Welcome to the Seminar of The Fear Gang

Certainly fear was not suddenly invented in 1800s America. But, the telling of a mystery short story with dark overtones which in the sort of structure our contemporary fiction and film writers use, did indeed have its formal beginnings then. All three of our writers wrote longer works, but we're going to focus on just the short story (also a fairly new structure for the time). By the way, if you took the Concord Gang Seminar, Ralph Waldo Emerson was read by each of these writers although all three disagreed with him a lot. Our writers here have a decided more pessimistic view of human nature than Emerson did. He had endless hope and optimism about the absolute goodness of the human soul. These guys...well, not so much.

Edgar Allen Poe

<https://poemuseum.org/the-tell-tale-heart/>

(You might also want to wander through some of their other information)

Nathaniel Hawthorne

The Minister's Black Veil"

<https://www.gutenberg.org/files/11231/11231-h/11231-h.htm>

Herman Melville

"Bartleby The Scrivener"

<https://www.gutenberg.org/files/13707/13707-h/13707-h.htm>