

### Bierce's Life

- Bierce (1813-1887) was born to a poor \_\_\_\_\_ and was the \_\_\_\_\_ of thirteen children.
  - Bierce did not trust \_\_\_\_\_, \_\_\_\_\_, \_\_\_\_\_, or \_\_\_\_\_.
  - In fact, he was known as “\_\_\_\_\_” and did not trust easy answers or sentimentality (hence, perhaps, his classification as a \_\_\_\_\_).
- Life, cont.
  - Among other things, Bierce was a journalist, \_\_\_\_\_ writer, editorialist, and \_\_\_\_\_.
  - The last known communication from him was a \_\_\_\_\_ written \_\_\_\_\_.
  - He then disappeared. It is largely rumored that he was executed by firing squad in \_\_\_\_\_, but to this day, his death and disappearance remain a mystery.
- Realism in a nutshell
- Late 19<sup>th</sup> Century Movement, begins shortly after the \_\_\_\_\_ in the U.S.
  - Reaction against \_\_\_\_\_ (sentimentality, idealism, irrationality, heroism, absolute moral stances)
  - Realism is the truthful treatment of life in its common, average, everyday existence
  - Attempts to be \_\_\_\_\_ and rejects the \_\_\_\_\_ approach of Romanticism
  - Influenced by the scientific method: observe and report
  - Usual subject matter: life among the middle and lower classes
- Bitter Bierce and *The Devil's Dictionary*
- Originally titled \_\_\_\_\_, it was published in 1906.
- It is a book of satirical definitions—he wanted to write a comic version of \_\_\_\_\_.
- Ex: \_\_\_\_\_, n. One skilled in circumvention of the law.
- Ex: \_\_\_\_\_, n. A modern school where football is taught.