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Настоящее учебно-методическое пособие составлено в соответствии с действующей программой по курсу литературы страны изучаемого языка, предусматривающей изучение истории литературы Великобритании и Америки.

Материал пособия разделён на разделы, отражающие теоретические сведения и практические задания по различным произведениям английской и американской литературы, и предназначен для подготовки студентов к практическим занятиям по литературе страны изучаемого языка. В пособии представлены основные этапы развития литературы Великобритании и Америки.

Адресовано студентам II курса, обучающимся по профилю “Теория и методика преподавания иностранных языков и культур”.

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CONTENTS

Пояснительная записка.	4
CHAPTER I. THEORY	5
The Anglo-Saxon Period (450–1066)	5
The Medieval Literature (1066–1485)	9
The Renaissance (1485–1625).	15
Civil War and Restoration (1628–1702)	19
The Eighteenth Century (1702–1798)	25
The Age of the Romantics (1798–1837)	33
The Victorian Age (1837–1901)	43
English Literature of the Beginning of the 20th Century	54
English Literature of the 20th Century	62
Literature of Early American and Colonial Period (1608–1765)	68
The American Enlightenment (1765–1850).	69
American Literature Comes From Age	73
American Realism (1900–1945)	81
CHAPTER II. PRACTICE.	86

Пояснительная записка

Книга является теоретико-практическим методическим пособием, предназначенным для преподавателей курса литературы страны изучаемого языка, а также для студентов в качестве основного средства обучения при подготовке к практическим и лабораторным занятиям и формам контроля. Пособие может также оказать помощь аспирантам, и всем интересующимся историей развития литературы Великобритании и Америки.

Пособие поможет учителю компенсировать имеющиеся недостатки учебно-методических комплектов, усилить коммуникативную направленность процесса обучения и повысить его эффективность.

Пособие может использоваться как для работы в аудитории, так и для самостоятельной работы над историей развития литературы Великобритании и Америки.

CHAPTER I. THEORY

The Anglo-Saxon Period (450–1066)

Anglo-Saxon Culture

Anglo-Saxon social life was organized in much smaller units than the Roman organ civilization. Typically the Anglo-Saxons lived in small communities of huts and they were farmers or fishermen. The values prevalent in Anglo-Saxon society were loyalty to one lord (to die for one lord in battle was as supreme virtue), hospitality and acute sense of fate. When the Anglo-Saxon came to England they brought with them a relatively well-developed society organized around the family, the clan, the tribe and finally the kingdom. They were warlike and illiterate. Hardly, had they come to the island when Latin completely disappeared in its spoken and written forms.

Anglo-Saxon established southwest and east. They established a kind of culture which is called English culture. They named the country as England. They were pagans and they had no written language, only spoken form of the Old English from which the two related languages English and Scottish were derived.

The center of the Anglo-Saxon social life was the mead hall where different celebrations took part. As a part of them professional singer or bards entertained people by recounting stories of brave heroes and by serving as a resident poet and chronicler for the king and his tribe. These entertainers were responsible for preserving much of the literature of that time by keeping it alive until it was written down by church scholars.

Then Christianity came to England but it didn't have much inflect on the pagan people until a missionary named Augustine was sent by Pope Gregory the Great to convert King Æthelberht of Kent in 597. Within one or two generations Christianity spread through-

out England and brought education and culture. Schools grew up as monasteries were built. Young Anglo-Saxons learnt not only the Scriptures but also the writing of ancient Greeks. Also the Christianity had a marked influence on literature as the monks recorded the poetry that had been passed down orally from generation to generation by the mead hall entertainers.

Anglo-Saxon Literature (Poetry and Prose)

English literature had its beginning while the Anglo-Saxons were still on the Continent. When they conquered the Celts, they brought with them a rich tradition of oral literature steeped in their customs and pagan beliefs and rituals. This literature focused on the telling of the brave and heroic deeds of the warriors possessing attributes they valued and wished emulate. Very often such tales were composed in verse but without rhyme. They were called *epics*.

The first Scottish epic poem "The Gododdin" seems to have been written near Edinburgh about 600. It is the sixth-century poem written in Celtic language (which became modern Welsh) about a group of warriors from *Scotland* who fought a battle in Yorkshire.

The only surviving full-length epic narrative poem is called "Beowulf" and it is commonly cited as one of the most important works of Old English literature. The events occurring in the poem are set in Scandinavia in the 5th or 6th century. This poem tells about the adventure of a brave hero named Beowulf who came to Denmark in order to help King Hrothgar. The King and his men suffered a lot from a terrible monster Grendel who came at night and killed some of Hrothgar's men. Beowulf was brave and willing to help. He attacked Grendel and killed him but that was not the end of their suffering because Grendel's mother came to the King's castle to take revenge. Then Beowulf killed her and was acclaimed the king. Being the King he had to defend his people and his country against another terrible creature- a fire-breathing Dragon. Although Beowulf killed him but he also died in this fight and the poem ends with Beowulf's funeral.

Another group of poems are the religious poems. The first English poet Caedmon who lived during the 600s wrote his only surviving work "Hymn", a nine-line religious poem that praises God. Then there was the title "The Dream of the Rood" a heroic treatment of Christ on the cross. Rood is from the Old English word rod 'pole',

or more specifically 'crucifix'. The author of *Dream of the Rood* is unknown, but by knowing the approximate date of the Ruthwell Cross, scholars have been able to suggest possible authors. These include the Anglo-Saxon poets Caedmon and Cynewulf.

The other religious poems "Fates of the Apostles", "Elene", "Juliana" were written by the leading Northumbrian poet Cynewulf. "Elene" and "Juliana" fit in the category of poems that depict the lives of saints. In "Elene", Saint Helena endures her quest to find the Holy Cross and spread Christianity; in "Juliana", the title character dies after she refuses to marry a pagan man, thus retaining her Christian integrity; in "Fates of the Apostles", the speaker creates a song that meditates on the deaths of the apostles which they "joyously faced."

Another group of poems that has survived are the so called elegiac poems. They tell us about sadness of exile or separation from ones lord or community and include "The Wanderer" (it conveys the meditations of a solitary exile on his past happiness as a member of his lord's band of retainers, his present hardships and the values of forbearance and faith in the heavenly Lord), "The Seafarer" (it is told from the point of view of an old seafarer, who is reminiscing and evaluating his life as he has lived it. The seafarer describes the desolate hardships of life on the wintry sea) and the unusual lyric "Wulf" written by woman. Lyric is an important type of Anglo-Saxon poetry as also riddle. The lyric presents more personal and emotional form of poetry in which an object or a person is described in an ambiguous manner. In the lyrics and riddles the Anglo-Saxons expressed their terror of the northern winter, their awareness of the transitional nature of human life and their fears of the sea because of its immensity, mystery and cruelty. Riddle is a question or statement that contains a deliberately hidden meaning. For many centuries it was regarded as a kind of a coded message. People believed that the message could be understood only by person equipped with special knowledge. During the middle ages poets in Europe seem to have particularly enjoyed composing riddles. They were written in an early form of English called Old English, probably in the 700s. The answers to some of these riddles are obvious but other riddles are extremely difficult to understand.

Unlike Anglo-Saxon poetry, which exemplifies the highly imaginative nature of Anglo-Saxons, the utilitarian prose from this period had its origins in the church with the priests and monks. Because Latin was the language of the church and because it was

considered to be the language of educated man, the earliest prose was in Latin. The earliest recognized prose writer was Bede, the monk from Northumbria, who lived from 673 to 735. His work "Ecclesiastical History of the English People" (731) is the first history of the English people and a valuable source of information. The first of the five books begins with some geographical background, and then sketches the history of England, beginning with Caesar's invasion in 55 BC. A brief account of Christianity in Roman Britain is followed by the story of Augustine's mission to England in 597, which brought Christianity to the Anglo-Saxons. The second book begins with the death of Gregory the Great in 604, and follows the further progress of Christianity in Kent and the first attempts to evangelize Northumbria. The third book recounts the growth of Christianity in Northumbria under kings Oswald. The fourth book begins with the consecration of Theodore as Archbishop of Canterbury, and recounts Wilfrid's efforts to bring Christianity to the kingdom of Sussex. The fifth book brings the story up to Bede's day, and includes an account of missionary work in Frisia. Bede wrote a preface for the work, in which he dedicates it to Ceolwulf, king of Northumbria.

Old English prose appeared in the 9th century when some writers began to write on Old English. Among them was Ælfric, who wrote several religious books where he described the first 7 books of the Bible.

Old English poets used alliteration (words that begin with the same sounds) and internal rhyme (in which word within a line rhymes with a word at the end of the line). Another group of the Old English writers translated some Latin books into English. King Alfred the Great (849–899) was one of them. Also he wrote "The Anglo-Saxon Chronicle" which gives an acquired account of the secular events in English history consisting of the chronicles of different cities.

What is certainly known about Anglo-Saxon literature is that its imaginative heroic exciting and rich in traditions, and like the literature of any era its poetry and prose reveal much that is worth knowing about its creatures.

The Medieval Literature (1066–1485)

For the history of the English literature the Norman invasion meant the disappearance of almost every person of literary activity for over a century. But this doesn't mean that English literature died, it must be kept in mind that literature has primarily been oral, in both Anglo-Saxon and Medieval times very few people could read at all. For them entertainment almost always meant seeing or listening to someone tell stories. The Norman invasion did not stop English literature it only temporarily prevented people from writing it down. When about a century later literary works reappear, the surviving copies have a verse and style which suggests that during that period vigorous literary traditions continued in their oral form. And the English language developed too-because of the Norman invasion the Germanic Anglo-Saxon language began to combine with French and was greatly influenced by it. This process involved the Latin terms of the lawyers and scholars continually entered the language. In this way modern English came into being.

The Chief Forms of Medieval Literature

Most medieval literature is lost. What was survived is different on form and content. First, there were Romances. Romances were adventure stories usually in verse about love and battles and glorified knighthood in France during the 12th century. By the end of the 13th century they had become the most popular literary form in England. In the literature of the townsfolk we find the fable-a short story with animals for characters and a moral in the end. Besides fables there appeared funny stories about cunning townspeople, rich merchants and their smart wives. Also the ballads were very popular among English people. Some of them were humorous and others were lyrical. Nobody knew the names of their authors because the famous ballads passed from generation to generation. The most interesting of them were historical and legendary, especially the Robin Hood ballads. The 15th century is known as the century of plays, early English dramas developed from brief scenes that monks acted in churches to illustrate Bible stories. The scenes grow into full-length works called mystery plays and miracle plays. Miracle plays (miracles) were the first English plays acted by townspeople on wheeled-stages moving to different parts of the country. Miracles were religious stories performed in or near the churches in

Chester, York and Wakefield. The subject of the miracles events is the life of Christ, Noah and the Great Flood, Adam and Eve. Though the miracles were religious they gave a start to English comedy. During the 15th century morality plays appeared. There were two kinds of character: good and bad. They were either virtues (truth) or bad qualities (revenge) that talked and moved. These plays were less realistic than earlier plays and were intended to teach a moral lesson. There was the third type of plays, short and funny. Nobody knows the origin of their names but they were called interludes. They were played in the rich people's houses and gardens.

The Robin Hood Ballads

In the 12-th century only the king of England could hunt in the certain forests of England. If anybody killed a deer, he was punished by death. The man guarded those forests were king's foresters. And the Head Forester was a very important person. The Head Forester of Sherwood Forest, which was near Nottingham, has a son Robin. Nobody still can tell if Robin really existed. He was partially a historical, partially legendary character. We know about him only from ballads and legends.

The Sheriff from Nottingham hated Robin's father and throw him into prison. Very soon his father died in prison. Meanwhile his mother also died and Robin remained alone at the age of 18. He loved the life of the forest and he wanted to become the Head Forester instead of the hew Head Forester who was appointed to his father's place. Robin quarreled with the forester and finally killed him during the quarrel. Then he had to hide in the forest because the Sheriff was looking for him and a large sum of money was promised for his head. The Sherwood Forest was the shelter for Robin Hood and for many others outlaws. They wear green clothes to hide better in the wood. Some of them knew Robin and very soon he became their leader. Robin Hood was a noble outlaw as he robbed only rich people to give their money to the poor. Robin and his Merry Men were very brave and bold.

Popular ballads show Robin as a tireless enemy of the Norman oppression and the church. They sing about his readiness to help the poor and the needy. The outlaws never took anything from women and from woodmen. Moreover Robin Hood and his Merry Men helped the common people when they were deceived. The outlaws were excellent bowmen and Robin Hood was the best among them.

The earliest ballads were sung. The singer was a poet who changed the words in these ballads poems from time to time. Only in 1489 the first Robin Hood ballads collection was printed. It was called "A Little Gest of Robin Hood".

The Legends about King Arthur

The name of King Arthur became important as a figure from the dark past that fought against the Anglo-Saxons in Britain between the 5th–7th centuries. Bu the 12th century the legends had been mixed with the romantic ideas and myths. The stories of King Arthur were told in the south-west of England. He was a shadowy figure. Did he really exist? There are many literary references in early Celtic literature to a man called Arthur.

The first stories were found in Welsh literature. In the heart of the Welsh countryside there is King Arthur's labyrinth carved into the ancient rocks deep under the mountain. Only a boat can ride a long and beautiful river through the great waterfall and into the labyrinth full of mystery and legends. Pole White in his book "King Arthur: man or myth?" suggests that Arthur existed. Though he was not a king, he was a member of the Royal Family or a brave warrior who struggled on Cornwall. His strength and fighting skills made him the leader of the Britons in their war against the Saxons and the invaders from South Wales and Ireland.

The forces of darkness were defeated because King Arthur was a successful warrior. He became a national hero of England and a political symbol the country. Some of the kings of the time were envious of him, others named their sons Arthur. The tails of his deeds were sung all over the world and they passed from generation to generation. Characters such as the magician Merlin, who could go from place to place by magic and transform himself into any bird or animal, Queen Guinevere, Sir Lancelot and others began to appear in English literature. Later a literary fantasy of the Grail and the Knights of the Round Table, the myths about Sword Excalibur became very popular especially in times of war and crisis.

"The legends of the King Arthur" began with his birth; he was a son of King Uther Pendragon and the beautiful princess Igraine. When Arthur was only 3 days old, the old Merlin took him away and gave the child to a good knight Sir Ector. He was brought up with Sir Ector's son-Kay. When he became a man, Merlin made him the King with the help of the magic sword. Arthur married the beautiful princess Guinevere. Merlin gave him a big round table and 128

knights. They took their seats at the table, but there were 150 places and as time went on more and more noble knights came to Arthur. All of them had to be very brave. A knight was a man who historically was a leader in the war, a good fighter and had a word 'sir' before his name.

One of the legends "The Holy Grail" tells a thrilling story how Sir Galahad was given "Seat Perilous" (he sat at the Round Table reserved for the knight who would quest for and return the Holy Grail. It was called Perilous because any other who attempted to sit in it would die instantly). Sir Galahad was pure of heart and refrained from much temptation in order to pursue more heavenly ideals, so he managed to see The Grail from which Jesus drank on the night before his death. Many kings and evil people made war against Arthur, but he routed them all because Merlin helped him. He also helped Arthur to build a beautiful castle Camelot where King reigned well and all people loved him.

The stories of King Arthur have attracted many writers. Sir Thomas Malory (1410–1471) wrote 8 stories about King Arthur and his Knights of the Round Table. His book was called "Arthur's death" and was written in prose, some parts of the book he wrote in prison. He completed his work in 1470 and the first printed book was published in 1485 after his death.

Life of Geoffrey Chaucer

The last poet of the Middle Ages and the first English poet who opened the way of English realistic literature free of the influence of the church was Geoffrey Chaucer. He has been called the father of English poetry. His genius helped him to unite Medieval European literature with his own humanity in an expressive style.

He was born in London sometime between 1340 and 1343 in the family of a wine merchant John Chaucer. He was trained as a civil servant and diplomat. He entered the court while still a boy and served as a page to Princess Elizabeth. In 1351 with the army in France he was captured and imprisoned. He participated in peace negotiation with France in 1360 and obviously served the King well. In 1366 he met his future wife at court and they got married.

He traveled a lot and was influenced first by French writers and then by Italian, especially Boccaccio and Dante. He was appointed to Parliament in 1386. His experience influenced on his fascination with people, his wide knowledge of English life and the ton of charitable irony in his works. Till the end of his life he worked on

"The Canterbury tales" regarded as his masterpiece, but he didn't finish it because he died. He was buried in the Westminster Abbey in the Poet's corner.

Chaucer's Works

His first main original work was "The Book of Duchess" (1368) written on the death of Lady Blanche, wife of John Gaunt, the most powerful member of the royal family during the later reign of Edward III. This work is written in the form of dream-allegory. His next work "The House of Fame" (1379) is also a dream-allegory. "Parliament of Fowles" (1380) deals with the meeting of all birds on St. Valentine's Day and is the first reference to the idea that St. Valentine's Day was a special day for lovers. His last dream-allegory is "The Legend of Good Women" (1387-1394) and it is an unfinished collection of tales. "Troilus and Criseyde" is a poem which retells in Middle English the tragic story of the lovers Troilus and Criseyde set against a backdrop of war during the Siege of Troy. It has been compared with the modern psychological because of its deep analysis of love. Criseyde was a daughter of a soothsayer, who predicted the fall of Troy and Troilus was the son of king. After some complicated maneuvers they consummated their love and lived in happiness until they were separated after an exchange of prisoners between the Greeks and Trojans. Criseyde refused to run with Troilus saying that she would find a way to be reunited with him. But instead of that she became a mistress of a Greek. Troilus, mad with grief, was killed in the battle.

The Canterbury Tales

The Canterbury Tales is a collection of over 20 stories written in Middle English by Geoffrey Chaucer at the end of the 14th century. The tales (mostly written in verse, although some are in prose) are presented as part of a story-telling contest by a group of pilgrims as they travel together on a journey from Southwark to the shrine of Saint Thomas Becket at Canterbury Cathedral. The prize for this contest is a free meal at the Tabard Inn at Southwark on their return. It is a unique collection of portraits of medieval life, written in London dialect, which was becoming at that time the spoken language. Chaucer has planned 120 stories but unfortunately it remained unfinished because of Chaucer's death.

The owner of the inn is a fat jolly man who suggests that each pilgrim should tell two stories on the way to Canterbury and two

more on the way back. They should decide whose story is the best and a dinner would be given to the winner. Chaucer introduces his pilgrims in the prologue and each of them is a real person. They are all of different social levels except the lowest and the highest. There are 30 of them in the book, men and women.

The knight, the parson and the ploughman are idealized portraits representing 3 medieval estates: aristocracy, clergy and workers. Other pilgrims are the representatives of the middle class: a student, a lawyer, a clerk, a sailor and a merchant. They tell different stories religious and secular, classical and modern. Love, marriage and domestic harmony are the most common themes. The inn keeper asked the knight to start telling the first story as he had just come back from the war. He told a beautiful love story: two knights Sir Palamon and Sir Arcite fell in love with the beautiful lady Emily. Each of them wanted to become her husband. They fought with each other for the right to win her heart. At the very end of the story Sir Arcite fell down from his horse and hurt himself badly. So Sir Palamon appeared to be a lucky one. He managed to win Emily's heart and become her husband.

The next pilgrim was a very poor clerk. His tale was about a patient wife Griselda who loved her husband Walter very much. He was unkind to her but she loved him and suffered a lot. Finally when Walter understood that she loved him he cried that he would never hurt her again or bring sadness to her. The end of this story was a happy one. They lived happily for many years. At the end of the story Chaucer asked all the husbands not to try patience of their wives.

One of the most enjoyable characters was the Wife of Bath. She was a large woman with red hair. She was a rich woman and she had already traveled a lot. She was sure that husbands must be young and generous. She had 5 husbands who were kind and loving but all of them died. Her story was about the time of King Arthur and his knights. She tried to prove the idea that men should do what their wives want them to do.

The pardoner's story proved that man shouldn't be too careful with his money because the love for money caused all the bad things that happened to him.

The pilgrims approach to Canterbury on the fourth day and there was no return journey. Many critics believe that this one way journey actually represents Chaucer's plan to show the human life as a pilgrimage from Earth to Heaven.

The Renaissance (1485–1625)

Christopher Marlowe

He was born in Canterbury on the 26th of February in 1564. His family was rather poor. The father was shoemaker and he couldn't send his son to a good private school. At the age of 14 Christopher entered the grammar school. When he was 16 he won the scholarship from Cambridge after the competitive examinations. He came to London in 1587 and wanted to become an actor but he broke his leg and couldn't take part in the performances. Then he decided to become a dramatist. Marlowe was the foremost Elizabethan tragedian of his day.

His most famous works are "Doctor Faustus" (1588) where he described the power of knowledge, "The Jew of Malta" (1589) where he described the power of money and "Edward II" (1593) where he described the loss of power.

Never before an English literature had a writer so powerfully shown the souls conflict with the laws, defining the place of human beings in the universal order. He was first in England to approach history from a political point of view. That's why the police agents suspected him of being disloyal and killed him in a fight at a London tavern in 1593. Marlowe set an example for other dramatists in the great Elizabethan ages in 2 important ways: he uses the powerful blank verse lines (non-rhyming lines of iambic pentameter) to strengthen the drama and he makes his characters act and think in such way that the sense of tragedy is heightened.

William Shakespeare's Life

William Shakespeare is considered to be the greatest dramatist of the world has ever known and the finest poet who has ever written in English. Although he is widely regarded as one of the greatest dramatist very little is known about his life. Much is known from indirect evidence such as people's writings and legal documents.

He was born in 1564 in Stratford-upon-Avon in the family of a glove maker and a daughter of a farmer. His mother was a catholic but Shakespeare belonged to the Church of England. The parish church in Stratford records William's baptism on the 26th of April. According to the customs of that time infants were baptized about 3 days after their birth. So the generally accepted date for his birth

is the 23rd of April. The family was not rich and there were 8 children, 3 of them died young. William was the third child. At the age of 7 he attended the Stratford grammar school. He studied Latin as it was necessary for a career in medicine, law or church. Latin was a sign of an educated person. He was still a boy when he began to write and produce plays. It was his hobby.

In November 1582 he married Anne Hathaway. She was a daughter of a farmer who lived near Stratford. At the time of their marriage William was 18 and Anne was 26. They had 3 children but unhappy marriage and in 1592 he had left for London to establish himself on a literature scene.

London of the end of the 16th century had many play houses and William joined "The Lord Chamberlain's Men", first as an assistant of a director. He had to help the actors to appear on the stage in time but he was a very good actor himself. He improved the plays paying much attention to the comic characters, clowns. He breathed life into them and made them the central heroes of the dramas. So step by step he became not only a good actor but also an excellent dramatist. By 1592 his reputation as an actor and writer was established in the capital. "The Lord Chamberlain's Men" took part in the performances at Queen Elizabeth's Court. Shakespeare was a leading member of this group for the rest of his career.

In 1593 the theatre closed due to an outbreak of plague. The need for new plays declined; at this time he began to write poems. In 1593 his long poem "Venus and Adonis" was printed by Richard Field. Shakespeare dedicated it to 19 year old Earl of Southampton, a rich young noble man. "Venus and Adonis" quickly became a success. Field printed Shakespeare's next long poem "The Rape of Lucrece" in 1594. Shakespeare also dedicated it to the Earl of Southampton.

By the late 1590s he has also become a prosperous man and preferred to invest his money in Stratford. So in 1599 he became the owner of the new outdoor theatre "The Globe". It was called so because the building was round: the galleries and the stage had a roof over them but the pit was open to the sky. Shakespeare had a lot of friends among the actors and dramatists and the period in which "The Globe" flourished until it burnt in 1613 coincides with the Shakespeare's greatest works. Shakespeare's masterpieces during this period include the comedies "Much Ado About Nothing", "The 12th Night", the history "Henry V" and the tragedies "Antony

and Cleopatra", "Hamlet", "Julius Caesar", "King Lear", "Othello" and "Macbeth". During his last 8 years of life he wrote only 4 plays: "Cymbeline", "Henry VIII", "The Tempest" and "The Winter Tales".

In 1610 he returned to Stratford where he died in 1616.

Shakespeare's Works

1. The plays, the first period.

Traditionally his literary activity is divided into 3 periods. The first falls between 1590 and 1600. His romantic comedies belong to the first period. They are light hearted plays relating to love. "A Midsummer Night's Dream" portrays the events surrounding the marriage of the Duke of Athens, Theseus, and Hippolyta. These include the adventures of four young Athenian lovers and a group of six amateur actors, who are controlled and manipulated by the fairies who inhabit the forest in which most of the play is set. The play is one of Shakespeare's most popular works for the stage and is widely performed across the world. In his plays of that period Shakespeare reflects the spirit of merry England of that time. His plays are full of light, wit and optimism. Even in "Romeo and Juliette" he didn't stress the note of grief. All his plays are written in the bright manner of the Renaissance. Shakespeare began his career with the history play "Henry VI" and the last play attributed to him is also a history "Henry VIII", but the most of this category of plays belonged to the 1st period too. In writing these plays Shakespeare turned to earlier chronicles often transforming historical events to suit the political climate and tastes of the Elizabethan age and to produce topical plays about the rebellion and kingship. Like the other dramatists of his time he was disposed to the authority of the monarchy. The main examples of this genre are "Richard II", "Richard III", "Henry IV" and "Henry V". They are a cycle describing the story of the kings preceding the "Tudor dynasty". The so called Roman plays as "Julius Caesar", "Antony and Cleopatra" and "Coriolanus" don't belong to the category of histories. But they show a preoccupation with the same things of order, rebellion and authority.

2. Shakespeare's tragedies belong to the 2nd period of his work. During that time he reaches his maturity. He becomes a great dramatist of the Renaissance. His main ideology is humanism and he presents the Great Human Problems in his plays. Shakespeare portrays his personages with sympathy. He proves that it isn't enough to be wise to become happy and that human relations depend on social problems. The tragic flow which great heroes display takes the

form of a powerful passion: jealousy in Othello, ambition in Macbeth, revenge in Hamlet. The balance must be righted again and order restored through the distraction of the hero. The stories or supernatural phenomena in "Hamlet", "Macbeth" and "King Lear" as well as the frequent madness at Lady Macbeth, Ophelia, and King Lear are indications of the feverish pitch to which the struggle between one man and his destiny is carried. Shakespeare's plays of the second period make the dramatist the greatest humanist of the English Renaissance.

3. Shakespeare's allegorical plays belong to the third period of his work; that period falls between 1609 and 1612. There were no tragic motives in this plays, the social conflicts are not so strong and the dramatist transfers us to the world of fantasy and tale. This works are more lyrical. They deal with reconciliation and justice, moving from a starting point and through a series of conflicts to happy and forgiving conclusions, exposing the corruption of civilization and the value of love. They also have a strong supernatural presents and have something of the qualities of a fairy-tales. The plays of that period are called the Romantic Drama.

Shakespeare's Sonnets

A sonnet is poetical form that appeared in Italy in the 14th century. The sonnet came to England during the early Renaissance. Addressed partly to a fair man and partly to a mysterious dark lady they deal with themes of love and friendship.

Shakespeare's sonnet has 14 lines. But it's divided into 3 stanzas of 4 lines with a final rhyming couplet.

Shakespeare's Tragedies

We know Shakespeare to be expert of the human souls and fillings. That's why each of his plays especially tragedies is the evidence of his love of man. He creates characters of great depth and unusual intellect. We see a philosopher in "Hamlet" but Hamlet's weakness is hesitation in ability to act. He is only a thinker. All fellow's weak point is his crazy jealousy. Macbeth and his wife Lady Macbeth are too greedy and unfair King Lear's weakness is his belief in flattery.

In each of the Roman tragedies the total weakness of the characters and the tragic events are closely connected. Brutus in "Julius Caesar" is not a practical man. Antony in "Antony and Cleopatra" is punished because of his love of comfort. Coriolanus wrecks his own life because of his terrible pride.

Benjamin Jonson (1572–1637)

The name of Ben Jonson is connected with Shakespeare's works. He was born in London and educated at Westminster school. After school he became a bricklayer, following his stepfather's trade until 1597, apart his military service in the Netherlands. Then he was employed as an actor, but the following year he killed the actor Gabriel Spenser and was sentenced to death.

He was sent to prison where he was converted to Roman Catholicism. He avoids execution.

On his release he began to write plays for various companies. He wrote more than 200 plays. Some of them were staged at the Globe.

It was Ben Jonson who published Shakespeare's plays in 1623. In the Jacobean period he was a prolific writer of court masques for almost 30 years. In 1629 he was paralyzed by a stroke and remained confined to bed for the last 9 years of his life. He wrote Renaissance satirical comedy such as: "Volpone" (1606), "Alchemist" (1610), "Bartholomew Fayre: A Comedy" (1614).

Civil War and Restoration (1628–1702)

Intellectual Life

The publication in 1611 of the "Authorized Version of the Bible" which was read and interpreted by many different people led to the formation of a large number of new religious sects such as the Baptists and the Quakers who were later to be important for their reforming work. The main intellectuals of that period were puritans for example Bunyan and Milton. The Pilgrim Fathers, a group of puritan settlers sailed to America in 1620 in order to achieve religious freedom and live according to their beliefs and thus led to the foundation for future British domination of North America. The role of scientific discoveries was becoming very important. The Royal Society and Institution encouraging scientific research and progress was founded by Charles II in 1660 and such illustrious names as Isaac Newton (who published his "Principia" in 1687) and Christopher Wren (the architect who rebuilt St. Paul's

Cathedrals and many other buildings after the Great Fire of London in 1666), give some idea of the scope and excellence of the scientific community. The first newspapers also began to appear with more people able to read and better printing techniques.

Poetry

"The Cavalier Poets" were a small group of poets writing during the reign of Charles I and connected with the Royalist cause in one way or another in contrast to metaphysical poets who were mostly attracted to the rational and intellectual atmosphere of Puritanism. They wrote on classical themes and their poetry retains a sophisticated charm. The best known are Robert Herrick (1591–1674), Sir John Suckling (1609–1642) and Richard Lovelace (1618–1658). Richard Lovelace was a successor of Ben Johnson and William Shakespeare's close friend.

He wrote short and graceful verses and spent all his money in support of the king Charles I.

In 1642 he was put in to prison for his appeal to free the monarch.

Satire became very popular too. The aim of satire is to make man laugh themselves out of their follies and vices and these anticipated the explosion of satire in the 18-th century. Samuel Butler (1612–1680) produced "Hudibras", a satirical treatment of figures and attitudes from the time of the Civil War. John Dryden also wrote extremely elegant verses and satirical poems.

John Milton (1608–1674)

He was a great Puritan poet and pamphleteer. His life was closely connected with the Bourgeois Revolution the short-lived Commonwealth and the restoration of English Monarchy. He was born on the 9th of December and his father was a talented composer and received wide recognition in protestant circles. He recognized his son's ability early and sent him to an excellent St. Paul's school. Milton's school days were happy. He grew up in an atmosphere of love and music. He was fluent in 5 languages: Hebrew, Italian, Latin, Greek and English. His first poems were paraphrases of Psalms, dating from when he was only 15. His difficulties started at Cambridge. Some people nicknamed him "The Lady" because of his fair complexion long hair, graceful elegance and high morals. While at Cambridge he wrote "On the morning of Crist's Nativity" (1629), he

chose to dedicate himself to God's service as a poet. He received his master's degree in 1632. After that he returned to Horton, his father estate in Buckinghamshire. He spent there 6 years of intensive study of Modern and Ancient History, Math, Art, Music and poetry. In Horton he wrote two major works: "Comus" (1634) – dramatic presentation with music, concerning the nature of Virtue and one more work "Lycidas" (1637) – this short poem is considered by many people to be the finest short poem in English, it's a pastoral elegy, commemorating the death of his friend Edward King.

Milton left Horton in 1638 for a 15 month European tour while in Italy he heard of a growing conflict between the bishops of the Church of England and the Puritans. He returned to England to support the Puritan cause through a series of political writings. He turned away from poetry to work on behalf of parliament and Commonwealth. In all his writings he expressed radical political and religious views. In his work "Of Reformation" (1641) he criticized the Church of England. In his work "The Ready and Easy Way to Establish a Commonwealth" (1660) he cried out against the prospect of the restoration of King Charles II to the throne. He defended the people's rights to choose and depose their rulers in his work "The Tenure of Kings and Magistrates" (1649).

Milton married 16 years old Mary Powell in 1643, but their marriage was unhappy. She left Milton after a month or two and didn't return for 2 years. Milton was shocked. He was in despair because his moral principals were against the very idea of casual love making. The idea of good marriage proved his high respect for woman as an intellectual companion rather than as a housekeeper and child bearer. These ideas were expressed in his work "The Doctrine and Discipline of Divorce". But Milton had to accept his wife back in 1645 when Mary's royalist family decided to appeal to their puritan son-in-law.

Since 1646 he had been working at his "History of Britain". Milton's work and constant study strained his weak eyes and he was completely blind by 1652. His wife died in 1654 leaving 3 daughters. The eldest was about 8. Milton's relationship with his daughters was terrible. His views on the education of young women were rather strange. His oldest daughter couldn't even write her own name. The others were taught to read by their father in foreign languages mechanically, repeating words they didn't even understand. In 1655 he wrote the sonnet "When I Consider How My Light Is Spent" about his blindness. In 1656 he married Katherine Wood-

cock but she died 17 months later. When Charles II became king the change in English literature was almost as great as the change in government. Milton became unpopular. He was arrested, but not prisoner. His estate was confiscated and he went into retirement and married Elizabeth Mynshull in 1663. Fortunately, his third marriage was happy. That was the period when he wrote his great epic poem "Paradise Lost" (1667). This poem was based on the story of Adam and Eve and their failure to keep God's commands. Milton dictated his poem because of his blindness. It was planned in ten books, but was written in 12. The second great epic poem is titled "Paradise Regained" (1671). This story is more severe. It's devoted to the description of Christ's temptations in the desert. His last great work "Samson Agonistes" (1671) tells the Biblical story of Samson in the style of Greek tragic drama. It depicts Samson betrayed by Dalila and blinded, defeating his captors at the cost of his own life. Milton died in 1674 leaving all his property to his wife who spoke with warm affection of her talented husband.

Andrew Marvell (1621–1679)

He was born in a village in Yorkshire. He was a son of a local Calvinist vicar. He was educated at Hull Grammar School and Trinity College in Cambridge. He published his first verses in Latin and Greek at the age of 16. He got his degree in 1639 and was briefly converted to Roman Catholicism. He left Cambridge in 1641 on the death of his father and travelled in Europe. He was recommended by Milton as Latin secretary to the Council of State. This post he finally took up in 1657. Two years later he became MP for his native town Hull and remained in this position for about 20 years. He produced various poems and polemical religious pamphlets during the rest of his life. Most of his lyric poetry was written by about 1650 and the rest of his output is satirical and celebratory or patriotic verse, such as the title "An Horatian Ode upon Cromwell's Return from Ireland".

Prose

Instead of poetry the political prose came into being. The population divided into Royalists and Roundheads. Political literature appeared. There were leaflets and pamphlets. Leaflets reported the events and pamphlets explained the events to the population.

Journalism came to start. The proceedings of the sessions of Parliament were printed in "Journals". They contained the daily information of the proceedings. A real fighter of the revolution in England was John Lilburne, a distinguished publicist of that time. He fought for equal rights for all people. He proclaimed the idea of a democratic republic that should be based on a free agreement between the population and the government. Most of his works were written in Tower. His pamphlet "The Agreement of the People" appeared in 1647. But the greatest of all publicists during the Puritan Revolution was John Milton. His works and pamphlets gave theoretical foundation to the struggle of the bourgeoisie against the monarchy. Milton became the main ideologist of that time.

Drama

After the brilliant flowering of talents in the Elizabethan and Jacobean ages drama in the Restoration may seem rather inferior. The men were brave and the women were beautiful. The public consisted mainly of the court and wealthy. Moreover the actors themselves were fashionably dressed. Even women were allowed to play in the performances. They appeared on the stage in their modern clothes. The stage itself changed the shape. The plots of the plays centered on love and money. Everything and everybody protested against strict rule of Puritanism. The major achievement of the age was the so called comedy of manners or restoration comedy. Unlike Ben Johnson's moral plays Restoration's comedies were cynical. William Congreve was the master of comedies of manners in which he described the manners of the age. "Love for Love" and "The Way of the World" was also seemed to be a joke.

John Bunyan (1629–1688)

He was born near Bedford. His father was a travelling tinker. Bunyan attended Bedford grammar school for some time and then followed his father's trade. He fought in the Parliamentary army during the Civil war. He married for the first time in 1649 and had 4 children by his first wife.

During 1650–1652 he became increasingly religious and began preaching in 1656. After the Restoration he was imprisoned when he refused to stop preaching in the fields. He was imprisoned in Bedford for most of the following decade. And his famous masterpiece

"The Pilgrim's Progress" was written there in prison. After he came out of prison in 1672 he began preaching and writing religious allegories. His work ""The Pilgrim's Progress" was very successful and had 12 editions in his life. He died in London of a fever.

Samuel Butler (1613–1680)

He worked as a clerk to a Justice of the Peace, as an officer in an aristocratic household before he became a writer. The poem "Hudibras" is his most important work which brought him to fame after its publication in 1662. This satirical poem analyses and makes fun of the attitudes and behavior during the Civil war and Commonwealth. The work is a satirical polemic upon Roundheads, Puritans, Presbyterians and many of the other factions involved in the English Civil War. The epic tells the story of Sir Hudibras, a knight errant who is described dramatically and with laudatory praise that is so thickly applied as to be absurd, and the conceited and arrogant person is visible beneath. He is praised for his knowledge of logic despite appearing stupid. Jonathan Swift was an admirer of Butler's forceful satire.

John Dryden

He was born in Northamptonshire and brought up in a puritan environment. He was educated at Westminster School and Trinity College at Cambridge. He managed to generate the changes in the political and religious climate occurring in England during the last part of the 17-th century, celebrating both Cromwell and the Restoration in verse. His literary output covered a wide range of genres, including drama, criticism, translation and poetry. He became Poet Laureate in 1668 and Historiographer Royal under Charles II, but fell out of favor and lost the post under the reign of William and Marry. He is buried in Westminster Abbey. John Dryden began his literary career with verses "On the Death of Lord Hastings" while he was still only 16. The first poem of his maturity was "Heroic Stanzas on the Death of Cromwell" (1658). The theaters which had been closed reopened in 1660 and Dryden devoted much of his time to writing plays during his career. The most memorable are the heroic drama "The Conquest of Granada" (1670), the tragedy

"All for Love" (1678) based on the story of Antony and Cleopatra. His "A Song for St. Cecilia's day" (1687) is one of the finest lyrics of the Restoration.

William Congreve (1670–1729)

He was born in Yorkshire but spent his childhood in Ireland since his father was on military service there. He studied with Jonathan Swift in Dublin and continued his studies in law in London in 1691. His published works include a novel "Incognita" (1692) as well as a series of plays "The Old Bachelor" (1693), "The Double Dealer" (1694), "Love for Love" (1695), "The Mourning Bride" (it had a great success), "The Way of the World" (1699), widely regarded as the masterpiece of Restoration comedy. Despite his achievements he wrote no more plays for the rest of his life and remained a respected literary figure. He is buried in Westminster Abbey.

The Eighteenth Century (1702–1798)

From Classical to Romantic Literature

At the end of the 18-th century we witness not only the culmination of neo-classical literature which had its roots in post-restoration England, but also the challenges of the new Romanticism.

The earlier part of the century was a golden age of prose. The new prose was simpler, clearer and more precise. The new writers were more concerned with poise balance and clarity. It was also a reflection of the desire for peace and order in a society appeared from Revolution and Civil war.

It's also important to bear in mind changes in the structure of society itself. The reading public was changing quite rapidly and the tastes for reading were spreading. Female readers became increasingly numerous. It should be noticed that novels were too expensive for the middle class worker. The price of one book would be more than the weekly wage of laborer. But the establishment of circulating libraries helped to relieve this situation in the middle of the century.

A rising middle class hungry for knowledge and for literary representations of a changing social reality sought new forms of intellectual entertainment. A growing middle class public was slowly becoming the arbiter of taste and public opinion.

Prose

Essays, journalism and above all the novel were the most important aspect of literary production in an age which was dominated by prose. The leading form of the literature became the novel. The middle class exercised a growing influence on literature. Their new wealth now permitted them to buy books and writers turned from the demands of aristocratic patrons to the open market, hoping to make a living there. The middle class people preferred to read about people like themselves. So heroic tragedies gave way to novels. The hero of the novel was a representative of the middle class, but earlier the common people were shown only as comical personages.

In the 18-th century the novel took individual experience as its most important criterion and the plots that had formed the backbone of English literature for many centuries were largely abandoned by the new novelists.

The rejection of classical literature meant that instead of the general human types readers were presented with original plots acted out by highly individual characters and that characters usually differ one from another.

Greater attention was paid to physical background or setting where the action took place. It became a question of great importance and was the logical complement to the question of time.

The genre of the realistic novel was a new form of prose.

Daniel Defoe (1660–1731)

He was born in London in 1660. His real surname was Foe. He added De 40 years later.

His father James Foe was a prosperous tallow chandler. His father expected him to become a minister. Daniel studied in Presbyterian Academy of Newington Green. He left the academy with a keen, practical-minded temperament and was fluent in 5 languages which didn't include Latin or Greek.

In 1680, when he was 21, he became a merchant acting as a jobber for wine, tobacco and woolens.

He travelled a lot and by 1784 he was a well-to-do businessman and he could marry an attractive young girl of 20 brought up in a rather more important business family than his own.

Defoe was too energetic. That's why when his business began to bore him; he looked for more thrilling speculations.

As the result in 1692 Defoe was forced into bankruptcy, but he was not upset and decided to publish his first real book "An Essay upon Projects" in 1699. He wrote down the suggestions how to improve roads. His earliest writings dealt with such controversial subjects as politics and religion.

A political pamphlet led to his imprisonment in 1703 for about 4 months. For about 25 years Defoe earned his living writing for newspapers. He produced his own periodical "The Review" single-handedly from 1704 to 1713. Many politicians hired him to write for newspapers. Sometimes he was secretly writing for the Whig Party in one paper and the Tories in another.

He also carried out intelligence work as a spy and government agent during this period. When George I came to the throne in 1714 the Tories fell out of favor, but Defoe continued working for the government.

In 1719 at the age of 59 he turned from journalism to a new form of extended prose and produced his most famous work "Robinson Crusoe". It's one of the first English novels and one of the greatest masters of realistic narrative, long before such writers as Theodore Dreiser and Ernest Hemingway.

It's difficult to tell how many works he produced, as most of them were published anonymously.

The latest estimate is almost 550, including works of poetry, theology, economics and geography. Defoe's novels reflect the growing power and wealth of the new English middle class developed through new opportunities at home and abroad. Many of these new classes were puritans and they tended to believe in the glory of hard work. They also stressed education and therefore became the large part of the reading public.

His most important novels are "Robinson Crusoe" (1719), "Captain Singleton" (1720), "Moll Flanders" (1722), "Colonel Jack" (1722), "Roxana: The Fortunate Mistress" (1724). He described the ordinary lives of real people, who were the normal products of their social and economic surroundings. Defoe makes us believe

in the reality of what we are reading, as are hurried from scene to scene by his breathless prose. Despite his several bankrupts he wrote with enthusiasm about trade. In 1728 appeared "A Plan of the English Commerce". He died alone in misery in London in 1731 with creditors still baying for his blood.

Jonathan Swift (1667–1745)

He was born in Dublin on the 30th of November. His parents were connected with several important families, but they had little property. His father was unfortunate and died at the age of 25. His son was born 6 month later after his death. His uncle Godwin Swift decided to pay for Jonathan's upbringing and for his education, but he hated his uncle. He was educated at Trinity College with little satisfaction to either himself or to his teachers. He was graduated without honors in 1688. He moved to England in 1688 or 1689. In those times Sir William Temple was an important statesman and diplomat in England. Jonathan Swift became his secretary from 1689 to 1699 with same interruptions. This was an interesting position for a young man of 21 as it gave him wonderful chances of meeting the important people of that time. On the other hand Swift learned much of the dishonesty of successful politicians. In 1695 he became a minister in an Anglican Church of Ireland. While working for Temple Swift met a young girl Esther Johnson whom he called Stella. They became lifelong friends and Swift wrote long letters to her during his busiest days. These letters were published after his death as "A Journal to Stella". Temple died in 1699 and in 1700 Swift became pastor of a small church in Ireland. He visited England often between 1701 and 1710 conducting church business. He visited different political clubs, wrote his important pamphlets and got acquainted with famous people. In 1710 he became a powerful supporter of the new Tory government of Great Britain. Queen Ann recognized Swift's political work in 1713 when she made him dean of St. Patrick's Cathedral in Dublin. The Queen died in 1714 and George I became the King. The Whig Party won the control of the government that year. These changes ended the political power of Swift and his friends in England.

In 1720 he wrote his powerful pamphlet "A Proposal to the Universal Use of Irish Manufacture", which proclaimed and economic

independence of Ireland. Swift became the hero of Dublin, but the police were searching for the author of the rebellious pamphlet. They didn't know who the author was, but the population knew the author quite well. Swift spent the rest of his life more than 30 years as dean of St. Patrick's Cathedral. In many ways these years were disappointing. He missed his friends in England especially the poets Alexander Pope and John Gay. Swift was deeply concerned about the wealth, fare and behavior of Irish people. He was a protestant churchman who became a hero in Roman Catholic Ireland.

However there are some things, which Swift clearly hated and loved. He hated those people, who attacked religion, particularly when they pretended to be religious themselves.

He also hated the tyranny of one nation over another. He loved liberty, honesty and humanity, and his writings ask the readers to share his values.

Swift's masterpiece "Gulliver's Travels" appeared in 1726. It's often described as a book that children read with delight, but which adults find serious and disturbing. However even young readers usually recognize that Swift's make believe world sometimes resembles their own world. Adults recognize that it's highly comic. The book describes 4 voyages, that Lemuel Gulliver, who was trained as a ship's doctor, makes to strange lands.

Scholars are still trying to discover all the ways in which real people, institutions and events are represented in Gulliver travels. But readers needn't be scholars to find pleasure and to find themselves set to thinking about its distinctive picture of human life.

Swift tried his hands in prose and verse. He wrote a great deal of poetry and light verse. Much of his poetry is humorous and it's often sharply satirical as well. But many of his poems show his deep affection for his friends.

Swift's close friend Stella died in 1728. He suffered a lot and his mind was breaking. 10 years he was ill and spent in loneliness. In 1742 at the age 74 he was declared insane. He died in 1745 and was buried in simplicity. He left his money to start a hospital for mentally ill. It's interesting to know that he composed the Latin epitaph for himself. He made it in 1735 when he wrote his will.

He's one of the very few who has made satire an effective weapon with which he attacked the enemies.

Samuel Richardson (1689–1761)

Son of the joiner, Samuel Richardson was born in Derbyshire. 10 years later his parents moved to London, where he received that he called only common school learning. By the age of 13 he already displayed a gift for storytelling and letter writing. In 1706 he was apprenticed to a printer. He worked hard and became prosperous and successful in his later life, serving private authors and the government.

He started writing "Pamela", his first epistolary novel at the age of 15, like the 2 novels, which followed, it was a great success. During his brief career as a novelist he wrote 3 novels, which was considerable success and was later emitted all over Europe.

They are: "Pamela or Virtue Rewarded" (1740–1741), "Clarissa or the History of a Young Lady" (1747–1748), "Sir Charles Grandison" (1753–1754).

In his development of plot and psychological characterization he represents a step forward. Indeed there is a strong element of psychological analysis which had been aching in most other prose fiction. We are taking inside the minds of Richardson's characters and are invited to share their thoughts and feelings. His novels were written in the form of letters exchanged between the main characters. It's almost as if we are looking over the shoulder of each character as they are writing a letter.

Richardson's personal life was not without considerable, emotional hardship. He married his master's daughter Martha Wilde in 1721. She died just 10 years later, having giving birth to 6 children, none of whom was to rich adulthood. His second wife Elizabeth Leake also gave birth to 6 children, but only 4 daughters managed to survive their father.

Henry Fielding (1707–1754)

He was born in an aristocratic family. He studied at Eton Public School and went to the university in Holland; because of the lack of money he returned to England in 1730 and chose the career of playwright. He wrote over 20 plays, mostly of a satirical nature. The most enjoyable are "The Tragedy of Tragedies; or The Life and Death of Tom Thumb the Great" (1730–1731), "Pasquin" (1736), "The Historical Register for the year 1736" (1737).

In order to support his dearly beloved wife and two children he took up career in law as a barrister.

During the late 1730s and early 1740s he continued to show his liberal and anti-Jacobin views in satirical articles for newspapers; almost by accident in angered response to the success of Richardson's novel "Pamela" Fielding wrote novel "Shamela" (1741) and "The History and Adventures of Joseph Andrews" (1742), which are parodies of Richardson's serious novel about the rewards of a virtuous life. The "Life and Death of Jonathan Wild, the Great" (1743) is fictional but its criminal hero was a real person whom Fielding treated ironically to contrast greatness and goodness. "The History of Tom Jones" (1749) is one of the world's great novels. It's an exciting humorous story of an orphan and his advantages.

Although it begins when Tom is a baby most of the story concerns the hero as a young man. Tom's many advantages include a variety of love affairs and his true love for Sophia Western. He began each novel with a brilliant essay. He filled his story with unforgettable characters, which he described in a sophisticated and lovely style. These qualities greatly influenced later novelists. His tongue and cheek irony makes Tom Jones an outstanding satire on society.

Despite financial and domestic difficulties (his wife and one of his daughter died in 1740s),

he continued to write novels of a satirical nature up to 1751. Fielding was also an excellent journalist and essayist.

His consistent anti-Jacobinism and support of the Church of England was rewarded with his appointment as magistrate in 1749, a year after he married to his pregnant maid.

According to historians Fielding and his blind brother were the best magistrates in the 18-th century in London. They did a lot to enhance the course of the judicial reform and improve prison conditions.

In 1754 he went in Portugal to improve his health and died two months later. His "Journal of a Voyage to Lisbon" was published in 1755 after his death and describes a trip he made to Portugal.

Laurence Sterne (1713–1768)

He was born in Ireland in 1713. He was the son of an English army officer. His father died in a duel in 1738, but Sterne was

rescued from penury by the well-meaning relative, whose financial assistance enabled him to go to Cambridge in the same year.

At the University he suffered a hemorrhage of the lungs: a first sign of the ill health, which was to dog through the whole life. He was an exceptional student and became a vicar in Yorkshire in 1731.

Ten years later he married Elizabeth Lumley. They had two daughters but only one of them was to survive. His marriage was not too successful as his wife had severe mental illness. In addition to writing Sterne was a good painter and musician.

Affected by tuberculosis he decided to go and live in France with his family in 1762 in order to continue his work on his highly popular comic novel "The Life and Opinions of Tristram Shandy". This work brought him fame and fortune both in England and in France. This novel or anti-novel as some critics prefer to call it is divided into 9 volumes, which were written over a 7 years period. It's narrated in the first person singular by Tristram Shandy himself. When Sterne returned to England in 1767 he fell in love with a much younger Eliza Draper. It led to separation from his ill wife. His "A Sentimental Journey" was based on his tour of Italy and France in 1765. It was published 3 days before his death from pleurisy.

Alexander Pope (1688–1744)

He was born in a catholic family at a time when there was widespread hysteria about the possibilities of invasions and conspiracy and legal restrictions on land owning and residents.

He suffered a form of tuberculosis that affects the bone all his life. He couldn't attend University or hold public office and the sense of being an outsider was intensified by his physical defects.

In the light of these severe disadvantages it's remarkable that his literary career was a success.

He showed precocious talent in his early poetry: "Pastorals" (1709), "An Essay on Criticism" (1714), and "The Rape of the Lock" (1714).

He was also one of the few writers to achieve financial success. In particular his translations of "Homer's Iliad" (1715–1720) made him a rich man, and he settled in a villa in Twickenham outside London.

Pope devoted his work "The Dunciad" (1729) to settling scores with critics and other figures and his satire made him a feared man in government circles.

Richard Brinsley Sheridan (1751–1815)

He was born in Dublin. He was an Irish dramatist and politician. During his brief writing career he produced several sparkling comedies. When he was 20 he wrote "The Rivals", "The School for Scandal" (1777). It's his finest plays and one of the great comedies of English drama. His play "The Critic" (1779) is a short satiric play wittily attacked theatrical fashions.

In this play Sheridan mocks at drama and literary criticism. He makes fun of 2 critics, who discussed the foolish play's qualities with the author of this play.

Sheridan's other plays include the farce "St Patrick's Day" (1775) and a comic opera "The Duenna" (1775). In 1780 he was elected to Parliament and until 1812 he devoted himself to politics. In 1799 he wrote his last full length play "Pizarro", a political tragedy.

The Age of the Romantics (1798–1837)

Romanticism was the greatest literary movement in the period between 1798 and 1840.

It meant the shift of sensibility in art and literature, and was based on interdependence of man and nature. It was a style in European art, literature and music that emphasized the importance of feeling, emotion and imagination.

Romanticism in literature was the reaction of the society not only to the French Revolution of 1789, but also to the Enlightenment connected with it. In such situations the writers decided to solve the social problems by writing. In general the romantic writers placed the individual rather than society at the centre of the vision.

They tended to be optimists who believed in possibility of progress and improvement for humanity as well as for individuals, but

all of them were against immoral luxuries of the world, against injustices and inequality of the society, against suffering and human selfishness. The romantics based their theories on the intuition and the wisdom of heart. On the other hand they were violently stunned by the suffering of which they were the daily witnesses.

They hoped to find a way of changing the social order by their writings. They believed that literature was a sort of mission to be carried out in order to reach the wisdom of the universe.

As the writers of the Age of Reason tended to regard evil as a basic part of human nature, the romantics generally say humanity as naturally good, but corrupted by society and its institutions of religion, education and government.

The French Revolution gave life to the dreams of some romantics for a society in which there would be liberty and equality for all.

Romantic Poetry

In literary terms poetry provides the main source of romantic ideas. A belief in the healing power of the natural world became more important as the Romantic Movement flourished in early 19th century.

In the poetry of Blake, Wordsworth, Coleridge, Byron, Shelley and Keats, Age of Reason is centered in the ancient classics of Greece and Rome, but a few authors turned to other aspects of the past. Among them was Bishop Thomas Percy, who in 1765 published "Reliques of Ancient English Poetry". It was a collection of ballads dating back to medieval times. These forgotten evidences of England's past became extremely popular with the romantics. They relished the medieval atmosphere, the sense of mystery, the elemental themes of courage and valor, hatred and revenge, love and death.

The romantic revival of the 18th–19th century can be divided into 3 periods:

1. the Early Romanticism (Robert Burns, William Blake)
2. the Lake Poets (Samuel Coleridge, William Wordsworth)
3. the Later Romantics (George Byron, Percy Shelley and John Keats)

Robert Burns (1759–1796)

He is the most outstanding representative of the Early Romanticism in England. He became the national bard of Scotland. His

hatred of injustice was rooted in his personal life, full of troubles and sufferings.

He was born on the 26 of January in Alloway. His father William Burns was a hardworking small farmer. His mother was Agnes Broun, a farmer's daughter. Although she was uneducated, Robert Burns nevertheless inherited from her a great love for the rich tradition of Scottish balladry.

He at early age worked on the family farm. It was the combination of hard labor and poor food that caused his heart attacks which troubled him during all his life, and from which he died.

He wrote his first poem at 14. This poem was inspired by and devoted to a young girl with whom he worked in the fields.

His most brilliant poems appeared in 1785–1786. He published them in 1786 under the title "Poems Chiefly in Scottish Dialect".

This volume contained some of his most popular early songs, as well as "To a mouse", "To a Mountain Daisy" and many others.

Fortune was against Burns, as a farmer he was very unsuccessful, therefore he decided to immigrate to the West India in 1786, but the success of his first volume of poems coursed him to change his mind.

He went to Edinburgh where for over a year he was popular with fashionable society.

Meanwhile a second edition of his poems appeared. The publication brought him sufficient financial security to allow him to return to farming in 1788.

That year he married Jean Armour. They had 9 children. Burns literary success helped him get an appointment as excise man (tax and custom official) in 1788.

This position gave him a steady income for the rest of his life, but he continued his literary work as well.

He wrote both the Scots dialect and Standard English. He wrote in English when he wanted to express customary or respectable ideas. When he wanted to express ideas that conflicted with custom he adopted the language of the uneducated Scottish peasants.

Burns collected old songs and wrote more than 200 of his own. During that period of time his most popular songs appeared, the world famous "My Love Is Like a Red, Red, Rose" was among them.

On the 21st of July he died. He was buried in Dumfries with military honors on the 25th of July.

William Blake (1757–1827)

Although Blake is recognized as one of the greatest English poets, his verse and engraving were little known during his lifetime.

Son of a London haberdasher, he received a formal education. Much of his youth was spent as an apprentice of a famous engraver.

His symbolic pictures and visionary poems are not always easy to understand because Blake developed personal mythology, that underlines all the symbolism and ideas in his work.

He thought that we have injustice and unhappiness because our way of life is founded on mistaken beliefs. We can't understand that trust reality beyond the material and achieve full control of ourselves, until we learn to trust our institutes, instincts, energies and imaginations.

For Blake this belief was the bases for all personal social and religious truth.

He was a book illustrator and engraver by profession. Blake was most interested in his illuminated printing.

This was a process of visions and engraving poems and related pictures on metal plates.

Except for his work "Poetical Sketches" (1783) and "Songs of Experience" (1794) his prophetic works include: "The French Revolution" (1791), "The Marriage of Heaven and Hell" (1793), "America" (1793), "Milton" (1810), "Jerusalem" (1820).

William Wordsworth (1770–1850)

He was the bright representative of the II period of English Romanticism, called Lake Period.

He was born in West Cumberland in 1770. He spent his happy childhood in the beautiful countryside of the English Lake district.

After a local Grammar School he proceeded to Cambridge where he graduated without distinction in 1791. Attracted by the democratic ideals of the French Revolution he moved to France and there cultivated his republican and liberal sympathies.

He returned to England in 1792 and became politically and religiously conservative.

He was appointed poet laureate in 1843. When he met Samuel Taylor Coleridge he wrote "Lyrical Ballads" in 1798. This collec-

tion of poems is regarded as beginning of the Romantic Movement in England. He believed that his poems could clarify the primary laws of our nature. He also insisted that poetry is the imaginative expression of emotions, coming from actual personal experience.

His finest poems are "Michael", "Lucy Gray", "The Solitary Reaper", "Resolution and Independence".

Wordsworth married Mary Hutchinson in 1802. They had 5 children.

By 1806 he completed one of the most famous poems in English literature "Ode: Intimations of Immortality". In this poem he praised childhood and persuade individual to rely on their intuition.

His masterpiece is his long autobiographical poem. He wrote it between 1798 and 1805, but continued to revise it for the rest of his life. It was published in 1850 after his death. He wrote 523 sonnets and many of them compare with William Shakespeare's and John Milton's sonnets.

Samuel Taylor Coleridge (1772–1834)

He was the youngest of 13 children. His father was a priest and wanted his son to follow his deed.

Coleridge was educated at Cambridge. But he graduated without taking a degree; nevertheless he was one of the most educated men of his time, as he was a voracious reader.

Inspired by the French Revolution he began writing political and lyrical poetry.

In 1795 he married Sarah Friker, but their marriage was unhappy. Fruitless attempts in journalists were followed by his move to Somerset, where he met William Wordsworth in 1797.

The next few years were the most important for his literary activity and the most important poetry belongs to his period. Coleridge spent a long time in the beautiful Lake country in the North of England. In 1799 he lived in Germany studying German literature and philosophy.

He became not only a romantic poet but also a philosopher and literary critic.

His marriage was unfortunate and he became opium addict. His literature greatly influenced the English literature of the beginning of the 19th century. His poetry frequently contains elements

of mystery and supernatural. He wrote a small number of poems which have become indispensable part of English literature.

In 1797 he wrote "Christabell", an unfinished poem set in middle ages about a young girl under a witch's spell.

In 1798 he wrote "Kubla Khan". This poem was unfinished and it had 5 lines. It was not published until 1816.

George Gordon, Lord Byron (1788–1824)

He was born in London on the 22nd of January. He lost his father, a spend-thrift peer, at the age of 3 and was then brought up by his ill-educated and emotionally unstable mother in near poverty in Scotland.

When he was 10 his Great uncle died and the boy inherited the title of Lord Byron and the family castle of Newstead Abbey.

He then returned to England where he attended Cambridge University. His first book of poems was titled "Hours of Idleness" (1807).

But it was seriously criticized by Scottish literary magazine. Byron replied with his book "English Bards and Scottish Reviewers" which was reading in 1809. It was a book of verses in which he attacked almost every notable literary figure of that time.

When he was 21 he became a member of the House of Lords. In 1810 he went on a two year long tour to Portugal, Spain, Greece, Turkey and Albania.

He returned home in 1811. In 1812 he published his first two parts of his major work "Childe Harold's Pilgrimage", in which he described the journey to the lands.

His literary activity can be divided into 4 parts:

1. The London Period (1812–1816): "Childe Harold's Pilgrimage" (parts 1 and 2); "The Corsair" (1814); "Lara" (1814).

2. The Swiss Period (May–October 1816), "Childe Harold's Pilgrimage" (parts 3 and 4), "Manfred" a philosophic verse drama.

3. The Italian Period (1816–1823): "Childe Harold's Pilgrimage" (part 4), "Don Juan" (1818–1823) a satirical tragedy, "The Vision of Judgment" (1821) – it was a political satire.

4. The Greek Period (1823–1824) – several lyrical poems without titles.

In 1815 he married Ann Isabella Milbanke. They had a brief unhappy marriage during which a daughter Ada was born.

Byron left England in 1816 forever. He spent several months in Switzerland where he met fellow poet Percy Bysshe Shelley. Then he settled in Italy and became involved in Italian revolutionary politics. Then he went to Greece and spent his remaining time, money and energy fighting for the cause of Greek independence from Turkey.

He died on the 19th of April 1824 of a dangerous fever. He was only 36; his heart was buried in Greece because the Greek considered him a national hero. Byron's body was brought to England and buried in Westminster Abbey.

Percy Bysshe Shelley (1792–1822)

He was born in Sussex into a wealthy and aristocratic family. He was educated in Eton College and Oxford University from which he was expelled in 1811 for writing a Radical Pamphlet which was called "The Necessity of Atheism".

His pamphlet contained arguments refusing the existence of God on empirical grounds.

In August 1811 he eloped with 16 year old Harriet Westbrook – the daughter of a tavern keeper. They had two children but their marriage was unsuccessful. In 1814 he left his wife for Mary, the daughter of the radical philosopher William Godwin.

In 1816 his wife drowned herself in London. And he was never able to procure custody of their two children.

A year later Shelley married Mary but none of their three children had survived.

In 1818 the Shelley family left England and went to live in Italy. In 1822 he drowned during a storm.

His body was buried on the beach in Keeping with ancient Greek traditions. Shelley believed that the Irish were oppressed by their English rulers and he tried to make a rebellion against England.

He wrote "Queen Mab" (1812–1813) – a revolutionary poem which an attack both political tyranny and orthodox Christianity.

His poems are emotionally direct but difficult to understand intellectually. Most of his poetry is autobiographical, including his most famous heroic poem "Ode to the West Wind" (1819).

In his most ambitious long poem, the lyrical drama "Prometheus Unbound" he attempted to combine his imaginative faith

with his hopes for humanity. Like much of his works this play is based on classical Greek models.

In 1821 he wrote his essay "A Defence of Poetry"

John Keats (1795–1821)

He was born in London. His father was a hostler. He was the first of 5 children and attended a Private School in Enfield.

His parents died when he was young, they died from tuberculosis and John was apprenticed to become a surgeon in 1811. He passed his medical examination but he never practiced as he had decided to become a poet.

Like Shelley he created his own world on imagination. He hated oppression but he never mixed his political views with his feelings and emotions.

His poetry centers on mythology, love and nature. He dedicated his first volume "Poems" (1817) to his friend Leigh Hunt. Hunt was a journalist, essayist and poet who held liberal political views. In 1818 Keats published his second volume "Endymion" – a long mythological story in verse.

His best lyrics were written in 1818–1819. His major works include:

"Hyperion" – an unfinished epic poem influenced by Milton

"The Eve of St. Agnes" – a tale of a dangerous young love.

By the end of 1819 he became ill. He was struck by tuberculosis. He travelled to Italy hoping a warmer climate might improve his health, but it was too late. He died in 1821 in Rome and was buried there.

Jane Austen (1775–1817)

The 6th of 7 children of a provincial parish rector in Hampshire Jane Austen lead an uneventful life.

Educated at home by her father she started writing comic stories to amuse her family.

Taking as her theme the limited provincial world, in which she lived for their first 26 years of her life.

In 1809 she resumed her literary activity from 1813 to her death in 1817 she composed some of her most important works.

She died unmarried and was buried in Winchester Cathedral. She was the first England's truly important female novelist. Her works dealt with a limited social circle of the provincial gentry and the upper classes.

Her close analysis of characters displayed a warm sense of humor and a hardly realism.

Vanity, selfishness and a lack of self-knowledge are among the faults which were most severely judged in her novels.

Her major works are:

"Northanger Abbey" (1798) – it was a satire of a gothic novel

"Sense and Sensibility" (1811)

"Pride and Prejudice" (1813)

"Mansfield Park" (1814)

"Emma" (1816)

"Persuasion" (1817)

Mary Wollstonecraft Shelley (1797–1851)

She was born in London in a family of a radical philosopher. Her mother Mary Wollstonecraft wrote one of the first books on the rights of women "A Vindication of the Rights of Women". Her first inspiration for her feminist works came from her childhood when her father constantly beat her mother.

Later she found happiness with the radical philosopher William Godwin who wrote one of the most important political books of that time. They married when Mary Wollstonecraft was already pregnant, but she died on the 10th of September 1794 a few days after giving birth to her daughter Mary.

When Mary was 17 she met the poet Percy Bysshe Shelley and they went to the continent.

They married in 1816 and had 4 children, but only one of them was to survive.

In May 1817 they joined Byron on the shores of the Lake Geneva and spent long hours in conversations. It was here that Mary began to write "Frankenstein"; in 1818 it was published and met with success.

Her husband drowned in Italy and Mary wrote novels to support herself and her son.

She wrote "Valperga" in 1823. It was a historical novel set in medieval Italy.

Her novel "The Last Man" was written in 1826. It was written about the last surviving man in the world, decimated by the plague.

She died in London on the first of February.

Sir Walter Scott (1771–1832)

He was a Scottish romantic writer. His name is closely connected with the genre of historical novel.

It was he who introduced it into English literature because he was interested in Romantic aspects of Scottish history.

He was born into the family of a well-known Edinburg lawyer. His father wanted him to study law, but Walter Scott changed the course of his life.

He was greatly interested in folks of Scotland. His earlier reputation was as a narrative poet.

In 1802–1803 he wrote a collection of Scottish legends under the title "The Minstrelsy of the Scottish border".

The great success of the collection encouraged him to make literature his main pursuit of his life.

His first verse poem was titled "The Lady of the Last Minstrel" (1805). He continued his success as a narrative poet with his poem "Marmion" (1808).

In 1810 he published his most famous poem "The Lady of the Lake". After the publication of his first novel "Waverley" in 1814 he devoted himself to fiction. This novel describes a Scottish rebellion against England in 1745. He wrote about the conflicts between different cultures.

His novel "Ivanhoe" (1819) deals with the struggle between Normans and Saxons.

His novel "The Talisman" (1825) describes the conflict between Christians and Muslims.

His talents as a storyteller and as a creator of character as well as his gift for realistic Scottish dialect could never find full expression in poetry. He died on the 21th of September of apoplexy.

The Victorian Age (1837–1901)

Prose

The tension between financial growth and social instability in Victorian England affected its literature. Prosperity brought a great number of new readers with money to spend on books and periodicals. For the first time there was a considerable community of interests and opinions between writers and their readers. Writers were respected more than at any time in English literary history. Major Victorian writers had the attention of political and social leaders; when they spoke they were listened to.

Hardships and sufferings of the common people were described in realistic prose. A new literary trend critical realism appeared. The writers of those times described the relationships between men and women in the rapidly changing society. The main idea was the following: love may be a great pleasure, but marriage is a great misfortune. Critical realism had no reflected life as it was.

Realistic prose took the shape of short essays more objective and informative than romantic literature had been. The most popular form of writing was the novel. The most successful novelists were Dickens, Thackeray, Eliot and Charlotte Bronte. They enjoyed great fame during their lifetimes and have remained very popular with subsequent generations.

Most novelists of the period wrote long works with numerous characters. The authors included actual events of the day. The novels of Charles Dickens are noted for their colorful and sometimes eccentric characters. The novels of the three Bronte sisters – Emily, Charlotte and Ann – have many romantic elements. Their novels are known especially for their psychological ornamented heroes. William Makepeace Thackeray created a masterpiece of Victorian fiction “Vanity Fair”. This story follows the lives of many characters at different levels of English society.

The leading late Victorian realists were: George Eliot, whose stories deal with social and moral problems; George Meredith, whose novels as well as his poems are noted for their sophisticated psychological treatment of character; Thomas Hardy, whose novels dominated English literature and who wrote realistic novels in which his characters are defeated by a hostile fate; Antony Trollope, whose comic sequence of novels are remarkable for their

humor; and Wilkie Collins, who perfected the mystery story in his novels "The Moonstone", "The Women in White".

The Bronte Sisters

They were famous novelists: Charlotte (1817–1855), Emily (1818–1848) and Ann (1820–1849). Patrick Bronte, their father, was a poor Irish man, who became the parish clergyman in Yorkshire. His wife died in 1821 and her sister brought up the family. From an early age the Bronte sisters created their own fantasy world, which was stimulated by their father's storytelling, and intensified by their isolation.

The sisters went to several boarding schools, where they received a better education, than was usual for girls at that time, but in a harsh atmosphere.

They were shy, poor and lonely, and occupied themselves with music, drawing, reading and writing. Charlotte showed literary promise and her chief influences were Walter Scott, Byron and "The Arabian Nights". Her most famous work is "Jane Eyre" (1847). It is largely autobiographical. It must be considered one of the most gripping novels ever written, because of its psychological inside into the mind of the long suffering governess and her beloved Mr. Rogister.

Charlotte Bronte wrote three other novels: "The Professor" – was not published until 1857, after her death; "Shirley" (1849) described labor writer of the early 18th century; and "Villette" (1853) – the most popular of the three novels, it's based on Charlotte's unhappy experiences as a governess in Brussels.

Emily Bronte wrote only one novel "Wuthering Heights" (1847) – a romantic masterpiece. It's even wilder and more mysterious, but not as popular as "Jane Eyre".

Ann Bronte was the mildest and most patient of the sisters. Both her novels "Agnes Gray" (1847) and "The Tenant of Wildfell Hall" (1848) can be seen as less violent versions of "Jane Eyre".

William Makepeace Thackeray (1811–1873)

He was born in Calcutta, where his father worked, but his father died when William was three years old, and in 1817 he was sent to England. He entered Cambridge University in 1829, but he left it after a year to travel abroad.

He was greatly interested in art and journalism. Very soon he became the owner of a weekly paper "The National Standard", but the paper was not a success and he decided to study drawing in Paris. He became an able draftsman and caricaturist. He illustrated some of his books.

In 1830 he married Isabella Shoe. They left Paris for London. In 1837 their daughter Anna was born. Unfortunately their second child died, but in 1840 after a birth of the third child Isabella fell ill. She became insane. Thackeray had to put her in a private home and to send his children to their grandmother to Paris.

In 1842 William started as a journalist writing articles for a famous humorous paper "Punch". In 1847 he published his novel "Vanity Fair" and became very popular. He called this novel a novel without a hero. He believed that most people are a mixture of the heroic and the ridiculous.

In 1852 he undertook a trip to America. After this journey he wrote "The History of Henry Esmond" and "The Virginians" (1852). The author described the events which occurred during the American War of Independence.

"The Newcomes" (1853–1855) is the complex story of three generations of the Newcome family. In "The Newcomes" and "The Book of Snobs" he classified the snobs of England according to their profession and rang. The writer made it clear that at court, church and universities snobs were the same, as all of them were proud of their own social position and kept away from people of lower classes.

Among his later works the most important were "The Four Georges" and "The Avenger Philip" which are little remembered.

William Thackeray died in 1873 having suffered from heart trouble for some time.

Charles John Huffmen Dickens (1812–1870)

He was born in Porthmut on the 7th of February into a middle class family of a civil servant John Dickens. He was an open-hearted and kind man. Charles spent his atmosphere of childhood in love and friendship, though his mother Elizabeth was a snobbish, demanding, rather hard and rather silly. He was one of eight children and had an unhappy childhood since his father went to prison for debt, and he had to work in a factory at the age of twelve.

These years of suffering were to inspire much of the content of his novels. He enjoyed reading and was especially fond of advantage story, fairytales and novels. He was influenced by William Shakespeare, Tobias Smollett and Henry Fielding. However most of the knowledge came from his observation of life around him.

He became a newspaper reporter in the late 1820s. He began to publish sketches and signed them "Boz". It was his nickname. As a result the first book "Sketches by Boz" was published in 1836. But his real popularity began with the Pickwick Papers, published in installments in 1837. The book describes humorous advantage and disadvantage of the group eccentric characters in London and the English countryside.

After the success of this novel Dickens turned to more serious themes and plots. Many of the events and people in his books are based on the events and people in his life. Dickens learned more from life than from books. And he wrote about the social evils and injustice.

"Oliver Twist" (1837–1839) describes the adventures of a poor orphan boy. In this book Dickens treated the horrors of workhouses and crime. The conditions of Yorkshire boarding school were described in "Nickolas Nickleby" in 1839. Dickens criticized greedy propire of private schools who treated the students brutally and thought them nothing. "The Old Curiosity Shop" (1840–1841) is less respected today than it was first published. "Martin Chuzzlewit" (1843–1844) is one of two groups that Dickens based on his trip to America. He intended this book to be a study of many forms of selfishness. The other book "American Notes" (1842) is also the travel book. "Dombey and Son" (1846–1848) stresses the evils of the Victorian admiration for money. Dickens believed that money had become the measure of all personal relations and the goal of all ambitions. In his later books such as "Bleak House" (1852–1853), "Hard Times" (1854), "Great Expectations" (1861) his social criticism became more radical and his comic characters more extreme. His last novel "The Mystery of Edwin Drood" was unfinished as he died of a stroke on the 9th of June.

He is buried in poet's corner in Westminster Abbey and is remained one of the most popular English novelists of all time. His admirers included Dostoevsky and Queen Victoria as well as most of his contemporaries and his lasting success at all levels of society is a remarkable testimony to his gift of characterization and comic invention.

George Eliot

Real name Mary Ann Evans is justly regarded as one of the famous English novelist, although her reputation has had her ups and downs.

As she grew older she became a critic of religion, translating philological works from German into English.

Her most important novels are "Adam Bede" (1859), "The Mill on the Floss" (1860), "Silas Marner" (1861), "Middlemarch" (1871–1877) and "Daniel Deronda" (1874–1876).

Her works were much admired during the lifetime by Turgenev and Queen Victoria for their strong sense of love and duty. She also wrote some verse which is little read today.

She married a much younger man in 1880, but seven months later she died.

Lewis Carroll (1832–1892)

He was born in north-west England. He was the first of eleven children and his early years were happy, spent mostly in company of his own family. As a child he would entertain his brothers and sisters with invented games and puzzles, put on marionette shows. He was to continue to be an entertainer of children for the rest of his life. The influence of his father, a rector in the Anglican Church, who loved classics and mathematics, was strong and Lewis followed in his father's footsteps in all ways except that of becoming an active churchman.

He went on to Christ Church of Oxford University in 1850 and graduated from it in 1854. He began teaching math in 1855 and spent most of his life at school teaching and writing books on math and carrying out his duties with precision and care.

But his exemplary life was only part of the picture. He had another side – his great love of children and childhood. He became a friend of three daughters of the dean of the Christ Church Henry Liddell. He took the role of children's entertainer with his stories, games and puzzles.

He created the character of Alice to amuse Alice Liddell. One day he began to tell the story of Alice and later he wrote the story down and called it "Alice's Adventure Underground". It was first published in 1865 together with its companion volume "Through

the Looking Glass" (1871). It became one of the best loved books in English literature and "Ode Masterpiece" of Victorian writing. These two stories were written for children and have always being loved by children even though adult readers admired them greatly too.

He also wrote "Sylvie and Bruno" – a fairytale in verse and the poem "The Hunting of the Snark" (1876). He wrote many works on math under his real name. They include: "Notes on the First Two Books of Euclid" (1860) and "Curiosa Math" (two parts: 1888, 1894).

Even though the great success of the Alice books brought him fame and financial rewards, his life changed little, exact for the fact that he had a chance to photograph the famous artists and writers of his days.

He died of influenza.

Thomas Hardy (1840–1928)

He was born in Dorsetshire. His father was a small local builder and Thomas spent sixteen years of his life working in the architectural field, including five years in London, before deciding to devote himself to writing. While on an architectural mission in Cornol he met and fell in love with Emma Gifford, who was later to become his wife.

Although he wrote a lot of poetry he is best remembered for novels and short stories, that he wrote between 1871–1895. They include: "Far from the Madding Crowd" (1874), which bought him financial success. This novel contrasts selfish love with selfless love; "The Return of the Native" (1878) – it is a somber story of the tragic results of a man's illicit love for a woman. His last great novels are "Tess of the D'Urbervilles" (1891) and "Jude the Obscure" (1895). These novels treat the theme of sexual attraction with a frankness that shocked the people of his time. The public outcry against the novel was so great that Hardy stopped writing novels and turned to poetry. His first volume of poems "Wessex poems" came out in 1898. His three part epic drama in verse was called "The Dynasts" (1903–1908). This poem centers around Napoleon.

Hardy's first wife Emma died in 1912 and his grief at her loss was expressed in some of his finest poetry. He married again in 1814 and in the last years of his life he was awarded honorary

degrees by Oxford and Cambridge Universities. He is buried in Westminster Abbey.

Drama

English drama was reborn near the end of the Victorian age. By 19th century a number of playwrights had revived the English theatre with witty comedies and realistic dramas about social problems of the time.

Oscar Wilde recalled the glittering restoration comedy of manners in "Lady Windermere Fan" (1892) and "The Importance of Being Honest" (1895).

Jorge Bernard Shaw wrote witty plays. But he was primarily interested in exposing the faults he saw in society. His major works include: "Arms and the Man" (1894) and "Candida" (1895).

Sir Arthur Wing Pinero wrote a number of comedies and melodramas. However he became better known for his work "The Second Mrs. Tanqueray" (1893) and other social dramas.

Oscar Fingal O'Flaherty Wills Wilde (1854–1900)

He, the son of a surgeon, was born in Dublin on the 16th of October. The home atmosphere of love and happiness was favorable for the development of poetic abilities of the boy. His mother was well-educated, knew several languages and was devoted to Ireland, writing poems and collecting legends and folksongs of the Irish people. She ignored the selfish morality and narrowness of English bourgeoisie. Oscar inherited his mother's views.

At twenty he left Ireland to study at Oxford University, where he distinguished himself as a scholar and a wit person. He soon became a well-known public figure, but the period of his true achievement didn't begin until he published "The Happy Prince and the Other Tales" (1888). In this fairytales Wilde found a literary form well-suited to his talents.

His only novel "The Picture of Dorian Gray" (1890) is enlarged moral fable. It described a man, whose portrait ages and grows ugly as a reflection on his moral corruption, while his actual appearance remains the same. In this work Oscar Wilde tries to prove the main principle: art doesn't reflect reality, but reality reflects art.

He was instrumental in reviving the comedy of manners and in 1890s he produced a series of plays, which were very success-

ful on the London stage: "A Woman of No Importance" (1892); "An Ideal Husband" (1895); "The Importance of Being Earnest" (1895); "Salome" in French language (1893) – it's a one act biblical tragedy.

In 1895 Wilde was at the peak of his career and had three hit plays running at the same time, but he was accused of having homosexual relations with Lord Alfred Douglas and this was to cost him reputation. The boy's father forced a public trial and Oscar Wilde was sent to prison for homosexual activities. In prison he composed his poem "The Ballad of Reading Goal", which was published in 1898.

Wilde left England after his release. Ruined in health, finances and creative energy he died in France three years later.

Poetry

During the Victorian age there was no single major poet of the stature of Wordsworth or Keats. Victorian poetry is often very accomplished, but the quality of its inspiration shows a certain tendency to be influenced by the romantics and there is a distinct lack of variety and power.

During the late 18th century a pessimistic tone appeared in much of the Victorian poetry. Lord Tennyson discussed the intellectual and religious problems of the time in his long poem "In Memoriam" (1850).

Mathew Arnold described his doubts about modern life in such short poems as: "The Scholar Gypsy" (1853); "The Dover Beach" (1867). Most important literary achievements are his critical essays on culture, literature, religion and society. Many of these essays were collected in "Culture and Anarchy" (1869).

Robert Browning was one of the leading Victorian poets. He became a master of dramatic monologues. In these poems a real character narrates the story. Browning's best known work is "The Ring and the Book" (1868–1869). He based this poem on an Italian murder case of 1698. Twelve characters discussed the case, each from his or her point of view. His wife Elizabeth Barrett Browning (1806–1861) wrote a famous sequence of love poems called "Sonnets from the Portuguese" (1850).

Other minor poets were Arthur Hugh Clough (1819–1861), George Meredith (1828–1900), and Algernon Swinburne (1837–1909). A figure, who stands apart from the mainstream, is Gerard Manley Hopkins (1844–1889), who wrote experimental religious

verse. His poems were not published until 1918. He filled his poetry with rich word pictures and unusual word combinations. His sonnets under the title "Terrible" written in 1885 are typical of his work.

Alfred Tennyson (1809–1892)

He is one of the most important figures in Victorian poetry. He was born in Somersby, Lincolnshire on the 6th of August. His father was rector of the parish. Tennyson entered Cambridge University in 1828, but he never received a degree. At Cambridge he joined "The Apostles" – a society of undergraduates that included several men, who later became intellectual leaders of the age. His most intimate friend in this circle was Arthur Henry Hallam.

Tennyson's first book of poetry "Poems, Chiefly Lyrical" came out in 1830. Tennyson and Hallam travelled to the continent together in 1832, but by 1833 Hallam was dead and Tennyson spent seventeen years meditating on this tragic loss and writing the massive elegy "In Memoriam", published in 1850 in memory of Hallam.

In 1845 Tennyson obtained a civil list pension and in 1850 he became poet laureate and enjoyed financial success buying and building large houses.

He reveals his sense of political responsibility in such patriotic verse as "Ode on the Death of the Duke of Wellington" and his famous "The Charge of the Light Brigade", which was inspired by an incident in the Crimean war.

Tennyson's cycle "Ideals of the King" is series of twelve narrative poems that he published between 1842 and 1885. This work has an allegorical side, suggested by the many implied comparisons between King Arthur and Queen Victoria's husband Prince Albert, who had died in 1861.

Tennyson was awarded the title of Baron Tennyson in 1883 by Queen Victoria. He died on the 6th of October and was buried in the Poet's Corner of Westminster Abbey.

Robert Browning (1812–1889)

He was born in a suburb of London in 1812. Encouraged by his father, a clerk working for a bank of England, he studied sev-

eral languages and also under his mother's influence developed a deep interest in religion and music. His first poetical influences were the romantic poets Byron, Shirley, Keats.

He gave up his studies at the University of London since he disliked the intellectual atmosphere and early poems began to appear: "Polyline" (1833), "Paracelsus" (1835) and "Sordello" (1840).

He desired to become a diplomat in the early 1830s and indeed paid visits to St. Petersburg and Italy. He also spent ten years writing plays, although this experience undoubtedly helped him to forge the form of the dramatic monologue, which became extremely popular and form the backbone of collections, such as: "Dramatic Lyrics" (1842), "Dramatic Romances and Lyrics" (1845), "Men and Women" (1855).

Robert and his wife, Elizabeth, were secretly married in 1846 and lived in Florence. The tender loved lyrics inspired by Elizabeth are some of his best poetry. After her death in 1861 he returned to London and became a society figure.

His work "The Ring and the Book" (1868–1869), which is more than 20000 lines, told the story of 17th century murder in Italy from different points of view and was a great success.

He died in 1889.

Robert Louis Stevenson (1850–1894)

He was born on the 13th of November in Edinburgh. His full name was Robert Louis Balfour Stevenson. He was a sick boy, who suffered from a lung disease, that later developed into tuberculosis. Young Stevenson loved the open air, the sea and adventure, but he also loved to read. He preferred literature and history, especially Scottish history. He was the only child of Thomas Stevenson, a civil engineer, who designed light houses. The family traveled a lot. In 1862 they visited Italy, Germany and France. The constant illness of their son made the family spend much time at health resorts.

In 1867 Stevenson entered the faculty of engineering at Edinburgh University. He thought that he would follow the family tradition and join the Stevenson engineering firm. But in 1870 he announced his decision to earn his living by writing. He began publishing short stories and essays in the middle of the 1870s.

His first book was titled "An Inland Voyage". It was published in 1878. It relates his experiences during a canoeing trip through France and Belgium.

In 1876 Stevenson met Missis Fanny Osbourne, a married American woman, who was studied art in Paris. She was eleven years older than Stevenson, who had a son and a daughter, but Stevenson fell in love with her. They were married in Oakland in 1880 after her divorce.

In 1881 Stevenson amused his stepson Lloyd Osbourne with a little tale about pirates and the buried treasure of Captain Kit. This tale grew into "Treasure Island", his first and most famous novel.

He wrote many short stories, some of which were collected into "New Arabian Nights" (1882) and "More New Arabian Nights" (1885). Many of his stories are rich in imagination and fantasy.

With his publication of the second major novel "The Strange Case of Dr. Jekyll and Mr. Hyde" (1886) his reputation was assured. The story tells of a doctor, who takes a drug that changes him into a new person, physically ugly and spiritually evil.

Stevenson also published his best long novel "Kidnapped" in 1886, based on considerable historical research. It's an exciting fictional story around an actual Scottish murder committed in 1745.

His next novel "The Master of Ballantrae" (1889) is set against the background of Scotland's revolt against England in 1740s. This novel tells a story of bitter hatred between two brothers. This novel and historical 15th century tale of "The Black Arrow" (1888) appeared in America where Stevenson moved after his father's death in 1887.

In 1890 Stevenson with his wife, stepson and mother settled on one of the Samoan Islands. He lived there and was known as teller of tales for the rest of his life. Meanwhile the publication of his books continued. His interests in London were looked after by his friend.

He was working on two novels when on the 3rd of December he died of a stroke. He was buried on the top of the mountain overlooking his home. His novels are still popular today and have become classic children's books.

English Literature of the Beginning of the 20th Century

Poetry

The end of the Victorian period obviously didn't have an immediate effect on poetic production. Traditional methods and forms continued to feature in the works of such poet as Walter de la Mare (1873–1956).

The horrors of World War I lead to a painful consciences of the emptiness of the patriotism espoused by such writers as Rudyard Kipling and Rupert Brooke, who himself died at the front. A number of extremely promising poets were killed in action, including Wilfred Owen (1893–1918), Isaac Rosenberg (1819–1918) and Edward Thomas (1878–1917). But their works have survived to give us an account of the brutality and absurdity of the war. Some war poets, such as Siegfried Sassoon, survived the war and continued the career.

The postwar years were dominated by the figures of Thomas Elliott and William Butler Yeats, both of whom had long careers, spanning a wide range of styles and forms, although Thomas Hardy, better known as a novelist, also produced fine poetry.

William Butler Yeats (1865–1939)

He was born in Dublin and moved to London when he was only two, but he continued to spend time with his mother's family in Ireland. His father was a painter. William was educated in London and later in Dublin. Very soon he became interested in the course of Irish independence.

His sentimental attachment to Maud Gonne, who always refused to marry him, began in 1889, the year in which his first book of poems "The Wanderings of Oisen" came out. Other earlier works were a verse play "The Countess Cathleen" written for Maud and a group of essays hold "The Celtic Twilight".

When he began writing an important concern of his poetry was to praise and glorify the nature of his native land and its people. He revived the myths and legends and made a great contribution

to the new literary traditions, linked with the national liberation movement.

In 1898 he joined Lady Gregory and Edward Martyn in establishing the Irish Literary Theatre. It was reorganized in 1904 as the Abbey Theatre which became famous all over the world. It was founded to support Irish nationalism by encouraging the writing and production of plays about Irish life. The theatre performed most of Yeats' plays and he served until his death as one of directors, who managed the institutions.

His best known plays are: "Cathleen ni Houlihan" where the misfortune of Ireland and "The Deidre" based on Celtic mythology. The most important collections of verse of first period are: "The Wind among the Reeds" (1899), "The Rose" (1893), "Green Helmet and Other Poems" (1912), "Responsibilities" (1914).

Later he was in the process of developing his philosophical and mystical beliefs into an extremely complicated and dogmatic system. The collections of poems of these years are: "The Wild Swans at Coole" (1917) and "The Dancer" that lead to the Award of the Nobel Prize in 1923.

His philosophical work "A Vision" was published in 1926. He produced "The Tower" in 1928 and "The Winding Stair" in 1933 despite ill health.

He wrote much of his best work in the last ten years of his life. One of his best poems "Sailing to Byzantium" describes Ireland as no country for old man.

He moved to the south of France in 1938, but died at the beginning of 1939. He was buried in France but to educate later his body was transferred to Ireland.

Thomas Stearns Eliot (1888–1965)

He was born in St. Louis, Missouri, and was educated at Harvard University and after that in Sorbonne and later in Oxford. He settled in London in 1914 and became a British citizen in 1927. Despite his American origins he is usually considered to be a representative of English literature. He undertook various careers as a teacher, a bank clerk and finally a director of a London publishing house from 1925 until his death.

His first poetry began to appear in 1917. His first major poem "The Love Song of Alfred Prufrock" (1917) revealed his original and highly developed style.

His masterpiece "The Waste Land" was written in 1922. This long complex poem contrasts the spiritual bankruptcy he saw in modern Europe, with the values and unity of the past.

His poetry took a Christian turn coinciding with his exceptions of Anglican Church with works such as: "Ash Wednesday" (1930) and "Four Quartets" (1943). "Ash Wednesday" is more musical direct and traditional and in its religious emphasis hopeful.

His children's book "Old Possum's Book of Popular Cats" also became very popular.

He received the Nobel Prize for literature in 1948 and became a familiar figure in British broadcasting.

He also wrote several verse dramas. "Murder in the Cathedral" (1935) appears to be a comedy, but it's really a deeply religious and mystical work.

His other plays include: "The Family Reunion" (1939), "The Confidential Clerk" (1954) and "The Elder Statesman" (1958).

Wystan Hugh Auden (1907–1973)

He was born in York and educated in Oxford. His talent blossomed early and his first book of verse "Poems" (1930) quickly established him as a major poet of his generation.

His poetry of 1930s was often of a political nature, combating fascism in words. He was later to fight in a literal sense on the republican side in the Spanish Civil War in 1947.

He travelled widely to Germany, Iceland and China and some of his works, such as "The Letters from Iceland" and "Sonnets from China" bear witness to these experiences. Auden immigrated to America in 1941 and became an American in 1946.

In later years he embraces Christianity and this outlook shows in his later books of verse "The Age of Anxiety" (1948) and "The Shield of Achilles" (1955). He was also an influential critic, producing volumes, such as "The Dyer's Hand" (1962).

He died in 1973.

Drama

As far as drama is concerned, the early 20th century is dominated by Bernard Shaw's comedies of ideas, although there were several other trends which did not enjoy outstanding public success. One of these was represented in Ireland by the plays of William

Butler Yeats and J. M. Synge "The Playboy of the Western World" (1906), which were specifically designed as the Renaissance of an Irish theatre movement. There were also numerous verse plays composed by English poets, such as Auden and Eliot, but apart from Eliot's "Murder in the Cathedral" they had little success.

George Bernard Shaw (1856–1950)

He was another of the astonishing Irishman who, alongside Joyce and Yeats, dominated English literature in 20th century.

He was born in Dublin and left the city when he was 20. He had a love-hate relationship with his native land. His early education was musical rather than literary, as his mother was a singer.

His first play "Widowers' Houses" was published in 1893 and he kept up a regular output for the next thirty years.

He was one of the founders of the Fabian Society. It was a non-revolutionary socialist organization, which was committed to reforms in education and to the liberation of women.

Bernard Shaw has introduced a new form of drama – "the publicistic drama". His plays are suited for reading as much as for acting. An important aim of most of his plays was to face audience with completely new points of view and ways of looking at themselves and the society they live in. His ideas are expressed in short wise witty sayings. He turned to drama as the media of expression, as the means to criticize and educate society. He disliked the romantic and sentimental Victorian theatre of the late 18th century.

In a remarkable career that covered nearly six years, he wrote over fifty plays. Most of his plays are comedies. His comedies of ideas haven't maintained their vigorous charm to the present day, but the best of them are still performed in theatres today.

His plays are divided into three cycles: 1) "Plays Unpleasant" (1892–1894); 2) "Plays Pleasant" (1894–1897); 3) "Three Plays for Puritans" (1897–1899).

His major works are: "Widowers' Houses" (1892); "Mrs. Warren's Profession" (1894); "The Man of Destiny" (1895); "Caesar and Cleopatra" (1901); "Major Barbara" (1905); "The Doctor's Dilemma" (1906); "Pygmalion" (1912); "Man and Superman" and "Heartbreak House" (1919); "The Apple Cart" (1930).

His plays are full of brilliant dialogues and witty paradoxes. He is one of the most important literary figures of the 19th century. He won the Nobel Prize for literature in 1925.

Prose

In the first years of 20th century the work of French writers (Zola and Flaubert), as well as Russians (Dostoevsky, Turgenev, Tolstoy) began to affect the evolution of English literature, leading to a more intellectual and philosophical approach.

In prose this period is dominated by the major works of such novelists as Joseph Conrad, D. H. Lawrence, Virginia Woolf and James Joyce, all remarkable for the modern outlook and very original fictional technique.

The crisis of the World War I is well-represented by the work of Ford Madox Ford "The Good Soldier" (1915). English literature was given a new life as the World War I divided the old world from the modern one. Some English writers openly declared reactionary principles of the imperialistic ideology.

The years between 1890 and 1930 were the most fertile of the British novel. The novel in Britain established itself as the leading literary genre. John Galsworthy, Bernard Shaw, Herbert Wells continued the traditions of Charles Dickens. Moreover their novels related the changing social conditions in England.

The writers of the 20th century started a new tradition of bringing the language of real life with much more expressive intonation and short abrupt sentences. Humanity was now seen as a part of the natural world and the actions of a person could be motivated from the psychological point of view by the forces inside the human being.

Rudyard Kipling (1865–1936)

He was born in India into an intellectual family of a designer and sculptor. Indian servants took care of Rudyard and taught him the Hindi language of India. When he was six years old he was sent to England and lived there till seventeen; limited family finances prevented him from going to university.

In 1882 he returned to India to take up journalism. He spent much of his adult life there, at the time when a power and influence of the British Empire were at the height. He was tremendously popular as a bard of a British Empire who believed in the English rule in the conquered lands.

The poems and short stories for which he is best known deal with India itself, its wild animals and the British Army and Navy. He writes of courage, honor and patriotism, making wide use of illiterate language of soldiers and common people.

His first book of fiction under the title "Plain Tales from the Hills" (1888) consists of forty stories. Stories written for newspaper "Pioneer" soon were collected in six books in the Indian Railway Library series. These books sold in railroad stations were popular with travelers and spread Kipling's fame outside India.

Kipling returned to India in 1889. His India Railway Library stories were reprinted in the collections "Soldiers Three and We Willie Winkie" in 1890. His first novel "The Light that Failed" was also published in 1890, the novel about an artist going blind received mixed reviews.

His best known volume of poems is "Barrack-Room Ballads" (1892). In his next work "The Ballad of East and West" Kipling expresses the idea that all the people in spite of their origin and nationality have one common feature – they are people. Many of the ballads are written in the Cockney dialect.

Kipling's poetry is best represented in "The Seven Seas" (1896) and "The Five Nations" (1903). His short stories "The Jungle Book" (1894) and "The Second Jungle Book" (1895) are still popular children's stories that gained a wide international audience. "The Jungle Books" describe the adventures of Mowgli, an Indian child who gets lost in the Jungle and is brought up by a family of wolves.

Herbert George Wells (1866–1946)

He was born in a poor family in Kent. His father was the owner of a small shop and mother was a housekeeper. Herbert had to work very hard to get an education. He was a biologist and worked as an assistant of a well-known English scientist, a follower of Charles Darwin. He was a bright student and later he became a teacher of science, meanwhile he wrote a lot, it was his hobby.

When he was thirty he became rich and popular. He had houses in London and France. During his life he wrote forty books of fiction, several stories and books for children.

His training in science is reflected in his science fiction stories. "The Time Machine" (1895) describes the adventures of a man, who can transport himself into the future.

Wells wrote about an invasion from Mars in his work "The War of the Worlds" (1898) and described a fictional utopia in his work "The Shape of Things to Come" (1933).

Many of his personages are the representatives of the lower classes, but the writer always gives them a chance of happiness.

Among his early scientific novels are: "The Invisible Man" (1897) – about a scientific progress which can be dangerous in the wrong hands; "The First Men in the Moon" (1901) – about a travel by air to the moon. This novel was written about seventy years before this actually happened.

The later cycle of novels was written after 1901 and up to the World War I which shocked the writer. He wrote several works where he addressed the question to all the mankind: "What will happen to humanity if cold intellect triumphs over feelings and emotions?" This question is at the same time a call to the people to recognize their way of life.

He travelled a lot and died in London, but he is remembered as the father of science fiction.

John Galsworthy (1867–1933)

He was born in London into a well-to-do bourgeois family of a lawyer. He was educated at Oxford, but soon gave up his practice and began to write. He travelled a lot and visited Canada, Russia and the Islands of the Pacific Ocean.

In 1906 he published "The Man of Property". This novel made him famous. With this novel he started his book "The Forsyte Saga" (1906–1921). As a writer he was one of the last representatives of bourgeois realist in English literature. In his novel "The Forsyte Saga" he depicted the representatives of an English upper middle class family of the forsytes. He presented the story in two trilogies. It took him twenty two years to finish his monumental work. The starting point was "The Man of Property", then "A Modern Comedy" and the last one "The End of the Chapter".

William Somerset Maugham (1874–1965)

He was born in Paris where his father worked at an embassy, but his parents died when he was young and his uncle brought him up. Maugham got his education in Germany and started medicine in London.

His first novel "Liza of Lambeth" came out in 1897. It gives a realistic picture of slum life and much is taken from his own expe-

rience as a doctor. His first masterpiece "Of Human Bondage" was published in 1915. It brought the writer fame. With the publication in 1919 of "The Moon and Sixpence" his reputation as a novelist was established.

He travelled a lot and many of his stories were written in foreign countries, such as China, Malaya, Borneo and many other countries. He criticized the bourgeois society, but at the same time he proclaimed the ideology of accepting the things as they are.

In 1921 he published the first volume of stories under the title "The Trembling of a Leaf" which includes a famous story "Rain". In this story the author stresses the idea that man can't withstand hardships and all the wrongs of the society, that evil is superior to man. Besides the numerous plays and stories he wrote his famous novels "Cakes and Ale" (1930) and "The Painted Veil" (1925).

During the World War I and II he was a British agent and he was best known for his short stories published in 1928 under the title "Ashenden" (a spy, who has become very popular as a hero in English fiction).

Sir Arthur Conan Doyle (1859–1930)

He was born in Edinburgh into a family of the clerk. Arthur was well-educated and became a doctor of medicine. His practice was not a success and he started writing while waiting for the patients that never came. His medical knowledge was a great help to him in writing detective stories.

He won great success with his first Holmes novel "A Study in Scarlet", which was published in 1887. Sherlock Holmes appeared in fifty-six short stories and three other novels: "The Sign of Four" (1890); "The Hound of the Baskervilles" (1902); "The Valley of Fear" (1915). These novels established him as a famous writer.

Conan Doyle became the greatest master of a thrilling genre. He created five volumes of detective stories about Sherlock Holmes: "The Adventures of Sherlock Holmes"; "The Memoirs of Sherlock Holmes"; "The Return of Sherlock Holmes"; "His Last Bow"; "The Casebook of Sherlock Holmes".

Conan Doyle may have been the highest-paid short stories writer of his time. For his efforts in support of the British Empire during the Boer War Doyle received a knighthood in 1902.

English Literature of the 20th Century

Agatha Christie (1890–1976)

She represents the light genre in the 20th century English literature. A great master of a detective story she thrilled the whole world. Her real name was Agatha Miller. She was born in England on the 15th of September. In 1914 she married Colonel Archibald Christie. They had one daughter Rosalind before their divorce in 1928.

Her first detective novel "The Mysterious Affair at Styles" was written in 1915. She produced a mystery novel one a year since 1920. Her early books have a Belgian detective Hercule Poirot, while the main character of the later books is Miss Marple, a quite old English lady.

Agatha Christie reached the top of her fame in 1970. The two devices which she has used over and over again are the nursery rhyme and spiritualism. She used spiritualism as a mask for mystery and she used the nursery rhyme to let the reader follow the developing of the plot. The reader knows that the murderer is following the rhyme and he knows in general terms what will come next.

The most famous example of this method is "Ten Little Niggers" (1939). Other favorite nursery rhymes of the author include: "Sing a Song of Sixpence"; "Hickory Dickory Dock" (1955).

She wrote a lot of novels. Among them were: "Murder on the Orient Express" (1934); "The Mouse Trap" (1952); "The Witness for the Prosecution" (1945). She also wrote six romantic novels under the pseudonym Mary Westmacott. She wrote non-fiction as well.

In 1971 she received the Order of Dame Commander of the British Empire. She died on the 20th of January.

Graham Greene (1904–1991)

The son of Charles Henry Greene, the headmaster of an English public school, Graham Greene was given a conventional middle class upbringing. Later in Oxford he read history for three years. At the end of his Oxford career in 1925 he published a collection of poems "Babbling April".

He travelled a lot, from Vietnam to West Africa. He visited all parts of Mexico, which later became a scene of his novels.

He himself divides his novels into two main groups: serious novels and the entertaining novels. The first group is generally about the psychology of man and the second group is more of the detective type. The serious novels are: "The Man Within" (1929); "It's a Battle Field" (1934); "England Made Me" (1936); "The Heart of the Matter" (1948). These books are full of pessimism and dissolution. The entertaining novels are: "The Confidential Agent" (1939); "Our Man in Havana" (1958).

James Aldridge (1918–2015)

He was born on the Isle of Man near Scotland in the family of an English writer. He spent his youth in Australia and then came to England. He studied at Oxford and became a war correspondent.

He visited almost every corner of the front Egypt, Greece, Spain and Iran. He spent almost a year in a Soviet Union (1944–1945).

His novels are: "Signed with Their Honor" (1942); "The Sea Eagle" (1944); "Of Many Men" (1946). These books were about sufferings and hardships of millions of people fighting for their freedom and independence.

His work "The Diplomat" (1949) is one of the best novels. It deals with politics with a philosophical accent. It became an important landmark in English literature. In June 1953 the world peace Council awarded him the Gold Medal for this novel.

John Boynton Priestley (1894–1984)

He was born in Bretford and started writing in 1919. He started as an essayist and then he began writing novels. His first novel "The Good Companions" appeared in 1929. It was a success. The next novel "Angel Pavement" (1930) took its name from a real street.

Priestley depicts the feelings of unhappy workers, who lose hope for better life. He wrote more than forty plays. The most significant of them are: "Dangerous Corner" (1932); "Time and Conways" (1937); "An Inspector Calls" (1946).

His dramatic work has found much admiration outside Britain.

George Orwell (1903–1950)

His real name was Eric Blair. He was born in India and educated in England. He studied at Eton, but he hadn't got high education. His favorite writers were Jack London and Jonathan Swift. After his education he worked for Burma police during 1922–1927.

His life experience helped him to write his novels. His first book "Burmese days" was published in 1934. He exposed the vices of the human gap between the upper classes and the working class.

He worshiped the ideals of socialism and hated fascism that is why he took part in the Spanish Civil War as a BBC correspondent in 1936. He was badly wounded and after that worked as the journalist and novelist.

His faith in socialism was shaken by the events in Russia in 1937–1938 during Stalin's repressions. His thoughts and sufferings he revealed in his two very popular novels: "Animal Farm" (1945) and "1984" (1945). "Animal Farm" is a satirical fable about Stalin's Russia; a political allegory, which tells the story of a political revolution, that went wrong. In his second book "1984" he describes the future, where every word is controlled, every action is seen by the state.

For George Orwell the quality of a language means the quality of the society. Thus the government regulating the language manipulates the people, who use it. He considers that the state must play an important part in a reasonable society, but he also believes that each person needs to be independent.

John Ronald Reuel Tolkien (1892–1973)

He was born in Africa. His father went to the South Africa to get a job of a bank clerk, but in 1896 he died and the family lived in poverty. His mother died when Ronald was twelve. He attended King Edward's School, where he studied Latin and Greek, meanwhile he was taught Middle English. Later in Oxford he was greatly interested in Finnish, Welsh and Anglo-Saxon. As the result he started to invent his own mythological language.

In 1916 he was sent to the Western front, where he was struck down by trench fever and was sent back to England. He became professor of Anglo-Saxon at Oxford and became the finest philolo-

gist of the world. At the same time he began writing his legends and myths and told his children his wonderful tales.

Sometimes he published his works. "The Hobbit" appeared in 1937. It was a success and he continued to write, but only in 1954 his masterpiece "The Lord of the Rings" was published. This tale is written in two books: "The Fellowship of the Ring" and "The Lord of the Ring".

Roald Dahl (1916–1990)

He was born in South Wales and studied at a private school in Middle England. After school he worked for the oil company "Shell". Later he was sent to East Africa. During the World War II he became a war correspondent. He was badly wounded and after that became an assistant air attach  in Washington.

He began to write some notes about his war experience. His first book "The Gremlins" appeared in 1943. The stories about the Gremlins were very popular among the English pilots. He was the first to write about them.

In 1956 his twelve stories under the title "Over to You" appeared and Roald Dahl became popular. His book was published in many countries and he gained international reputation.

He produced many thrilling stories and tales for children. His stories are grisly. The children love the grisly and he wrote some works: "James and the Giant Peach", "Charlie and the Chocolate Factory", "The Witches", "The Magic Finger" and many others. He said that these stories were not serious.

People in his stories are more often unpleasant than pleasant and this is fun. All his stories are extremely psychological. He gives his readers the chance to have an idea about the end of the story and form their own opinion about the narrative. We call his novels and stories morality stories.

William Golding (1911–1993)

He was born in Cornwall where he spent isolated childhood during which he read a lot. He studied English literature and physics at Oxford University, and then worked in the theatre as a writer and an actor. He also studied to be a teacher, but the

World War II interrupted this work and he joined the Royal Navy in 1940.

The war changed his view of human nature. He began to feel that no one is truly innocent. These ideas were developed in his most famous novel "Lord of the Flies" (1955). It tells a story of group of boys whose plane is shot down. All the adults are killed and the boys must learn to live without the help of adults. Almost all aspects of modern human society appear in this little isolated society of boys. It is difficult to describe the form of the novel. This is unusual literary achievement. It is a fiction and a fable at the same time.

He won the Noble Prize for literature in 1953.

John Osborne (1929–1994)

He was born in a suburb of London and lived there until the beginning of the World War II. At sixteen he left school for journalism. Quite by chance he became an actor and worked in different professional theatres.

In 1956 he became a playwright. Since then he has written over fifteen plays. Among them were: "The Entertainer" (1957) and "The World of Paul Slickey" (1959). These plays describe the laws and traditions of the British society.

In 1956 the Royal Court Theatre was established in London. It was greatly interested in performing new plays as it was the first theatre with permanent company of actors "The English Stage Company".

Osborne's play "Look Back in Anger" was staged in May 1956. The author introduced a new kind of drama – a psychological play monologue. The play reflects the life of the post-war youth. They get a university education, but can't find their proper place in society.

Salman Rushdie (1947)

He was born in Bombay, India into a middle class Muslim family. His grandfather was a famous poet in the Urdu language. His father was a Cambridge educated businessman. At the age of fourteen he went to Rugby School in England. As a result of the war

between India and Pakistan Rushdie's parents joined the Muslim exodus from India and moved to Pakistan.

He attended the University at Cambridge and his first novels were: "Grimus" (1974) – a fantastic science fiction story; "Midnight's Children" (1981) – was a great critical and popular success winning the Booker Prize; "Shame" (1983).

In 1987 he published a description of his travels in Nicaragua called "The Jaguar Smile" and in 1990 a children's book called "Haroun and the Sea of Stories".

He became famous with the general public after the publication of another important novel in 1988 "The Satanic Verses". Its political and religious implication brought Rushdie to the attention of the world media. The reason was that many Muslims all over the world considered his book as blasphemous against their religion. There were protest demonstrations all over the world that lead India, Pakistan, South Africa, Egypt and Saudi Arabia to ban this novel. The culmination of all this came in 1989 when Ayatollah Khomeini, the spiritual and political leader of Iran, proclaimed that Rushdie and all those connected with the publication of the book should be killed. One million dollars was offered for his death. Rushdie had to go into hiding and he received the support of writers from all over the world.

Still Rushdie gradually began to make public appearances and to appear on TV. He has continued to write and published the collection of short stories: "East, West" (1995) and "The Ground Beneath her Feet" (1999) which takes place in the world of rock stars.

Literature of Early American and Colonial Period (1608–1765)

It took Americans many years to develop a national literature. The settlers, who arrived at the beginning of the 16th century, had little time to write books. They were too busy conquering the land, building homes and planting crops. As the nation grew a rich and imaginative literature began to appear. It is largely made up of historical or religious journals, letters, speeches, sermons and public documents. Even their poems discussed religious and moral aspects. In all their writings the colonists imitated popular European style. Few colonial writings of the 16th and early 17th centuries can be considered outstanding, but these works give us inside into the ideas and events of this period in early American history.

Colonial poetry was mainly of a religious nature and was mostly written for friends and relatives. The first book which was published in the colonies was "The Bay Psalm Book" (1648). It was a collection of psalms in verse for group singing in the churches. America's first text book "The New England Primer" was used in schools to help people to read. Most Puritans were familiar with these two volumes.

The first important America's poet was **Anne Bradstreet**. She was born in England. Her father was one of the early governors of the Massachusetts Bay Colony and her husband Simon Bradstreet also became governor of the same colony. Her poems, besides championing the right of women to education and free expression of thought, give a full picture of a difficult life of the early colonists. She became known for her collected poems "The Tenth Muse Lately Sprung Up in America" (1650). This book includes religious poetry as well as simple lyrics on nature and home life.

Michael Wigglesworth (1612–1672) wrote "The Day of Doom" (1662), the most popular literary work of colonial times. A copy of this long poem stood on almost all Puritan bookshelves along with the Bible and "The Pilgrim's Progress" by the English writer John Bunyan. The poem describes Calvinist beliefs about sin and salvation.

Edward Taylor (1642–1729) stands out as the best colonial poet. He was born in England and came to America in 1668. He attended Harvard College and became the minister in a

Massachusetts town. Although he wrote poetry his whole life, he never published it and even left instructions for his heirs not to let publish, but one of them gave his manuscripts to Yale University in 1883 and in 1939 his works were published and edited by Thomas Johnson.

The American Enlightenment (1765–1850)

The New Constitution (1783–1820)

The thirteen colonies of prerevolutionary America were called states after the treaty of Paris in 1783. Together they formed the USA. Each of the states was originally responsible for its own laws and constitution. Delegates of twelve of the states got together in Philadelphia in 1787 to discuss the problems and under the presidency of George Washington agreed to abandon the articles of confederation in favor of a new constitution.

This new constitution provided for federal and state powers and was divided up into three branches: 1) the executive – responsible for the implementation of laws; 2) the legislative – divided up into the House of Representatives and the Senate, responsible for the making of laws; 3) judiciary or federal court system.

Washington became the first president of the US in 1789. Two years later the Bill of Rights, a series of ten amendments to the constitution, provided further guaranties with regard to individual rights including the right to trial by jury and freedom of speech. After the Revolutionary War the US constitution stirred up sharp debate throughout the nation.

Washington Irving (1783–1859)

He was born in New York City and attended school until fifteen. Later he went to work in a law office to study law. He eventually became a lawyer, but his interest in the law gave way to his love for writing.

He abandoned his law practice in 1809 and his first book was published the same year. It was called "A History of New York,

from the Beginning of the World to the End of Dutch Dynasty". He wrote his book under the name of Diedrich Knickerbocker, an eccentric man who became one of the most popular characters of the writer. This book is a satirical account of the state during its colonial past and in Irving's day. The Knickerbocker tales are a beloved part of New York folklore.

He went to England in 1815 and in 1819 he wrote "The Sketch Book". This book consists of stories, essays about the US and England. This book includes two most important works: "Rip Van Winkle" and "The Legend of Sleepy Hollow". With these tales Irving reached the pick of his achievement in humorous writing. In "Rip Van Winkle" the title character falls asleep for twenty years and awakens to find everything different. "The Legend of Sleepy Hollow" tells about a schoolmaster and his encounter with headless horseman.

Irving stayed in Europe until 1832. He was influenced by European traditions and authors, especially Sir. Walter Scott. He collected tales in each country he visited. He named this book "Tales of a Traveller" (1824).

In 1826 he became a US diplomat in Spain and began to study and write about Spanish themes. His works from this period include: "A History of the Life and Voyages of Christopher Columbus" (1828), "Chronicle of the Conquest of Granada" (1829), "The Alhambra" (1832).

He returned to New York in 1832 and turned from fiction to writing history and biography. In 1859 he completed "The Life of George Washington", an impressive five volume biography, and he died after finishing the last volume.

James Fenimore Cooper (1789–1851)

He was born in New Jersey and served in the US Navy from 1808 to 1811. He settled in New York and wrote his first novel "Precaution" in 1820, but it received little critical praise. His next novel was "The Spy" (1821) – a story about families during the Revolutionary War. This novel was a success and Cooper decided to devote himself to writing.

He is best known for "The Leather Stocking Tales", five novels about Natty Bumppo, a frontiersman. The novels introduced Natty Bumppo as a young man and follow him to old age and death. These novels are: "The Deerslayer" (1841), "The Last of the Mo-

hicans" (1826), "The Pathfinder" (1840), "The Pioneers" (1823), "The Prairie" (1827). These stories contrast two ways of life: Natty Bumppo and his brave noble Indian friends, who live a life of freedom close to nature.

Cooper's conservative ideas about society are reflected in many of his writings. His works show his concern for the freedom of individuals and the rights of property owners. He declared that he believed in democracy.

He wrote several non-fiction works criticizing American life. The best known include the essays: "A Letter to His Countrymen" (1834) and "The American Democrat" (1838).

William Cullen Bryant (1794–1878)

He was the first great American poet and one of the most influential newspaper editors of his time. He was born in Massachusetts. His first poem was at the age of thirteen. It was called "The Embargo". It ridicules the policies of President Thomas Jefferson.

In 1811 he wrote a major part of his most famous poems. At first the editors refused to believe that any American could have written such brilliant verses. A Boston magazine published "Thanatopsis" in 1817. This poem is a meditation on the meaning of death. It quickly established Bryant as a leading poet. His best poetry was written before 1840. By 1825 he had become recognized as America's finest poet.

In 1826 he joined "Evening Post", a New York City daily newspaper. He was the editor of this newspaper until his death. He made it a leading voice of the Democratic Party. He helped to establish Central Park and the Metropolitan Museum of Art in New York City. He left the Democrats and joined the Republican Party during the 1850s because the Republicans opposed slavery.

Philip Freneau (1752–1832)

He was the American poet and journalist. He was a sailor during the Revolutionary War and suffered greatly after being captured by British. His experiences as a prisoner inspired the poem "The British Prison-Ship" (1781). He became known as the poet of the American Revolution. He also wrote descriptive and imaginative poetry about nature.

He was active in politics during much of his life. From 1791 to 1793 he edited "The National Gazette", a newspaper that opposed the Federalist Party, led by Alexander Hamilton.

The Slavery Issue

The dispute between North and South over the issue of slavery came to a head in 1850s. The vast areas of land, conquered in the West, had to be split up into territories and states. This meant that the delicate constitutional balance in the Senate between free states and slave states would once again be at risk. The newly formed states would have to declare themselves in favor of slavery or its abolition.

When California applied for statehood in 1849 a fires debates ensued as whether it should be a free state or a slave state. Compromise was reached a year later. California would be admitted as a free state and in Washington slavery would be abolished.

Abolitionists who wanted to end slavery published novels, pamphlets and poems. Harriet Beecher Stowe gained fame as the most influential abolitionist writer. Her sensational novel "Uncle Tom's Cabin" (1851–1852) sold millions of copies and is still widely read. It was made into the most successful stage play of the 18th century. President Lincoln believed that this novel helped to cause the Civil War which started in 1861.

Harriet Beecher Stowe (1811–1896)

She was born in Connecticut. Her father was a Presbyterian Minister and Harriet was the sister of the clergyman Henry Beecher. She is remembered for her novel "Uncle Tom's Cabin". It describes characters' sins and incidence with humor and realism. It analyzes the issue of slavery in the Midwest New England and the South. After the publication of the novel she became famous overnight, but her name became hated in the South.

Her works dealing with New England in the late 17th century and early 18th century are important for anyone who wants to understand the American past. These novels are: "The Minister's Wooing" (1859); "The Pearl of Orr's Island" (1862); "Old Town Folks" (1869). They present everyday life of the New England village and make clear the positive and negative aspects of Puritanism.

Of her later books the most shocking was “Lady Byron Vindicated” (1870). This novel told of Lady Byron’s separation from her husband, the famous poet Lord Byron.

American Literature Comes From Age

Transcendentalism

The Westward movement and the Civil War were decisive in determining the social and cultural identity of the US during this period and the early growth of a new national literature was to accompany this movement. The contrast between North and South remained. English romantic models were more closely adhered to in the South.

Most writers of that period were working in New England and they succeeded in producing some of America’s finest and most memorable literature. These writers did not turn to England for inspiration. They wrote about their own country and its people.

In the middle of the century New England became the focus of literary activity as a new movement of philosophical, social, religious and literary ideas called transcendentalism, took root in Massachusetts. The transcendentalists emphasized feelings more than observation and experience. Influenced by the works of German idealist philosophers and English romantic poets transcendentalists repealed against the materialism of contemporary society. In contrast to their Puritan predecessors transcendentalists held that man was naturally good and should be allowed to develop free form of rules and restrictions.

The two most important figures in this group were Ralph Waldo Emerson and Henry David Thoreau. Emerson was the leader and spokesman of transcendentalists. He presented their theories in such brilliant essays as: “Self-Reliance” (1841) and “The Over-Soul” (1841).

Ralph Waldo Emerson (1803–1882)

He was born in Boston. His father was a Minister of the First Unitarian Church. When Emerson was still a young boy his father

died, but he and his brothers were very close. They all helped each other to complete their studies. Emerson graduated from Harvard at the age of eighteen. In 1833 he became a lecturer in Boston.

In 1836 he published his short work called "Nature", in which he presented a detailed expression of his beliefs. In 1837 he gave the lecture under the title "The American Scholar", in which he called for American intellectual independence. In 1841-1844 he published his two collections of essays containing his most famous writings, such as: "History", "The Poet", "Self-Reliance" and "The Over-Soul".

Henry David Thoreau (1817-1862)

He was born in Concord and went to Harvard University. As a young man he fought for several years. In 1841 he went to live with transcendentalist's philosopher Ralph Waldo Emerson, where he met many of the important intellectuals of his day. In 1845 he decided to live in a small hut near Concord. He stayed there until 1847 when he returned to live with Emerson.

He supported himself by doing carpentry, land surveying and gardening. Most of his time was devoted to reading, learning languages and talking with his neighbors.

His most famous works are: "Walden or Life in the Woods" and "Resistance to Civil Government". This work was occasioned by the Mexican War of 1846-1848, when Thoreau refused to pay a tax for this immoral war. This essay described passive resistance to government tyranny.

New England Brahmins

Some of the most popular authors of the early 19th century belonged to upper class New England society. They became known as New England Brahmin or Boston Brahmins. This name came from the highest caste of the Hindu religion. The leading authors of this society included Henry Wadsworth Longfellow, James Russell Lowell and Oliver Wendell Holmes.

Longfellow was one of the most influential poets of his day. People still love his ballades and such poem as "Evangeline" (1847).

Lowell (1819-1891) became known for his political satires and his work "The Biglow Papers" (1848). He also wrote a num-

ber of anti-slavery poems before the Civil War and later he wrote "Commemoration Ode" (1865). He showed his ability as a literary critic in his work "A Fable for Critics" (1848).

Holmes (1809–1894) was the first society poet. He expressed the views of Boston's upper class in his work "The Autocrat of the Breakfast Table" (1858). His poetry includes satire on Calvinism.

Henry Wadsworth Longfellow (1807–1882)

He was born in Portland. His mother was a daughter of a Revolutionary War general. His father was a lawyer. Growing up in Portland, a sea-port, gave him a love of the ocean that would influence his writings or his life.

A Portland newspaper published his first poem at the age of thirteen. In college Longfellow showed his skills of learning other languages. When he graduated at the age of eighteen he became the college's first professor of modern languages. He had to create his own textbooks because the study of new languages was a new field.

He began teaching in Harvard in 1837. Two years earlier his first book "A Pilgrimage Beyond the Sea" had been published. It was a collection of European travel sketches. The second prose work "Hyperion" (1839) was partly autobiographical. His first volume of poems "Voices of the Night" also appeared in 1839.

In 1842 he travelled in Europe for six months. After his return he published "Poems on Slavery", which described his opposition to slavery.

In 1847 he published "Evangeline" – the first of his four major narrative works. The poem is based on the forced removal of French settlers by the British during the French and Indian War (1754–1763). Two lovers, Evangeline and Gabriel, are separated as a result of removal. The poem describes the lifelong devotion of Evangeline as she searches for Gabriel for many years, finally finding him in old age dying of the plague. The poem played on popular appeal of sentimental love stories and depictions of the American landscape.

In 1854 he left Harvard to devote full time to writing poetry. The next seven years of his career were the most productive. He returned to long narrative poems successfully three more times in "The Song of Hiawatha" (1855), "The Courtship of Miles Standish" (1858) and "Tales of a Wayside Inn" (1863–1873).

His verses were translated into many languages and he became known all over the world. He was the first American poet being honored in the Poet's corner of Westminster Abbey in London.

Edgar Allan Poe (1809–1849)

His parents were both actors, but they died when he was a child and he was taken in by a rich family of John Allan. From 1815 to 1820 the family lived in England and Poe attended a private school near London.

In 1826 he entered the university in Virginia where he was an excellent student, but his stepfather did not send him money and Edgar gambled to cover his debts and thereby incurred even more debts. Finally he and his stepfather quarreled in 1827.

Poe left home for Boston where he later enlisted in the army under a false name. In the army he published two volumes of poetry: "Tamerlane and Other Poems" (1827) and "Minor Poems" (1829). He was honorably discharged from the army in 1829 and in 1831 he wrote three of his best works: "To Helen", "The City and the Sea" and "Israfel".

But discouraged by lack of recognition he began writing short stories. In 1833 he won a prize for his short story "Manuscript Found in the Bottle". In that same year he became friends with the novelist John Kennedy who got him a job as editor in a magazine "Southern Literary Messenger". In this magazine he published his highly influential criticism and also many of his stories.

In 1836 he married his fourteen-year cousin Virginia Clemm. As he could not support his wife on a salary ten dollars a week, he moved to New York City in 1837. It was the most productive period as a fiction writer. Some of his greatest tales appeared in a collection of his twenty-five stories "Tales of the Grotesque and Arabesque" (1840), but it brought him neither important recognition, nor money.

During the middle of the 19th century he wrote and edited as much as fifteen hours a day and enjoyed a growing reputation of a short story writer. 1845 was his best year. Twelve stories were published in his book "Tales" and thirty poems in his book "The Raven and Other Poems". "The Raven" brought him his greatest recognition. The theme of this poem is the narrator's grief over the loss of an ideal love.

His most popular tales are filled with the strange, the bizarre and the terrible. He insisted that these tales of terror were expressions of psychological and moral realities. For example, "The Fall of the House of Usher", his best story, concerns the twins Roderick and Madeline Usher. When Madeline falls into a trance her brother buries her in a deep vault thinking she is dead. He represents the over refined intellect of his twin sister and suppressed vital self. By this story he means that people can't separate vital self from intellect without being destroyed.

In 1847 his wife died of tuberculosis after five years of illness. Poe himself died soon after in September of 1849. His death was rather mysterious and the cause on it remains unknown.

Nathaniel Hawthorne (1804–1864)

He was born in an old Puritan family. His father was a sea captain. He died in 1808. His mother closed herself in their house and devoted herself to the memory of her dead husband. Nathaniel spent much of his childhood reading, as he was very shy by nature. After graduating from college in 1825 he lived in almost complete solitude trying to learn the art of novel-writing.

He had his first novel "Fanshawe" (1828) published at his own expense. In 1837 he published the collection of short stories "Twice told Stories" which gained him recognition as a fine writer.

Despite this critical recognition he made little money from his writing and in 1839 he obtained a position in a Boston customer's house. Dissatisfied with this work he tried to live in the famous communal society at Brook farm near Boston, but the farm work left little time for writing. By 1842 he had made enough money to get married and rent a house called "Old Manse" where he composed a group of stories.

In 1850 his friend James Fields suggested that he wrote a larger story. The result was his masterpiece "The Scarlet Letter". This story continues Hawthorne's interest in sin and redemption.

In 1850 his family moved to Lenox where he became friends with Herman Melville and in 1851 he published his last important novel "The House of the Seven Gables". It traced the fall of a Puritan family similar to the fall of his own family, but love and forgiveness will be their salvation.

Hawthorne called his writing romance which he defined as a method of showing the depth of our common nature.

Herman Melville (1819–1891)

He was born in New York City into family whose economic circumstances were declining. He tried a variety of jobs between 1832–1841. He was a clerk in his brother's hat store, worked in his uncle's bank, taught in a school and in 1837 he sailed to Liverpool as a cabin boy on a merchant ship. He described this voyage in his novel "Redburn".

He returned to America and signed on as a seaman on the newly built whaling ship for a trip in the Pacific Ocean. He returned to the US in 1844 and began to write novels based on his experiences as a sailor and very soon he became one of the most popular writers of his time.

The books that made his reputation were: "Typee" (1846), "Omoo" (1847), "Mardi and a Voyage Thither" (1849) – a complex allegorical romance set in the South Seas, and "White Jacket" (1850).

After that he began "Moby Dick", another successful travel book. On one level it is a story of the hunt for Moby Dick, a fires white whale known to sailors of Melville's times. This novel brilliantly describes the dangerous and violent life on a whaling ship and contains information on the whaling industry. On another level "Moby Dick" is a deeply symbolic story. The whale symbolizes the mysterious and complex force of the universe. Melville's popularity began to decline with the publication of this book. This novel either ignored or misunderstood by critics and readers damaged his reputation as a writer and he began to write short stories.

In 1855 he published "Israel Potter" – a novel set in the American Revolution. In 1856 he wrote "The Confidence-Man" and gave up writing. He worked as deputy inspector of customs in the port of New York from 1866 to 1885. For private pleasure he wrote poetry which he published at his own and his uncle's expense.

He toured the Holly Land in 1856–1857. The trip resulted in a narrative poem "Clarel" (1876). He began writing prose again after his retirement.

At his death he left the manuscript "Billy Budd, Sailor". This short novel was first published in 1924. It is considered his finest book after "Moby Dick". It is a symbolic story about the clash between innocence and evil, and between social forms and individual liberty.

By the 1940s Americans recognized his genius.

Mark Twain (1835–1910)

Samuel Clemens or Mark Twain was born in Florida in 1839. His family moved to a village on the Mississippi River. He gained his first experience in a print shop in Hannibal. After his father died in debt in 1847 Mark Twain went to work for newspaper. In 1851 he began assisting his old brother in the production of a newspaper. He contributed poems and humorous sketches for several years. He had little formal education.

In 1857 he decided to travel to South America and in April of that year he started down the Mississippi River to New Orleans. At this point he made a decision with important consequences for his life. He persuaded a riverboat pilot to teach him the skills of piloting. The profession of riverboat piloting paid well and brought him much attention which he enjoyed.

The beginning of the American Civil War (1861–1865) closed commercial traffic on the Mississippi River. Mark Twain did not want to become involved in the war. Firstly he began publishing under his pen-name. In 1863 his name Mark Twain means 'two fathoms'.

On November 1865 he published his first popular story "The Celebrated Jumping Frog of Calaveras Country". In 1867 he took a voyage to Europe and the Holy Land. Aboard the steamship "Quaker City" his travel letters were collected in a popular book "The Innocence Abroad" (1869). In this book Mark Twain ridiculed manners of the countries he visited.

In 1870 he married Olivia Langdon. Their infant son died in 1872, but three daughters: Susie, Clara and Jean were born between 1872–1880.

His first novel "The Gilded Age" was published in 1873. He wrote it with his friend Charles Warner. This book satirizes the selfishness and money making schemes that were common during that time.

"The Adventures of Tom Sawyer" (1876) represents his childhood. He modeled Saint Petersburg the home of an imaginative boy, named Tom Sawyer.

His next novel "A Tramp Abroad" (1880) draws on his European tour in 1878. He describes a walking tour of Germany, Italy and Switzerland. He mixes stories, jokes, legends and character sketches while criticizing European guidebooks and culture.

His novel "The Prince and the Pauper" (1882) set in England at the beginning of the 16th century describes the exchange of identities between the young prince Edward and a poor boy Tom Canty.

His next novel "Life on the Mississippi" (1883) describes the history, sights, people and legends of the Mississippi River region.

"Adventures of Huckleberry Finn" generally considered his greatest work published in Great Britain in 1884 and in the USA in 1885. It describes the adventures of two runaways: the boy Huck Finn and the black slave Jim, and is told from the point of view of Huck himself. Mark Twain used realistic language making Huck's speech sound like actual conversation and imitating a lot of dialects to bring their characters to life.

"A Connecticut Yankee King Arthur's Court" (1889) introduces another colorful character, a machine shop foreman from Hartford, named Hunk Morgan. He finds himself to the 500 years A.D. He decides to reform that society by introducing the economic, intellectual and moral benefits of life in the early 19th century.

In the 1880s Mark Twain established and operated his own publishing firm, but it declared bankruptcy. In 1894 Mark Twain eventually recovered from his financial difficulties through his continuous writings and a successful lecture tour in 1895–1896. He lectured in India, South Africa and Australia. When he returned home he became an international hero.

By 1898 he had begun to experience tragedy in his personal life. Susie, his oldest daughter, died of meningitis in 1896 while her parents and sister Clara were abroad. His wife Olivia died in 1904 from a heart attack and his youngest daughter Jean died in 1909.

But he managed to continue writing his works during his final years included "The American Claimant" (1892), "Following the Equator" (1897), "The Man that Corrupted Hadleyburg" (1899).

As Twain's career progressed, more and more of his works reflected his doubts about religion. He died of heart disease in 1910. He left numerous unpublished manuscripts including his large, but incomplete autobiography. One pessimistic, but fascinating tale, "The mysterious Strangers", was published in 1916, after his death. This story describes a visit by Satan to an Austrian village during the Middle Ages.

American Realism (1900–1945)

Theodore Dreiser (1871–1945)

He was born in Indiana in 1871 and was the eleventh of thirteen children. His father was severe and according to Dreiser mentally a little weak. He was unable to provide for his family and they moved from house to house. His mother did all to care for her numerous children.

Dreiser saw a profound difference between the promise and the reality of American life. This realization was a major source of his discontent and an important influence on his works. Both of his parents often appear in his fiction.

He attended Indiana University only for a year, but most of his education came from his own reading, particularly Charles Darwin, Thomas Huxley, Herbert Spencer and others. By 1907 he was a successful editor of the women's magazine.

His first important novel "Sister Carrie" was published in 1900. It was partly based on the experiences of one of his sisters. This story is about poor girl who is alone in Chicago. She lives with a travelling salesman and then runs off to New York with a prosperous married man, but his fortunes decline and he becomes a bum and commits suicide. Carrie finds success, but not happiness as an actress.

His another novel of desire and fate was called "Jenny Gerhardt" and was published in 1911.

Dreiser's reputation was assured with the publication of "The Financier" (1912) – the most purely naturalistic of his works. It is the story of an industrial tycoon who claws his way to great power. Dreiser intended the novel as the beginning of "The Trilogy of Desire", but the second volume "The Titan" (1914) was a failure and his third volume "The Stoic" was not published until two years after his death.

"An American Tragedy" (1925) is possibly the most impressive of his books. It concerns a weak young man who is executed for the murder of his pregnant girlfriend. This novel is based on an actual murder case.

His characters are victims of apparently meaningless incidence. His style lacks grace, but his best stories are powerful and sobering.

John Steinbeck (1902–1968)

He was born in California and began reading at his family library at an early age. After High School he went to Stanford University, but soon left to travel.

In 1930 with the financial help of his father he began to write. His first novel "Cup of Gold" (1929) is based on the life of Sir Henry Morgan, a famous English pirate.

His next work "The Pastures of Heaven" (1932) is a collection of stories about the people of a farm community. In this work Steinberg focused on the struggle between human beings and the nature.

His third novel "Tortilla Flat" (1935) was a success. It deals with society's underdogs.

"Of Mice and Men" (1937) is a short novel that Steinbeck adapted into a popular play. It is a tragic story about a physically powerful, but mentally retarded farm worker and his best friend and protector.

His most famous novel "The Grapes of Wrath" (1939) won the 1940 Pulitzer Prize. This novel stands out as one of the most powerful novel of social protest in American literature. It describes the sufferings of the Okies as they travelled from Oklahoma to California during the depression.

His most ambitious novel is "East of Eden" (1952). It follows three generations of a California family from the 1860s to the World War I. The title refers to the family strife which parallels the conflict between the Biblical figures of Cain and Abel.

His last novel was "The Winter of Our Discontent" (1961). He won the Nobel Prize for literature in 1963.

The Harlem Renaissance

During the 1920s black literature began to flourish in Harlem, a district of New York City. It brought together many black intellectuals and writers who began to explore black American culture for the first time.

Langston Hughes was the best known Harlem writer. He wrote poetry, short stories and humorous sketches of black life. He solved the problem of writing about the African American experience by adopting the rhythms of jazz and blues in his popular collection of verse: "The Weary Blues" (1926), "Fine Clothes to the Jew" (1927) and "Shakespeare in Harlem" (1942). He also wrote

several poems of racial protest. In all he wrote more than fifty books including poetry, novels, plays and books for children.

Ernest Hemingway (1899–1961)

He was born in Illinois and spent a great deal of his youth in the wild country of Northern Michigan. These experiences were recorded in his collection of short stories "In Our Time" (1925).

After graduating from High School he worked as a reporter for the Kansas City Star. During the World War I he was a volunteer ambulance driver and was seriously wounded in Italy. This war became for Hemingway and other members of the so called Lost Generation the key moment of their lives.

After the war he lived in Paris and became famous with the two novels: "The Sun Also Rises" (1926) and "A Farewell to Arms" (1929). His first novel "The Sun Also Rises" describes a group of Americans who like the members of the Lost Generation were disillusioned by the war. "A Farewell to Arms" is a tragic love story which took part in Italy.

During the 1930s he devoted himself to hunting. His novel "Death in the Afternoon" (1932) deals with bull-fighting which fascinated him. In his novel "Green Hills of Africa" (1935) he described his experiences on an African safari.

In 1936 he went to Spain and covered the Spanish Civil War as a war correspondent. He used the war as the setting for his novel "For Whom the Bell Tolls" (1940). This novel is about an American fighting, the fascist forces in Spain. It is one of his best books.

His first published work after 1940 was "Across the River and into the Trees" (1950). In his novel "The Old Man and the Sea" (1952) he revived the theme of a strong man accepting fate. He won a Pulitzer Prize for this novel in 1953.

He suffered physical and mental illness and committed suicide in 1961. His novel "A Moveable Feast" was published in 1962. It is an autobiographical book based on notebooks he kept in Paris in the 1920s. Two novels were also published after his death: "Islands in the Stream" (1970) and unfinished "The Garden of Eden" (1986).

He received the Nobel Prize for literature in 1954. He developed a plain forceful prose style characterized by simple sentences and few adjectives or adverbs. His style was imitated by

many writers. He also created a type of male character, sometimes called the Hemingway hero", who faces violence and destruction with courage.

F. Scott Fitzgerald (1896–1940)

He was born in Minnesota and attended Princeton University where he wrote musical comedies. He enrolled in the Army, but the World War I ended before he saw active service.

He won fame for his first novel "This Side of Paradise" (1920). A similar novel "The Beautiful and Damned" (1921) and two collections of short stories: "Flappers and Philosophers" (1920) and "Tales of the Jazz Age" (1922), increased his popularity.

His next novel "The Great Gatsby" (1925) was less popular than his early works, but it was the first of three successful novels that give him lasting literary importance. It is a story of a self-made man who courts a beautiful young woman named Daisy, whom he sees an apex of success. He fails in every sense and become totally corrupted by the corrupt world to which Daisy belongs.

His next novel "Tender Is the Night" (1934) is a beautiful written account of the general decline of a few Americans in Europe. This book failed because readers during the great depression of the 1930s were not interested in Jazz Age parties.

He spent his last years as a script writer in Hollywood. His financial situation began to improve, but he died in 1940 and his last unfinished novel "The Last Tycoon" was published in 1941.

William Faulkner (1897–1962)

He was born in New Albany into an aristocratic Southern family. His great-grandfather was a colonel in the Civil War, railroad builder, financier, politician and writer. His grandfather carried on some of the family businesses and his father worked first for the railway and then as the business manager of the University of Mississippi.

Faulkner himself dropped out of High School and went to work to his grandfather's bank. This was practically all the formal education that he ever had. He joined the Royal Canadian Air Force during the World War I, but he never saw actions.

In 1924 he moved to New Orleans where he published his first novel "Soldiers' Pay" in 1926. After a brief trip to Europe he returned home and began writing. In his novels "The Sound and the Fury" (1929) and "As I Lay Dying" (1930) he used stream of consciousness technique in which the story is told through the thoughts of his character.

The traditions and history of the South was a favorite Faulkner's theme. "Sartoris" (1929) and "The Unvanquished" (1938) tell the story of several generations of the Sartoris family.

His next work "The Reivers" (1962) is a humorous story of a young boy's adventures during a trip from Mississippi to Memphis.

He examined the relationship between blacks and whites in several works: "Light in August" (1932), "Absalom, Absalom!" (1936) and "Go Down, Moses" (1942). He was especially concerned with people of mixed racial background. Most of his novels have a serious even tragic tone, but in nearly all of them tragedy is mixed with comedy.

Mark Twain was a direct influence on him. "The Hamlet" (1940), "The Town" (1957) and "The Mansion" (1959) make up "The Snopes Trilogy". These novels form a tragicomic chronicle of the Snopes family.

He worked occasionally in Hollywood as a script writer from 1932 to 1954. He received the Nobel Prize for literature in 1954 and he won Pulitzer Prize in 1955 for "A Fable" and in 1963 for "The Reivers".

CHAPTER II. PRACTICE

The Anglo-Saxon Period (450–1066)

Discussion

The Anglo-Saxons

I. Match the historic events and the dates:

- | | |
|-----------------------|---|
| 1. in the 1040 | a) almost the whole of the country had been converted to Christianity |
| 2. in the 5th century | b) the Romans brought the skills of reading and writing to Britain |
| 3. 1066 | c) a new wave of invasions began |
| 4. around 700 BC | d) England was called Britain |
| 5. by 660 | e) the country had been divided into various smaller kingdom |
| 6. in the 1st century | f) the Saxon King Edward came to the throne |
| 7. around AD 800 | g) William the Conqueror was crowned King of England on Christmas Day |
| 8. by about AD 650 | h) the Celts arrived in Britain |

Anglo-Saxon Culture

II. Answer the Questions:

1. What was the Anglo-Saxon society organized around?
2. What values were prevalent in Anglo-Saxon society?
3. What did the Anglo-Saxon bring with them?
4. How can you describe the newcomers?
5. Why was Britain more literate under the Romans?
6. What languages were derived from the Old English?
7. What was the center of the Anglo-Saxons' social life?
8. What were the poets and chronicles responsible for?
9. What gods did the Anglo-Saxons worship?

10. What did the Christian missionaries bring to Britain?
11. What did young Anglo-Saxons learn?
12. What influence did Christianity have on literature?
13. What do you know about one important side-effect of the

Anglo-Saxon invasion?

III. Speak about:

1. the period from Prehistory to the Roman Occupation;
2. the Anglo-Saxon Invasion;
3. the Vikings Invasion;
4. the structure of the Anglo-Saxons' social life;
5. the center of the Anglo-Saxons' social life and the entertainers during the celebration;
6. the Anglo-Saxon pagan gods;
7. the influence of Christianity on Anglo-Saxon culture;
8. the use of new technology in agriculture.

Anglo-Saxon Literature

I. Give definitions to:

- 1) epic
- 2) lyric
- 3) riddle
- 4) alliteration
- 5) kenning
- 6) internal rhyme

II. Speak about the chief forms of Anglo-Saxon literature:

1. the epics;
2. the religious poems;
3. the elegiac poems;
4. the lyric;
5. the riddle.

III. Answer the following questions:

1. When did English literature have its beginnings?
2. What do you know about the first Scottish epic poem?
3. What do you know about the religious poems?
4. Who was the first English poet?
5. What language did the poets have to write in? Why?
6. What are the elegiac poems about?

7. What did the Anglo-Saxons express in the lyrics and riddles?
8. Why was the riddle regarded as a kind of a coded message?
9. Who frequently expressed the messages in the form of riddles?
10. What is the most celebrated riddle in Greek mythology? What is the answer?
11. Who asked the most celebrated riddle in Greek mythology? Who solved it?
12. What language were the riddles written in the Middle Age?
13. What subjects did they deal with?
14. Who was Bede?
15. Why are his works valuable?
16. What is the title of his finest historical work?

IV. Solve the riddles:

1. What is the quickest letter in the alphabet and why?
2. It doesn't have legs, but it jumps.
3. It takes a house when it goes.
4. It does not have legs, but it goes.
5. What is the longest word in the English language?
6. What word is it of only three syllables which combines in it twenty-six letters?
7. What is that which occurs twice in a moment, once in a minute and not once in a thousand years?
8. It is not a man, it is not a woman, but it teaches me.

"Beowulf"

IX. Answer the following questions:

1. What poem is considered the first great work of English literature?
2. Who wrote "Beowulf"?
3. When was it written?
4. What language is it written in?
5. What does Old English poetry use instead of rhyme?
6. Where are the events occurring in the poem set in?
7. Who is the main character of the poem?
8. What qualities has Beowulf?
9. How many battles of Beowulf are described in the poem?
10. What does the poem end with?

Plot Overview

X. Finish the sentences:

1. King Hrothgar of Denmark builds a great mead-hall called ...
2. The Danes suffer many years of ...
3. Beowulf fights him unarmed, proving
4. The severed arm is hung high in...
5. Songs are sung in praise of...
6. A swamp-hag who lives in ...
7. Beowulf kills her with a sword forged ...
8. He and his men are reunited with ...
9. After Hygelac's son dies ...
10. He rules wisely for ...
11. When Beowulf is an old man ...
12. The dragon bites ...
13. According to Beowulf's wishes ...

XI. Speak about principal characters:

1. Beowulf
2. Hrothgar
3. Grendel
4. Unferth
5. Wiglaf

XII. Give definitions to:

1. "Monster"
2. "The Mead-hall"
3. "Scops"
4. "The banquet"

XII. In a short essay, describe:

1. The difference between a Good Warrior and a Good King.
2. The structure of "Beowulf".
3. The role of religion in the poem "Beowulf".

The Medieval Period (1066–1485)

Discussion

Historical Context

I. Answer the following Questions:

1. What did William the Conqueror manage to do?
2. Why did he give his land to nobles?
3. What was the “Domesday Book” about?
4. What was one of the most important factors during the Middle Ages?
5. Who was the friend of Henry II?
6. How did Thomas Becket become a saint?
7. Who signed “Magna Carta”? Why?
8. What was the function of the Parliament?
9. Why was the 14th century a difficult period for England?
10. Why did the decrease in population favour the poorer labourers?
11. How was the feudal system broken down?
12. What do you know about the Peasant’s Revolt?

II. Match the historic events and the dates:

- | | |
|----------------------|--|
| 1. in 1265 | a) England had recently lost the war with France |
| 2. in 1170 | b) lasted the hundred years war against France |
| 3. in 1485 | c) John was forced to sign “Magna Carta” |
| 4. in 1381 | d) Henry’s knights murdered Thomas Becket |
| 5. in 1162 | e) a rudimentary form of Parliament began |
| 6. in 1453 | f) the plague broke out |
| 7. in 1348–1349 | g) the Peasant’s Revolt began |
| 8. in 1215 | h) Thomas Becket became Archbishop |
| 9. from 1337 to 1453 | i) Richard III was defeated by Henry Tudor |

III. Speak about:

1. the early Medieval Economy;
2. the relationship between England and France during the Middle Ages;
3. the great conflict between Church and State;
4. a rudimentary form of Parliament;
5. the fourteenth century was a difficult period for England;
6. the War of the Roses.

Social Context

IV. Agree or disagree with the following statements:

- 1) More than three quarters of the rural population were serfs and couldn't leave their lord's service or land without permission.
- 2) For at least 150 years there was friendship and mutual understanding between the Saxon population and their new Norman masters.
- 3) The Norman rules spoke Latin and wrote French.
- 4) Towards the end of the 14th century the use of English by the upper classes led to a flowering of literature in Middle English.
- ???1) During the Middle Ages, power gradually moved away from the middle class into the hands of the nobility.
- 2) The royal finances also became increasingly accountable to a wider group of people.
- 3) England was self-sufficient in the procurement of raw materials.
- 4) England's wool had been famous even in Anglo-Saxon times.
- 5) Even today the President of the House of Lords takes his ritual place on the "woolsack", a symbol of the wealth of the nation.

V. In a short essay, describe:

1. Normans and Saxons.
2. The Social Hierarchy.
3. The Growth of Trade.

Literary Context

VI. Give definitions to:

1. romance
2. fable
3. ballad
4. Miracle Play
5. Morality Play
6. Interlude

VII. Agree or disagree:

1. The Norman invasion meant death for English literature.
2. Medieval literature was primarily oral.
3. In medieval times few people could read.
4. In medieval times people lived in tiny groups.
5. Singing and telling a story were the chief forms of literature.
6. Literature was the primary entertainment.

7. The Norman invasion did not stop English literature.
8. Some of literary traditions continued in their oral form.
9. As medieval culture evolved, new forms of literature developed.
10. The Germanic Anglo-Saxon language can easily be read.
11. Many Latin words entered the English language in medieval time.

VIII. Express your opinion:

1. Why are the Robin Hood Ballads known all over the world? (Name them)
2. Why were the tales of Arthur's deeds sung throughout the land?
3. Why did a literary fantasy of the Grail, the Sword Excalibur and the Knights of the Round Table become very popular, especially in times of war or crisis?

IX. Speak about:

1. the changes in the English language in Medieval times;
1. the Chief forms of Medieval literature;
3. the Robin Hood Ballads;
4. the authors devoted their works to King Arthur and his knights;
5. the legends of King Arthur;
6. the greatest writer of the Middle English period;
7. life of Geoffrey Chaucer.

X. Answer the questions:

1. Who opened the way to English realistic literature?
2. Why has Geoffrey Chaucer been called the Father of English Poetry?
3. When and where was Chaucer born?
4. What kind of career did Chaucer take?
5. Where did he travel?
6. What writers was he influenced by?
7. What did Chaucer do from 1374 till 1391?
8. What was one of his greatest achievements?
9. Whom was Chaucer's first main original work dedicated to?
10. What are Chaucer's dream-allegories about? (Name them)
11. Which work has been compared with the modern psychological novel?
12. What Chaucer's work was regarded as his masterpiece?
13. What is the structure of "The Canterbury Tales"?

14. Why did "The Canterbury Tales" remain unfinished?
15. When did Geoffrey Chaucer die?
16. Where was he burned?

XI. Match the historic events and the dates:

- | | |
|--------------|--|
| 1. in 1366 | a) Chaucer was granted a life pension |
| 2. in 1359 | b) Geoffrey Chaucer was appointed to Parliament |
| 3. in 1400 | c) Chaucer participated in peace negotiations with France |
| 4. in 1385 | d) Chaucer met a young lady, named Philippa and they got married |
| 5. in 1367 | e) Chaucer was born in London sometime between.. |
| 6. 1340–1343 | f) He was appointed a justice of the peace |
| 7. in 1386 | g) Geoffrey Chaucer died |
| 8. in 1360 | h) He was captured and imprisoned until the following year |

XII. Speak about:

1. Life of Geoffrey Chaucer;
2. Chaucer's personal life;
3. Geoffrey Chaucer's career;
4. The Greatest writer of the Middle English period;
5. Chaucer's dream – allegories;
6. "Troilus and Criseyde";
7. Chaucer's original plan for "The Canterbury Tales";
8. Language at "The Canterbury Tales";
9. The order of "The Canterbury Tales".

"The Canterbury Tales"

XIII. Agree or disagree:

1. At the Tabard Inn, a tavern in Southwark, near London, the narrator joins a company of twenty-one pilgrims.
2. The travellers, like the narrator, are going to the Westminster Abbey.
3. The narrator gives a comparative account of twenty-one of these pilgrims.
4. He doesn't describe the Second Nun or the Nun' Priest, although both characters appear later in the book.
5. The Host, whose name is John Bailey, suggested that the group ride together and entertain one another with fables.
6. He decides that each pilgrim will tell two stories on the way to London and two stories on the way to Canterbury.

7. Whomever the pilgrims judge to be the best storywriter will receive a horse and a meal at Bailey's tavern.

8. The pilgrims draw lots and decided that the Plowman will be the first.

XIV. Finish the sentences:

1. Physiognomy was a science that...

2. The description of garments, in addition to the narrator's own shaky recollections...

3. A pilgrimage is a religious journey...

4. Many devout English pilgrims set off to visit...

5. The pilgrims represent a diverse cross section of...

6. Fabliaux were comical and often grotesque stories in which...

7. The spring time symbolizes...

8. Beginning with the Troubadour poets of Southern France in the 11th century, poets throughout Europe promoted...

9. One of the minor motifs is the idea that...

10. Company was a leveling concept – an idea created by...

11. In a century of disease, plague, famine, and scarce labor, the sight of the church ornamented with...

12. The cathedrals that grew up around shrines to saints' relics were...

XV. Describe the Major Characters:

1. The Knight;

2. The Pardoner;

3. The Monk;

4. The Wife of Bath;

5. The Squire;

6. The Prioress;

7. The Man of Law;

8. The Merchant;

9. The Yeoman;

10. The Friar;

11. The Summoner;

12. The Miller;

13. The Manciple and the Reeve;

14. The Shipman and the Physician;

15. The Parson and the Plowman.

XVI. Read and translate the pilgrims' tales.

In a short essay describe the moral of every tale.

The Renaissance (1485–1625)

I. Speak about:

1. Christopher Marlowe
2. Shakespeare's life
3. The first period of his works
4. The second period of his works
5. The third period of his works
6. His sonnets
7. His tragedies.

II. Answer the questions:

1. When was Shakespeare born?
2. What was his father occupation?
3. What do you know about his mother?
4. What can you tell about Stratford Grammar school?
5. When did he marry Anne Hathaway?
6. What was his occupation in that period?
7. Why did he leave London?
8. What company was the most popular in London?
9. Why did the need for new plays decline?
10. What do you know about Shakespeare's long poems?
11. Why did he prefer to invest most of his money on Stratford?
12. What can you tell about "The Globe"?
13. What did he write from 1599 to 1608?
14. When did he die?

III. Agree or disagree with the following statements:

1. Shakespeare's works were collected and printed in various editions at the end of his life.

2. Some people have concluded that Shakespeare's plays were really written by someone else and this theory is taken seriously by many scholars.

3. Shakespeare must be viewed as the author of the 37 plays and 154 sonnets.

4. A poet named Arthur Brooks first brought the story of Romeo and Juliet to an English-speaking audience in a long poem that was itself not original.

5. Shakespeare's play is also quite similar in plot, theme and dramatic ending to the story of Pyramus and Thisbe, told by great Roman poet Ovid in his "Metamorphoses".

6. Shakespeare wrote "Romeo and Juliet" in full knowledge that the story he was telling was new.

7. He set himself the task of telling a love story despite the considerable forces he knew were stacked against its success.

IV. Finish the sentences:

1. Prince Escalus, the ruler of Verona, attempts to prevent any further conflicts between...

2. The Nurse enters, and, after some confusion, tells Juliet that...

3. Friar Lawrence, agrees to marry the young lovers in secret since...

4. Romeo agrees to go with Benvolio to the feast, but only because...

5. Romeo begs the Capulet to hold off the duel until...

6. Juliet learns that her father intends for her to marry...

7. Juliet's father asks Paris to wait two years since...

8. Benvolio counsels Romeo to forget Rosaline and...

9. Romeo enters the tomb, sees Juliet's inanimate body, drinks the poison and...

10. Tybalt recognizes Romeo and is enraged that...

11. Friar Lawrence's message explaining the plan to Romeo...

12. Seeing their children's bodies, Capulet and Montague agree...

V. Answer the following questions:

1. How does the ruler of Verona attempt to prevent any further conflicts?

2. What does Benvolio counsel Romeo to do?

3. Who seeks Juliet's hand in marriage?

4. Why does Juliet's father invite Paris to the feast?

5. What does Juliet talk with Lady Capulet about?

6. When does Romeo fall in love with Juliet?

7. Why does Juliet grow equally upset?

8. Why does Romeo hurry to see Friar Lawrence?

9. Who tries to stop the duel? Why?

10. What does the Prince declare?

11. Why is Juliet distraught?

12. What does her father intend for?

13. Why does Juliet ask her nurse for advice?

14. What does the nurse counsel her?

15. What must Juliet do?

16. Why has the plan failed?

17. What does Romeo decide to do? How?

18. Why does he kill Paris?

19. How does Juliet decide to kill herself?
20. What do Capulet and Montague agree to do? Why?

VI. Speak about:

1. Romeo
2. Juliet
3. Friar Lawrence
4. Mercutio

VII. In a short essay describe:

1. The forcefulness of love
2. Love as a cause of violence
3. The individual vs society
4. The inevitability of fate
5. Light/dark imagery
6. Queen Mab

Civil War and Restoration (1628–1702)

I. Speak about:

1. John Bunyan's life
2. The role of religion and politics in his life
3. Bunyan's works

II. Answer the questions:

1. When and where was John Bunyan born?
2. What was his father occupation?
3. What do you know about his education?
4. What can you tell about his health?
5. When did he marry Margaret Bentley?
6. How many children did he have?
7. What was his occupation in that period?
8. What had a great influence over the government and culture of England during Bunyan's lifetime.?
9. How many years did he spend in prison and why?
10. When was the Part I of The Pilgrim's Progress published?
11. When was the Part II of The Pilgrim's Progress published?
12. What else can you tell about "The Pilgrim's Progress"?
13. When did he die?

III. Agree or disagree with the following statements:

1. Bunyan was expected to carry on his father's trade.

2. At eighteen, Bunyan enlisted in the army as a soldier and fought in the English Civil War.
3. Bunyan never married again after the death of his wife.
4. Religion and politics both dominated Bunyan's life.
5. Bunyan and other outspoken Protestants were not simply discriminated against but were persecuted and imprisoned.
6. He began to write Part I of *The Pilgrim's Progress* during his journey.
7. Bunyan published nine books, including his spiritual autobiography *Grace Abounding to the Chief of Sinners*.

IV. Finish the sentences:

1. Evangelist claims that ...
2. Goodwill tells Christian to stop by the Interpreter's home, where ...
3. Christian is armed, and he strikes Apollyon with a sword and then ...
4. Evangelist arrives and warns Faithful and Christian about ...
5. Christian is remanded to prison but ...
6. On their journey, a pilgrim who uses religion as ...
7. Taking shelter for the night on the grounds of Doubting Castle, they ...
8. They encounter wise shepherds who ...
9. The two pilgrims meet Ignorance, a sprightly teenager who ...
10. Christian nearly drowns, but ...
11. She decides to pack up and follow Christian to the Celestial City ...
12. Mr. Brisk pays court to Mercy but ...
13. They cross the Enchanted Ground and meet the pilgrim Standfast, who ...

V. Answer the following questions:

1. What is the narrator's dream about?
2. What does Worldly Wiseman urge Christian to do?
3. Who hands Christian a rolled certificate for entry to the Celestial City?
4. Who is Apollyon?
5. What does Evangelist warn Faithful and Christian about?
6. Why do the citizens of Vanity imprison Christian and Faithful?
7. Who is Hopeful?
8. What does the Giant Despair do with Christian and Hopeful? Why?

9. How do the wise shepherds help to Christian and Hopeful?
10. Who is Ignorance?
11. Who the two pilgrims also meet on their way besides Ignorance?
12. Where is the Celestial City located?
13. Why must Christian and Hopeful do to reach the gate into the city?
14. Who tells the beginning of Christiana's story?
15. Who does Christiana take with her to the Celestial City ?
16. Why does Mr. Brisk stop courting Mercy?
17. Why does Matthew fall ill?
18. How does their journey end?

VI. Speak about:

1. Christian
2. Apollyon
3. Christiana
4. Great-heart

VII. In a short essay describe:

1. Knowledge gained through travel
2. The importance of reading
3. The value of community
4. Sensual pleasure
5. Christian's certificate

The Eighteenth century (1702–1798)

Discussion

I. Answer the following Questions:

1. When was Daniel Defoe born?
2. What was his real name?
3. Why did he change it?
4. What do you know about Daniel's parents?
5. What did Daniel witness in the 17th century?
6. Where did he study?
7. What values are expressed in "Robinson Crusoe"?
8. What countries did Daniel Defoe visit?
9. Why was he forced out of England?
10. What theme became prominent in Defoe's later novels?

11. What is his political pamphlet "The Shortest Way with Dissenters" about?
12. What were Defoe's occupations?
13. How many books and pamphlets did he write during his life?
14. When did Defoe begin writing fiction?
15. What is "Moll Flanders" about?
16. What made Daniel Defoe a revolutionary in English literature?
17. Why was Defoe a great innovator?
18. When did Daniel Defoe die? Why?

II. Finish the sentences and translate them into Russian:

1. In Brazil, Crusoe establishes himself as ...
2. Drinking tobacco-steeped rum, Crusoe experiences...
3. When a storm causes the near deaths of Crusoe and his friend ...
4. Reaching shore, he hears ...
5. Robinson Crusoe is an Englishman from the town of York ...
6. While on a fishing expedition ...
7. Encouraged by his father to study law ...
8. He cuts down an enormous cedar tree and ...
9. Robinson is committed to obeying his father, but...
10. The ship is seized by Moorish pirates, and Crusoe ...
11. He erects a cross that he ...
12. He embarks on a slave-gathering expedition to West Africa but...
13. Crusoe soon learns he is the sole survivor of...
14. Crusoe begins to feel more optimistic ...

III. Express your opinions:

1. Why is Crusoe shocked to discover a man's footprint on the beach?
2. What does he do to protect himself from cannibals?
3. Why has the shore been strewn with human carnage?
4. How does Friday become Crusoe's servant?
5. What does Robinson Crusoe learn about the cannibals?
6. Why do Crusoe and Friday want to visit the cannibals' land?
7. What can you say about the rescued victims?
8. Why do the sailors take three captives onshore in a boat?
9. Why does Crusoe nearly faint?
10. What has happened to his family?
11. Why Crusoe is a well-to-do man?

12. Where does he finally depart?
13. What has happened to his island?

IV. In a short essay describe the characters:

1. Robinson Crusoe.
2. Friday.
3. The Portuguese captain.
4. The Spaniard.
5. Xury.
6. The widow.

V. Speak about:

1. The Ambivalence of Mastery.
2. The Necessity of Repentance.
3. The Importance of Self-Awareness.
4. Counting and Measuring.
5. Eating
6. Ordeals at Sea.

VI. Explain the following symbols:

1. The Footprint.
2. The Cross.
3. Crusoe's Bower.

VII. Describe the principle characters:

1. Robinson Crusoe.
2. Friday.
3. The Portuguese captain.

The Age of Romanticism (1798–1837)

Discussion

I. Answer the following Questions:

1. When and where was Mary Wollstonecraft Godwin born?
2. What is her mother famous for?
3. What do you know about Mary's upbringing?
4. Where did she go in 1814? Why?
5. Why did Mary's relationship with Percy Bysshe Shelley come under strain?
6. What happened with Percy's wife Harriet?
7. How can the union between Mary and Percy be characterized?

8. What was a single bright spot in Mary's life?
9. What tragedies happened in her life?
10. What did she do with her husband's poetry and prose?
11. How did she spend the rest of her time?
12. How did she die?

II. Finish the sentences and translate them into Russian:

1. Victor is arrested and informed that...
2. Justine Moritz, a kind, gentle girl who ...
3. When Walton returns, several days later, to the room in which ...
4. Victor secludes himself on a desolate island in the Orkneys and ...
5. Robert Walton, the captain of a ship bound for the North Pole, ...
6. Victor hears Elizabeth scream and realizes that...
7. Walton takes Victor aboard ship, helps nurse him back to health, and ...
8. Victor consumed by the desire to discover the secret of life and, ...
9. The monster, enraged, vows revenge, swearing that...
10. Victor runs into Henry, who has come to study at the university, and ...
11. In a dogsled chase, Victor almost catches up with the monster, but...
12. When he looks at the monstrosity that he has created ...
13. Victor receives a letter from his father informing him that...
14. The monster asserts that his creator has died and departs...

III. Express your opinions:

1. Why was Robert Walton's mission interrupted?
2. Whom does he encounter? Why?
3. What does Victor Frankenstein study at the University of Ingolstadt?
4. What is his desire?
5. Why does Victor run to Henry Clerval?
6. What does Victor's father write in his letter?
7. Why does Victor Frankenstein grow despondent, guilty for the death of two innocent loved ones?
8. What does the monster beg Victor to do?
9. Why does Victor destroy his new creation?
10. How was Henry Clerval murdered?
11. Why does Victor send Elizabeth away?

12. What does he vow?
13. How does Victor die?
14. What does monster tell Walton?
15. How does the story get to an end?

IV. In a short essay describe the characters:

1. Alphonse Frankenstein.
2. Elizabeth Lavenza.
3. Henry Clerval.
4. William Frankenstein.
5. Justine Moritz.
6. Caroline Beaufort.
7. Beaufort
8. Peasants.
9. M. Waldman.
10. M. Krempe.
11. Mr. Kirwin.

V. Speak about themes, motifs and symbols:

1. Dangerous Knowledge.
2. Sublime Nature.
3. Monstrosity.
4. Secrecy.
5. Texts.
6. Passive Women.
7. Abortion.
8. Light and Fire.

VI. Describe the principle characters:

1. Victor Frankenstein.
2. The Monster.
3. Robert Walton.

The Victorian Age (1837–1901)

Discussion

I. Answer the following Questions:

1. When and where was Thomas Hardy born?
2. How did his father's occupation influence him?
3. What led Hardy to pursue a career in writing?
4. What novel brought him a financial success?
5. What does this novel contrast?

6. What is "The Return of the Native" about?
7. What novel traces the spiritual and physical deterioration of a respected man?
8. Where did he publish his novels first?
9. What does Hardy demonstrate in "Tess of the d'Urbervilles"?
10. Why did Hardy stop writing?
11. What does Tess's family illustrate?
12. How was "Tess of the d'Urbervilles" met in England? Why?
13. How did Thomas Hardy spend the rest of his career?
14. Where was he buried?

II. Finish the sentences and translate them into Russian:

1. The poor peddler John Durbeyfield is stunned to learn that...
2. Tess tries to visit Angel's family but...
3. Alec d'Urberville takes advantage of Tess ...
4. When they come to Stonehenge, Tess goes to sleep, but...
5. Angel Clare gives Tess some money and boards a ship for Brazil, where ...
6. Tess joins the other village girls in the May Day dance, where...
7. When the family is evicted from their home ...
8. Tess doesn't know the fact that Mrs. d'Urbervilles's husband ...
9. Angel finds Tess in an expensive boardinghouse called ...
10. After their wedding, Angel and Tess both confess indiscretions ...
11. She hears a wandering preacher speak and is stunned to discover that...
12. When the landlady finds Alec's body ...
13. Tess befriends three of her fellow milkmaids ...
14. She learns from her sister Liza-Lu that...
15. Angel and Liza-Lu watch as ...

III. Agree or disagree with the following statements. Translate them into Russian:

1. Tess is a beautiful, loyal young woman living alone in an empty mansion.
2. Angel's father and mother are respected clergymen.
3. Tess's mother is blind and often ill.
4. Alec is a manipulative, sinister young man who wants to seduce Tess.
5. Tess's son, Sorrow, dies in his early infancy.
6. The terrible irony is that Tess and her family are not really related to this branch of the d'Urbervilles at all.
7. Mrs. Clare wants Angel to marry Tess.

8. Reverend Felix Clare meets Mercy Chant when she is a milkmaid at the Talbothays.

9. Marian, Izz, and Retty remain close to Tess throughout the rest of her life.

10. Tess's father is somewhat intractable but principled clergyman in Emminster.

11. Cuthbert is a classical scholar and dean at Cambridge.

12. Joan has a strong sense of propriety and very particular hopes for Tess's life.

13. Angel's inexperience and lack of wise parenting leave him extremely vulnerable. Tess's father hates work, but is a hardworking peddler in Marlott.

IV. Express your opinions:

1. Why is Tess's life complicated?

2. What has kept Angel Clare from joining the Ministry?

3. Why did he decide to become a farmer?

4. What is Alec d'Urberville unable to make? Why?

5. How can you characterize Mr. John Durbeyfield?

6. Why is Tess's mother unable to remain angry with her?

7. For whom does Mrs. Joan Durbeyfield care most of all?

8. What happens to milkmaids at the Talbothays Dairy when Angel chooses Tess?

9. How do they remain helpful to Tess?

10. What is Mr. Clare's duty?

11. Who does Mrs. Clare want Angel to do? Why?

12. How does Mercy Chant become engaged to Reverend Cuthbert?

13. Why does Tess christen Sorrow herself?

14. What does Tess encourage Angel to do after her death?

V. Speak about:

1. The Injustice of Existence.

2. Changing Ideas of Social Class in Victorian England.

3. Men Dominating Women.

4. Birds.

5. The Book of Genesis.

6. Variant Names.

VI. Explain the following symbols:

1. Prince.

2. The d'Urberville Family Vault.

3. Brazil.

VI. Describe the principle characters:

1. Tess Durbeyfield.
2. Alec d'Urberville
3. Angel Clare.

The beginning of the 20th century

I. Answer the following questions

1. Where and when was Bernard Shaw born?
2. What is his background?
3. How many works did he leave?
4. What is his most important contribution to the literature?
5. How did he create the conditions for later playwrights to write seriously for the theater?
6. What is the most famous play by Bernard Shaw?
7. How did Bernard Shaw become the first and only man ever to win the Nobel Prize for literature and an Academy Award?
8. What does the romance between Professor Higgins and Eliza Doolittle reflect?
9. Who is Pygmalion?
10. How did Bernard Shaw die?

II. Finish the sentences:

1. The challenge is taken, and Higgins starts...
2. The first bets the other that he can...
3. On his tail is Eliza's father, now unhappily...
4. Two old gentlemen meet in the rain...
5. As Eliza leaves for her father's wedding,...
6. A second trial, which takes place some...
7. Higgins makes merciless fun...
8. Then Eliza's father Alfred Doolittle comes...
9. The next morning, the girl appears at his laboratory...
10. When she enters, Eliza thanks Pickering...

III. Speak about

1. Henry Higgins
2. Eliza Doolittle
3. Colonel Pickering
4. Alfred Doolittle
5. Mrs. Higgins
6. Freddy

IV. Translate into Russian the analysis of the play

V. Study questions:

1. If you were to create a sixth act to *Pygmalion*, who would Eliza marry? Or does she marry at all?
2. What is the *Pygmalion* myth? In what significant ways, and with what effect, has Shaw transformed that myth in his play?
3. "I care for life, for humanity; and you are a part of it that has come my way and been built into my house. What more can you or anyone ask?" Henry Higgins has this to say to Eliza when she complains that he does not care for anybody and threatens to leave him. How does the professor of phonetics treat the people in his life? Can one ask for more?

English literature of the 20th century

Discussion

I. Answer the following Questions:

1. Where did William Golding spend his childhood?
2. What were his parents' wishes?
3. Where did he work after graduating from Oxford?
4. What did he do during World War II?
5. How did the war change Golding's view of human nature?
6. What is his most famous novel about?
7. How can you describe the form of the novel?
8. How have readers and critics interpreted "*Lord of the Flies*"?
9. What Golding's novels do you know?
10. What prizes did he win?

II. Finish the sentences and translate them into Russian:

1. Jack declares himself the leader of the new tribe of hunters and organizes ...
2. "Littluns", have been troubled by nightmares from the beginning, and ...
3. The boys are in the midst of a chaotic revelry and when they see ...
4. Ralph declares that they must light a signal fire ...
5. A parachutist drifts to earth ...
6. The hunters then decapitate the sow and place its head on a sharpened stake
7. The boys set about electing a leader and ...
8. At first, the boys enjoy their life without grown-ups and ...

9. At the meeting, it quickly becomes clear that some of the boys ...
10. In the midst of a raging war, a plane evacuating a group of schoolboys ...
11. Jack and Ralph see the silhouette of the parachute from a distance and ...
12. Lord of Flies, says that Simon will never escape him, for ...
13. The boys pay more attention to playing than to monitoring the fire, and ...
14. Ralph is overwhelmed by the knowledge that he is safe, but ...
15. Ralph hides for the rest of the night and the following day, while ...
16. Amazed at the spectacle of this group of bloodthirsty, savage children, the officer ...
17. Jack has the other boys ignite the forest in order ...
18. Ralph's group travels to Jack's stronghold in an attempt to ...

III. Express your opinions:

1. How did the boys get to the tropical island?
2. Why did a large swath of dead wood burn?
3. Where did they find food?
4. Why did Ralph want to restore order?
5. Why have the boys started to become afraid?
6. What has happened after the battle high above the island?
7. What did the boys find out during a hunting expedition?
8. How did the new tribe of hunters appear?
9. What ritual did they organize? Why?
10. What vision had Simon?
11. Why did the boys kill Simon?
12. What did Jack's hunters do the following morning?
13. How did Roger and Piggy die?
14. Why did Ralph manage to escape?
15. Where did he hide?
16. Why did the officer ask Ralph to explain the situation?
17. Why did the boys begin to weep and sob?

IV. In a short essay describe the characters:

1. Piggy.
2. Roger.
3. Sam and Eric.
4. The Lord of the Flies.

V. Speak about:

1. Civilization vs. Savagery.
2. Loss of Innocence.
3. Biblical Parallels

VI. Explain the following symbols:

1. The Conch Shell.
2. Piggy's Glasses.
3. The Signal Fire.
4. The Beast.
5. The Lord of the Elies.
6. Ralph, Piggy, Jack, Simon, Roger.

VII. Describe the principle characters:

1. Ralph.
2. Jack.
3. Simon.

The American Enlightenment (1765–1850)

I. Answer the following questions

1. Where and when was Harriet Beecher Stowe born?
2. Why are her works so important?
3. What do you know about her family?
4. What did Lincoln say about Harriet after their first meeting?
5. What did she do in her childhood?
6. What research did she do before writing her masterpiece?
7. What was her main goal with Uncle Tom's Cabin?
8. What did she create with her book?
9. How many copies were sold by the end of the year after publishing the book?
10. What feminist beliefs did she have?

II. Retell:

1. Uncle Tom's story
2. Family Harris' story
3. Cassy's story

III. Finish the sentences:

1. However, Eliza overhears the conversation between Shelby and his wife and....
2. Eliza and Harry make their way to a Quaker settlement....

3. Though he and his wife, Emily Shelby, have a kindhearted...
4. When Eva falls into the river...
5. Her death has a profound effect on everyone....
6. Tom is taken to rural Louisiana....
7. Meanwhile, Uncle Tom sadly leaves his family.....
8. Separated from her daughter by slavery....
9. When Tom refuses to tell Legree where Cassy and.....
10. Taking a boat toward freedom, Cassy and Emmeline meet...

IV. Describe the main characters:

1. Uncle Tom
2. Arthur Shelby
3. George Shelby
4. George and Eliza Harris
5. Eva
6. The Quakers
7. Cassy and Emmeline

V. Give the analysis of:

1. Uncle Tom
2. Ophelia St. Clare
3. Simon Legree

VI. Speak about:

1. The Evil of Slavery
2. The Incompatibility of Slavery & Christian Values
3. The Moral Power of Women
4. Christ Figures
5. The Supernatural
6. Uncle Tom's Cabin
7. Eliza's Leap
8. Geography

The nineteenth century

Discussion

I. Answer the following questions:

1. When and where was Mark Twain born?
2. What was his real name?
3. How did Clemens spend his young life?

4. Where did he work after school?
5. What did Clemens do in his early twenties?
6. How did the riverboat life provide him with the pen name Mark Twain?
7. What did Clemens do during the Civil War?
8. What novels brought him fame in American literary circles?
9. What was the political situation in the early 1880s in the USA?
10. Why did Twain's personal life begin to collapse?
11. On whose memories did Twain base "The Adventures of Tom Sawyer"?
12. What were the titles of two sequels to "The Adventures of Tom Sawyer"?
13. Why has the novel "Huckleberry Finn" been banned in Southern States?

"The Adventures of Tom Sawyer"

II. Agree or disagree with the following statements:

1. Tom Sawyer lives with his Aunt Polly and his sister, Sid in Massachusetts:
2. Tom cleverly persuades his friends to trade him small treasures for whitewashing the fence.
3. He loses much of his glory, when he correctly answers that the first two disciples were David and Goliath.
4. Tom falls in love with Amy Lawrence and persuades her to get "engaged" to him.
5. Tom and Huck witness the murder of young Dr. Robinson by Injun Joe.
6. Huck persuades his friends to appear at his funeral and surprise everyone.
7. Muff Potter is acquitted for the murder of Dr. Robinson.
8. Injun Joe and his companion find a buried box of gold themselves and decided to rebury it.
9. Injun Joe, who is using the cave as a hideout is trapped inside and starves to death.
10. Huck agrees to join Tom's robber band.

III. Answer the following questions:

1. Why is Tom made to whitewash the fence?
2. What does he do with his friend's treasures?
3. How does Tom lose much of his glory?

4. Why does romance of Tom and Becky collapse?
5. How do the boys witness the murder?
6. Why do Tom's anxiety and guilt begin to grow?
7. Why is the boys' return met with great rejoicing?
8. What do Injun Joe and his companion do in a haunted house?
9. Why do they carry the gold off?
10. Why does Huck begin to shadow Injun?
11. Whom do the men of the town begin to search for? Why?
12. How is Injun Joe starved to death?
13. What does Tom promise Huck?

IV. In a short essay describe the characters:

1. Aunt Polly.
2. Becky Thatcher.
3. Sid.
4. Mary.
5. Muff Potter.
6. Dr. Robinson.
7. Alfred Temple.
8. Mr. Walters.
9. Mr. Dobbins.

V. Speak about:

1. Moral and Social Maturation.
2. Society's Hypocrisy.
3. Freedom through Social Exclusion.
4. Superstition in an Uncertain World.
5. Crime.
6. Trading.
7. The Circus.
8. Showing off.

"The Adventures of Huckleberry Finn"

VI. Express your opinions:

1. What do you know about Huckleberry's new life?
2. How does Huck's father want to get money?
3. Why does Huck fake his own death?
4. What is Huck doing on Jackson's Island?
5. Why has Jim run away?
6. Where do Huck and Jim start on the raft?
7. How has Huck saved Jim's life?

8. Why are Huck and Jim separated?
9. What is the cause of a gun battle between the Shepherdsons and the Grangerfords?
10. Whom have Huck and Jim rescued?
11. What story have they heard?
12. Why are the duke and the dauphin pretending to be Wilks's brothers?
13. What crime do they commit?
14. What can you tell about the family which is holding Jim?
15. Why does Tom pretend to be Huck's younger brother?
16. What is Tom's wild plan?
17. Why does Jim become a free man next morning?
18. What news does Jim tell Huck?

VII. In a short essay describe the characters:

1. Widow Douglas and Miss Watson.
2. Pap.
3. The duke and the dauphin.
4. Judge Thatcher.
5. The Grangerfords.
6. The Wilks Family.
7. Silas and Sally Phelps.

VIII. Speak about:

1. Racism and Slavery.
2. Intellectual and Moral Education.
3. The Hypocrisy of "Civilized" Society.
4. Childhood.
5. Lies and Cons.
6. Superstitions and Folk Beliefs.
7. Parodies of Popular Romance Novels.

IX. Explain the following symbols:

1. The Cave.
2. The Storm.
3. The Treasure.
4. The Village.
5. The Mississippi River.

X. Speak about principle characters of the novels:

1. Tom Sawyer.
2. Huckleberry Finn.
3. Injun Joe.
4. Jim.

American Realism (1902–1968)

I. Answer the following questions

1. Where and when was John Steinbeck born?
2. How did he spend his childhood?
3. What was his first novel?
4. When was he awarded with the Nobel Prize?
5. What do his best-known works deal with?
6. What novel did win in 1940 Pulitzer Prize?
7. What were the critical opinions about "Of Mice and Man"?
8. When and where did he die?

II. Finish the sentences:

1. He and Lennie share a dream of buying their own piece of land...
2. Lennie thinks she is "purty," but George,...
3. George finds that Lennie, who loves petting soft things...
4. The next day, George confides in Slim that he and Lennie are not cousins...
5. Soon, the ranch-hands return from the fields for lunch, and George and Lennie meet Slim,...
6. Overcome with thirst, the two stop in a...
7. Slim goes to the barn to do some work, and Curley, who is maniacally searching,...
8. Lennie flees back to a pool of the Salinas River that George....
9. She admits that life with Curley is a disappointment,...
10. When Slim agrees with Carlson, saying that death would be...
11. They meet Candy, an old "swamper," or handyman,...
12. As the two converse, it becomes clear that...
13. Slim warns Curley that if he tries to get...
14. Much to Lennie's surprise,...
15. Only Slim understands what has really happened,...

III. Speak about

1. The history of migrant farmers in California
2. The predatory nature of human existence
3. Fraternity and the Idealized Male Friendship
4. The Impossibility of the American Dream
5. The Corrupting Power of Women
6. Loneliness and Companionship
7. Strength and Weakness
8. George and Lennie's Farm

9. Lennie's Puppy and Candy's dog

IV. Describe the main characters

1. Lennie
2. George
3. Candy
4. Curley's wife
5. Crooks
6. Curley
7. Farmer workers (Slim, Carlson, Whit)

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