

# THE OPEN BOAT



## ***The Ponce De Leon Lighthouse Near Daytona Beach in Florida***

*Author Stephen Crane published his Civil War masterpiece The Red Badge of Courage in 1895, three decades after the conclusion of this divisive conflict. In 1896, an editor provided Crane an opportunity to experience battle firsthand by covering the budding rebellion in Cuba. While en route to the island aboard the 123-foot S. S. Commodore, which was carrying a load of firearms, Crane was shipwrecked off the Floridian Coast near Daytona Beach during a gale. Abandoning the sinking vessel, Crane, the captain, and two sailors, set out in a small lifeboat. Providently, the lighthouse at Mosquito Inlet marked the distant coast for the hapless quartet. Still, the group had to endure twenty-seven hours of frantic rowing and frequent bailing before they were able to bring their craft safely to shore. Crane's story on the Cuban conflict would have to wait, but the harrowing hours spent in the lifeboat provided an alternate firsthand experience that would develop into his most successful short story "The Open Boat."*

Text and image from <http://mainelighthousesandbeyond.blogspot.com/2012/06/ponce-de-leon-lighthouse-near-daytona.html>

Greetings, AmLit Scholars—

Today we'll conclude our time with Stephen Crane in order to begin to come to a more complete understanding of two related movements in American Literature.

Here's how we'll roll today:

**1. WEDGE**—Remember the Transcendentalists? As you already know, American Realism and American Naturalism—if they are different or if they are not—view nature in very different ways than the earlier Transcendentalists. When we read Emerson and Thoreau, we WEDGE-d about our sublime moments in natural settings. Not today!

For roughly ten minutes, write about a moment in which you felt unhappy, unsafe, or even endangered in a natural setting.

**2. Reviewing American Realism and American Naturalism**—We'll take a couple of minutes to review the two handouts you read for homework.

**3. Quick Glance at “The Open Boat”**—We'll solidify our understanding of Crane's short story as a classic of American Naturalism.

**4. A Bit More Crane**—As you know from your reading of his biography, Stephen Crane's poetry is also highly regarded. We'll take a couple of moments to consider the two poems posted to our Moodle page.

**5. Getting a Jump on the Homework**—Time permitting, of course.

Tappa! Tappa! Tappa!—  
Mr Leo

**Homework:**

Actively read the Jack London packet.