



Страноведение 14

Fill in the gaps in the text choosing an appropriate name or word from the right-hand column. Choose one word/name only. There are extra names/words in the right-hand column, which you do not have to choose.

Much early American writing is derivative. European forms and styles were simply transferred to the new (9) _____. Even the well-wrought tales of **Washington Irving**, (10) _____ "Rip Van Winkle" and "The Legend of Sleepy Hollow", seem comfortably European (11) _____ their New World settings.

Perhaps the first American writer to produce strikingly new fiction and poetry was (12) _____. In 1835, he began writing short stories - including "The Fall of the House of Usher" and "The Murders in the Rue Morgue" - that explore previously hidden levels of human psychology and push the (13) _____ of fiction toward mystery and fantasy.

Henry James confronted the Old World - New World dilemma by writing directly about it. (14) _____ born in New York, he spent most of his adult years in England. Many of his novels center (15) _____ Americans who live in or travel to Europe. With its intricate, highly qualified sentences and dissection of emotional nuance, his fiction can be rather (16) _____, even incomprehensible. Among his more accessible works are the novellas "Daisy Miller", about an (17) _____ American girl in Europe, and "The Turn of the Screw", an enigmatic ghost story.

At the beginning of the 20th century, American novelists were (18) _____ fiction's social spectrum to encompass both high and low life. They also expressed the disillusionment following upon the war. (19) _____ saw violence and death first-hand as an ambulance driver in World War I, and the senseless carnage persuaded him that abstract language was mostly empty and misleading. He cut out unnecessary words from his writing, simplified the sentence structure, and concentrated on concrete objects and actions. He adhered (20) _____ a moral code that emphasized courage under pressure, and his protagonists were strong, silent men who often dealt awkwardly with women. "The Sun Also Rises" and "A Farewell to Arms" are (21) _____ considered his best novels. In addition to fiction, the 1920s were a rich period for drama. A (22) _____ original American playwright was **Tennessee Williams**, who expressed his southern heritage in poetic (23) _____ sensational plays, usually about a sensitive woman trapped in a brutish environment. Several of his plays have been made into films, including "A Streetcar Named Desire" and "Cat on a Hot Tin Roof".

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