

Contents

Acknowledgement	9
1. Introduction	11
2. The Voyage of Initiation	
2.1 Initiation – Anthropology and Ethnology	17
2.2 The Myth of Initiation	18
2.2.1 Jungian Archetypes	18
2.2.2 Native American Myths	21
2.3 The Rites of Initiation	25
2.3.1 Collective Initiation Rites of Tribes and Puberty	25
2.3.2 Initiation into a Secret Society, a Brotherhood, and Individual Religious Initiation	28
2.3.3 Initiation as Process of Socialization and Individuation	29
2.3.4 Contact Zones and Transculturation	32
2.4 The Story of Initiation – Discussion of Critical Approaches	35
2.4.1 Definitions and Typologies	35
2.4.2 Peter Freese: The Journey of Initiation	38
2.4.3 <i>Bildungsroman</i> , Neopicaresque Novel and Quest Novel	40
2.4.4 Elaine Ginsberg, Gabriele Wittke and Ina Bergmann: Female Initiation	42
2.4.5 Karsten Fitz: Contact Zones and Native American Literature	46
2.4.6 Dietrich Theißen: Native Americans and the Literature of Initiation	49
3. Coming of Age in the American West	52
3.1 The American West	52
3.2 The Literary West	58
3.3 Hollywood and the Myth of the West	61
3.4 Attempts at Typology	63
4. The Classical Western	65
4.1 The First Literary Female Pioneer – Willa Cather: <i>O Pioneers!</i> , 1913	65
4.2 The Victory of Anti-Heroes – John Ford: <i>Stagecoach</i> , 1939	73

4.3	The Loneliness of an American Western Hero – Fred Zinnemann: <i>High Noon</i> , 1952	83
5.	The Moderns	95
5.1	Confrontation with the Ambiguity of all Things – Sherwood Anderson: “I Want to Know Why”, 1921	95
5.2	Confrontation with Life and Death – Ernest Hemingway: “Indian Camp”, 1924	101
5.3	Confrontation with Evil in the World – Ernest Hemingway: “The Killers”, 1927	105
5.4	Confrontation with the Fallibility of Man – John Steinbeck: <i>The Red Pony</i> , 1933	110
5.5	Self-Discovery in Death – John Steinbeck: “Flight”, 1938	117
5.6	Self-Discovery in the Refusal of Civilization –William Faulkner: “The Bear”, 1942	123
6.	The Postmoderns	138
6.1	The Self-Discovery Process of a Transcultural Anti-Hero – N. Scott Momaday: <i>House Made of Dawn</i> , 1968	139
6.2	The Identity-Process of a Native American Transcultural Anti-Hero – Leslie Marmon Silko: <i>Ceremony</i>	173
6.3	“American” Identity at the End of the Frontier – Michael Blake: <i>Dances With Wolves</i> , 1988	207
6.4	Moving Back to Modernity – Nicholas Evans: <i>The Horse Whisperer</i> , 1995	229
6.5	Impossible Coming Out – Annie Proulx: <i>Brokeback Mountain</i> , 1997	245
6.6	Finding One’s Last Identity in Nature – Jory Sherman: “The Snows of August”, 2001	252
6.7	Finding One’s Native Identity – Troy D. Smith. “The Purification of Jim Barnes”, 2001	257
6.8	A Young Woman on a Historical Journey – Lenore Carroll: <i>Uncertain Pilgrims</i> , 2006	261
6.9	The Self-Discovery of Poor White American – J. D. Vance: <i>Hillbilly Elegy</i> , 2016	275

7.	Conclusion	293
	Works Cited	311
	Appendix	327
	Index	349