

Handout: Moby-Dick; **or, The Whale** *by Daniel Berger, Q11*

About:

- American Romanticism, one of the “Great American Novels“
- Author: Herman Melville
- Genre: Adventure Novel, Sea Story
- Publication: 1851
- Largely based on true stories

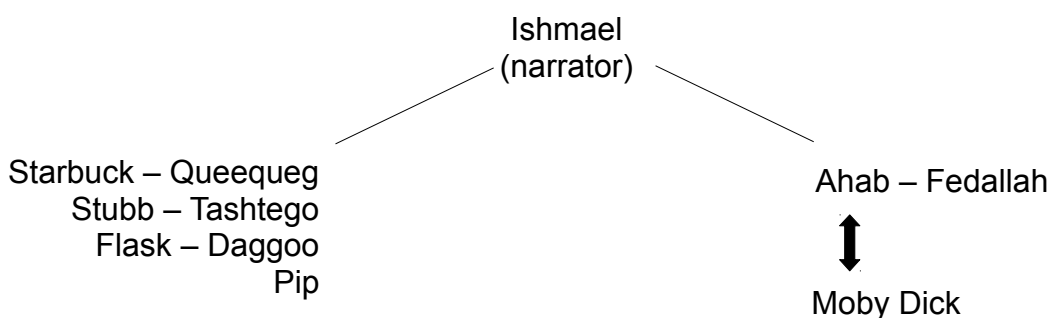
Herman Melville:

- August 1, 1819 – September 28, 1891
- American novelist, teacher, poet, short story writer, lecturer and sailor
- Famous books: Typee, Omoo, Redburn, Mardi, White-Jacket and Moby-Dick

Summary:

In part, Moby-Dick is the story of an eerily compelling madman pursuing an unholy war against a creature as vast and dangerous and unknowable as the sea itself. But more than just a novel of adventure, more than an encyclopedia of whaling lore and legend, the book can be seen as part of its author's lifelong meditation on America.

Main characters:



Themes:

- The concept of class/social status or good and evil
- Relation between “whites” and “savages”
- The existence of God
- The limits of knowledge
- The exploitative nature of whaling