, a man with who used novel concepts with old fashioned intellect and wit to craft an indelible system of literary storytelling. He melded the feelings of the philosophers with the history of the world he lived in and again the world changed for the better. His tale is indeed a tale of two cities. But one world.

VERDICT: A
Edward Taylor was a crafty fella. He wrote compelling poetry based upon several powerful literary devices. These include the parable, a short story contrived from daily life used to teach a lesson, conceit, a startling metaphor that compares two unlike things in an almost twisted way, and the paradox, a statement that contradicts itself. His writing is organized and meaningful with religious context. He uses archaic language to set a certain mood of age in his poem.

Taylor’s poem is built upon a strong religious subtext and conveys it effectively, though using aged vocabulary. He also uses much symbolism to strengthen his already solid literary platform. His brilliance is almost invisible to the first-time reader. “God is greater than Satan” one could say. Taylor hints in his poem that the temptations of sin and hell are almost unbearable to the unsaved worshipper. In a way, as well, his writing is somewhat composed like a nursery rhyme. Modern.

Taylor was born into a Nonconformist household in England. In 1668, he sailed off to Boston and America, with letters of recommendation in his hands. With the help of several esteemed figures, he enrolled at Harvard. After this, he became a pastor in Westfield, Mass., where he spent the remainder of his life, writing poetry. After his death, his work was not published, as per his wishes, but filed away. After 200 years, they were uncovered and released, and the impact was profound and instant. Textbooks were rewritten and poetry flourished. How’s that for modern?
EDWARD TAYLOR VERDICT

• In conclusion, Edward Taylor was a gifted poet from whom the world didn’t know it. That just rhymed. Anyway, he wrote several influential works, incorporating many powerful terms and techniques, still relevant today. He changed the course of history, and is still doing it today. And will continue. Until another big name suddenly appears 200 years later. Doubtful.

• VERDICT: **B+**
DANS L'EXAMEN DE CETTE AFFECTATION

• In review of this assignment, (as is stated in the title in French) six Puritan authors have been put under the microscope and analyzed for their relevancy in the current era. Some authors did better than others. In the end, only one can stand ahead of the rest as “the most relevant Puritan author that we studied this semester thus far”. The following is just that; along with the reason, followed by the other authors and their grades:

• **WINNER:** William Byrd with a grade of **A**…

• Mr. William Byrd was a visionary of sorts, a man with who used novel concepts with old fashioned intellect and wit to craft an indelible system of literary storytelling. He melded the feelings of the philosophers with the history of the world he lived in and again the world changed for the better. His tale is indeed a tale of two cities. But one world.

• The runner-ups:
  
  Anne Bradstreet       B       Edward Taylor       B+
  
  William Bradford       C-       Jonathan Edwards       B
  
  Mary Rowlandson       C+
Thanks for watching!