



**colloquial:** familiar; informal; often pertaining to the distinct manners, use of language, and mores of a region

**cosmopolitan:** a worldly (big city) view, as opposed to a regional or provincial (small town) view

**gilded:** 1. to overlay with a thin covering of gold; 2. to give a deceptive appearance

**grassroots:** active community involvement in decision-making

**icon:** an image or representation, having the connotation of a larger-than-life, transcendent representation

**iconoclast:** one who attacks cherished beliefs as shams

**Jeffersonian idealism:** Thomas Jefferson, as president and statesman, promoted the rural, agrarian life (settling, valuing living close to the land) as central to America's destiny. The term also builds off of the principles Jefferson celebrated in the Declaration of Independence.

**metaphor:** a direct literary comparison, often drawing similarities between unlike objects

**Social Darwinism:** transferring the Darwinian principles of "survival of the fittest" to the marketplace; This concept was used as a justification for rugged individualism, robber barons, and the "dog-eat-dog" atmosphere that prevailed in the economic climate of late 19th-century America.

**pomp and circumstance:** ostentatious display; overdone display

**pseudonym:** a fictitious name under which a writer presents himself or herself as an author

**transfigure:** 1. to change appearance, a metamorphosis; 2. to exalt, illuminate

**Victorianism:** the prevailing cultural mode of late 19th-century American elite, also emulated throughout other social strata in America; Victorian manners and mores, modeled after the cultural climate set by England's Queen Victoria, dictated Puritan behavioral patterns, and was also a far-reaching influence on architecture, furniture, interior design, and fashion. Evidence of its far-reaching effect is in the architectural design of some still-standing houses on the American prairie and of many premier homes in San Francisco, CA.