

Image above: "SWELL" courtesy of <u>Thomas Allen</u>. America was shaped by explorers who raced to the New World, men-of-war which raced to catch or elude one another, clipper ships which raced to get their products to port and fishermen who raced to get to market.

Modern day racing repeats these efforts to be first. Thus sailing has informed and has been inextricably linked to American literature.

We have chosen several authors to highlight that connection. We have also chosen to open the exhibit with three quotes which provide a literary context.

...over the breaking billows, with bellying sail, and foaming break, like a flying bird...

- Beowulf

But now a breeze came up for us astern-a canvas-bellying breeze, hale shipmate sent by the singing nymph with sun-bright hair; we made fast the braces, took our thwarts, and let the wind and steers-man work the ship with full sail spread all day above our coursing, till the sun dipped, and all the ways grew dark upon the fathomless unresting sea.

- Homer

They that go down to the sea in ships that do business in great waters; These see the works of the Lord, and his wonders in the deep.

- Psalm 107



On looking to windward, he beheld the green masses of water that were rolling in towards the land, with violence that seemed irresistible, crowned with ridges of foam; and there were moments when the air appeared filled with sparkling gems, as rays of the rising sun fell upon the spray that was swept from wave to wave.

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- ر	Jannes	reminore	Cooper



We study the sailor, the man of his hands, man of all work; all eye, all finger, muscle, skill and endurance; a tailor, carpenter, cooper, stevedore, and clerk and astronomer besides. He is a great saver, and a great quiddle by the necessity of his situation.

- Ralph Waldo Emerson



The sail, the play of its pulse so like our own lives: so thin and yet so full of life, so noiseless when it labors hardest, so noisy and impatient when least effective.

- Henry David Thoreau



My Soul is full of longing For the secret of the sea And the heart of the great ocean Sends a trilling pulse through me.

-	Henry	/ Wadsworth	Longfellow
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This is the ship of pearl, which poets feign, Sails the unshadowed main,-The venturous bark that flings On the sweet summer wind its purple wings.

- Oliver Wendell Holmes



If you have never been at sea in a heavy gale, you can form no idea of the confusion of mind occasioned by wind and spry together. They blind, deafen, and strangle you, and take away all power of action or reflection.

- Edgar Allen Poe



When, staunchly entering port, after long ventures, hauling up, worn and old, batter'd by sea and wind, torn by many a fight, with original sailing on all gone, replaced or mended, I only saw at last, the beauty of the ship...

- Walt Whitman
The profound calm which only apparently precedes and prophesies of the storm, is perhaps more awful than the storm itself; for indeed, the calm is but the wrapper and envelop of the storm, and contains it in itself, as the seemingly harmless rifle holds the fatal powder, and the ball, and the explosion.
- Herman Melville
Twenty years from now, you'll regret the things you didn't do, rather than the things you did do. So cast off the bow lines. Sail away from the safe harbor. Catch the trade winds in your sails. Explore. Dream. Discover."
- Mark Twain

I have build barns and houses and I know the peculiar trait such things have of running past their estimated cost. This knowledge was mine, was already mine, when I estimated the probable cost of the building of Snark, at \$7,000. Well, she cost \$30,000. Now, don't ask me, please. It is the truth. I signed the checks and raised the money. Of course, there is no explaining it.

- Jack I	_ondon
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Ships, young ships, I do not wonder men see you as women-You in the white length of your loveliness Reclining on the sea!

- Sally Bruce Kinsolving



Never, in these United States, has the brain of man conceived, or the hand of man fashioned, so perfect a thing as a clipper ship.

- Samuel Eliot Morison



I lay on the bowsprit, facing astern, with the water foaming into spume under me, the masts with every sail white in the moonlight, towering high above me. I became drunk with the beauty and the singing rhythm of it, and for a moment I lost myself-actually lost my life. I was set free! I dissolved in the sea, became white sails, became moonlight and the ship and the high

dim-starred sky! I belonged, without past or future, within place and unity and wild joy, within something greater than my own life, or the life of man, to Life itself. To God, if they want to put it that way.

- Eugene O'Neill



For whatever we lose (like a you or a me) it's always ourselves in the sea

- E.E. Cummings



I have noticed that most men when they enter a barber shop and must wait their turn, drop into a chair and pick up a magazine. I simply sit down and pick up the thread of my sea wanderings, which began more than fifty years ago and is not quite ended. There is hardly a waiting room in the east that has not served as my cockpit, whether I was waiting to board a train or to see a dentist. And I am usually still trimming sheets when the train starts or drill begins to whine.

- E.B. White



The sea does not reward those who are too anxious, too greedy. Or too impatient.
- Anne Morrow Lindbergh
He picked up the ball of twine and put it to his nose and drew in a smell of boats-calking smell, rope locker smell-the smell which, savored in the deepest gloom of wintertime, had the power of evoking faraway wavetops, a canted mast, splashing bow-waves, a warm summer breeze on a helmsman's cheek.
- John Hersey
One thing had impressed us deeply on this little voyage: the great world dropped away very quicklyThe matters of great importance we had left were not importantWe had lost the virus, or it had been eaten by the anti-bodies of quiet, Our pace had slowed greatly; the hundred thousand small reactions of our daily world were reduce to very few.
- John Steinbeck

Like the skipper of a grounded ship, one must sometimes go forward by going back.

- John Barth



may the tide
that is entering even now
the lip of our understanding
carry you out
beyond the face of fear
may you kiss
the wind then turn from it
certain that it will
love your back may you
open your eyes to water
water waving forever
and may you in your innocence
sail through this to that

- Lucille Clifton