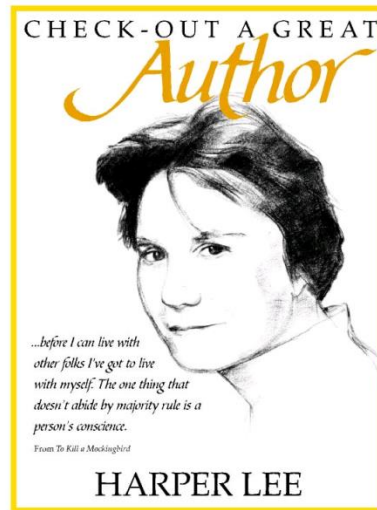


To Kill A Mockingbird

Nelle Harper Lee

Historical and Literary Context for the Novel



F404: TA-1

Tuesday 11:50-1:15

Instructor: Donna Carducci Macurdy

dfmacurdy@verizon.net

Agenda: Day 2

Historical/Literary Context for To Kill A Mockingbird

1. Admin Stuff

- * Announcements: Class Liason
- * Lecture: Historical/Literary Framework for Novel
 - * All read Chapters 1-5 for discussion next meeting

2. Icebreaker Activity: Literary Perspective

Focus: Authors, like Lee, who only published one novel
Question: Why did Lee stop writing?

3. Lecture: Notes on:

- Novel – To Kill A Mockingbird
 - Historical Context:
 - TKM (1930's) and the Civil Rights Era (1950's/1960's)
 - Literary Context: Modernism/Post Modernism

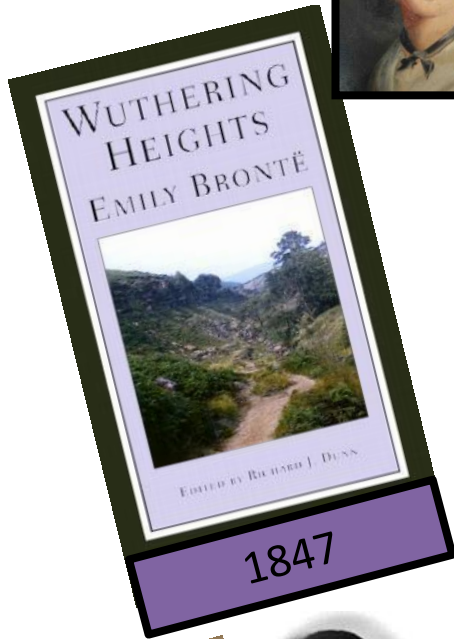
4. Viewing: Hey Boo (A Film by Mary Murphy)

Focus: Hollywood (The making of the movie) Time: (8:53)

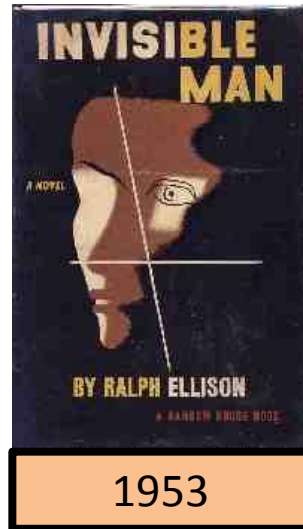
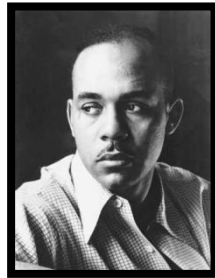
Authors who only published one novel



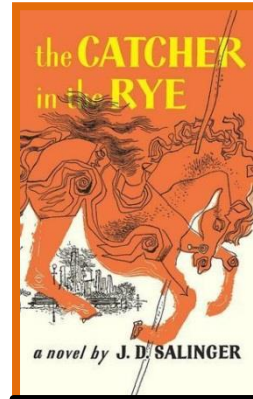
National
Book
Award
for
Fiction
1953



1847



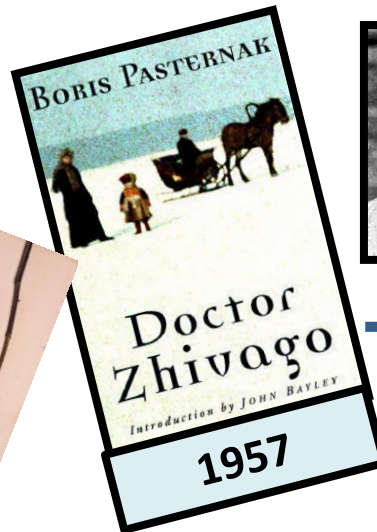
1953



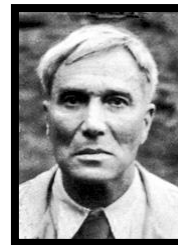
1951



Pulitzer
Prize
1982



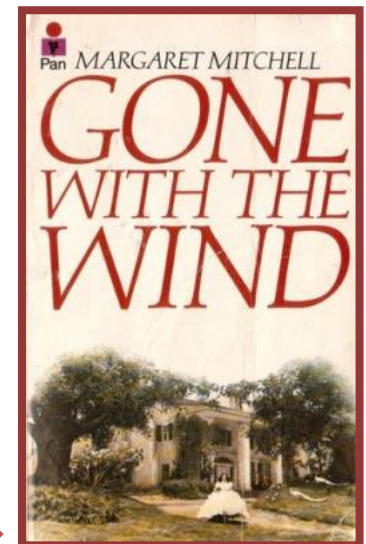
1957



Nobel
Prize
1958



Pulitzer
Prize
1937



1936

TKM and The Civil Rights Era

1930's

Scottsboro Trials
1931-1937

1931-1937
Harper Lee
5-11 years old
during
Scottsboro
Trials

1930's
Tom Robinson Trial
In
To Kill A
Mockingbird

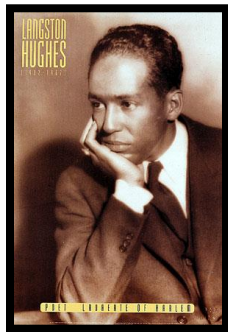


The Scottsboro Boys with their lawyer and guards
(UPI photo, March, 1933).

Parallels Between The Scottsboro Trials and Tom Robinson's Trial

1. Took place in the 1930s
2. Took place in northern Alabama
3. Began with a charge of rape against 9 black men on charges of having raped two white women in a freight car passing through Alabama
4. Poor white status of the accusers was a critical issue
5. Central figure was a heroic judge, a member of the Alabama Bar who overturns a guilty jury verdict against African American men.
6. Judge goes against public sentiment in trying to protect the rights of the African American defendants.
7. First juries fail to include any African Americans, a situation which caused the U.S. Supreme Court to overturn the guilty verdict.
8. Jury ignores evidence i.e., that the women suffered no injuries.
9. Attitudes about Southern women and poor whites complicate the trial

1. Occurs in the 1930s
2. Takes place in southern Alabama
3. Begins with a charge of rape made by a white woman against an African American man
4. The poor white status of Mayella is a critical issue.
5. A central figure is Atticus, lawyer, legislator and member of the Alabama Bar, who defends an African American man.
6. Atticus arouses anger in the community in trying to defend Tom Robinson.
7. The verdict is rendered by a jury of poor white residents of Old Sarum.
8. The jury ignores evidence, for example, that Tom has a useless left arm.
9. Attitudes about Southern women and poor whites complicate the trial of Tom Robinson.



Excerpt from Langston Hughes,
Scottsboro Limited,
Four Poems and a Play in Verse
Golden Stair Press 1932

The Town of Scottsboro

Scottsboro's just a little place
No shame is write across its face
Its courts too weak to stand
against a mob,
Its people's heart, too small to
hold a sob.

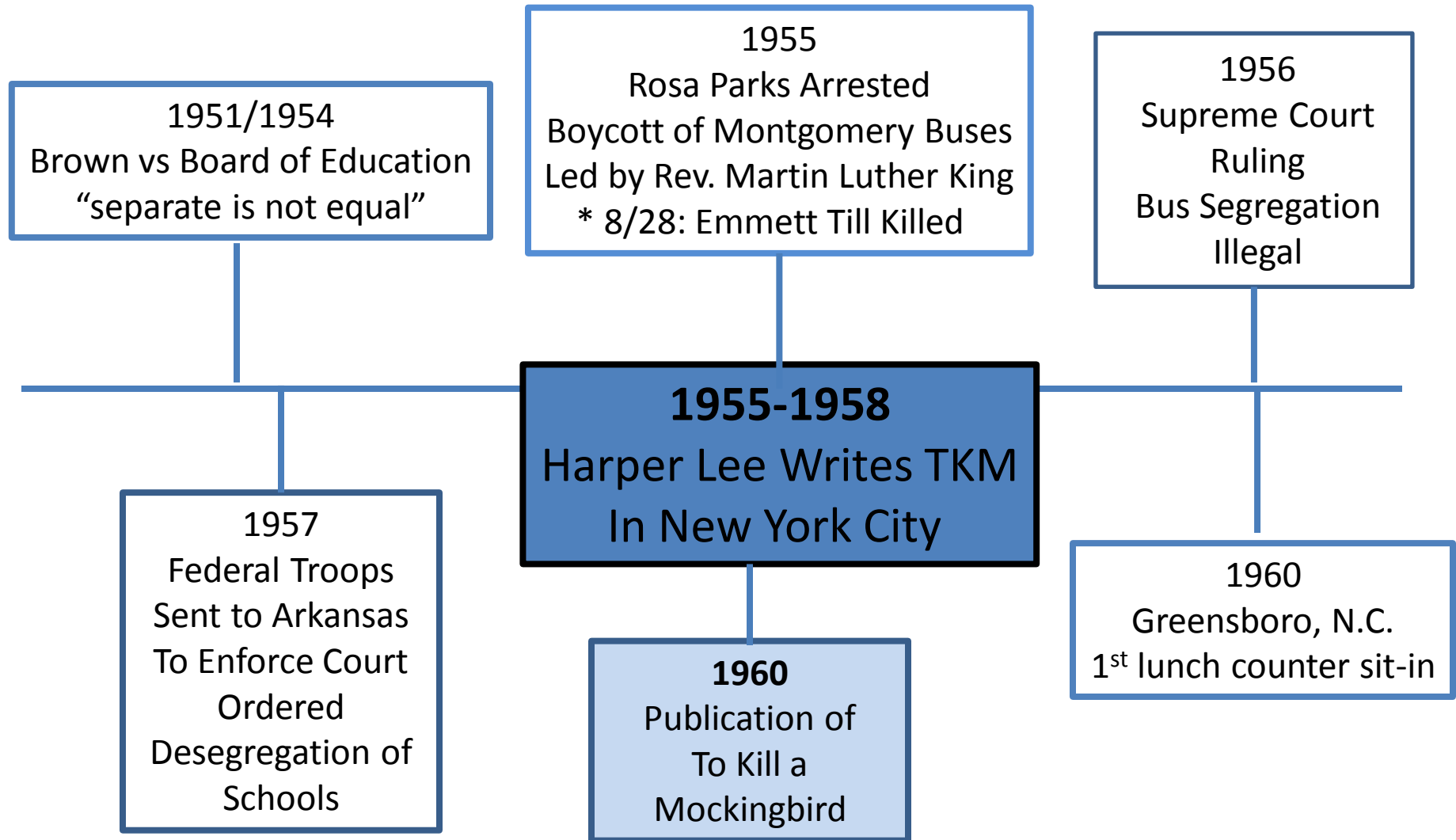
2006 Movie: Scottsboro Trials
Trailer: Heavens Fall



http://www.imdb.com/video/withoutabox/vi162923289?ref_=tt_pv_vi_1

TKM and the Civil Rights Era

1950's

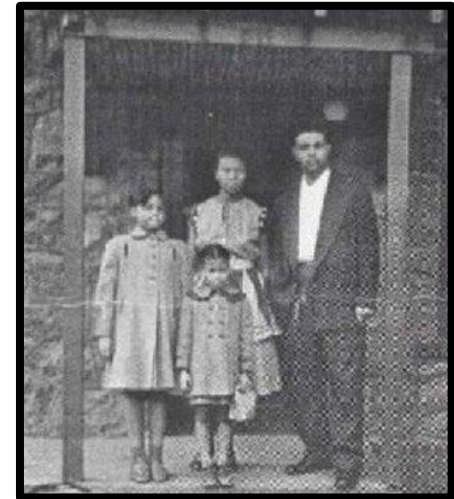


1951

Brown et al. v. Board of Education of Topeka, Kansas



Esther Brown



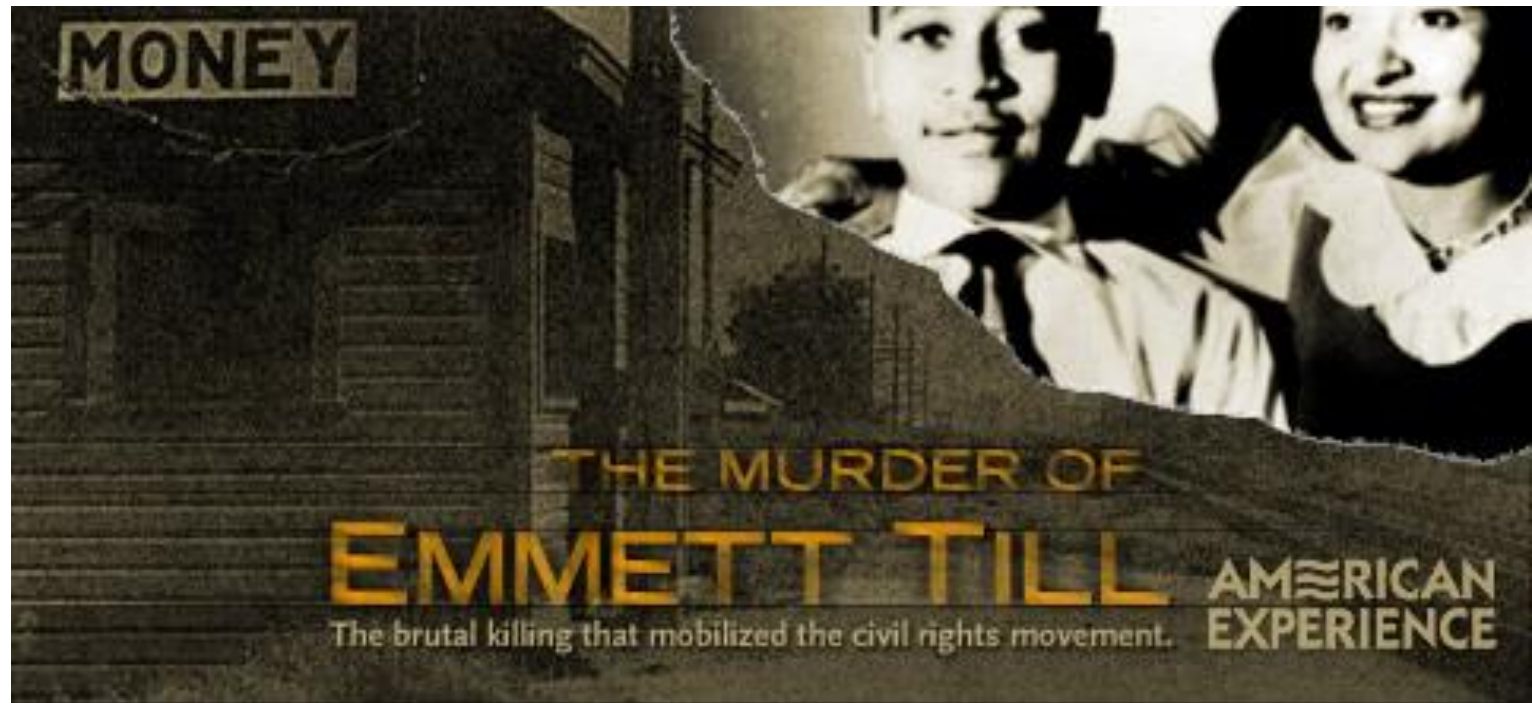
**Oliver Brown
and Family**

Federal district court judges Arthur J. Mellott, Delmas C. Hill, and Walter A. Huxman (left to right) handed down their decision on the Brown case in June 1951.

(Courtesy of Library, United States Court of Appeals for the Tenth Circuit, Denver, Colorado)

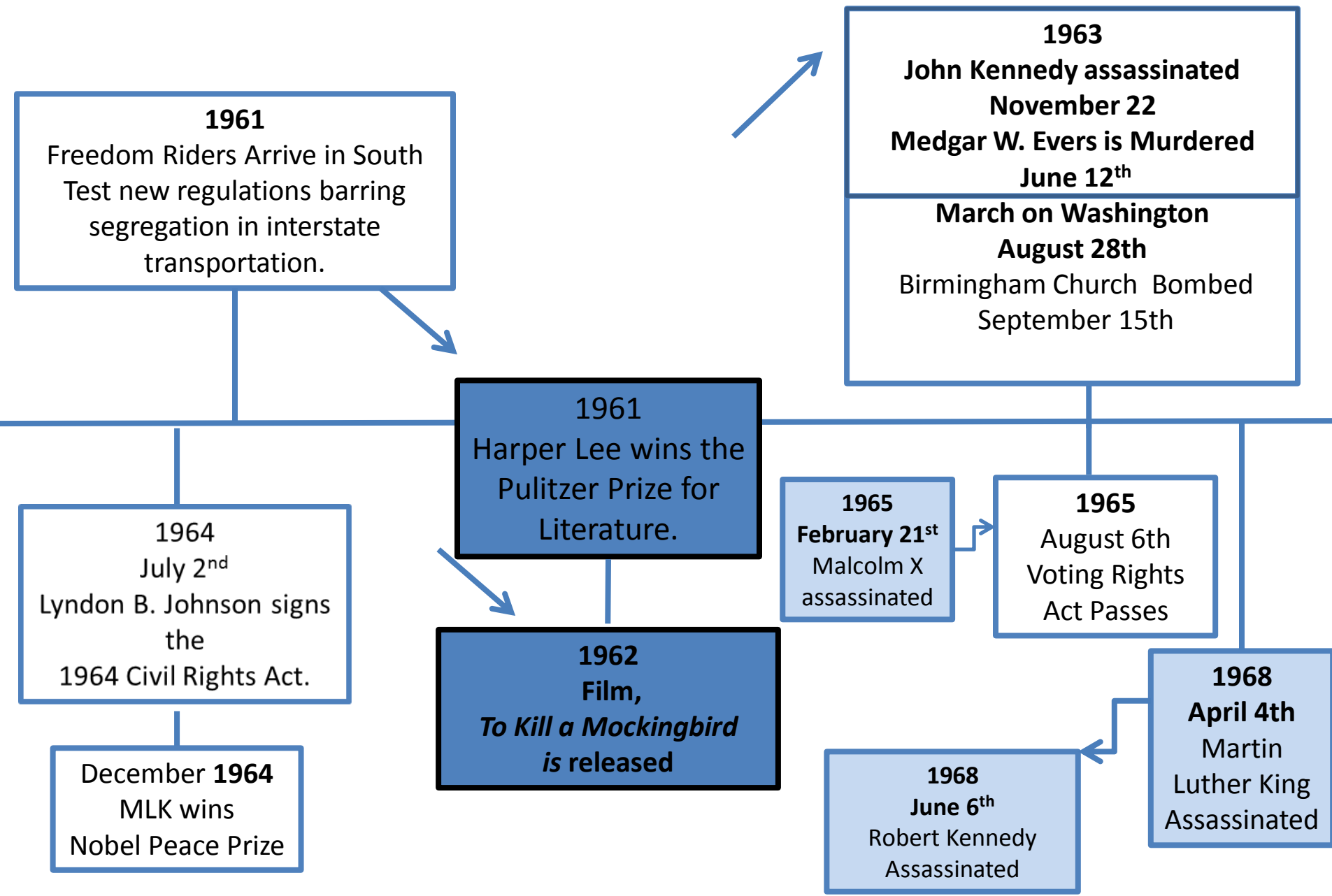
<http://law2.umkc.edu/faculty/projects/ftrials/brownvboard/brownhome.html>

Emmett Till's Legacy

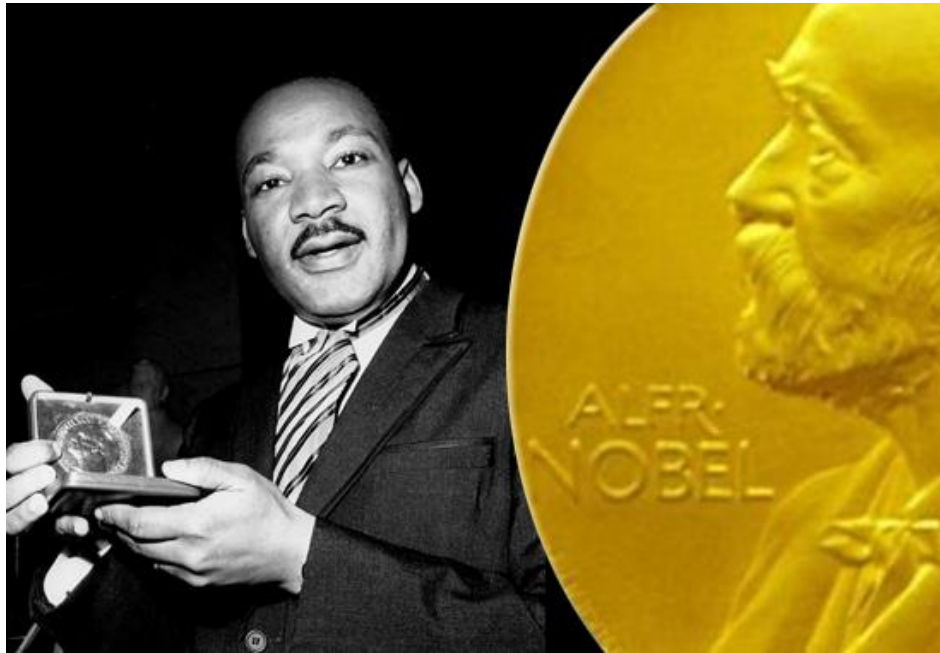


http://www.pbs.org/wgbh/amex/till/sfeature/sf_kelley.html

TKM and the Civil Rights Era 1960's

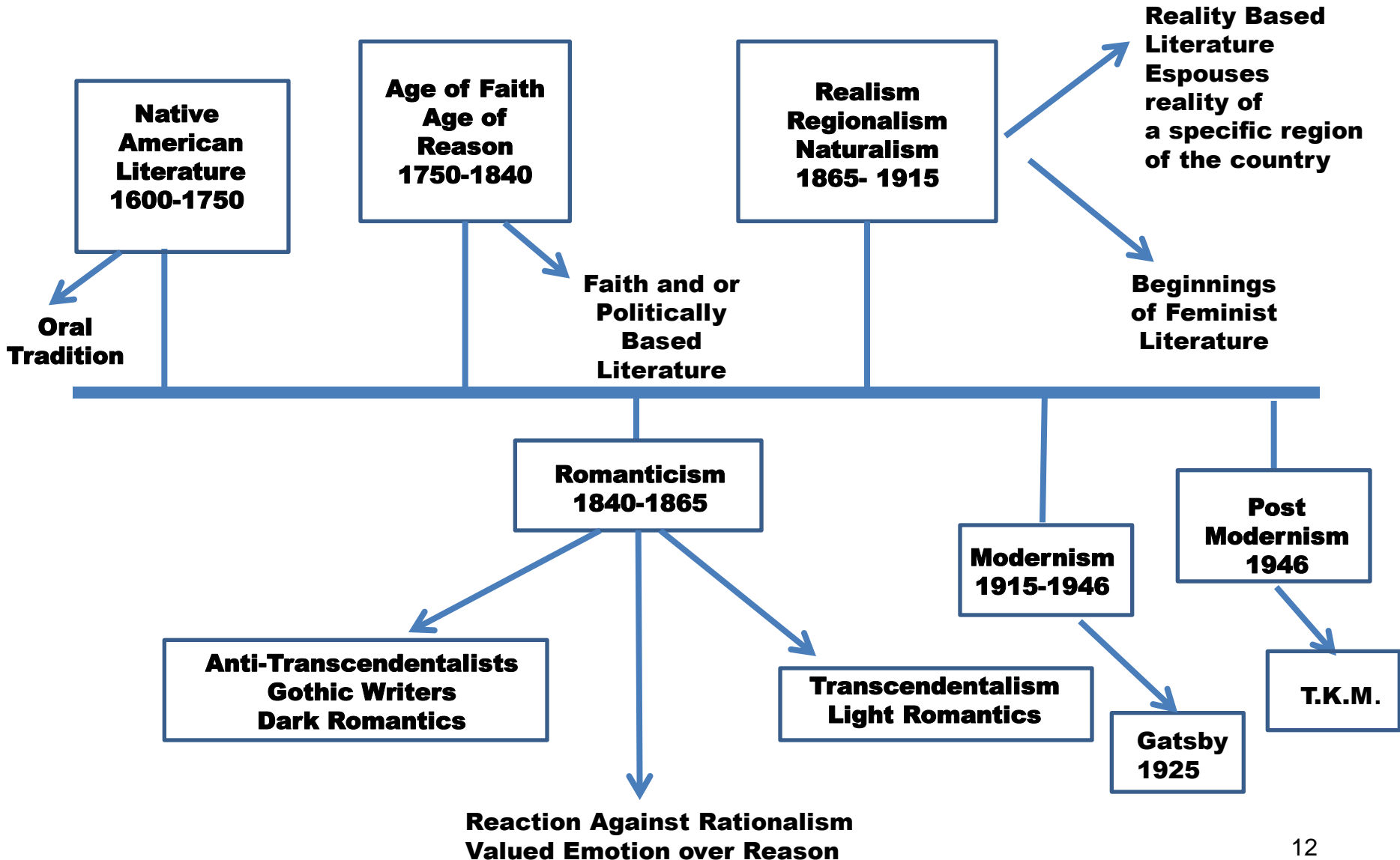


MLK's Speech: Nobel Peace Prize December 1964



<http://www.nobelprize.org/mediaplayer/index.php?id=1853>

American Literary Period Timeline Overview



Modernism/Post Modernism

Differences/Similarities

1. Modernists/Post Modernists:

“Sought to capture the disjointedness of modern/contemporary life in both form and content of their work.”

Modernist Writers wrote in response to World War I

Post Modernist Writers wrote in response to World War II

2. Modernist/PostModernist Works:

“Works were constructed out of fragments, omitting expositions, resolutions, interpretations, transitions, and summaries often used in traditional works.”

Modernist Writers sees fragmentation reflective of a “Freudian internal conflict, (and or) a problem that must be solved; the artist is often cited as the one to solve it.

Post Modernist Writers view fragmentation as chaos; [a] chaos [that]is insurmountable; the artist is impotent, and the only recourse against "ruin" is to play within the chaos.

Example: Fantasy or “magical realism” (fantasy that blends realism and fantasy)

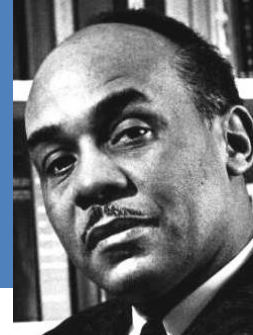
3. Modernist Post Modernist Style:

Modernist writers discarded all that was traditional in form and style; Ezra Pound (Imagist Poet) urged all writers to “Make everything new.”

Post modernists writers embraced the new forms/styles but also incorporated more of traditional literary forms/styles into their works



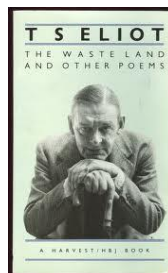
Modernist/Post Modernist Literary Techniques



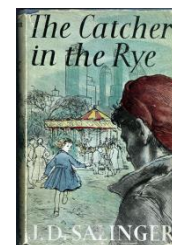
1. Stream of consciousness – writer’s attempt to capture the “natural flow of a character’s thoughts”

Example : Modernism

(1922) T.S. Eliot “The Wasteland”



Post Modernism: (1951) J.D. Salinger Catcher in the Rye



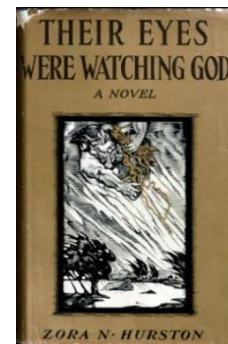
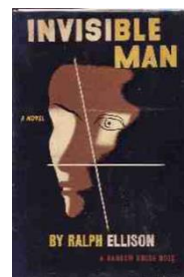
2. Themes of works were - implied rather than directly stated creating uncertainty for the reader – reader had to draw own conclusions

Example: Modernism

(1937) Zora Neale Hurston’s Their Eyes Were Watching God

Example: Post Modernism

(1952) Ralph Ellison’s Invisible Man





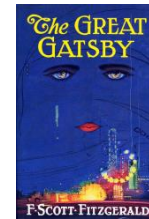
Modernist/Post Modernist Literary Techniques



3. Symbols and Literary allusions used to suggest theme

Example: Modernism

(1925) F. Scott Fitzgerald's The Great Gatsby



Example: Post Modernism

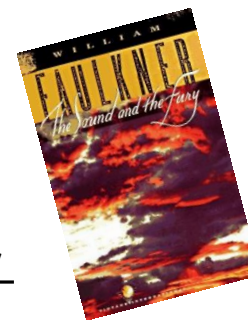
(1961) Joseph Heller's Catch-22



4. Point of view used: Modernist/Postmodernist writers "believed that reality is shaped by people's perception of reality"

Example: Modernism

(1929) Wm. Faulkner The Sound and the Fury



Example: Post Modernism

(1960) Harper Lee's To Kill A Mockingbird

