

Puritanism in American Literature

Many Puritan writers wanted to introduce readers to the mysteriousness of God. They wanted to connect the Creator with his creation. Ultimately, they also wanted to bring glory to God.

Puritans lived plain lives and this was often reflected in their writings. They wished to show reverence for the Bible and did not spend time on writing to entertain as was popular among other groups and in a lot of European writings. Most writers used a plain writing style. This is not to say that when talking about God they were not sometimes using specific language to describe and bring honor to their Creator.

Puritans had a purpose in writing and their plain writing style helped them to get to the point. Their goals were to be instructive and Bible-honoring.

The first-person narrative was common. Most pieces would have been in the form of sermon, poem, letter, or historical narrative. Again, the point was often to emphasize a daily life influenced by the Bible. Many allusions to the Bible would be used. Biblical characters and their situations could often be compared to the writer's own life and struggles.

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