

## **The Old English Period (410-1066)**

Also called Anglo-Saxon period.

The period extended from the invasion of Celtic England by Germanic tribes like Angles and Saxons to the conquest of England by William the Conqueror in 1066 in the Battle of Hastings.

### **Old English Language:**

Different from that of modern English.

Vocabulary- purely Germanic words.

Grammar- complex.

Old English is an inflectional language i.e., a language that changes the form or ending of some words when the way in which they are used in sentences changes.

English developed from the dialects of the Germanic tribes, Angles, Saxons and Jutes.

English belongs to the Germanic family, a sub-group of the Indo-European family.

Four main dialects:

Northumbrian- the first to produce a literature.

Mercian- the language of the Midlands. Northumbrian & Mercian are collectively called Anglian.

Kentish- the language of the South East, dialect of the Jutes.

West- Saxon- the language of King Alfred. Due to the political supremacy, it became the 'standard'. Almost all the texts are preserved in this dialect.

Manuscripts in which the Old English poetry is preserved:

Beowulf Manuscript- contains Beowulf, Judith and three prose tracts.

Junius Manuscript- also called Caedmon Manuscript, contains biblical paraphrases.

Exeter Book- contains poems of Cynewulf, a miscellaneous gathering of lyrics, riddles, didactic poems and religious narratives.

The Vericelli Book- contains religious poems, prose homilies.

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**Important works and authors:**

***Beowulf:***

First major poem in English vernacular language.

Anonymous author.

First traditional epic.

Written in West- Saxon dialect.

Contains 3182 lines.

Narrates the major events in the life of Beowulf, a Geatish hero.

Sails to Denmark, rids the Danish king Hrothgar of a terrible monster Grendel. Kills mother of Grendel too.

After 50 years, he kills a dragon which had ravaged his land- receives a mortal wound and dies.

Written probably in the 7<sup>th</sup> century AD.

Translated into modern English by Seamus Heaney in 1999.

Influenced 20<sup>th</sup> C writers like W H Auden, Ted Hughes and Seamus Heaney.

***Widsith***

143 lines.

Also known as "The Traveller's Song".

A traveller, more imaginary than real, recounts the places and illustrious people he has visited.

***Waldere***

Consists of two-fragments, 63 lines.

Exploits of Walter of Aquitaine.

***The Fight at Finnsburh:***

A fragment, 84 lines.

Fight at Finnsburh, allusion to which is made in the Finn episode of Beowulf.

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***The Battle of Brunanburh:***

Based on a battle which took place in 937.

***The Battle of Maldon:***

Based on the battle which took place in 11 August 991 AD near Maldon beside the River Blackwater in Essex, England, during the reign of Æthelred the Unready.

**Elegies:**

The Wanderer

The Seafarer

The Wife`s Lament

Husband`s Message.

Two important poets:

**Caedmon**

7<sup>th</sup> c Northumbrian poet.

Wrote Genesis, Exodus, Daniel, Judith. Three short poems under the title Christ and Satan.

Details of his life are known from Venerable Bede`s Ecclesiastical History of the English Race.

Caedmon`s Hymns- alliterative vernacular praise poems in 9 lines.

**Cynewulf**

Lived in the 9<sup>th</sup> c

Wrote religious poetry.

Wrote Dream of the Rood, Christ, Elene, Juliana, the Fates of the Apostles.

**Old English Prose:**

**King Alfred the Great (AD 848-99)**

Father of English prose

King of Wessex from AD 871 until his death in AD 899.

Translated theological and philosophical prose from Latin.

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Initiated work on the Anglo- Saxon chronicle.

***Anglo- Saxon Chronicle:***

Compiler- King Alfred.

A major historical document.

Earliest of all records in English- events in England from the beginning of the Christian era to 1154. (1 AD-1154 AD)

It consists of 7 manuscripts, the most famous being- Peter Borough Chronicles.

Other chronicles- Laud Chronicle, Abington Chronicle, Worcester Chronicle, Parker Chronicle.

**Minor prose writers:**

**Aelfric**

Late 10<sup>th</sup> c clergyman and prose stylist.

Best known for his Grammar.

Important works- Catholic Homilies, Lives of the Saints, Colloquy, translation from the scriptures.

**Wulfstan-**

Contemporary of Aelfric

Wrote sermons, prose work about saints and martyrs.

Characteristic features of Anglo-Saxon poetry.

Resembles Hebrew poetry.

Oral poetry.

Use of compound words.

Strongly rhythmic

Use of alliteration.

Use of kenning (elaborate descriptive phrases)

Mostly anonymous.

## **The Middle English Period (1066-1500)**

Begins with the Norman Conquest (1066) and extends to the Renaissance

Harold Godwinson (Anglo-Saxon king) was defeated by William (Duke of Normandy) in the Battle of Hastings in 1066

Gradual weakening of the inflectional system.

French influence in culture and society.

Scandinavian and French loan words were found.

Norman French became the official language of England for the next three centuries. Language of upper class/ law/court.

Old English became the language of the lower class/peasants.

Latin was the language of church/ administration/ education

Period of transition and experiment.

French and Old English mixed together to form Middle English.

Middle English is different from Old English

Feudalism, maintained strict social hierarchy.

### **Dialects:**

Northern – can be subdivided into Lowland Scots & Northern English, corresponding to the Old Northumbrian dialect.

East & West Midlands corresponding to Mercian.

South Eastern corresponding to Kentish.

South Western corresponding to West-Saxon.

**East Midland dialect** emerged as the standard dialect.

### **Middle English Poetry:**

**Chronicles:** historical account of events arranged in order of time.

Layamon.

Layamon's Brut- written about 1205

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Also known as the Chronicle of Britain.

16000 long alliterative lines.

The history of Britain from the landing of Brutus to the death of Cadwallader

Chief source- Roman de Brut of Wace.

Robert of Gloucester

Known for his rhyming chronicles.

**Religious and didactic poetry-** poems that instruct/convey moral values.

***The Ormulum***

Written by Orm

Dated to c 1200

Nearly 10000 lines

Written in North-East Midlands

***The Owl and the Nightingale***

Written in the 13<sup>th</sup> century.

Allegorical poem

1794 lines

Debates b/w a grave owl, standing for wisdom and a gay nightingale standing for the lighter joys of life.

***The Cursor Mundi:***

Religious work of an encyclopedic nature

Treats almost all the old and New Testament stories and much from the later religious history also.

**Alliterative poems:**

Written in West-midland dialect

*Pearl, Purity, Patience*

*Sir Gawain and the Green Knight*

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**Miracle plays** – deal with the growth and development of bible stories. Eg: *Abraham & Issac*

**Morality plays**- designed to teach a moral and improve the behavior of the audience. Eg: *Everyman, King John* by Bale.

**Prose:**

*Ancrene Wisse*

Written around 12<sup>th</sup> century.

It is a manual designed to guide three noble ladies who had become anchoresses.

**Age of Chaucer**

14<sup>th</sup> century- a period of great political, social, religious and literary activity

The beginning of the Hundred Year`s War between France and England (1337)

Black death- attack of bubonic plague- a devastating pandemic in human history (1348-1376).  
Period of famine and shortage of labourers.

The Peasant Revolt of 1381

The War of Roses (1455-1486)

Invention of printing press- William Caxton introduced the printing press at Westminster in England in 1476. With printing anonymity gave way to authorship.

**Geoffrey Chaucer (c.1340-1400)**

Father of English poetry. (Comment by Dryden)

First poet of national importance.

Born during the reign of Edward III

Lived during the reign of Richard II

Died during the reign of Henry IV

Hudson called him the ‘morning star of Renaissance’.

Spenser described Chaucer as “the well of English Undefined”.

Bridge between medievalism and modernism

Regarded as the Father of English language as well as Father of English Fiction.

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He wrote in East midland dialect

He was a civil servant

Three periods in Chaucer`s literary career.

**French period:** till 1370

Translation of *Roman de la Rose*- allegorical love poem-Octosyllabic rhyming couplets (each line has 8 syllables)

*The Book of Duchess*- a dream allegory (the narrator falls asleep and dreams and the events of the dreams become the story)- first narrative poem.

**Italian period.** upto 1387

*The House of Fame*

*The Parliament of Fowles*

*Troilus and Criseyde*

*The Legend of Good women*

**English period.** after 1387-1400

*The Canterbury Tales*

**Chaucer`s works:**

***The Book of Duchess***

The first major work of the English poet Geoffrey Chaucer

First of Chaucer`s dream vision

Allegorical work- depicts the sorrow of a bereaved knight

Composed in c. 1370 CE in honour of Blanche, Duchess of Lancaster, wife of John of Gaunt, Duke of Lancaster and Chaucer's best friend.

Blanche died in 1368 CE, probably from the plague, at the age of 26, and John of Gaunt mourned her for the rest of his life even though he would remarry.

***The House of Fame***

An unfinished dream-poem by Chaucer, composed between 1374 and 1385



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The book has been described as a parody of Dante's *Divine Comedy*.

***The Parliament of Fowles:***

A dream-poem by Chaucer in 699 lines of rhyme-royal, possibly written between 1372 and 1386.

It centres on a conference of birds to choose their mates on St Valentine's Day.

Believed to be an allegory of King Richard II to Anne of Bohemia.

***Troilus and Criseyde:***

An epic poem by Geoffrey Chaucer.

Re-tells in Middle English the tragic story of the lovers Troilus and Criseyde set against a backdrop of war during the siege of Troy.

Written in *rime royale*

Probably completed during the mid-1380s.

Regarded as the poet's finest work.

***The Legend of Good Women:***

A poem in the form of a dream vision by Geoffrey Chaucer during the fourteenth century.

Theme: Betrayal of good women by wicked men.

The prologue describes how Chaucer is reprimanded by the god of love and his queen, Alceste, for his works—such as *Troilus and Criseyde*—depicting women in a poor light.

***The Canterbury Tales:***

Borrowed idea from Boccaccio's *Decameron*.

It is widely regarded as Chaucer's *magnum opus*.

General prologue- gives a picture of 14<sup>th</sup> century England.

29 pilgrims meet at Tabard Inn to go on a pilgrimage to the shrine of Thomas Beckett at Canterbury in the month of April. ( 31 including poet and host -Harry Bailey)

Each of the pilgrim is to tell two tales on the outward journey and two on return

Chaucer completed only 21 and left 3 unfinished.

Number of tales in verse -22

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Dryden opined about characterisation: “here`s God`s plenty”

Used East Midland dialect.

Most common meter used- the heroic couplet.

Begins with knight`s tale (longest tale) and ends with parson`s tale.

### **Important characters:**

The Knight – noblest of the pilgrims, excellent man, he loved chivalry, he rode a horse, fought in Lithuania and Russia, his gear was plain, tunic spattered by rust. Tells the first tale.

The Squire - The knight`s son - In his 20`s, curly hair, lover and would soon become a knight like his father. “He was as fresh as the month of May”. Healthy and powerful, indicating lustfulness.

The Prioress- Nun - gentle smile, interested in elegance and refinement of manners, known as Madame Eglantyne (means sweet briar). Sang mass well, spoke good French, learned good table manners in school, wore a coral rosary with green beads from which hung a brooch of shining gold- “Amor vincit omnia” (Love Conquers all) written on it. Another nun and 3 priests accompany her.

The Monk – “A manly man, to be an abbot able”, loved hunting and good food, he ignored old rules and lived a modern life.

The Friar –Name- Hubert. He fixed up marriages. He is licensed to beg for donations in a limited area, worthy women welcomed him to town, highly beloved. Neck was as white as lily.

Priest - Accompanied the prioress, her secretary.

The Pardoner - sang “come hither, love, to me”, long locks on his head, he was always beardless, he carried his wallet in his lap. Implies a whole world of moral hypocrisy. Good storyteller.

The Summoner – pardoner`s companion. Red faced, little children were scared of his face, he would get drunk and speak Latin, gave wine to anyone who asked. Lecherous and dishonest.

The Parson - poor, rich in holy thought and work, kind man full of industry, he was a shepherd. Only ideal clergyman in the Canterbury Tales. Pious and devoted to his duty.

The Clerk of Oxford – a student- had a hollow look- a sober stare- wore a threadbare overcoat-he had a scholarship, never talked more than was needed.

Merchant - Had a forked beard- wore a beaver hat and motley coloured dress-expert in business, he sat high up in his saddle, knew exchange rates and times to sell French currency.

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The Man of Law - Discreet, sergeant of the law, wise manner, wore a homely parti-coloured coat and a silken belt.

The Franklin - His beard was whiter than a daisy, he lived in comfort, true son of Epicurus.

Wife of Bath - somewhat deaf, was a weaver, great expertise in making cloth, wore fine kerchiefs of old-fashioned air, had 5 husbands at church door apart from the company in youth - had travelled to many places. Bath is the name of the town to which she belonged. The real name of Wife of Bath is Alison.

The physician - grounded in astrology, kept patients long in observation, understood the laws.

The Reeve - slender, fiery tempered man, shaved closely to his skin, long lean legs, lived in good house on open space, wore long tied up blue coat, came from Norfolk.

Yeoman - He was a servant - Wore a green coat that had a hood. He wore a silver image of St. Christopher on his chest.

Ploughman - travelled with his brother, hearty worker, loved God, wore coarse rough coat and rode a mare.

The Miller - big strong arms and thighs, broad beard, he carried a sword and buckler, blows bagpipes through town.

The Manciple - From lawyers' college, good cheater.

Chaucer's contemporaries:

**William Langland:**

*Piers Plowman or The Vision of William Concerning the Piers the Plowman.*

Written c. 1370–86; possibly c. 1377

A Middle English allegorical narrative poem

It is written in un-rhymed, alliterative verse divided into sections called *passus* (Latin for "step").

There exists three distinct versions of the poem, which scholars refer to as the A, B, and C texts.

It exposes sloth and vice of the church.

**John Gower :**

Three major works:

*Speculum Meditantis* (French)

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Allegory of the attacks of the seven deadly sins and their offspring upon mankind.

30000 lines.

***Vox Clamantis:***

Written in Latin.

Represents Wat Tyler`s rising in 1381.

***Confessio Amantis:***

Written in English in East-Midland dialect.

Reviews the condition of human race.

Collection of stories.

A lover makes confessions to a priest of Venus, a learned old man named Genius, and the stories are narrated by this priest for the purpose of illustrating the seven deadly sins affecting love and lovers.

**John Barbour**

The National poet of Scotland in the 14<sup>th</sup> c

Important work: Bruce.

Lengthy poem of 20 books and 13000 lines.

A history of Scotland`s struggle for freedom from the year 1286 till the death of Bruce and the burial of his heart.

**John Wycliffe:**

Wrote many Latin books in support of his revolutionary opinions.

First translation of the New Testament of Bible into English (1380).

Morning star of Reformation.

**Sir John Mandeville:**

Book of travels.

Compilation of several popular books of voyages.

**Sir Thomas Malory:**

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Morte d' Arthur based on the French Arthurian Romances.

### **Sir Thomas Moore:**

First writer of the middle style.

Utopia (1516) written in Latin and later translated into English by Ralph Robinson (1551).

The history of Richard III.

### **Tottel's Miscellany (1557)**

Includes songs and sonnets of Wyatt and Surrey.

## **Middle English Literature**

### **Geoffrey Chaucer**

Poet Geoffrey Chaucer was born circa 1340 in London, England. In 1357 he became a public servant to Countess Elizabeth of Ulster and continued in that capacity with the British court throughout his lifetime. *The Canterbury Tales* became his best known and most acclaimed work. He died in 1400 and was the first to be buried in Westminster Abbey's Poet's Corner.

Chaucer's first major work was 'The Book of the Duchess', an elegy for the first wife of his patron John of Gaunt. Other works include 'Parliament of Fowles', 'The Legend of Good Women' and 'Troilus and Criseyde'. In 1387, he began his most famous work, 'The Canterbury Tales', in which a diverse group of people recount stories to pass the time on a pilgrimage to Canterbury.

### **William Langland**

Langland (born c. 1330—died c. 1400), presumed author of one of the greatest examples of Middle English alliterative poetry, generally known as *Piers Plowman*, an allegorical work with a complex variety of religious themes. One of the major achievements of *Piers Plowman* is that it translates the language and conceptions of the cloister into symbols and images that could be understood by the layman. In general, the language of the poem is simple and colloquial, but some of the author's imagery is powerful and direct.

### **Morality plays, Miracle plays, and Interlude**

Morality play is an allegorical drama popular in Europe especially during the 15th and 16th centuries, in which the characters personify moral qualities (such as charity or vice) or abstractions (as death or youth) and in which moral lessons are taught. Morality plays typically contain a protagonist who represents either humanity as a whole or a smaller social structure. Supporting characters are personifications of good and evil. This alignment of characters

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provides the play's audience with moral guidance. Morality plays are the result of the dominant belief of the time period, that humans had a certain amount of control over their post-death fate while they were on earth. Example is *Everyman*.

Miracle plays (mystery plays) were stories taken from the Bible. Each play had four or five different scenes or acts. The priests and monks were the actors. Each scene or act was performed at a different place in town and the people moved from one stage to the next to watch the play. The play usually ended outside the church so that the people would go to church and hear a sermon after watching the play.

Another kind of play, the Interlude was performed at court or at "great houses" by professional minstrels or amateurs at intervals between some other entertainment, such as a banquet, or preceding or following a play, or between acts. John Heywood, one of the most famous interlude writers, brought the genre to perfection in his *Four P-s*.

## **Elizabethan Poetry and Prose**

After the death of Geoffrey Chaucer in 1400, a century has gone without great literary outputs. This period is known as Barren Age of literature.

Even though there are many differences in their work, Sir Thomas Wyatt and the Earl of Surrey are often mentioned together. Sir Thomas Wyatt introduced the Sonnet in England whereas Surrey wrote the first blank verse in English.

Thomas Wyatt followed the Italian poet Petrarch to compose sonnets. In this form, the 14 lines rhyme abbaabba (8) + 2 or 3 rhymes in the last six lines.

The Earl of Surrey's blank verse is remarkable. Christopher Marlow, Shakespeare, Milton and many other writers made use of it.

Tottel's *Songs and Sonnets* (1557) is the first printed anthology of English poetry. It contained 40 poems by Surrey and 96 by Wyatt. There were 135 by other authors. Some of these poems were fine, some childish.

In 1609, a collection of Shakespeare's 154 sonnets was printed. These sonnets were addressed to one "Mr. W.H.". The most probable explanation of the identity of "W.H." is that he was William Herbert, Earl of Pembroke.

Other people mentioned in the sonnets are a girl, a rival poet, and a dark-eyed beauty. Shakespeare's two long poems, *Venus and Adonis*, *The Rape of Lucrece* are notable.

One of the most important poets of Elizabethan period is Edmund Spenser (1552-1599). He has been addressed "the poets' poet". His pastoral poem, *The Sheppard's Calendar* (1579) is in 12

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books, one for each month of the year. Spenser's *Amoretti*, 88 Petrarchan sonnets celebrates his progress of love. The joy of his marriage with Elizabeth Boyle is expressed in his ode *Epithalamion*. His *Prothalamion* is written in honour of the double marriage of the daughters of the Earl of Worcester. Spenser's allegorical poem, *The Faerie Queene* is his greatest achievement. Spenser invented a special meter for *The Faerie Queene*. The verse has nine lines and the rhyme plan is ababbcbcc. This verse is known as the 'Spenserian Stanza'.

Sir Philip Sidney is remembered for his prose romance, *Arcadia*. His critical essay *Apology for Poetry*, sonnet collection *Astrophel and Stella* are elegant.

Michael Drayton and Sir Walter Raleigh are other important poets of Elizabethan England. Famous Elizabethan dramatist Ben Jonson produced fine poems also.

**The University Wits** John Lyly, Thomas Kyd, George Peele, Thomas Lodge, Robert Green, Christopher Marlow, and Thomas Nash also wrote good number of poems. John Lyly is most widely known as the author of prose romance entitled *Euphues*. The style Lyly used in his *Euphues* is known as Euphuism. The sentences are long and complicated. It is filled with tricks and alliteration. Large number of similes are brought in.

John Donne's works add the beauty of Elizabethan literature. He was the chief figure of Metaphysical Poetry. Donne's poems are noted for its originality and striking images and conceits. *Satires, Songs and Sonnets, Elegies, The Flea, A Valediction: Forbidding Mourning, A Valediction: of weeping* etc. are his famous works.

Sir Francis Bacon is a versatile genius of Elizabethan England. He is considered as the father of English essays. His *Essays* first appeared in 1597, the second edition in 1612 and the third edition in 1625. Besides essays, he wrote *The Advancement of Learning, New Atlantis* and *History of Henry VII*.

Bacon's popular essays are *Of Truth, Of Friendship, Of Love, Of Travel, Of Parents and Children, Of Marriage and Single Life, Of Anger, Of Revenge, Of Death, etc.*

Ben Jonson's essays are compiled in *The Timber or Discoveries*. His essays are aphoristic like those of Bacon. Jonson is considered as the father of English literary criticism.

Many attempts were carried out to translate Bible into English. After the death of John Wycliff, William Tyndale tried on this project. Coverdale carried on the work of Tyndale. The *Authorized Version of Bible* was published in 1611.

## **Elizabethan Drama**

The English dramas have gone through great transformation in Elizabethan period. The chief literary glory of the Elizabethan age was its drama. The first regular English comedy

was *Ralph Roister Doister* written by Nicholas Udall. Another comedy *Gammar Gurton's Needle* is about the loss and the finding of a needle with which the old woman Gammar Gurton mends clothes. The first English tragedy was *Gorboduc*, in blank verse. The first three acts of *Gorboduc* are written by Thomas Norton and the other two by Thomas Sackville.

The University Wits contributed hugely for the growth of Elizabethan drama. The University Wits were young men associated with Oxford and Cambridge. They were fond of heroic themes. The most notable figures are Christopher Marlow, Thomas Kyd, Thomas Nash, Thomas Lodge, Robert Greene, and George Peele.

Christopher Marlow was the greatest of pre-Shakespearean dramatist. Marlow wrote only tragedies. His most famous works are *Edward II*, *Tamburlaine the Great*, *The Jew of Malta*, *The Massacre at Paris*, and *Doctor Faustus*. Marlow popularized the blank verse. Ben Jonson called it "the mighty line of Marlow".

Thomas Kyd's *The Spanish Tragedy* is a Senecan play. It resembles Shakespeare's *Hamlet*. Its horrific plot gave the play a great and lasting popularity.

The greatest literary figure of English, William Shakespeare was born at Stratford-on-Avon on April 26, 1564. He did odd jobs and left to London for a career. In London, he wrote plays for Lord Chamberlain's company. Shakespeare's plays can be classified as the following

1. The Early Comedies: in these immature plays the plots are not original. The characters are less finished and the style lacks the genius of Shakespeare. They are full of wit and word play. Of this type are *The Comedy of Errors*, *Love's Labour's Lost*, and *The Two Gentlemen of Verona*.
2. The English Histories: These plays show a rapid maturing of Shakespeare's technique. His characterization has improved. The plays in this group are *Richard II*, *Henry IV* and *Henry V*.
3. The Mature Comedies: The jovial good humour of Sir Toby Belch in *Twelfth Night*, the urban worldly-wise comedy of Touchstone in *As You Like It*, and the comic scenes in *The Merchant of Venice*, *Much Ado About Nothing* etc. are full of vitality. They contain many comic situations.
4. The Somber Plays: In this group are *All's Well that Ends Well*, *Measure for Measure*, and *Troilus and Cressida*. These plays show a cynical attitude to life and are realistic in plot.
5. The Great Tragedies: *Hamlet*, *Othello*, *Macbeth*, and *King Lear* are the climax of Shakespeare's art. These plays stand supreme in intensity of emotion, depth of psychological insight, and power of style.
6. The Roman Plays: *Julius Caesar*, *Antony and Cleopatra*, *Coriolanus* etc. follow the great tragic period. Unlike Marlow, Shakespeare is relaxed in the intensity of tragedy.



7. The Last Plays: The notable last plays of Shakespeare are *Cymbeline*, *The Winter's Tale*, and *The Tempest*.

The immense power and variety of Shakespeare's work have led to the idea that one man cannot have written it all; yet it must be true that one man did. Thus Shakespeare remains as the greatest English dramatist even after four centuries of his death.

Other dramatist who flourished during the Elizabethan period is Ben Jonson. He introduced the "comedy of humours", which portrays the individual as dominated by one marked characteristic. He is best known for his *Every Man in his Humour*. Other important plays of Jonson are *Every Man out of his Humour*, *Volpone or the Fox*, and *The Alchemist*,

John Webster's *The White Devil* and *The Duchess of Malfi* are important Elizabethan dramas. Thomas Dekker, Thomas Middleton, Thomas Heywood, Beaumont and Fletcher etc. are other noted Elizabethan playwrights.

### **John Milton and His Time**

John Milton (1608- 1674) was born in London and educated at Christ's College, Cambridge. After leaving university, he studied at home. Milton was a great poet, polemic, pamphleteer, theologian, and parliamentarian. In 1643, Milton married a woman much younger than himself. She left Milton and did not return for two years. This unfortunate incident led Milton to write two strong pamphlets on divorce. The greatest of all his political writings is *Areopagitica*, a notable and impassioned plea for the liberty of the press.

Milton's early poems include *On Shakespeare*, and *On Arriving at the Age of Twenty-three*. *L'Allegro* (the happy man) and *Il Penseroso* (the sad man) two long narrative poems. *Comus* is a masque written by Milton when he was at Cambridge. His pastoral elegy *Lycidas* is on his friend, Edward King who drowned to death on a voyage to Ireland. Milton's one of the sonnets deals with the theme of his blindness. Milton is remembered for his greatest epic poem *Paradise Lost*. *Paradise Lost* contained twelve books and published in 1667. Milton composed it in blank verse. *Paradise Lost* covers the rebellion of Satan (Lucifer) in heaven and his expulsion. *Paradise Lost* contains hundreds of remarkable lines. Milton coined many words in this poem.

*Paradise Regained* and *Samson Agonistes* are other two major poems of Milton.

Milton occupies a central position in English literature. He was a great Puritan and supported Oliver Cromwell in the Civil War. He wrote many pamphlets in support of parliament. Milton's period produced immense lyric poetry. These lyrical poets dealt chiefly with love and war.

Richard Lovelace's *Lucasta* contains the best of his shorter pieces. His best known lyrics, such as *To Althea, from Prison* and *To Lucasta, going in the Wars*, are simple and sincere.

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Sir John Suckling was a famous wit at court. His poems are generous and witty. His famous poem is *Ballad upon a Wedding*.

Robert Herrick wrote some fresh and passionate lyrics. Among his best known shorter poems are *To Althea*, *To Julia*, and *Cherry Ripe*.

Philip Massinger and John Ford produced some notable in this period.

Many prose writers flourished during Milton's age. Sir Thomas Browne is the best prose writer of the period. His *Religio Medici* is a curious mixture of religious faith and scientific skepticism. *Pseudodoxia Epidemica, or Vulgar Errors* is another important work.

Thomas Hobbes's *Leviathan*, Thomas Fuller's *The History of the Holy War* are other important prose works during this period. Izaak Walton's biography of John Donne is a very famous work of Milton's period. His *Compleat Angler* discusses the art of river fishing.

## **Restoration Drama and Prose**

The Restoration of Charles II (1660) brought about a revolution in English literature. With the collapse of the Puritan Government there sprang up activities that had been so long suppressed. The Restoration encouraged levity in rules that often resulted in immoral and indecent plays.

### **John Dryden (1631-1700)**

Dryden is the greatest literary figure of the Restoration. In his works, we have an excellent reflection of both the good and the bad tendencies of the age in which he lived. Before the Restoration, Dryden supported Oliver Cromwell. At the Restoration, Dryden changed his views and became loyal to Charles II. His poem *Astrea Redux* (1660) celebrated Charles II's return.

Dryden's *Annus Mirabilis* (Miracle Year) describes the terrors of Great Fire in London in 1666. Dryden appeared as the chief literary champion of the monarchy in his famous satirical allegory, *Abasalom and Achitophel*. John Dryden is now remembered for his greatest mock-heroic poem, *Mac Flecknoe*. *Mac Flecknoe* is a personal attack on his rival poet Thomas Shadwell.

Dryden's other important poems are *Religio Laici*, and *The Hind and the Panther*.

John Dryden popularized heroic couplets in his dramas. *Aureng-zebe*, *The Rival Ladies*, *The Conquest of Granada*, *Don Sebastian* etc. are some of his famous plays.

His dramatic masterpiece is *All for Love*. Dryden polished the plot of Shakespeare's *Antony and Cleopatra* in his *All for Love*.

As a prose writer, Dryden's work, *An Essay on Dramatic Poesy* is worth mentioning.

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John Bunyan's greatest allegory, *The Pilgrim's Progress*, *The Holy War*,

Comedy of Manners

Restoration period produced a brilliant group of dramatists who made this age immortal in the history of English literature. These plays are hard and witty, comic and immoral. It was George Etherege who introduced Comedy of Manners. His famous plays are *She Would if She Could*, *The Man of Mode* and *Love in a Tub*.

William Congreve is the greatest of Restoration comedy writers. His *Love for Love*, *The Old Bachelor*, *The Way of the World* and *The Double Dealer* are very popular.

William Wycherley is another important Restoration comedy playwright. His *Country Wife*, and *Love in a Wood* are notable plays.

Sir John Vanbrugh's best three comedies are *The Provoked Wife*, *The Relapse* and *The Confederacy*.

English Poets (1660-1798)

**Alexander Pope** (1688-1744) was the undisputed master of both prose and verse. Pope wrote many poems and mock-epics attacking his rival poets and social condition of England. His *Dunciad* is an attack on dullness. He wrote *An Essay on Criticism* (1711) in heroic couplets. In 1712, Pope published *The Rape of the Lock*, one of the most brilliant poems in English language. It is a mock-heroic poem dealing with the fight of two noble families.

*An Essay on Man*, *Of the Characters of Women*, and the translation of *Iliad* and *Odyssey* are his other major works.

Oliver Goldsmith wrote two popular poems in heroic couplets. They are *The Traveller* and *The Deserted Village*.

**James Thomson** is remembered for his long series of descriptive passages dealing with natural scenes in his poem *The Seasons*. He wrote another important poem *The Castle of Indolence*.

Edward Young produced a large amount of literary work of variable quality. *The Last Day*, *The Love of Fame*, and *The Force of Religion* are some of them.

**Robert Blair**'s fame is chiefly dependent on his poem *The Grave*. It is a long blank verse poem of meditation on man's morality.

**Thomas Gray** (1716-1771) is one of the greatest poets of English literature. His first poem was the *Ode on a Distant Prospect of Eton College*. Then after years of revision, he published his famous *Elegy Written in a Country Churchyard*. Its popularity had been maintained to the

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present day. Other important poems of Thomas Gray are *Ode on a Favourite Cat*, *The Bard* and *The Progress of Poesy*.

William Blake (1757-1827) is both a great poet and artist. His two collections of short lyrics are *Songs of Innocence* and *Songs of Experience*. His finest lyric is *The Tyger*.

Robert Burns is known as the national poet of Scotland. *A Winter Night*, *O My Love is like a Red Red Rose*, *The Holy Fair* etc. are some of his major poems.

William Cowper, William Collins, and William Shenstone are other notable poets before the Romanticism.

## **The Romantic Period**

**(1790 \_1850)**

- Primarily expressed through poetry.
- Questioned the previous neoclassical tendencies.
- Friedrich Schlegel (German poet) first used the term “romantic” while describing “literature depicting emotional matter in an imaginative form”.
- Subjectivity, individualism, imagination, emotion, freedom, emphasis on beauty, love of nature etc—central points.
- Emerged against the backdrop of two revolutions: French Revolution(1789) and American Revolution(1776)

### **1. Culture and Society**

Population

Urbanisation

Sanitation Problem

Industrial Revolution

Transport system

Agriculture

Sensibility

Visual Art

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Royal Academy

Oil Painting

History Painting

Landscape Painting

Caricature

## **2. Industrial Revolution**

### **3. Enclosure**

#### 4. Transformation in Ideas about Science

“Natural Philosophy” to “scientist”

Royal Society

Scientific Developments

Joseph Priestly

Physical Sciences

Chemical Revolution

i. John Dalton

ii. Alessandro Volta

iii. Humphry Davy

iv. Christian Oersted

v. Michael Faraday

vi. William Sturgeon

vii. Luigi Galvani

viii. Giovanni Aldini

Geology

i. Neptunists: Abraham Gottlob Werner: rock formation—product of precipitation by an ancient ocean

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ii. Vulcanists: rock formation—by igneous or volcanic action

iii. Plutonists: James Hutton: rock formation—by sedimentation

Origins of Human Life

Jean-Baptiste Lamarck

Lord Monboddo

Erasmus Darwin

William Lawrence

Methodism

Evangelical Revival

Politics, Power, and Ideologies

Agrarian Country-inconsistent electoral system-reform attempts

French Revolution's influence

Supporters-English Jacobins

Duke of Portland and Prime Minister William Pitt—against revolutionary ideals

Treason trials of 1794

Two Acts (passed into law in 1795)

Britain's war with revolutionary France (1793-1815)

Napoleon's 'Army of England'

1814-abdication of Napoleon

Napoleon's defeat at Waterloo

Post-Waterloo Britain

Economic hardship and depression

Dissatisfaction with Tory Govt.

Campaign against Corn Laws

Henry Orator Hunt

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Peterloo Massacre at St peter's Field-1819

Cato Street Conspiracy—1820—a band of extreme republicans attempted to assassinate the cabinet and establish a provisional government in its place

1832-Bill for the Reform of Parliament

8. The Slave Trade and Abolitionism

9. Continuities, Innovations, and Influences

William Blake-prophetic and apocalyptic illuminated books

William Wordsworth and Coleridge—Lyrical Ballads 1798

William Wordsworth—Preface to Lyrical Ballads 1800

William Cowper's blank-verse poem The Task

Della Cruscans—

Robert Merry and the group of poets (Mary Robinson, Hannah Cowley etc.) that gathered round him.

Produced ornate and emotional poems of sensibility

Published in The Florence Miscellany and British Album

Robert Burns' Poems Chiefly in the Scottish Dialect

Charlotte Smith 's Elegiac Sonnets

William Lisle Bowles' Fourteen Sonnets

Sensibility

18th century movement.

Stressed the importance of emotions and feelings in human relationships

Linked to the rise of middle class

Combined an empiricist notion of human knowledge.

Gendered as a female property

Methodist theology also contributed to this movement.

Fictions of Samuel Richardson and Laurence Stern exploited sensibility

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Politicized by its association with radical and reformist politics

J. The Gothic

James Macpherson (translations of imaginary Gaelic poet 'Ossian')

Thomas Chatterton (discovered the medieval manuscripts of Thomas Rowley)

. Bishop Thomas Percy's Reliques of Ancient English Poetry

Graveyard School of Poetry

Edward Young

Robert Blair

Thomas Gray

Death and frailties of human life

Morbid tone

Stress on feelings and sublime

Modes of Production and Consumption :The Literary Market Place and the Periodical  
Review

Transitional phase in the literary market place (1780-1830)

Commercial publishing practices

Many registered printing presses by 1820s

Newspapers and periodicals grew in numbers

Book production—mechanised

Earl Stanhopr's iron platen press

Lithography—invented—in 1798—allowed printing pictures in colour

Publishing became a specialised trade.

Size of reading public—grew

Commercial circulating libraries

Pirated editions were common



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The Seditious Societies Act—1799—to prevent the circulation of inexpensive political tracts among the lower orders

Literary Journals

Gentleman's Magazine

Monthly Review—Whig

Critical Review—Tory

Dissenting, Radical, Reformist supportive journals

Monthly Magazine

Analytical Review

English Review

Pro govt journals

British Critic

ii. The Anti Jacobin/Weekly Examiner

John and Leigh Hunt—Examiner

William Cobbett—Political Register (tuppenny trash)

TJ Wooler Black Dwarf

John Wade Gorgon

Richard Carlile Republican

Essay and journal writing—prominent feature of literary market place

Coleridge

Hazlitt

Tomas De Quincey

Charles Lamb

Leigh Hunt

Authors, Texts, and Subjects

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First Generation

Blake, Wordsworth, Coleridge

Second Generation

Byron, Shelley, Keats

Women Romantic Poets

**Anna Barbauld**

*Poems* 1773

*Miscellaneous Pieces in Prose* 1773

*Lessons for Children* 1778

*Hymns in Prose for Children* 1781

*Eighteen Hundred and Eleven* 1812

“Epistle to William Wilberforce” 1791

**Mary Robinson**

Known as Perdita

Sonnet Sequence—in 1796—Sappho and Phaon

“The Haunted Beach” (1800)—response to Coleridge’s “The Rime of the Ancient Mariner”

“Poem to Coleridge”-- response to Coleridge’s “Kubla Khan”

**Helena Maria Williams**

**Felicia Dorothea Hemans**

*Tales and Historic Scenes* 1819

*The Siege of Valencia* 1823

*Records of Woman* 1830

**Laetitia Elizabeth Landon**

Known as L.E.L

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*The Fate of Adelaide* 1821

*The Troubadour* 1825

*The Golden Violet* 1827

*The Venetian Bracelet* 1829

Labouring Poets

Excluded from the canon of High Romanticism

Peasant or labouring poets

James Hogg

Known as 'Ettrick shepherd'

Gothic fiction *Confessions of a Justified Sinner* 1824

*Poetic Mirror* 1816

Robert Bloomfield

Known as the 'Farmer's Boy'

Ann Yearsley

Known as 'Lactilla' or 'the Bristol Milkwoman'

The Romantic Novel

Gothic Romance—established by Walpole

Deals with tyranny, superstition, violence

Female Gothic—Ann Radcliffe, Eliza Parsons, Regina Roche, Clara Reeve

(*The Old English Baron* 1777—first pub as *The Champion of Virtue*)

Mary Shelley

Supernatural elements

Historic realism

Oriental tales

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Reformist and political themes

Jacobin novels

Sentimental fictions

Anti-Jacobin Novels—celebrating traditional values of hearth and home

Novels dealing with courtship and marriage

Novels of sensibility

Novels of regional and national manners

Theoretical histories—by John Galt (set in Western lowlands of Scotland)

Waverly Novels-Scott

Satirical-conversation novels—Thomas Love Peacock

### **Romantic Drama**

Less importance to drama

Major theatres—Covent Garden and Drury Lane

Sentimental Comedies

Costume drama

Beginnings of farce in Colman's *Love Laughs at Locksmiths*

Wordsworth's psychological drama *The Borderers*

Coleridge's tragedy *Osorio*—later produced as *Remorse*

12. *Lake School*—Wordsworth, Southey, Coleridge

13. *Satanic School*—Byron and Shelley

14. *Cockney School*—Leigh Hunt (derogatory term coined by Lockhart at Blackwoods)

15. Byron and Byronism—*Child Harold's Pilgrimage*-- Cynical, alienated, solitary hero

16. *Mental Theatre*

Closet drama

Byron—referred to as *Mental Theatre*

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Drama to be read, not to be performed

### 17. Class, Power, and Politics

Romantics demonstrated a concern with the whole, with the integration, and with Unity

Literature-reflected turbulent political periods

Influence of French Revolution—initially supported, then disillusioned

Wordsworth, Blake, Coleridge

Second generation poets—faith in liberal and reformist politics

### 18. The Sublime, the Beautiful, The Picturesque

a. Applied to the description of landscape

b. Edmund Burke defined sublime in his *A Philosophical Enquiry into the Origin of Our Ideas of the Sublime and Beautiful*

c. Sublime: occasioned by great and terrible subjects

d. Beautiful: the product of small and pleasing subjects

e. Picturesque: 18th c theory—stressed the notions of variety, irregularity, ruggedness, singularity, chiaroscuro (patterns of light and dark)—key theorists: William Gilpin, Uvedale Price, and Payne Knight

### 19. Land and Landscape

Changes in rural and urban landscape—reflected in literature

Oliver Goldsmith—*The Deserted Village*

George Crabbe—*The Village*

Lyrical Ballads—theme rural and rustic life

Poetry of John Clare—sensitive to the changes in rural environment; hostile to ‘improvement’ and enclosure

Throughout the period—notion of ‘improvement’/efficient management or cultivation of land to increase its profitability—a key concern—eg. Jane Austen’s *Mansfield Park*

Many viewed improvement with suspicion

Canonical romantic writers avoided the picturesque appreciation of nature—supported sublime

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Romantic writers disliked the notion of nature as framed as in a picture

Wordsworth's spiritual autobiography—The Prelude—sublime, quasi-mystical view of nature

Second generation poets also celebrated the sublime—eg., Shelley's poem "Mont Blanc"

But, Shelley's sublime—ambiguous—Shelley doesn't believe that sublime landscape reveals spiritual or divine presence. For Shelley, sublime is powerful and destructive experience.

Sublime is a masculine Romantic mode—it does not always present in the writings of female poets and novelists—criticism by Anne Mellor, feminist critic

## 20. Science

Most of the Romantic writers were deeply interested in scientific enquiry as opposed to the popular assumption.

Coleridge—friend of natural philosophers Thomas Beddoes and Humphry Davy

Wordsworth and Shelley—interested in latest scientific theories

But, Romantic poets—against the narrow utilitarian and empirical application of science.

Against Newtonian Orthodoxy—considered it as materialist and reductive.

Against the demystification of nature.

Keats-- Against the demystification of nature.

Belief in pantheism

Erasmus Darwin—translated Linnaeus' works—polymath, theorist, botanist etc— his work: The Botanic Garden

## 21. Gender and Sexuality

Poetry—considered as the preserve of male poets

Some women wrote tragedies, satires, sonnets, comedy of manners

The romantic revival of sonnet form—occasioned by the publication of Charlotte Smith's Elegiac Sonnets(1784)

Women writers specialised in the novel

Women tended to write about their own sensibility, about feminine instinct, and female duty

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Anne Mellor told: two types of Romanticism—masculine and feminine

Romantic poetry contains several alluring and destructive females—eg. Christabel Coleridge, Keats' Lamia

22. Nationhood, Empire, and the Orient

Romantic Period—beginnings of modern British imperialism

Coleridge—civil servant for the Governor of Malta

Charles Lamb and Thomas Love Peacock—worked for East India Company

Families of many romantic writers involved in colonial trade

An idea of the British nation was forged in this period

William Cowper attacked colonial greed in The Task

Britain's duty to civilise the world—this idea was exhibited by many romantic writers—eg. Wordsworth's Excursion

Oriental topics—eg. Robert Southey's Thalaba, and The Curse of Kehama; Byron's 'Turkish Tales', The Giaour(Hassan Pasha, Leila, The Giaour)

23. Orientalism—oriental topics, east/east Asian culture

24. Slavery and Trans-Atlantic Slave Trade

Many romantic writers wrote against trans-Atlantic slave trade

Blake's "The Little Black Boy", Visions of the Daughters of Albion

Mary Wollstonecraft—equated between women and slavery

Hannah More's poem Slavery –against trade—depicted the horrors of slavery—but Hannah More believed colonialism as white man's burden

25. Slave Narrative

Life stories by former slaves

Eg. The Interesting Narrative of the Life of Olaudah Equiano, or Gustavus Vassa, the African(1789)

➤ **First Generation Romantic poets: William Blake (1757-1827)**

**William Wordsworth (1770-1850)**

**Samuel Taylor Coleridge (1772-1834)**

--emphasis on self and nature

➤ **Second Generation Romantic poets: George Byron (1788-1824)**

**PB Shelley (1792-1822)**

**John Keats (1795-1821)**

--emphasis on life and art

--revolt

William Wordsworth

➤ **(7 April 1770 in Cockerthorpe, Cumberland to 23 April 1850 in Rydal, Westmorland, England)**

➤ The first publication of poems by Wordsworth in 1793 in the collections *An Evening Walk* and *Descriptive Sketches*.

➤ a legacy of £900 from Raisley Calvert

➤ Wordsworth, Coleridge and Southey came to be known as the "Lake Poets"

➤ *The Borderers*, a blank-verse tragedy (pub 1842)

Only play

Five acts

Set during the reign of Henry III

➤ *The Prelude; or, Growth of a Poet's Mind*—autobiographical 1850

Posthumously published and titled by Mary Hutchinson.

Before 1850, the poem was called "Poem to Coleridge"

14 books

➤ Ode: *Intimations of Immortality from Recollections of Early Childhood*

Ode/Immortality Ode/Great Ode



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Completed in 1804

Published in Poems: Two Volumes 1807

Irregular Pindaric Ode in 11 stanzas

“Our birth is but a sleep and forgetting”

The poem is “about growing up”—Lionel Trilling

Starts with “The child is the father of the man” (From Wordsworth’s “My Heart Leaps Up”)

In 1807 Wordsworth added an epigraph “Paulo majora canamus”—Latin from Virgil’s Eclogue 4—“let us sing a somewhat loftier song”

In 1815—This epigraph+ full title “Dejection: An Ode” by Coleridge (a response to this poem)

Lyrical Ballads with a Few Other Poems

➤ Wordsworth and Coleridge

➤ 1798(1<sup>st</sup> edition)

➤ 1800(2nd edition with Preface) –only Wordsworth as its author

➤ 1802(with an appendix—“Poetic Diction”)

➤ 1802(3rd edition—additions to Preface)

➤ 1805(4th edition)

➤ 19 poems by Wordsworth

➤ 4 poems by Coleridge

➤ The first proposal for the book Lyrical Ballads was for a two-volume work. The first would comprise two plays: William Wordsworth’s *The Borderers* and Samuel Taylor Coleridge’s *Osorio*. But this plan was changed so that the book was anonymous and would begin with the poem *The Rime of the Ancient Mariner*

➤ For the second edition it was moved from the opening position to the penultimate position of the first volume.

➤ Poems in Lyrical Ballads (Blue Colour by Coleridge)

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The Rime of the Ancient Mariner

The Foster-Mother's Tale

Lines left upon a Seat in a Yew-tree which

The Nightingale, a Conversational Poem

The Female Vagrant

Goody Blake and Harry Gill

Lines written a small distance from my House

Simon Lee, the old Huntsman

Anecdote for Fathers

We are seven

Lines written in early spring

The Thorn

The last of the Flock

The Dungeon

The Mad Mother

The Idiot Boy

Lines written near Richmond

Expostulation and Reply

The Tables turned

Old Man travelling

The Complaint of a forsaken Indian Woman

The Convict

Lines written a few miles above Tintern Abbey

**Samuel Taylor Coleridge (21 October 1772 – 25 July 1834)**

➤ Collaborated with Wordsworth, Charles Lamb, Robert Southey, and Charles Lloyd.

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➤ Coleridge wrote his own epitaph, probably in 1833. "Beneath this sod

A poet lies, or that which once seemed he."

➤ Wrote "The Nightingale"—Coleridge called this poem "A Conversation Poem"

➤ Critical lectures on Shakespeare

focused mainly on: Hamlet, The Tempest, Richard II, Othello, Romeo and Juliet,

Love's Labour's Lost and Macbeth, and with the narrative poems.

He admired King Lear and Antony and Cleopatra, but hated Measure for Measure.

➤ influenced Ralph Waldo Emerson and American transcendentalism

➤ a series of autobiographical letters written to Thomas Poole, a philanthropist, essayist

etc

➤ The Fall of Robespierre

Coleridge+ Robert Southey (initially Robert Lovell was also planned to be there. But later was removed)

3 act play in 1794

The events in France after the downfall of Maximilien Robespierre.

The project began at the house of their friend Robert Lovell in a "sportive conversation" (according to Southey)

➤ Pantisocracy

From Greek language meaning "equal or level government by/for all"

A utopian scheme devised in 1794 by the poets like Samuel Taylor

Coleridge and Robert Southey support an egalitarian community.

A system of government where all rule equally

Planned to establish such a community in the United States (near a site on the banks of the Susquehanna River )

Disagreement over the location by Coleridge and Southey—dropped the project.

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Two poems by Coleridge "Pantisocracy," a sonnet and "On the Prospect of Establishing a Pantisocracy,"

➤ Coleridge intended to publish a journal--The Watchman.

The first issue --published in March 1796.

Stopped publication by May of that year

➤ Coleridge Way—footpath in Somerset & Devon, England Kublakhan; Or, A Vision in a Dream: A Fragment

➤ Completed in 1719

➤ Published in 1816

➤ According to Coleridge's Preface to Kublakhan, the poem was composed one night after he experienced an opium influenced dream after reading a work describing Xanadu, the summer palace of the Mongol ruler & Emperor of China Kublai Khan.

➤ Was reading Purchas His Pilgrimage by Samuel Purchas

➤ Writing was interrupted by a person from Porlock

➤ Original plan 200 to 300 lines

➤ Published at the prompting of Lord Byron

➤ Stanza 1 –pleasure dome of Kubla Khan

➤ Stanza 2—Abyssinian maid's song

➤ Stanza 3—poetic or artistic creation

➤ Kubla Khan's creation—Nature's creation—Poet's creation-----poet's desire to emulate Kubla Khan's creation through music

➤ Xanadu—near Alph river

➤ 54 lines

➤ Gothic hints

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➤ The Crewe Manuscript—the only manuscript copy of “Kubla Khan”—holograph manuscript (written in Coleridge’s own hand)

### **John Keats (31 October 1795 – 23 February 1821)**

- an inspiration to the Pre-Raphaelite Brotherhood
- served as an apprentice with Thomas Hammond, a surgeon and apothecary-- "the most placid time in Keats' life." –according to Cowden Clarke
- first surviving poem, "An Imitation of Spenser," in 1814
- Leigh Hunt published the sonnet "O Solitude" in his magazine The Examiner—this was the first publication of Keats's poetry.

➤ Six great odes in 1819

Ode on a Grecian Urn

Ode on Indolence

Ode on Melancholy

Ode to a Nightingale

Ode to Psyche

To Autumn

➤ Otho the Great—play

➤ Epitaph—“Here lies One whose Name was writ in Water.”

➤ Adonais: An Elegy on the Death of John Keats, Author of Endymion, Hyperion, etc. -- pastoral elegy by Shelley for John Keats in 1821

Endymion

➤ 1818

➤ dedicated this poem to the late poet Thomas Chatterton.

➤ Starting line “A thing of beauty is a joy for ever”

➤ In rhyming couplets in iambic pentameter (or heroic couplets).

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- Based on the Greek myth of Endymion, the shepherd beloved of the moon goddess Selene.
- Enames Selene as "Cynthia"

### **Ode to a Nightingale**

- 1819 in Annals of the Fine Arts
- 8 stanzas—each contains 10 pentameter lines
- 3 main thoughts

His evaluation of life—full of frustration and pain

His wish that he might die

Power of imagination or fancy (but a temporary escape only)

- “These are the pure magic. These are the vision. The rest is only poetry”—Rudyard

Kipling on 69th & 70th lines of nightingale and 3 lines of Kubla Khan

--“Charm'd magic casements, opening on the foam / Of perilous seas, in faery lands  
forlorn.”

### **PB Shelley (4 August 1792 – 8 July 1822)**

- Harold Bloom –on Shelley-- "a superb craftsman, a lyric poet without rival, and surely one of the most advanced sceptical intellects ever to write a poem."
- Shelley joined Eton College. He had to face mob bullying which the perpetrators called "Shelley-baits"
- Zastrozzi: A Romance --1810

Published with the initials of the author's name, as "by P.B.S"

The first of Shelley's two early Gothic novellas (the other novella-- St. Irvyne)

First published prose work

The epigraph on the title page of the novel is from Paradise Lost (1667) by John Milton, Book II, 368–371:

—That their God

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May prove their foe, and with repenting hand

Abolish his own works—This would surpass

Common revenge.

– Paradise Lost.

➤ St. Irvyne; or, The Rosicrucian: A Romance

anonymously as "by a Gentleman of the University of Oxford" –1811

The epigraph for chapter three is from Paradise Lost (1667) by John Milton, Book II,  
681-683:

"Whence and what art thou, execrable shape,

That dar'st, though grim and terrible, advance

Thy miscreated Front athwart my way."

➤ "The Necessity of Atheism" is an essay on atheism

Believed to be co-authored with Thomas Jefferson Hogg,

Revised and expanded version of the text was included as one of the notes to Shelley's poem  
Queen Mab in 1813

### **Ode to the West Wind**

➤ Written-1819-near Florence, Italy

➤ Published in 1820—as a part of the collection Prometheus Unbound, A Lyrical Drama in Four  
Acts, With Other Poems

➤ Terza rima—a series of triplets with interlocking rhymes—aba bcb cdc

Shelley modified this with a climactic couplet –after each 5 sections

➤ Themes of Death and Rebirth, Poetry and Rebirth

### **The Victorian Age**

The reign of Queen Victoria from 1837- 1901.

The era was preceded by the Georgian period and succeeded by the Edwardian period.

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It was an era of material affluence, political consciousness, democratic reforms, industrial and mechanical progress, scientific advancement, social unrest, educational expansion, empire building and religious uncertainty.

The literature reflected the social, economic and political problems including the Industrial Revolution.

Material development- revolution in commercial enterprise- advancement in the use of mechanical devices.

A long period of prosperity for the British people. The empire's size doubled during the era. The White Man's Burden- Rudyard Kipling. Considered themselves as the 'finest race'.

Great Exhibition of 1851- the first World's Fair. Showcased the greatest innovations of the century. It was held at the Crystal Palace

On the other side- the social condition of the new industrial cities was poor.

The Industrial Revolution during this age transformed the agrarian economy of England into an industrial economy. Mills and factories were established at important centers.

Condition in the factories: Inhuman working condition

Young children were employed in factories and mines and as chimney sweeps. working hours were long, had to do dangerous jobs, were given low wages. A majority died at a very young age due to accidents in factories.

Several Factory Acts were passed to prevent the exploitation of children in the workplace.

1832 Passage of the first Reform Act- focussed on providing parliamentary representation to industrial centres such as Manchester and Leeds and extending the right to vote to a broader array of property-owning men.

1857 The Indian Mutiny, a widespread revolt in India against the rule of the British East India Company

1859 Charles Darwin published On the Origin of Species, which led to various reactions.

Social and political theories of John Stuart Mill and Herbert Spenser.

1884 The Fabian Society was founded in London by a group of middle class intellectuals, including Quaker Edward R. Pease, Havelock Ellis, and E. Nesbit, to promote socialism.

1870-1891 Under the Elementary Education Act 1870 basic State Education became free for every child under the age of 10.



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The New Education Acts rapidly produced an enormous reading public. The cheapening of printing and paper increased the demand for books.

Most popular form of literature- novel.

Technology and innovations

Rise of railways

The sewage system

Telephone

Electric lightbulb

Photography

Diseases:

Outbreak of cholera

Series of small pox

Literary features:

Morality- Tennyson`s poetry.

Revolt- many writers protested against the deadening effects of the conventions. Carlyle, Matthew Arnold.

Thackeray- satirized the snobbishness of the age.

Later, Pre Raphaelites led by Swinburne and William Morris proclaimed no morality but that of the artists regard for his art.

## **Important writers**

### **Poets:**

#### **Alfred Lord Tennyson:**

Appointed as the Poet Laureate in 1850 in succession to Wordsworth.

Follows the example of Keats. His works abound in ornate description of natural and other scenes.

Important works: *Two brothers* (1827)

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*Timbuctoo* (1829)

*Poems, chiefly lyrical* (1830)

*Isabel and Madeline.*

*Poems* (1833) contains *The Lady of the Shalott*, *the Lotus Eaters* & *the Palace of Art*. There were two volumes of poetry, second volume opens with *Morte d' Arthur* and contains *Ulysses*, *Locksley Hall*.

*The Princess* (1847)- serio-comic attempt to handle the theme that was then known as the new woman. Written in blank verse.

*In Memoriam* (1850)- written after the death of Arthur Henry Hallam, Tennyson's college friend who died at Vienna in 1833. It has got numerous meditations on life and death.

*Maud and Other poems* (1855)- series of lyrics which reflect the love and hatred, hope and despair of a lover who slays his mistress's brother and then flees to France.

*Idylls of the King* (1859,1869,1889)- about King Arthur.

*Enoch Arden* (1864)- plot deals with a seaman supposedly drowned, who returns and finds his wife happily married to another man, regretfully retires without making himself known.

Plays: *Queen Mary* (1875)

*Harold* (1876) & *Becket* (1884)

*The Falcon* (1879)

*The Cup* (1881)

*The Foresters* (1892)

### **Robert Browning:**

Shelley influenced him

Important works:

*Pauline* (1833)- an introspective poem which shows very strongly the influence of Shelley.

*Paracelsus* (1835)- the story of the hero's unquenchable thirst for that breadth of knowledge which is beyond the grasp of one man.

This brings to the fore Browning's predominant ideas.

*Strafford* (1840)- a play

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*Sordello* (1840)- an attempt to decide the relationship between art and life.

*Bells and Pomegranates* (1846)- collection of lyrical and narrative poems. This series include six plays- Pippa Passes, King Victor and King Charles, The Return of the Druses, A Blot on the Scutcheon, Colombe`s Birthday, Lucia and a Soul`s Tragedy.

Dramatic Monologue: His method is to take a character at a moment of crisis and by allowing him to talk, to reveal not only his present thoughts and feelings but his past history.

Eg: Fra Lippo Lippi, Andrea Del Sarto, Rabbi Ben Ezra, Caliban upon Setebos.

*The Ring and the Book* (1868-69)- a long dramatic poem in 12 books. The story of the murder of a young wife Pompilia by her worthless husband, told by nine different people.

Asolando

Married to Elizabeth Barret Browning.

### **Elizabeth Barret Browning:**

Her reputation rests chiefly upon her love poems.

Robert Browning was her husband.

*An Essay on Mind, with Other Poems.*

*Prometheus Bound*, Translated from the Greek of Aeschylus, and Miscellaneous Poems. 1833

*The Seraphim, and Other Poems.* 1838

*Sonnets from the Portuguese* -written during her courtship. Collection of 44 love sonnets.

Casa Guidi Windows. 1851

*Aurora Leigh*, it is now considered an early feminist text.

### **Matthew Arnold:**

Poet and critic, wrote many critical essays, prose and poetry.

Arnold is deemed as the third great Victorian poet after Alfred Tennyson and Robert Browning.

He was a critic who refused to succumb to Orthodox Christianity in his youth and chose to become an agnostic instead.

Themes of alienation, stoicism, despair, spiritual emptiness.

Important works:

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The Strayed Reveller and Other Poems (1849)

*Poems* (1853)

*New Poems* (1867)

*The Scholar Gypsy*- about a dejected Oxford student who leaves the studies and joins a band of gypsies.

*Dover Beach*- loss of faith, lack of joy, love, spiritual light in the world

*Thyrsis*- to commemorate the death of his friend Arthur Hugh Clough.

*Essays in Criticism*.

*Culture and Anarchy*.

### **Edward Fitzgerald:**

One of the greatest translators of the time.

Friends with Tennyson, Thackeray and Carlyle.

Other important writers:

Arthur Hugh Clough

Henry Wadsworth Longfellow

Dante Gabrielle Rossetti- The Blessed Damozel

Christina Georgina Rossetti

William Morris

Walt Whitman

### **Pre-Raphaelite Brotherhood:**

Formed in 1848 by painter poets D G Rossetti, W H Hunt and John Millais.

Attempt to return to the truthfulness, simplicity, accuracy and spirit of devotion of Italian painting before Raphael and Italian Renaissance.

Other prominent members: William Morris, Coventry Patmore, William Michael Rossetti, Christina Rossetti, A C Swinburne.

Movement's periodical- The Germ.

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Called the Fleshy School of Poetry for its frank and detailed treatment of sexuality.

Novelists:

The novel was the predominant genre of the Victorian period.

The condition of England literature

Main themes: contemporary problems of the Victorian society caused by the predominance of industrialism and utilitarianism. The presence of mass poverty and accumulation of riches in a few hands.

It offered a picture and criticism of contemporary life.

Realism and naturalism

They were serialized in the monthly and weekly magazines.

Other genres:

Autobiography

Melodrama

Satire, comic operas

The essay

Art and literary criticism

### **Major trends /movements:**

The social problem novel- portrayal of social life. Focused on the problems of industrialization, sufferings of poor.

The Woman Question: discussed woman`s education and profession, financial independence. Dissatisfied with the contemporary position of women in the society.

Mary Wollstonecraft`s *A Vindication of the Rights of Woman*

Utilitarianism: it is the idea that the moral worth of an action is determined solely by its contribution to overall utility. Generally credited to Jeremy Bentham. "The greatest happiness principle".

John Stuart Mill formed the Utilitarian Society in 1823.

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Oxford Movement: sought to reform the Anglican Church.

Darwinism: *On the Origin of Species* (1859) and *Descent of Man* (1871)

Positivism: developed by French philosopher August Comte

Aestheticism: upheld the motto Art for art's sake. Related to Decadence, Symbolism and Fin-de-siecle writers.

Chartism: advocated better social and industrial conditions for the working class.

### **Charles Dickens:**

A voracious reader.

Troublesome childhood.

Worked in Warren's Blacking Factory.

*Sketches by Boz* (1833)- appeared in the Monthly magazine. A series dealing with the London life.

*The Pickwick Papers*- subtitled The Posthumous Papers of the Pickwick Club.

*Nicholas Nickleby*

*Barnaby Rudge*- a historical novel.

*Master Humphrey's Clock*- a weekly miscellany.

*A Christmas Carol*.

*David Copperfield*- Most autobiographical of Dicken's novels. He called 'David Copperfield' his favorite child.

*Bleak House*- attack on British judicial system.

*Hard Times*-shortest novel.

*A Tale of Two Cities*- set in London and Paris before and during French Revolution.

*Great Expectations*, *Our Mutual Friend*.

*Oliver Twist: The Parish Boy's Progress*- appeared in Bentley's Miscellany. Criticism of the New Poor Law of 1834.

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### **William Makepeace Thackeray:**

Contributed articles on varied topics to *Fraser's Magazine*, *The New Monthly Magazine*, and, later, to *Punch*.

*Vanity Fair*-the first work published under his own name.

The novel deals mainly with the interwoven fortunes of two contrasting women, Amelia Sedley and Becky Sharp.

### **The Brontë's:**

The Brontë sisters, Charlotte (1816–1855), Emily (1818–1848), and Anne (1820–1849), are well known as poets and novelists.

They originally published their poems and novels under male pseudonyms: Currer, Ellis, and Acton Bell.

They worked as governesses to families in Yorkshire.

Their stories immediately attracted attention for their passion and originality.

### **Charlotte Brontë**

*The Professor*

*Jane Eyre*- a bildungsroman

*Shirley*

*Villette*

Emily Brontë's *Wuthering Heights*

Anne Brontë's *The Tenant of Wildfell Hall*, *Agnes Grey*.

The Brontë birthplace in Thornton is a place of pilgrimage and their later home, the parsonage at Haworth in Yorkshire, now the Brontë Parsonage Museum, has hundreds of thousands of visitors each year.

### **George Eliot: Mary Ann Evans**

Important works- *Adam Bede*, *The Mill on the Floss*, *Silas Marner*

### **Lewis Carroll**

*Alice's Adventures in Wonderland*, *Through the Looking Glass*, and *What Alice Found There*.

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George Meredith

Benjamin Disraeli

**Thomas Hardy:**

Pessimist, fatalist

Pastoral and rustic works

Setting of most novel; Wessex.

Major works:

*The Poor Man and the Lady* (1867)

*Far from the Madding Crowd* (1874)

*The Mayor of Casterbridge* (1886)

*Tess of the d'Urbervilles* (1891)

*Jude the Obscure* (1895).

Many of his novels concern tragic characters struggling against their passions and social circumstances

**Robert Louis Stevenson:**

Scottish novelist.

Poet, playwright, essayist, travel writer, writer of children`s literature,

Treasure Island

**Drama:**

**Oscar Wilde**

*The Importance of Being Earnest: A Trivial Comedy for Serious People* (1895).

Essayists:

**Thomas Carlyle:** Scottish writer

*Sartor Resartus*

**John Ruskin:**



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Unto This Last, Munera Pulveris.

## **Early Twentieth Century British Literature**

### **Important Events**

- Death of Queen Victoria in 1901 – end of Victorian period
- First World War (1914-1918)
- Second World War (1939-1945)
- Edwardian Era (1901-1910)
- Georgian Era (1910-1936)

### **Edwardian Era**

- Reign of King Edward VII
- Period of great social change – reaction against Victorianism
- Rigid class system – difference between the rich and the poor was huge
- Liberal ideas were also popular
- Witnessed the social climbing of lower middle class and educated working class
- Best period of imperialism – land where the sun never sets.
- Confused period.
- Enthusiasm for art and fashion.

### **Rudyard Kipling**

- Born in Bombay – Father teacher and director of Lahore Museum – Schooling in England – early career as journalist back in India
- Literary career in London and USA
- Innovator of short story (“Wee Willie Winkie”, “Phantom Rickshaw”etc)
- Poetry – *Barrack - Room Ballads and Other Verse*
- Early novels were failures
- *The Jungle Book* (1894) – collection of stories that use animal to teach morals

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- *Kim* – best known of his works – coming of age picaresque novel about Kimball Hara – against the backdrop of the Great Game- the political conflict between Britain and Russia in central Asia
- “Just So Stories”, “Puck of Pook’s Hill” – remarkable sympathy for children
- First English Language writer to win the Nobel Prize (1907)
- Declined poet Laureateship and knighthood
- Criticized for racism – called “Prophet of British Imperialism” by George Orwell.
- “Poet of Empire”
- Poem – “The Whiteman’s Burden” – notorious – response to American takeover of Philippines after Spanish Civil War.

### **John Galsworthy (1867 – 1933)**

- Author of numerous novels, 31 plays.
- Dealt with class- upper middle-class lives – highlighted the snobbish attitude of characters and their suffocating moral codes.
- Campaigned for many social reforms like prison reform women’s rights, animal welfare, censorship.
- Challenged ideas of censorship.
- Nobel Prize in 1932.
- Plays – *The Silver Box*, *Strife*, *Justice*, *The Skin Game*.
- *Roman Fleuve* (River novel) – *The Forsyte Saga*(1922) – 3 novels and two interludes – Two sequels – *A Modern Comedy* (3 novels and 2 interludes again, *End of Chapter*(1934 – trilogy)

### **Arnold Bennet (1867 – 1931)**

- Born in Potteries District of Staffordshire where most of his works were set – trained as solicitor by his father – left his father’s firm and moved to London - become assistant editor of a woman’s magazine.
- Novelist, short story writer, playwright, journalist.
- First highly autobiographical novel *A Man from the North*.
- The Journals of Arnold Bennet – 3 volumes

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- Novels – *Anna of the Five Towns* (1902), *The Old Wives Tales* (1908), *Clayhanger Trilogy* (1910-1918), *Riceman Steps* (1923), *Lord Raino* (1926)

- In Theatre – began as a critic – wrote many plays that were produced – *Milestones* – important role in management of Lyric Theatre, Hammersmith in 1920s

### **H.G. Wells (1866 – 1946)**

- Son of an unsuccessful businessman – life portrayed in many of his works – father often presented in disguise as Mr. Polly

- Studied science with scholarship – first works were on biology and geography.

- Futuristic science fiction – scientific romances, political and satirical fiction - *The Time Machine* (1895), *The Way of the Worlds* (1898), *The Invisible Man*, *The Island of Dr Moreau* etc.

- Outspoken socialist - controversial differences of opinion with many thinkers. Social novels – *A Modern Utopia*, *Tono –Bungay*, *Ann Veronica*

- Also, a prolific writer of non-fiction

### **Joseph Conrad**

- Original name is Jozef Korzeniowski – Polish

- Exiled to Russia with his father, a Polish patriot

- Sailor – travelled to Martinique West Indies etc. and finally reached England – served in British Merchant Navy – took him to Congo.

- Refused knighthood.

- Psychologically probing novels with themes of guilt, heroism, honour.

- Forerunner of modernism – existential, anti-heroic characters, prose poetic analysis of colonialism.

- First novel *Almayer's Folly* (1895).

- *The Nigger of Narcissus: A Tale of the Sea* (1897)

- *Heart of Darkness* (1902) – Chinua Achebe in “Image of Africa” criticized him for racist stereotypes

- *Lord Jim* (1899)

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- *Nostramo* (1904)

### **E.M. Forster (1879 – 1970)**

- Explored the snobbery and hypocrisy of early 20th century British society
- Secular humanist
- Depicts irreconcilability of caste differences
- Homosexual – revealed only after death with publication of *Maurice*
- Favourite theme – human relationship. Critique of London changing in an enormous pace
- Italian novels – *Where Angels Fear to Tread*, *A Room with a View*
- English Novels – *Howard's End* (1910), *Passage to India* (1924 – set in India- protagonist Dr. Aziz's relationship with British friends -3 sections : Mosque, Caves and Temples)
- Other major writers of the period include Ford Madox Ford, G.K.Chesterton and Saki(Hector Hugh Munro)

### **Georgian Era**

- First Georgian era – 18<sup>th</sup> C. Hanoverian era 1714-1901
- Second Georgian Era – Reign of George V (1910-1936)
- WW I

### **Georgian poetry**

- A series of five anthologies – Georgian poetry – (1912-1922) edited by Edward Marsh, published by Harold Munro – poets include W. H. Davies, Rupert Brooke, John Drinkwater, John Masefield.
- Features – rustic subject matter, romantic, pastoral, traditional.
- T. S. Eliot ridiculed as "Rainbows, cuckoos, Daffodils and timid Hares".
- "squirearchy" – later Georgian poetry.

### **War poetry**

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- Soldiers documented war experiences
- Earlier works presented positive view of war

### **Rupert Brooke (1887 – 1915)**

- Unabashed patriotism and graceful lyricism
- Praised in his lifetime, condemned after death
- Volunteered for service in WWI in 1914
- “The Soldier” – most famous and openly patriotic poem

### **Wilfred Owen (1893-1918)**

- “My subject is war and the pity of War. The poetry is in the pity”
- Enlisted in 1914 – suffered from trench fever, shell shock
- Major poems –”Strange Meeting”, “Anthem of doomed Youth”

### **Robert Graves (1895-1985)**

- Poet, translator, writer of antiquity, novelist, soldier and professor of Poetry at Oxford
- Friend of Siegfried Sassoon and Wilfred Owen
- Goodbye to All That – Memoir of early life

### **George Bernard Shaw**

- Irish
- Only person to have won the Nobel (1925) and the Oscar (1938 for the screenplay of Pygmalion)
- Novelist, critic, pamphleteer, essayist, socialist, orator, journalist and most importantly playwright
- Failed novelist, started writing plays by 1890s – established by the end of the decade
- Influenced by Ibsenism and naturalism (“The Quintessence of Ibsenism” essay published in 1891)
- Dealt with social problems – exploitation of working class

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- Important plays: *Mrs. Warren's Profession*, *Arms and the Man*, *Candida: A Mystery*, *Man and Superman*, *The Doctor's Dilemma*, *Pygmalion*, *Saint Joan*

- Pioneered modern realistic drama – rich with humour

### **J.M.Synge**

- Irish playwright, poet, prose writer

- Key figure in Irish literary revival and the establishment of Abbey Theatre under Irish National Theatre Society with Yeats, Lady Augusta Gregory and George William Russell

- W.B. Yeats encouraged him to spend time in Aran islands

- Writings mainly concerned with the world of Roman Catholic peasants of rural Ireland and their essential paganism

- Most known for *The Playboy of the Western World*

- Other major plays: *In the Shadow of the Glen* (1903), *Riders to the Sea* (1904), *The Well of the Saints* (1905), *The Aran Islands* (1907), *The Tinkers Wedding* (1908), *Deirdre of Sorrows* (1910)

### **Sean O'Casey**

- Irish Playwright

- Nationalistic, concern for the working class

- Dublin Trilogy – deals with Irish Independence from Easter 1916 to the Civil war in 1923- includes *The Shadow of a Gunman*(1923), *Juno and the Paycock*(1924) and *The Plough and the Stars*(1926)

- Plays rejected by the Abbey theatre for its employment of expressionism and O'Casey left Dublin for London

- Church as obstructing instinctive happiness of Irish people

- Six volume autobiography from *I Knock on the Door* to *Sunset and Evening Star* Between the Wars

- The two World wars

- Great Economic Depression

- Sense of loss and disillusionment

- Many ideologies like fascism, communism, socialism, Humanism etc.

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- Women and working class became more organised
- New forms to express the chaos
- Influence of Sigmund Freud's Psychoanalysis
- Birth of Modernism
- fragmentation

### **Modernism**

- Experimental and innovative literature of the period roughly between 1890 and 1939
- Rapid changes in social, political and technological areas
- Emphasized formal or technical experimentation over newness of theme or content
- No common principles - A fusion of many different and often contradictory trends
- Include naturalism, symbolism, imagism, futurism, cubism, vorticism, expressionism, surrealism
- High modernism – preferred rapid change – austere, abstract and anti-humanist vision, disregard for historical, geographical and social contexts- Joyce, Eliot, Woolf

### **D. H. Lawrence (1885-1930)**

- Attached to his mother
- Psychological explorations into lives of characters – oedipal complex
- Autobiographical elements
- Depict tension between classes, sexes, mind and body between natural life and “civilization of death”
- Novels – modern condition of man, controversial for frank treatment of sex – symbolically express historical and emotional developments. Some important novels are *The White Peacock* (1911), *Sons and Lovers* (1913), *The Rainbow* (1915) and *The Women in Love* (1920), *Lady Chatterley's Lover* (1928)
- Poetry – first published were poems – satiric – outrage on social hypocrisies, physical and inner life of plants and animals – *Birds, Beasts and Flowers* (1923)
- Short Fiction, criticism and plays

### **James Joyce (1882-1941)**

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- Central figure in modernist prose
- Deeply interested in form and medium of art
- Irish nationalism
- Left impersonal and objective work of art for the reader to interpret
- *Dubliners* (1914) – 15 short stories – realistic sketch of life in Dublin – minimal plots – “Araby”, “The Sisters”, “Counterparts” etc
- *A Portrait of the Artist as a Young Man* (1916) – “Stephen Hero” was earlier title – autobiographical moments of epiphany and mythical elements – artist protagonist Stephen Dedalus
- *Ulysses* (1922)- phenomenal – portrait of a city Dublin on 16 June 1904 – unity of time and space observed – a rewriting of Homer’s *Odyssey* Homeric divisions – Comedy of multiple identities –stream of consciousness – interior monologue
- *Finnegan’s Wake* (1939) – himself regarded it as his magnum opus – nonlinear – named after a street ballad

### **Ezra Pound (1885-1972)**

- American Expatriate poet
- Influence of Japanese traditional verse
- Formed Imagist group – imagism used direct representation of images or word pictures
- Experimented with language
- Slogan “Make it new”
- Exhorted writers to reject traditional techniques, forms and ideas
- Edited *The Waste Land*
- Other Imagists – William Carlos Williams, James Joyce, Amy Lowell, Hilda Doolittle etc

### **T.S.Eliot (1888-1965)**

- Poet, critic, playwright
- Pioneer of modernist movement
- Experimental in writing, conservative in political and religious views



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- Nobel Prize in 1948
- Edited *The Criterion*
- Born and educated in America
- Settled in London in 1914
- Director of Faber and Faber
- “The Love Song of J. Alfred Prufrock” – examination of tortured psyche of a modern man-over educated, eloquent, neurotic, antiheroic - in his first volume *Prufrock and Other Observations* (1917)
- *The Waste Land* (1922) – 433 line modernist poem on decline of civilisation and impossibility of recovering meaning in life – five sections- The Burial of the Dead, The Game of Chess, The Fire Sermon, Death by Water, What the Thunder Said – allusions –fragmented images- pessimism, frustration, mythical elements, surrealism, imagism – hope offered resorting to Eastern philosophy
- Criticism - *The Sacred Wood* (1920) – “Hamlet and His Problems”, “Tradition and Individual Talent”- *For Lancelot Andrews: Essays on Style and Order* (1928)
- Religious poetry – “The Hollow Men”, “The Journey of the Magi”, “Ash Wednesday”, Four Quartets
- Verse Drama – *Sweeney Agonistes* (1932), *The Rock*(1934), *Murder in the Cathedral* (1935)

### **Virginia Woolf (1882-1941)**

- Daughter of Leslie Stephan – sister Vanessa
- Lived at Hyde Park, later Bloomsbury
- Mental breakdown and illness
- Nicknamed “the Goat”
- Married Leonard Woolf in 1912 – Hogarth Press- formed Bloomsbury Group
- Bloomsbury Group- began from Cambridge university – informal –writers, artists, thinkers – Leonard and Virginia, Clive and Vanessa Bell, Lytton Strachey, E.M. Forster etc
- Fiction –Experimental novels- emphasized personal lives – psychological novels – stream of consciousness – *Jacob’s Room* (1922) *Mrs Dalloway*(1925), *To the Lighthouse* (1927)
- Early novels-conventional social novels – *The Voyage out* (1915),*Night and Day* (1919)

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- Later Darker novels – *The Waves* (1931), *Flush : A Biography*, *The Years*, *Between the Acts*(1941)
- Essays – “A Room of One’s Own”: feminist balanced approach to women’s position in society and factors that impede natural flow of creativity –“Modern Fiction”

☐ Aldous Huxley

### **Pink poets**

- Left wing attitude
- Liberal political ideals – not conservative
- Involved in Spanish civil war
- Oxford educated, bisexual
- Industrial imagery – called Pylon poets – poem by Stephen Spender “The Pylon”
- Roy Campbell ridiculed as “Macspaunday”

### **W.H.Auden**

- Anti romantic – stressed the importance of ‘clinical’ and objective attitudes
- Early poems were modernist in tone, dramatic and leftist attitudes
- *The Orators*(1932), *Look,Stranger!* (1936), *Letters from Iceland* (1937), *Another Time*
  - Poems of 1940s – religious and ethical – 3 long poems in dramatic form – “ For the Time Being: A Christmas Oratorio”, “The Sea and the Mirror A Commentary on Shakespeare's *The Tempest* “, “The Age of Anxiety: A Baroque Eclogue (1948)– Later poems – less rhetorical more emotional – a note of mysticism– *The Shield of Achilles*, *Homage to Clio*

### **Stephen Spender (1909-1995)**

- Pioneered the poetic movement of 1930s with Auden and Cecil Day Lewis at Oxford
- Left Oxford without a degree – lived in Germany taught in various American and British Universities
- Ardent admirer of communism
- Themes of social injustice and class struggle
- “An Elementary School Classroom in a Slum”

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➤ Louis Mac Niece (1907-63)

➤ Cecil Day Lewis

➤ Christopher Isherwood

### **Other Important Writers**

#### **Somerset Maugham**

- Playwright, novelist and short story writer
- Served as “Literary Ambulance Drivers”
- Part of British Secret Service
- Portrayed last days of colonialism
- Significant travel writer of inter war years
- Important works: *Liza of Lambeth* (1897), *Of Human Bondage* (1915), *The Moon and Sixpence* (1919), *The Razor’s Edge* (1944)

#### **J.B.Priestly**

- Novelist, playwright
- Sought legal action against Graham Greene for a defamatory portrayal of him in *Stamboul Train*
- 26 novels
- Plays – socialist themes - *An Inspector Calls*
- *Literature and Western Man* (1960) – 500 page survey of western literature

#### **Evelyn Waugh**

- Traveled widely
- Known for satirical comic novels written in pre-world war II
- Post war fiction is more serious – fictionalized his experiences- main characters were snobs
- Criticised for vulgarity and false assumptions
- Heroes – naïve young men – suffered embarrassment and hardship

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- Important works – *Decline and Fall* (1928), *A Handful of Dust*, *Scoop*, *Sword of Honour*

### **Graham Greene**

- Novelist, short story writer, playwright, travel writer, essayist, critic
- *Journey Without Maps* (1936), *The Lawless Roads* (1939) – travel books
- Explore ambivalent moral political issues of modern world – formal experiments and language of metaphor
- Themes: Catholicism, philosophy International politics and espionage
- Early works – *The Man Within*, *Stamboul Train*.
- Catholic novels – *The Brighton Rock*, *The Power and the Glory*, *The Heart of the Matter*, *The End of the Affair*

### **Late 20<sup>th</sup> Century Literature**

#### **Cultural Impact of World War II**

Heroism and patriotism turned sour

Sense of evil and fear of nuclear destruction

Isolation and alienation

Shift from the social to the individual and secular

Democratization of art

New multi-ethnic voices heard

#### **Holocaust Fiction**

Atrocities of the Holocaust, hardships of Jews in Auschwitz and other concentration camps.

*The Diary of a Young Girl* (1947) by Anne Frank

*The Night Trilogy* (1960) by Elie Wiesel

*Sophie's Choice* (1979) by William Styron

#### **Historical Fiction**

Fiction that self-consciously gives a treatment of history

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Not only passively reflecting history, but making and re-making history

AS Byatt's *Possession* (1990)

Salman Rushdie's *Midnight's Children*

VS Naipaul ("presence of suppressed histories"-Nobel citation 2001)

Hilary Mantel's *Wolf Hall* (2005), *Bring Up the Bodies* (2012)

## **Postcolonial Fiction**

### **Recurrent Themes**

Question of identity

Immigration

Multiculturalism

Politics and history

### **Works**

VS Naipaul 's *A House for Mr. Biswas* (1961)

Salman Rushdie 's *Midnight's Children* (1980)

Hanif Kureishi 's *The Buddha of Suburbia* (1990)

Ben Okri *The Famished Road* (1991)

Hari Kunzru *The Impressionist* (2003)

## **Women's Writing**

### **Angela Carter**

Feminist, magic realist, science fiction

### **Margaret Drabble**

Society vs individual

### **Doris Lessing**

Space fiction

### **Iris Murdoch**

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Moral philosophy

**Fay Weldon**

Contemporary women trapped in patriarchal oppression

### **Postmodern Fiction**

Features:

Many meanings and interpretations

Anti-realistic

Metafiction

Experimental style

Intertextuality

Major writers:

Peter Ackroyd,

John Fowles,

Angela Carter

Doris Lessing

### **George Orwell (1903-50)**

Real name - Eric Arthur Blair

Born in Motihari, Bihar

Father worked in Indian Civil Service

Childhood in England

Served in the Imperial Police in Burma

Did low-paid jobs in Paris and London.

Became a regular contributor to The Adelphi from 1930

These experiences are described in his works

### **Orwell's Works**

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*Down and Out in Paris and London* (1933)

*Burmese Days* (1934)

*A Clergyman's Daughter* (1935)

*Keep the Aspidistra Flying* (1936)

*The Road to Wigan Pier* (1937)

*Homage To Catalonia* (1938)

*Coming Up for Air* (1939)

### **Masterpieces of Orwell**

*Animal Farm* (1945)

*Nineteen Eighty-Four* (1949)

### **General features of Orwell's Works**

“Distinctly Orwellian”

Proletarian sympathies

Contempt for society's upper-middle-class

Awareness of social injustice

Opposition to totalitarianism

Commitment to democratic socialism

Symbolism

### ***Animal Farm* (1945)**

Social commentary

Orwell had socialist sympathies, though he was aware of the dangers of socialism

was against both communism and capitalism

Anti-utopian novel

Portrayal of the Russian Revolution

Satire on Soviet Russia and totalitarianism

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War plays a very small part

Deals more with the results of war

### **Major Characters in *Animal Farm***

Napoleon = Stalin

Snowball = Trotsky

Old Major = Marx/Lenin

Mr Jones = Tsar Nicholas II

Mr Frederick = Hitler

Mr Pilkington = the US and Britain.

### ***Nineteen Eighty-Four* (1949)**

Freedom no longer exists in the year 1984

Only three superpowers remain to dominate a world of hatred, isolation, and fear

Eurasia and East Asia, with which Oceania is always at war

Big Brother: The dictator of the Party in Oceania, whose face is everywhere on posters captioned "Big Brother Is Watching You"

Controls life in Oceania through the four ministries of Peace, Love, Plenty, and Truth.

Winston Smith, a 39-year-old employee at the Ministry of Truth, London, in Oceania

### **"Inside the Whale" (1940)**

A review of *Tropic of Cancer* by Henry Miller

Used biblical story of Jonah and the whale

Salman Rushdie mentioned in his article "Outside the Whale"

### **Other Major Essays**

"Politics and the English Language" (1946)

"Why I Write" (1946)

"Shooting an Elephant" (1950)



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## **Poetry after World War II**

British poetry has become increasingly postmodern and international

Diverse themes and approaches

English poetry begins to be written across the world

### **New Apocalypse Poetry (1939-45)**

A group of loosely associated poets

Three anthologies:

The New Apocalypse (1939)

The White Horseman (1941)

The Crown and the Sickle (1945)

A romantic reaction against the classicism of the Auden group

Partly influenced by surrealism and DH Lawrence

Robert Conquest's anthology *New Lines* (1956) was a reaction against the New Apocalypse poets

### **Major poets:**

Dylan Thomas

Vernon Watkins

George Barker

Philip O'Connor

Ian Bancroft

Tom Scott

Alex Comfort

### **Dylan Thomas (1914-53)**

Born at Swansea in Wales

Worked as reporter, scriptwriter and broadcaster for BBC

New Apocalypse poet (1940s)

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Originator of neo-romantic poetry

Enemy of intellectualism in verse

Known for his rhythmic, original and ingenious use of words and imagery

Experimented with the metre

### **Dylan Thomas's Works**

Poems

"Fern Hill"

"Poem in October"

"Do not go gentle into that good night"

"And death shall have no dominion"

Under Milk Wood- radio play

Collections of stories

The Map of Love (1939)

Portrait of the Artist as a Young Dog (1940)

### **The Movement (1950s)**

Emerged with the decline of the New Apocalypse

*Poets of the 50s* (1955 anthology edited by Dennis Joseph Enright)

Major Poets

Philip Larkin,

Thom Gunn,

Elizabeth Jennings

Ted Hughes

### **Features of the Movement**

Anti-romantic, witty, colloquial style

Anti-Modernists

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Professed no interest in stylistic innovation and in neo-classical mood

Rarely used conventional verse forms

Use of poetic form was governed by its relevance to theme and mood No nature descriptions for its own sake

Approach is intellectual and subject matter is reality

Poems show individual man in all his conditions, showing pity and indignation for his sufferings and faith in his innate dignity

### **Philip Larkin (1922-85)**

Poet, novelist, librarian

Anti-romantic

Work contains a sense of loss, of beauty departed, of the changing qualities of English life.

Personal tone in poetry

Two novels:

*Jill* (1946)

*A Girl in Winter* (1947)

Reviewed jazz records for The Daily Telegraph

Edited *The Oxford Book of Twentieth Century English Verse* (1973)

Advised Kingsley Amis on the writing of Lucky Jim

### **Larkin's Poetry**

The North Ship (1945)

The Less Deceived (1955)

The Whitsun Weddings (1964)

High Windows (1964)

### **Thom Gunn (1929-2004)**

Sees life to be tough, cynical, loveless and meaningless

Finds some tenderness in the essentially animal nature of man

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Early poetry associated with The Movement

Later poetry is an exploration of drugs, homosexuality, and poetic forms.

Works

"On the Move"

"Man, You Gotta Go"

"My Sad Captain"

Most famous collection:

*The Man With Night Sweats* (1992)

Elizabeth Jennings (1926-2001)

One of the Movement Poets along with Philip Larkin, Kingsley Amis and Thom-Gunn

Verse frequently reflects her devotion and her love of Italy Known for her lyric poetry and mastery of form

Published poetry for children also

### **Major Poetry Collections**

*A Way of Looking* (1955)

*Song For a Birth or a Death* (1961)

*Recoveries* (1964)

*The Mind has Mountains* (1966)

*The Animals' Arrival* (1969)

*Lucidities* (1970)

*Relationships* (1972)

*Extending the Territory* (1985)

*Familiar Spirits* (1994)

### **Ted Hughes (1930-98)**

Became Poet Laureate in 1984.

### **Recurrent Themes**

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Power and vitality as essential principles contending against death

The failure of God to create a satisfactory universe.

The ever-present strength of evil

Personal survival as the only goal to achieve

Animal poet who appreciated violence

Had great tenderness under the pessimistic exterior

### **Major Works**

The Hawk in the Rain,

Lupercal

Poems contrasting animal vitality with the artifices of human society:

"Hawk Roosting,"

"Pike,"

"Jaguar,"

"Thrushes"

Crow poems

"Thought Fox"

### **Seamus Heaney (1939-2013)**

Irish poet, playwright, translator, professor

Received Nobel Prize in 1995.

Collections of Poems

Death of a Naturalist (1966)

Door into the Dark,

Wintering Out,

North,

Field Work,

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Station Island,

Seeing Things,

• **Famous poems:** "Digging", "Tollund Man", "Death of a Naturalist", "Mid-Term Break", "Bogland"

British Drama after World War II

Drawing Room Comedies

Angry Young Man

Kitchen Sink Drama

Noel Coward

### **Major Plays**

*The Rat Trap* (1918)

*The Better Half* (1922)

*The Vortex* (1924)

*Fallen Angels* (1925)

*Hay Fever* (1925)

*Private Lives* (1930)

*Design For Living* (1933)

*Present Laughter* (1939)

*Blithe Spirit* (1941)

*Suite in Three Keys* (1966) - A trilogy

*Star Quality* (1967, last play)

### **Christopher Fry (1907-2005)**

English poet and playwright

best known for his verse plays

### **Major Plays**

*The Tower* (1939)

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*The Lady's Not for Burning* (1948)

*Venus Observed* (1950)

*The Dark is Light Enough* (1954)

*The Lark* (1955)

*A Yard of Sun* (1970)

*A Ringing Of Bells* (2001)

Angry Young Man (1950s)

John Osborne

Kingsley Amis

Alan Sillitoe

John Wain

John Braine

### **John Osborne (1929-94)**

Revolutionized English theatre in the 1950s

Came from a working-class background

Supported by the actor Laurence Olivier in America

Won the Academy Award for the Best Adapted Screenplay

Tragic-comic depiction of the anti-heroic protagonist who is a liar and is irresponsible

Shows optimism and nostalgia for the past

Major Works:

*Look Back in Anger* (1956)

*The Entertainer* (1957)

*Luther* (1961)

### **Kingsley Amis (1922-95)**

Comic novelist, poet, critic

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Born in suburban, working-class London

Lifelong friendship with Philip Larkin

Received the Booker Prize for *The Old Devils* in 1986.

The novelist Martin Amis is his son

Great interest in science fiction

### **Works :**

*Lucky Jim* (1954)

*That Uncertain Feeling* (1955)

*I Like It Here* (1958)

Wrote much criticism, including the praise of Iris Murdoch's *Under the Net* and Ian Fleming's James Bond novels

### **Campus Novel**

Main action is set in and around the campus of a university

Against "class fiction" of pre-war period

Features

Shows the peculiarities of human nature

Reactions to pressure

Describe the reaction of a social group (the academic staff) to new social attitudes

practitioners:

1. Malcolm Bradbury
2. David Lodge
3. Tom Sharpe
4. Howard Jacobson

### **Arnold Wesker (b. 1932)**

Born and educated in the East End of London

Wesker's most successful drama is autobiographical



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**Works:**

Trilogy about Romnic Kahn

*Chicken Soup with Barley* (1958),

*Roots* (1959)

*I'm Talking About Jerusalem* (1960)

*The Kitchen* (1959)

*Chips with Everything* (1962)

*The Four Seasons* (1965)

*The Wedding Feast*

*The Journalists*

*As Much As I Dare* (1994- Autobiography)

**The Absurd in Literature**

Began in Europe after World War II

Imbided the existentialist philosophy of Jean Paul Sartre and Albert Camus

View life as meaningless

Believe in an absence of values and Christian absolutes

Emphasize personal feelings over moral values

Celebrate the breakdown of language and communication

Loss of meaning: the world appears frightening as it is illogical

The idea of the "absurd" was first developed in Albert Camus's *The Myth of Sisyphus* (1942)

**Samuel Beckett (1906-89)**

Irish-born playwright and novelist

Emigrated from Dublin to Paris

As a young man he was an associate and assistant of James Joyce

He usually wrote in French and translated his own work into English

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Brought to the theatre and the novel an acute awareness of the absurdity of human existence

Career divided into two phases:

Before and After *Waiting for Godot*

Fiction

*Whoroscope* (1930)

*A critical study of Marcel Proust* (1931)

*More Pricks than Kicks* (1934)

*Murphy* (1938)

*Murphy* (1938)

French 'trilogy':

*Molloy* (1951)

*Malone Dies* (1956)

*The Unnamable* (1958)

*Watt* (1953)

*How It Is*

Beckett's Drama

Three full-length plays,

*Waiting for Godot* (1952)

*Endgame* (1957)

*Happy Days* (1961),

The shorter

*Krapp's Last Tape* (1958)

*Play* (1963)

*Come and Go* (1966)

*Breath* (1970)

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*Not I*(1972)

### **Harold Pinter**

Playwright and screenwriter

Jewish, lower middle-class family

Traumatized by the experience of World War II

### **Comedy of Menace**

Plays short, set in an enclosed, claustrophobic space

characters always in doubt and fear

Builds the sense of menace and scarcely restrained violence

The Birthday Party, The Dumb Waiter, The Caretaker, Silence, Homecoming, Old Times, A Night Out

Other writers of CM: David Campton, Nigel Dennis, NF Simpson

### **Edward Bond (b. 1934)**

Playwright, theatre director, poet, theorist and screenwriter

His play *Saved* led to the abolition of theatre censorship in the UK in the 1960s. Aims to reform the society through a "rational" theatre

Controversial for-

1. Violence in his plays.
2. Radicalism of his statements about modern theatre and society.
3. His theories on drama

### **Bond's Major Plays**

*The Pope's Wedding* (1961-62)

*Saved* (1965)

*Narrow Road to the Deep North* (1968)

*Black Mass* (1970)

*Lear* (1971)

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*The Sea : A Comedy*

*Bingo*

*The Bundle*

The Chair Plays Trilogy

The War Plays

**Tom Stoppard (b. 1937)**

Jewish British play wright

Tomas Straussler

Has been a key playwright of the National Theatre and is one of the most internationally performed dramatists of his generation

In 1939 when the Nazis invaded Czechoslovakia, his family fled to Singapore where his father worked with Bata shoe company

Before the Japanese occupation of Singapore, the two sons and their mother were sent on to Australia; father remained in Singapore as a British army volunteer and was killed

Major Works

*A Walk on the Water (1964)*

*Rosencrantz and Guildenstern Are Dead (1966)*

*The Real Inspector Hound (1968)*

*If You're Glad I'll Be Frank (1969)*

*Jumpers (1972)*

Artist Descending a Staircase

*Travesties (1974)*

*Professional Foul (1977)*

*Every Good Boy Deserves Favour (1977)*

*The Real Thing (1982)*

*Arcadia (1993)*

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*The Coast of Utopia*

*Lord Malquist and Mr. Moon*

**Caryl Churchill (b. 1938)**

Born in London

After World War II, her family emigrated to Montreal, Canada

Returned to England to attend Oxford University

began her writing career there

got married in 1961

Wrote short radio plays for BBC radio 1960s and '70s

Major Works

*Downstairs*

*You've No Need to be Frightened*

*Having a Wonderful Time (1960)*

*Easy Death (1960)*

*Owners (1972)*

*Cloud Nine (1979)*

*Top Girls (1982)*

*Softcops (1984)*

*A Mouthful of Birds (1986)*

*Serious Money (1987)*

*Ice Cream (1989)*

*Thyestes (2001)*

*Dream Play (2005)*

*Drunk Enough to Say I Love You? (2006)*

*Love and Information (2012)*

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*Seven Jewish Children: A Play for Gaza (2009)*

### **British Postmodern Fiction**

William Golding

Anthony Burgess

Muriel Spark

Irish Murdoch

Doris Lessing

John Fowles

Fay Weldon

Malcolm Bradbury

David Lodge

J G Ballard

AS Byatt

Margaret Drabble

Angela Carter

John Banville

Julian Barnes

### **William Golding (1911-93)**

Born in Cornwall

Being a frustrated boy, William was a bully in childhood

Started his writing career in 1934 with a collection of poems

Teacher of English and philosophy

Worked in the Royal Navy

fought in World War II

Nobel Prize in 1983

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Deals with man's instinct to destroy what is good

Major Works

*Lord of the Flies (1954)*

*The Inheritors*

*Pincher Martin*

*Free Fall*

*The Spire (1964)*

*The Pyramid*

*The Scorpion - God (1971)*

*Darkness Visible*

*The Paper Men*

*To the End of the Earth*

*The Brass Butterfly*

*The Double Tongue*

**Anthony Burges**

Comic writer, composer, critic, poet, playwright, screenwriter, essayist, etc

Born to Catholic parents

Worked in the military where he had unpleasant experiences=

Served as a teacher in the British Colonial Service in Malaya and Brunei

Knew Persian, Russian and other languages

Translated novels show his interest in language

Diagnosed with brain tumour which was cured

Was a drinking partner of William S Burroughs.

After a second marriage, toured Europe in a motor home

At the time he died of lung cancer, he was a multi-millionaire.

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### **Major Works**

*The Malayxan Trilogy (1956- 59)*

*A Clockwork Orange (1962)*

*Devil of a State*

*Nothing Like the Sun(1964)*

*Enderby Quartet*

*Abha Abha (1977)*

*Earthy Powers (1980)*

English Literature, A Survey for Student

### **Muriel Spark (1918-2006)**

Scottish novelist, short story writer and poet

Suffered a nervous breakdown and converted to Roman Catholicism before she wrote her first novel *The Comforters* (1957)

Talent for irony and black humour

Novels often set in large female institutions where personal identity and value are at stake and creates a comic Gothic pattern of incidents, as in her most famous novel *The Prime of Miss Jean Brodie*

### **Major Works**

*The Comforters (1957)*

*Robinson (1958)*

*Curriculum Vitae (1992)*

*Memento Mori (1959)*

*The Ballad of Peckham Rye (1960)*

*The Bachelors (1960)*

*The Prime of Miss Jean Brodie ( 1961)*

*The Girls of Slender Means (1963)*

*The Mandelbaum Gate ( 1965)*



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*The Public Image*

*The Drivers Seat*

*The Take Over*

*Loitering with Intent*

*The Finishing School*(2004)

### **Irish Murdoch(1919-99)**

Irish-born British novelist and philosopher.

Married to critic John Bayley who wrote two controversial books on her:

*Iris* (1998)

*Iris and the Friends* (1999)

Studied philosophy

novels show interest in moral philosophy and aesthetics

Features of her novels:

Depict relationships within closed communities

Explore inner life of individuals.

Often feature a messianic

figure Present serious moral questions

In an essay titled "Against Dryness" (1961) she coined the term "crystalline novels"

### **Major Novels**

*The Flight from the Enchanter*(1956)

*The Sand Castle* (1957)

*The Bell*(1958)

*A Severed Head*(1961)

*The Unicorn* (1963)

*A Fairly Honourable Defeat*(1970)

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*The Sea, the sea* (1978)

### **Doris Lessing (1919-2013)**

Born in Persia (now Iran)

Brought up in Southern Rhodesia (now Zimbabwe)

Became a member of the British Communist Party

Was attracted to Sufism

published a couple of novels under the pseudonym Jane Somers to show the difficulty new authors faced

Received the Nobel Prize in 2007

### **Major Works**

*The Grass is Singing* (1950)

"Children of Violence"

*Martha Quest* (1952)

*A Proper Marriage* (1954)

*A Ripple from the Storm* (1958)

*Landlocked* (1965)

*The Four-Gated City* (1969)

*The Golden Notebook* (1967)

*Canopus in Argos: Archives*

*Going Home* (1957)

*Under My Skin* (1994)

*Walking in the Shade* (1997)

*Prisons We Choose to Live Inside* (1987)

*The Wind Blows Away Our Words* (1987)

*A Small Personal Voice* (1994)

### **John Fowles (1926- 2005)**

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Earned an international reputation, with his books translated into numerous languages, and several adapted into film

Taught English in Greece, at which time he evolved into a writer

Jean-Paul Sartre and Albert Camus influenced his ideas on the will of the individual

Critically positioned between modernism and postmodernism

Has also written poems and essays

### **Major Works**

*The Collector* (1963)

*The Magus* (1966)

*The French Lieutenant's Woman* (1969)

*The Ebony Tower* (1974)

*Daniel Martin* (1977)

*The Tree* (1979)

*The Maggot* (1985)

### **Malcolm Bradbury (1932-2000)**

Novelist and teacher

an expert on the modern novel

Wrote "campus novels" combining comedy of manners with moral issues

Works : *Eating People is Wrong* (1959)

*The History Man* (1975)

*Cuts : A Very Short Novel* (1987)

### **David Lodge (b. 1935)**

Novelist, literary critic, and editor known chiefly for his satiric "campus novels" about academic life

Brought up as a Catholic

Catholic novelist Graham Greene has been a major influence

Compared often to his friend Malcolm Bradbury

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also an exponent of the campus novel

In his campus novels, Lodge criticizes teachers using stereotypes and also criticizes the university educational system

### **Major Works**

*The Picturegoers* (1960)

*Ginger You're Barmy* (1962)

*The British Museum is Falling Down* (1965)

*Out of the Shelter* (1970)

*How Far Can You Go?* (1980)

*A David Lodge Trilogy or Campus Trilogy* (1993)

*Paradise News* (1991)

*Small World: An Academic Romance* (1984)

*Therapy* (1995)

*A Man of Parts* (2011)

### **A S Byatt**

Full name Dame Antonia Susan (Drabble) Duffy

English novelist, short story writer, biographer, poet Booker

Prize winner

Sister to novelist Margaret Drabble and art historian Helen Langdon

Has been in a feud with her sister Margaret Drabble

Lectured in the Department of Extra-Mural Studies of London University, the Central School of Art and Design and at University College London

Married Ian Charles Rayner Byatt in 1959 and the marriage was dissolved in 1969

Lives in West London with her second husband Peter John Duffy and two daughters

### **Major Works**

*Possession : A Romance* (1990)

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*Angels and Insects* (1992)

*The Biographer's Tale* (2000)

*A Whistling Woman* (2002)

*The Children's Book* (2009)

### **Margaret Drabble (b. 1939)**

Younger sister to AS Byatt

Writer and biographer Sir Michael Holroyd is her second husband

Has published novels, screen plays, plays, short stories, biographies of Arnold Bennett and Angus Wilson, and critical studies

Under her editorship, in 1985, the original Oxford Companion to English Literature edited by Sir Paul Hervey in 1932 was completely revised (5th edition).

A common theme of her novels is the correlation between contemporary England's society and its individual members  
most of her protagonists are women.

### **Major Works**

*A Summer Bird Cage* (1963)

*The Millstone* (1965)

*Jerusalem the Golden* (1967)

*The Waterfall* (1969)

*The Needle's Eye* (1972)

*The Millstone* (1965)

*Jerusalem the Golden* (1967)

*The Waterfall* (1969)

*The Needle's Eye* (1972)

*The Realms of Gold* (1975)

*The Seven Sisters* (2002)

*The Pattern in the Carpet* (2009)

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### **Angela Carter**

English novelist, short story writer and journalist

known for her feminist and picaresque works that employ magical realism

Born in Eastbourne

Stayed with her grandmother in Yorkshire because of the German aerial attacks of World War II

As a teenager battled against the eating disorder, anorexia

Studied in University of Bristol

worked as a journalist

Relocated to Tokyo, explored the United States, Asia and Europe

As a Feminist In 1978, took a controversial step for a feminist by embracing the works of the Marquis de Sade, offering a generally positive interpretation of his work in her study *The Sadeian Woman: And the ideology of Porno-graphy*

### **Major Works**

Bristol Trilogy

*The Magic Toyshop* (1967)

*Heroes and Villains* (1969)

*The Infernal Desire Machines of Doctor Hoffman* (1972)

*The Passion of New Eve* (1977)

*Wise Children* (1991)

*Nights at the Circus* (1984)

### **John Banville (b. 1945)**

Philosophical novelist from Ireland

Also, a journalist and screenwriter

Under the pseudonym Benjamin Black, wrote crime novels featuring the Irish pathologist Quirke.

Won the Man Booker Prize in 2005 for *The Sea*

Nominated for the Man Booker International Prize in 2007

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*Long Lankin* (1970)

A Trilogy on scientist

*The Sea* (2005)

Julian Barnes (1946)

Shortlisted for the Man Booker Prize thrice

*Flaubert's Parrot* (1984)

*England, England* (1998)

*Arthur & George* (2005).

Won the Man Booker Prize in 2011.

*The Sense of an Ending* (2011)

**Other works :**

*Metroland* (1980)

*Staring at the Sun* (1986)

*A History of the World in 10% Chapters* (1989)

*Talking It Over* (1991)

*The Porcupine* (1992)

*After 2000*

Arthur & George (2005)

**Ian McEwan (b. 1948)**

Novelist and screenwriter

Spent much of his childhood in East Asia, Germany and North Africa

Began his career writing Gothic short stories

Nominated for the Man Booker Prize six times and for the Man Booker International Prize twice

Won Man Booker Prize for *Amsterdam* in 1998

*Atonement* (2001) was made into an Oscar-winning film

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An atheist, he publicly spoke out  
against Islamism for its views on women and homosexuality  
disbelief in Christian faith

### **Major Works**

*The Cement Garden* (1978)

*The Comfort of Strangers* (1981)

*The Child in Time* (1987)

*The Innocent* (1990)

*Black Dogs* (1992)

*Enduring Love* (1997)

*Amsterdam* (1998)

*Atonement* (2001)

*Saturday* (2005)

*Solar* (2010)

*Sweet Tooth* (2012)

### **Martin Amis (b. 1949)**

Novelist and short story writer

Born in 1949 in Swansea, South Wales

Son of prolific British writer Kingsley Amis

Listed for the Booker Prize twice

*Time's Arrow*, 1991

*Yellow Dog*, 2003

Was Professor of Creative Writing at University of Manchester

Strong critic of nuclear proliferation and terrorism

novels have been derided as "airport novels"



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**Major Works:**

*The Rachel Papers* (1973)

*Dead Babies* (1975)

*Money: A Suicide Note* (1984)

*London Fields* (1989)

*Time's Arrow, or, the Nature of the Offence* (1991)

*The Information* (1995)

*Night Train* (1997)

*Yellow Dog* (2003)

*The Pregnant Widow* (2010)

**Peter Ackroyd (b. 1949)**

English biographer, novelist, and critic particularly interested in the history and culture of London.

Graduated in English literature from Cambridge

Literary career began with poetry

Worked at The Spectator and The Times

Was a regular broadcaster on radio

Ackroyd is gay, as some of his characters are

**Major Works**

*The Great Fire of London* (1982)

*The Last Testament of Oscar Wilde* (1983)

*Hawksmoor* (1985)

*Chatterton* (1987)

*The House of Doctor Dee* (1993)

*The Canterbury Tales: A Retelling* (2009)

**Graham Swift (b. 1949)**

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English writer born in London

Educated at Cambridge and the University of York

Winner of the 1996 Booker Prize

Orders (1996)

Acquaintance of Ted Hughes

Published poetry, some of which is included in *Making an Elephant: Writing from Within* (2009)

**Major Works:**

*The Sweet-Shop Owner* (1980)

*Shuttlecock* (1981)

*Waterland* (1983)

*Out of This World* (1988)

*Last Orders* (1996)

*Tomorrow* (2007)

*Wish You Were Here* (2011)

**Hilary Mantel (b. 1952)**

Twice Booker Prize winner

Parents of Irish descent

Lived in Botswana, Jeddah, Saudi Arabia

Won her first Man Booker Prize for *Wolf Hall* (2009)

Second Booker for *Bring Up the Bodies* (2012)

The first woman to receive the Booker Prize twice

The third installment to the Thomas Cromwell trilogy is *The Mirror and the Light*

**Major Works:**

*Every Day is Mother's Day* (1985)

*Wolf Hall* (2009)

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*Bring Up the Bodies* (2012)

*Beyond Black* (2005)

*Eight Months on Ghazzah Street* (1988)

*Fludd* (1989)

*A Place of Greater Safety* (1992)

*An Experiment in Love* (1995)

### **Diasporic Writers in Britain**

Sam Selvon (1923-94)

VS Naipaul (b. 1932)

Salman Rushdie (1947)

Timothy Mo (b. 1950)

Hanif Kureishi (b. 1954)

Caryl Phillips (b. 1958)

Monica Ali (b. 1967)

Zadie Smith (b. 1975)

### **Sam Selvon (1923-94)**

Born in San Fernando in the south of Trinidad

His father was a Christian immigrant from Madras and his mother's father was Scottish

Educated in Trinidad

worked as wireless operator and as a reporter with Trinidad Guardian

Moved to London in the 1950s, and then in the late 1970s to Canada

Died from a heart attack in 1994 on a return trip to Trinidad

### **Major Works**

*A Brighter Sun* (1952)

*The Lonely Londoners* (1956)

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*Ways of Sunlight* (1957)

*Turn Again Tiger* (1959)

*Those Who Eat the Cascadura* (1972)

*Moses Ascending* (1975)

*Moses Migrating* (1983)

*Eldorado West One* (1989)

*Highway in the Sun and Other Plays* (1991)

### **VS Naipaul (b. 1932)**

Vidiadhar Surajprasad Naipaul

Nobel Prize-winning British writer

Born in 1932 in Chaguanas, Trinidad to second generation Indian immigrants

Educated at Port of Spain and Oxford

Worked in BBC as presenter of the program Caribbean Voices in which many Caribbean writers had debuted

Received the Booker Prize

*In a Free State* (1971)

Nobel Prize in 2001

### **Major Works**

*The Mystic Masseur* (1957)

*The Suffrage of Elvira* (1958)

*Miguel Street* (1959)

*A House for Mr. Biswas* (1961)

*Mimic Men* (1967)

*In a Free State* (1971)

*Guerrillas* (1975)

*A Bend in the River* (1979)

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A Flag on the Island (1967)

The Enigma of Arrival (1987)

Half a Life (2001)

The Middle Passage Impressions of Five Societies- British, French and Dutch in the West Indies and South America (1962)

The Loss of El Dorado (1969)

India Trilogy

An Area of Darkness (1964)

India: A Wounded Civilization (1977)

India: A Million Mutinies Now (1990)

### **Salman Rushdie (b. 1947)**

British Indian novelist and essayist

Born in Bombay in 1947

Left India at the age of fourteen to attend Rugby School in England

Then studied history at King's College, Cambridge

He earned a living working in advertising while writing his first novel *Grimus* (1975)

Most of his fiction set in Indian sub-continent

His novels follow the tradition of great 19th century novels

### **Major Works**

*Grimus* (1975)

*Midnight's Children* (1980)

*Shame* (1983)

The Satanic Verses (1988)

*The Moor's Last Sigh* (1995)

*The Ground Beneath Her Feet* (1999)

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*Fury* (2001)

*Shalimar the Clown* (2005)

*The Enchantress of Florence* (2008)

Haroun and the Sea of Stories (1990,

Imaginary Homelands: Essays and Criticism, 1981-1991 (1992)

East, West (1994) Luka

the Fire of Life (2010)

Joseph Anton: A Memoir (2012)

*Quichotte* (2019)

**Timothy Mo (b. 1950)**

Anglo-Chinese novelist

Born in 1950 to a Welsh-Yorkshire mother and a Hong Kong Chinese father

Lived in Hong Kong until the age of 10

then moved to Britain

Educated at Oxford

worked as a journalist before becoming a novelist

Self-publishes his books under the label "Paddleless Press"

**Major Works:**

The Monkey King (1978)

Sour Sweet (1982)

An Insular Possession (1986)

The Redundancy of Courage (1991)

Brownout on Breadfruit Boulevard (1995)

Renegade or Halo 2 (2000)

Pure (2012)

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**Hanif Kureishi (b. 1954)**

English playwright, screenwriter, filmmaker and novelist

Born in South London to a Pakistani father and an English mother

Started his career in the '70s as a pornography writer

**Major Works:**

*The Buddha of Suburbia* (1990)

*Intimacy* (1998)

Gabriel's Gift (2001)

*The Body* (2003)

*Something to Tell You* (2008)

*The Last Word* (2014)

London Kills Me (1991)

My Beautiful Laundrette (1985)

My Son the Fanatic (1997)

The Mother (2003)

Venus (2007)

**Caryl Phillips (b. 1958)**

Kittian-British novelist, playwright and essayist

When he was four months old his family moved to England and settled in Leeds

Described as a Black Atlantic writer

Worked as an academic at many institutions including Amherst College and Yale University

The Final Passage (1985)

A State of Independence (1986)

Crossing the River (1993)

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Monica Ali (b. 1967)

Bangladeshi-born British writer and novelist

Born in Dhaka to a Bangladeshi father and English mother. When she was three, her family moved to England

Studied at Oxford University

Lives in South London with her husband and two children

**Major Works :**

*Brick Lane* (2003)

*Alentejo Blue* (2006)

*In The Kitchen* (2009)

*Untold Story* (2011)

**Zadie Smith (b. 1975)**

British novelist, essayist and short story writer

Born as Sadie Smith in London to a Jamaican mother and a British father

Worked as a jazz singer while studying in Cambridge University and wanted to become a journalist

Changed her name to "Zadie" when she was 14

Published four novels

*White Teeth* (2000)

*The Autograph Man* (2002)

*On Beauty* (2005)

*NW* (2012)



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