American Literature ~ 2nd Semester
Anti-Naturalists

Edwin Markham
Markham’s style of countering the pessimism of the Naturalists:
- He believed in the possibility of man solving its great social & economic problems
Wrote his famous poem while he was working as a school principal in California
His poem was inspired by a French painting he saw in Scribner’s Magazine.
One renowned poem:
- The Man with the Hoe
  Key Feature – Rhetorical Questions

William Sidney Porter
Known as O. Henry – pseudonym
Became a licensed pharmacist, then a bookkeeper, then a bank teller
Accused of stealing bank funds, he spent time in jail where he used his time to write
- By the time he was released after three years, he was a professional writer!
- His pseudonym – O. Henry – supposedly came from a prison guard
Porter’s style of countering the pessimism of the Naturalists:
- He showed the stark realities of life like the naturalists, but he put a hopeful & positive spin on it!
- He showed the pain and sadness, but didn’t stop there – he added humor
Prolific Writer of Short Stories
- The Gift of the Magi
- The Ransom of Red Chief
- The Cop and the Anthem
Features of his stories;
- Surprise endings
- Irony
- Humor

Fanny Crosby
Blinded at 6 weeks old from bad treatment for an eye infection
Maintained a positive attitude toward her “disability”
- Positively influenced by her grandmother in her earliest years
- and later by Mrs. Hawley, the landlady
Possessed a phenomenal capacity to memorize!
Studied & taught at the New York City Institute for the Blind for over twenty years
Spoke before Congress to promote education for the blind
Prolific Writer of Poems & Hymns
- Pass Me Not
- Draw Me Nearer
- More Like Jesus Would I Be
- God of Eternity
- All the Way My Saviour Leads Me
- Blessed Assurance
- To God Be the Glory

Ella Wheeler Wilcox
Popular Writer of Poems during the era
- Solitude
- Worthwhile