Ambrose Bierce (1842-1914)
- Journalist, essayist, fiction, writer known for his biting wit and mysterious death
- Born in Ohio, 10th of 13 children, all with names beginning with “A”; raised on farm in Indiana
- Worked as printer's apprentice on anti-slavery newspaper
- Union soldier in civil war, rose to rank of lieutenant; at Kennesaw mountain, bullet in skull behind ear
- Enlisted in union army at age 18
- Fought several battles of civil war (Shiloh, Chickamauga, Sherman's March to the Sea)
- 1870's through 1880's was journalist and writer in San Francisco (later with hearst publications).
- Bierce lucid, unsentimental style has kept him popular
- A master satirist and humorist
- Views expressed a pessimism regarding human nature
  ● Pessimism: The doctrine that both humanity and reality is essentially evil
  - The doctrine that over balances happiness in this world
  ● Cynicism: A general lack of faith and hope in humanity as a whole. Skepticism in people's motivations
  ● Historical fiction: Set in real historical events (civil war)
  - Fictionalized version of real hanging that occurred at Chickamauga creek TW (1862)
  ● Crucial Moment: moment when character realizes his own mortally (state of being subject to death)
  ● Stream of consciousness: a character's thoughts, feelings and reactions are depicted in a continuous flow
  ● Crucial moment: Stream of consciousness