A BRIEF BIOGRAPHY

- Born on November 1, 1871.
- Lived to be only 29 years old, died June 5, 1900.
- Family: last of 14 children, son of Methodist minister who died when he was nine. He also moved three times when he was a child in the New York area.
- He never cared for schooling, attended Syracuse University for one semester where he was most noted for playing baseball.
- Crane lived the down-and-out life of a penniless artist who became well known as a poet, journalist, social critic, and a realist. He was noted as being an "original" in his field of work.
- Was obsessed by war and other forms of physical and psychic violence.
- Began writing for newspapers in 1891 when he settled in New York where he developed his powers as an observer of psychological and social reality.
- After he wrote Red Badge of Courage, he was hired as a reporter in the American West and Mexico.
- Red Badge of Courage earned Crane international acclaim at age 24.
- At age 27, Crane moved to Jacksonville, Florida where he got married.
- While he was in Jacksonville his boat, The Commodore, sank off the coast. He wrote about the harrowing adventure in The New York Press.
- Crane covered the Greco-Turkish War and later settled in England. There he made friends with famous writers of the time, H.G. Wells and Henry James.
- During the last few years of his life, he began writing furiously because he was in debt and suffering from tuberculosis. He later died while he was in Germany.
COMMON THEMES

- Physical, emotional, and intellectual responses of people under extreme pressure
- Nature’s indifference to humanity’s fate and the consequent need for compassionate collective action
- Fallen humanity
- Effect of colors on the human mind
- Harsh realities of war and fighting
- Father/Son relationships
- Betrayal, guilt, and repentance
- Social and Literary rebelliousness
- Religion/Fear of retribution: Interlaced theme of sin and virtue

LITERARY TECHNIQUES USED IN CRANE’S WORKS

- Tough-minded irony
- Projection of vision for a sympathetic but unflinching demand for courage, integrity, grace, and generosity in a tough world
- Allusions to war and fighting
- Comparisons/Contradictions
- Dramatic personification
- Powerful paradox
- Allusions to religion: Intertwined themes of sin & virtue
- Colorful metaphors

FAMOUS WORKS

Fiction:
- *Maggie, A Girl of the Streets* (1893)
- *The Red Badge of Courage* (1895)
- “The Open Boat” (1898)
- “The Blue Hotel” (1898)
- “The Bride Comes to Yellow Sky” (1898)

Poetry:
- *War is Kind & Other Lines* (1899)
- *The Black Riders & Other Lines* (1905)

“Modern Fiction may be said to begin with Stephen Crane.”
- Critics Carl and Mark Van Doren