



Name: Herman Melville

Years: August 1st, 1819- September 28th, 1891

Residence: New York, New York

Brief Biography: Herman Melville was born August 1st, 1819 to Maria and Allan Melville in New York City, New York. As a child, Melville had a bout of scarlet fever and his vision would forever be effected. His father was a quite prosperous merchant at this time, however the family fortune would take a hit when Allan Melville would attempt to branch out into the fur business. As a young man, Melville would attend the Albany Classical School, and it was around this time that he would begin writing and studying classical literature. Following his father's death, Melville's eldest brother Gansevoort would take over the family business. Following Melville's short stint as a school teacher in Massachusetts, Gansevoort would arrange for Melville to work on the *St. Lawrence* trade ship. It is from his experiences on this ship and on other voyages that would inspire several of Melville's literary works, including *Moby Dick*. Although not met with critical acclaim until after Melville's death in 1891, *Moby Dick* is now considered a literary masterpiece.

Major Achievements: Melville is best known for his authorship of *Moby Dick*. A versatile writer, Melville was not just a writer of prose, but of poetry as well, penning more than a handful of published pieces in his lifetime.

For More Information: Melville: His World & Work by Andrew Delbanco; <http://www.melville.org/>

Resources: <http://www.biography.com/people/herman-melville-9405239>
; <http://www.poets.org/poetsorg/poet/herman-melville>