Author: Samuel Sewall
Title: Samuel Sewall’s Diary
Date (in course pack): 1653-1730

Interesting Fact about Author/Text:
Thought it was interesting that every time he saw a wife, she’d die
He would judge Puritans even though he was one.

What does this text tell us about the 1600s?
- They were very religious; gives all the glory to God for everything they do
- Shifted from Calvinists to not so much
- Evil doesn’t come from human error, but from Satan’s temptation
- Very hypocritical: denounces mixed churches but then gets at multiple women
- They believe they’re saved already

For what purpose was it written? How is it different to the other texts?
- Looking for a wife; wrote a diary because he knew he was part
  of a historical movement so he knew other people would read about it
- All other diaries were more personal

Additional Comments from Rosy: Marriage as exchange- constant references to investment in courtship (through recording of prices of gifts) --- courshship as investment---
Author: William Bradford  
Title: Of Plymouth Plantation

Date (in course pack): mid/late 16th century

Interesting Fact about Author/Text:
* Bradford called America a Howling Wilderness...(because of savagery)
* The Mayflower had "strangers" too, not only Puritans.
* Thank God for everything...ironically a man who swore & curse got a disease & died before the others.
* "everything happens for a reason"

What does this text tell us about the 1600s?
- Conditions seemed grim.
- Many people were discontented with government.
- Reformation through government & religion.
- Puritans were very Godly, they valued their beliefs over all other things & they believed they were the chosen ones.

For what purpose was it written? How is it different to the other texts?
- Written to document the voyage to America.
- Bradford uses words such as "they" instead of "us", similar to an anthropologist/observer.

Additional Comments from Rosy: Examples of situations in which they perceive God's hands at work (e.g. the death of the 'lusty sailor') as coping mechanism, in response to so much death, sickness, hunger and precariousness in first few years.
As well as need to justify selves and make their labours, community building seem honorable in the eyes of descendants (he's writing a history), thus encouraging retention of the faith.
Author: Johnathan Edwards
Title: Sinners in the Hands of an Angry God

Interesting Fact about Author/Text:
"Born again Christians" (for use)
- put in corrections, references, etc.

What does this text tell us about the 1600s?
It tells us how religious they were also (not sure in regards to the time period) but Johnathan Edwards took things to the extreme: even the connection between Adam & Eve.

For what purpose was it written? How is it different to the other texts?
It was written to scare people into going to church.
The way he spoke was calm but still assertive—it made it even more scaring. He wasn’t really saying that you could be in danger, but if you sinned (which you were bound to do) you would be in danger.

Additional Comments from Rosy:
Insect/object metaphors (constantly shifting and proliferating imagery), belittling of congregation, attacking complacency.
Author: William Byrd

Title: The Secret Diary of William Byrd of Westover

Date (in course pack): 1709-1712

Interesting Fact about Author/Text:
- Described as one who can never resist an old book
- Founded cities of Richmond and Petersburg
- Raised as a gentleman
- He's an early riser
- Prays and drinks milk a lot

What does this text tell us about the 1600s?
- Religion is a top priority
- Women were not respected and didn't have many rights
- Good thought and being healthy is an essential
- People who were accused of crimes were punished and treated with violence

For what purpose was it written? How is it different to the other texts?
- It's a diary rather than a narrative
- Reflection on his own self
- Written to stay connected with his god

Additional Comments from Rosy:
Juxtaposition of concluding sentences of diary entries - description of immoral or sinful act, followed by a prayer for forgiveness, or thankfulness towards God. Lack of change in behaviour casts doubt on sincerity, and proximity of description of immorality and deity seems rather blasphemous.
----returning to Greek/Latin/Hebrew as expressing neoclassical sentiments - returning to pre-Christian knowledges as marked departure from Puritans' concern with early church---
Author: John Winthrop  
Title: City on a Hill Speech  
Date (in course pack): 1630

Interesting Fact about Author/Text: - not a fan of Democracy  
- Puritan/Calvinist  
- Some viewed him as harsh  
- Came over using Arbella (shipped)  
- Born very wealthy & very educated - others felt he was the "moses"  
- "Born" leader  
- Elected governor of colony of the land

What does this text tell us about the 1600s?  
- Very religious/puritan background in the states.  
- Difficult life based on survival of the fittest in regards to religion.  
- Believed in "he who is right" rather than democratic concepts  
- Puritans believed in "chosen" people  
- Believed in "only god" who would abandon them if they sinned  
- Showed "us vs. them" mindset

For what purpose was it written? How is it different to the other texts?  
- Speech to convince Puritans to fear God or he'll leave them  
- To inspire people to leave  
- Acted as a recollection/journal based on overarching goals  
- Grew support & became communal

Additional Comments from Rosy:  
Communitarian- giving surplus to others, acknowledging need for collectivity in order to establish colony- without this, covenant with God 'breach[ed]'  
anti-individualist threads- "seeking great things for ourselves' and 'own posterity' represented as against God's will in this situation.