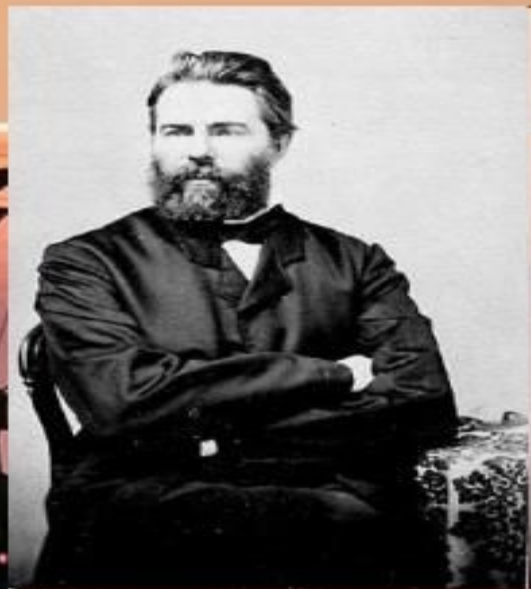


Herman Melville

Biography



A photograph of two large ships, possibly naval vessels, on the water at sunset. The sky is a deep orange-red, and the water reflects the light. The ships are dark silhouettes against the bright background.

Place of birth

- **New York, NY**

Date of birth

- **August 1, 1819**



Date of death

- **September 28, 1891**

Place of death

- **New York, NY**

Burial location

- **Woodlawn Cemetery, the Bronx, New York**

The background image shows two large whaling ships on the water. The ship in the foreground is a dark-hulled vessel with complex rigging, including masts and ropes. The ship in the background is further away and also appears to be a whaling vessel. The water is calm, and the sky is a warm, hazy orange, suggesting a sunset or sunrise. The overall tone is somber and historical.

Interesting facts about childhood

- **One of 11 children**
- **His father lost all his money when Melville was 11 and died when Melville was 13**
- **Didn't enjoy studying – left school at age 12**
- **Did menial jobs to support the family**
- **Liked to wander and became a sailor on a whaling ship**

The background of the slide features a photograph of two large ships, possibly naval vessels, on the water. The scene is captured during the 'golden hour' of sunset or sunrise, with a warm, orange-red glow across the sky and water. The ships are silhouetted against the bright light, with their masts and rigging visible. The water shows gentle ripples and a slight wake from the vessels.

Marriage & family

- Married Elizabeth Shaw in 1847
- Had two sons & two daughters
- Both sons died young



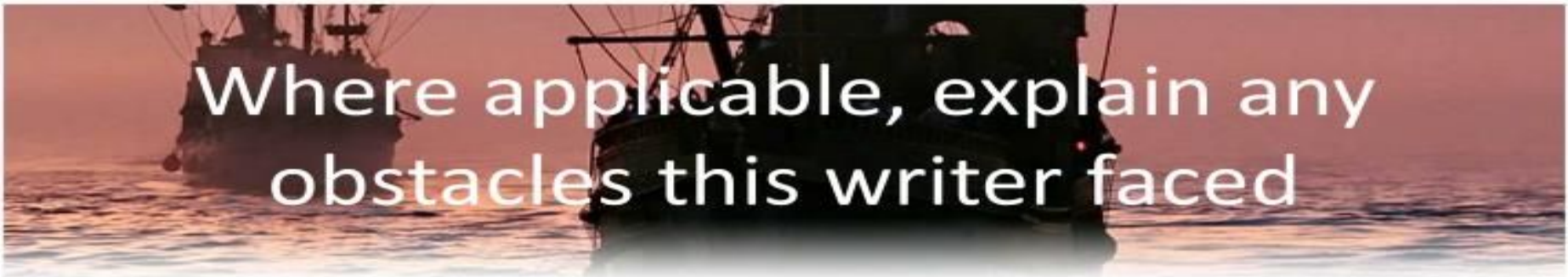
**Place(s) where this author lived.
Include dates and explain how each
place influenced them.**

- **Troy, NY as a child – Mother changed name**
- **Whaling experiences were foundation of his adventure tales**
- **Settled in NYC with wife 1847-1850**
- **Lived in Massachusetts on a farm 1850-1863 – tried to write serious lit**
- **Worked/lived in NYC 1866-1886 then retired on inheritance**

A photograph of two large whaling ships on the ocean at sunset. The ships are silhouetted against a warm, orange and red sky. The water is calm with gentle ripples. The ship in the foreground is slightly to the right, and the one in the background is to the left.

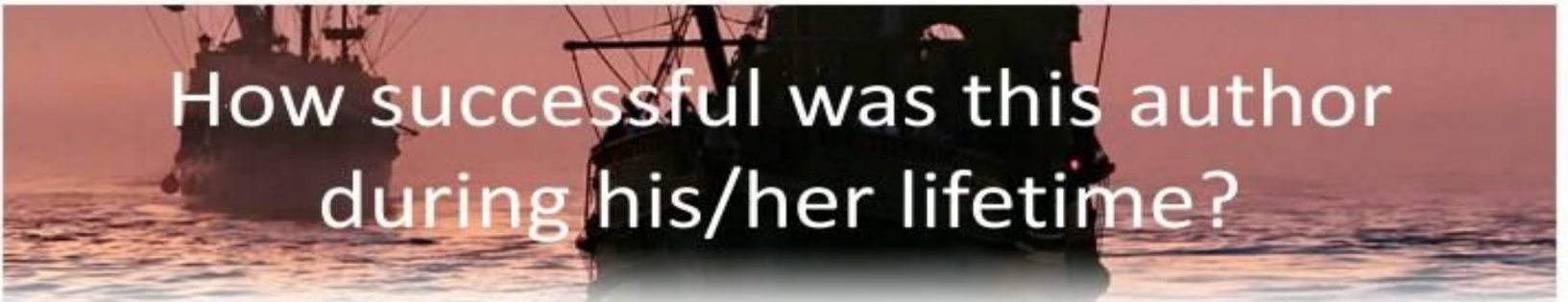
How did this author become inspired
to write?

- **Adventures as sailor on whaling ships**
- **Desire to write on serious ideas**



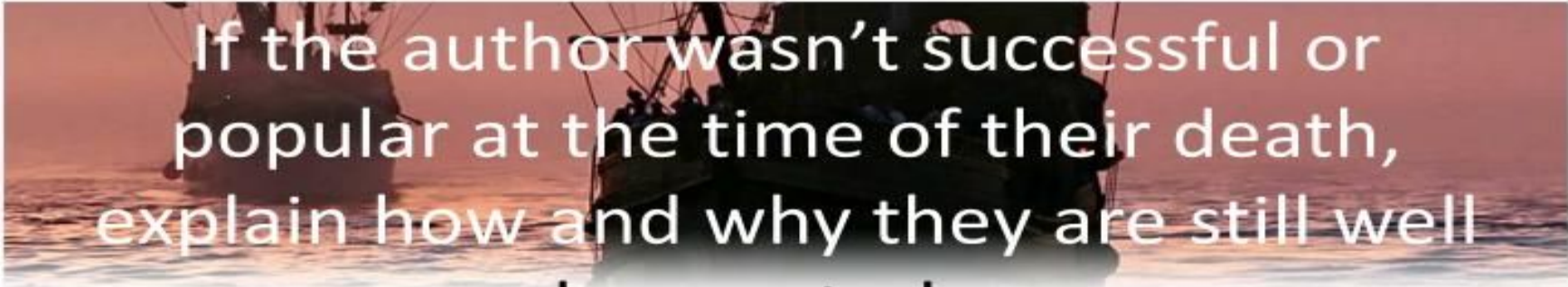
Where applicable, explain any obstacles this writer faced

- **Death of father**
- **Family left in poverty**
- **His audiences didn't appreciate his more serious works**



How successful was this author during his/her lifetime?

- His adventure stories (*Typee*, *Omoo*, *Redburn*, and *White Jacket*) sold really well
- His more serious works didn't sell
- Because audiences didn't like his serious work, he stopped writing and was virtually unknown when he died.

A background image showing the dark silhouette of a ship's mast and rigging against a warm, orange-hued sunset sky over the ocean.

If the author wasn't successful or popular at the time of their death, explain how and why they are still well known today

- Renewed interest starting on 100th birthday
- Biography praising him published 1921
- 1940s and 1950s became really popular again with many pop culture references

The background image shows two large sailing ships on the ocean. The ship in the foreground is a dark-hulled vessel with multiple masts and rigging, seen from a low angle. The ship in the background is further away and also has a dark hull. The water is dark with some whitecaps, and the sky is a deep orange and red, indicating a sunset or sunrise. The overall mood is dramatic and historical.

Why is this author considered influential?

- Considered one of America's top novelists
- Wrote first great romances set in South Seas
- *Moby Dick* is considered one of the best American novels
- He is a typical misunderstood artist.

The background image shows two large whaling ships on the ocean. The ships are dark silhouettes against a bright, orange-hued sky, suggesting a sunset or sunrise. The water is calm with some ripples. The text is overlaid on the upper half of the image.

Identify five (5) characteristics of this author and give specific examples

- **Adventurous – whaling career**
- **Thoughtful – serious literature**
- **Innovative – ahead of his time**
- **Intelligent – wrote great literature with little formal education**
- **Valued family – worked NYC customs job that he hated to support family**