

ISSUE 2 | VOL. 01 | MAY 2024

# INC & ECHO

A MINIMAL MAGAZINE FOR LITERATURE

## In this edition:

- The influence of Puritanism on 17th century English literature
- The influence of political and social movements
- "Industrial Revolution and the World Wars"
- women writers
- The development of literary theory and criticisms
- The Romantic movement
- Modernism
- The Resonance of Social Commentary
- Psychoanalytic criticism
- Ernest Hemingway's "A Farewell to Arms"
- "The Catcher in the Rye" by J.D. Salinger
- "The Waste Land" by T.S. Eliot
- Alexander Pope's Journey into Rationalism and Empiricism

Scientific Association of English literature

Faculty of letters and human sciences

Lorestan University

Iran

# INC & ECHO

## Proprietor:

Scientific Association of  
English literature students

## Managing director and design:

Shirin Sourì

Faculty of letters  
and human sciences

Lorestan University  
Iran

May 2024

## SOCIETY

2. THE INFLUENCE OF  
PURITANISM ON  
17TH CENTURY  
ENGLISH LITERATURE

4. THE INFLUENCE OF  
POLITICAL AND SOCIAL  
MOVEMENTS ON ENGLISH  
LITERATURE  
"INDUSTRIAL REVOLUTION  
AND THE WORLD WARS"

8. WOMEN WRITERS AND  
SHAPING ENGLISH  
LITERATURE FROM THE  
17TH TO THE 20TH  
CENTURY

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## EVENTS

10. THE ROMANTIC  
MOVEMENT AND ITS  
IMPACT ON POETRY IN  
THE EARLY 19TH  
CENTURY

12. THE DEVELOPMENT OF  
LITERARY THEORY AND  
CRITICISM IN ENGLISH  
LITERATURE OVER THE  
CENTURIES

14. JANE AUSTEN AND HER  
REVOLUTION

16. MODERNISM IN EARLY  
20TH CENTURY  
LITERATURE

18. THE RESONANCE OF  
SOCIAL COMMENTARY:  
EXPLORING CHARLES  
DICKENS' VICTORIAN  
NARRATIVES

## CRITICISM

20. PSYCHOANALYTIC  
CRITICISM

24. UNVEILING THE LAYERS OF  
MEANING IN ERNEST  
HEMINGWAY'S "A FAREWELL  
TO ARMS" THROUGH  
DECONSTRUCTION REVIEW TO

## NOVEL

26. "THE CATCHER IN THE RYE"  
BY J.D. SALINGER

## POEM

28. "THE WASTE LAND"  
BY T.S. ELIOT

## WRITERS

30. ALBERT CAMUS  
31. SYLVIA PLATH

32. ILLUMINATING THE  
ENLIGHTENMENT (18TH  
CENTURY): ALEXANDER  
POPE'S JOURNEY INTO  
RATIONALISM AND  
EMPIRICISM



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*I would like to express my heartfelt gratitude to the department for their invaluable help and support in making the second issue of the English literature magazine a reality. I would also like to extend my thanks to the association for their ongoing motivation and encouragement. Your contributions have been instrumental in the success of this publication, and we are truly grateful for your continued support to continue this progress.*

*Thank you.*

*Shirin Souri*

# The influence of puritanism on the 17th century English literature

By

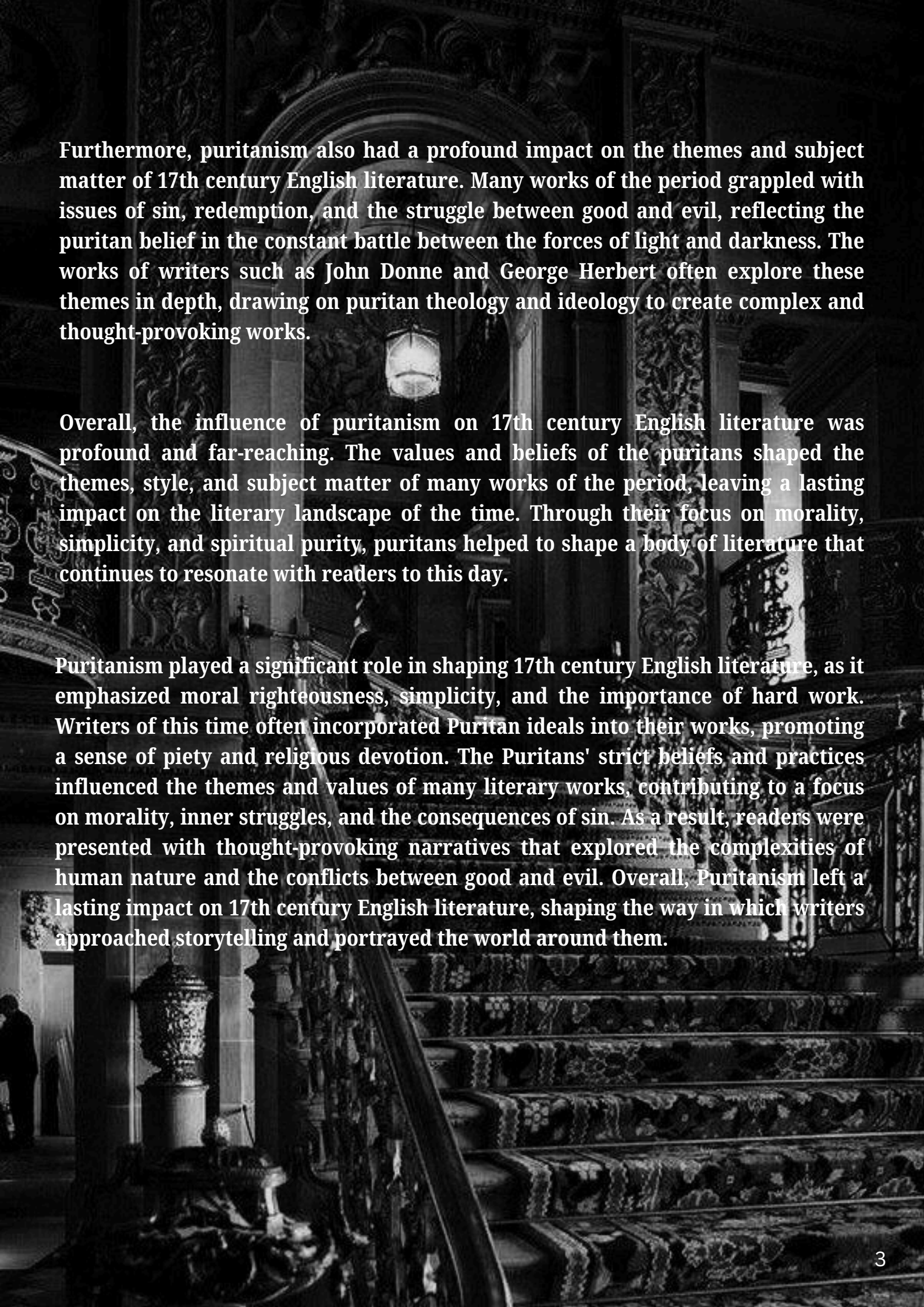
Shirin Souri

senior student of English literature

The impact of puritanism on 17th century English literature cannot be overstated. Puritan beliefs and values permeated the literature of the time, shaping the themes and moral messages of many works. Puritans placed a strong emphasis on the importance of living a virtuous and pious life, and this belief was reflected in the literature of the period.

One of the key ways in which puritanism influenced 17th century English literature was through its focus on morality and spiritual purity. Many writers of the time sought to convey moral lessons and values in their works, often drawing on puritan teachings and beliefs to do so. For example, John Bunyan's allegorical work "The Pilgrim's Progress" is a clear reflection of puritan ideals, with its emphasis on the journey towards spiritual enlightenment and salvation.

In addition to moral lessons, puritanism also influenced the literature of the time through its emphasis on simplicity and plainness. Puritans believed that excess and extravagance were sinful, and this belief was reflected in the writing of many authors of the period. Writers such as John Milton and Anne Bradstreet eschewed ornate language and imagery in favor of a more straightforward and unadorned style, reflecting the puritan values of humility and modesty.



Furthermore, puritanism also had a profound impact on the themes and subject matter of 17th century English literature. Many works of the period grappled with issues of sin, redemption, and the struggle between good and evil, reflecting the puritan belief in the constant battle between the forces of light and darkness. The works of writers such as John Donne and George Herbert often explore these themes in depth, drawing on puritan theology and ideology to create complex and thought-provoking works.

Overall, the influence of puritanism on 17th century English literature was profound and far-reaching. The values and beliefs of the puritans shaped the themes, style, and subject matter of many works of the period, leaving a lasting impact on the literary landscape of the time. Through their focus on morality, simplicity, and spiritual purity, puritans helped to shape a body of literature that continues to resonate with readers to this day.

Puritanism played a significant role in shaping 17th century English literature, as it emphasized moral righteousness, simplicity, and the importance of hard work. Writers of this time often incorporated Puritan ideals into their works, promoting a sense of piety and religious devotion. The Puritans' strict beliefs and practices influenced the themes and values of many literary works, contributing to a focus on morality, inner struggles, and the consequences of sin. As a result, readers were presented with thought-provoking narratives that explored the complexities of human nature and the conflicts between good and evil. Overall, Puritanism left a lasting impact on 17th century English literature, shaping the way in which writers approached storytelling and portrayed the world around them.

## THE INFLUENCE OF POLITICAL AND SOCIAL MOVEMENTS ON ENGLISH LITERATURE

### "INDUSTRIAL REVOLUTION AND THE WORLD WARS"



The influence of political and social movements on English literature can be seen throughout history, especially during times of great turmoil and change. Two significant periods that had a profound impact on literature were the Industrial Revolution and the World Wars.

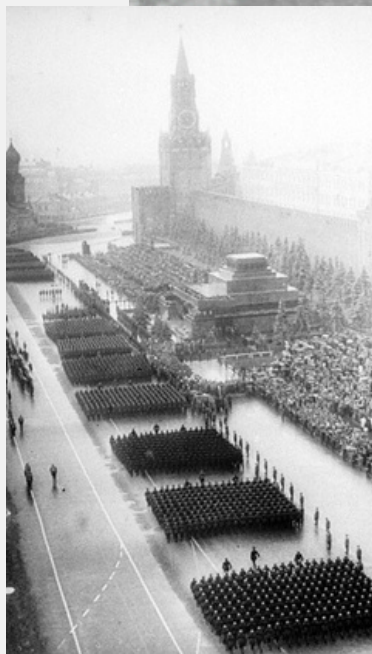
During the Industrial Revolution, which took place in the 18th and 19th centuries, England underwent massive changes in its economic and social structure. The rise of factories and urbanization led to a shift in the way people lived and worked, resulting in widespread poverty and exploitation of the working class. This period of rapid change and upheaval had a significant impact on literature, as writers began to explore the effects of industrialization on society and the individual.

One of the most prominent literary movements to emerge during this time was the Romantic movement, which sought to reject the rationalism of the Enlightenment and embrace emotion and nature. Writers such as William Wordsworth and Samuel Taylor Coleridge wrote poetry that celebrated the beauty of nature and criticized the dehumanizing effects of industrialization. Their work reflected the growing concerns about the impact of the Industrial Revolution on society and the environment.

The World Wars, which took place in the 20th century, also had a profound influence on English literature. The devastation and loss of life caused by both World War I and World War II led to a sense of disillusionment and despair among writers and artists. Many writers, such as T.S. Eliot and Virginia Woolf, explored themes of alienation, trauma, and the breakdown of traditional values in their work.

In addition to the literary movements that emerged during these periods, political and social movements also played a significant role in shaping English literature. The rise of socialism and feminism in the 19th and 20th centuries led to a reevaluation of traditional power structures and gender roles in literature. Writers such as George Orwell and Virginia Woolf tackled issues of social inequality and gender discrimination in their work, challenging readers to think critically about the world around them.

Writers have always been deeply engaged with the world around them, using their work to reflect on and respond to the issues of their time. The Industrial Revolution and the World Wars were two periods of great upheaval and change that shaped literature in profound ways, giving rise to new movements and styles that continue to influence writers to this day.



In the grand tapestry of English literature, the looming shadow of industrialization casts a profound and multifaceted influence. As the gears of progress turned and smokestacks rose to pierce the skies, so too did the literary landscape undergo a metamorphosis of unparalleled proportions.

In the throes of the Industrial Revolution, the once pastoral idylls immortalized by the Romantics gave way to the gritty realities of urban existence. Writers, grappling with the mechanized rhythm of modern life, found themselves compelled to explore themes of alienation, societal upheaval, and the inexorable march of progress.








Gone were the quaint countryside settings of yore, replaced instead by the bustling streets of burgeoning cities. Charles Dickens, with his keen eye for social injustice, painted vivid portraits of Victorian London, exposing the Dickensian underbelly of industrial society with unflinching candor. Meanwhile, the advent of mass printing and widespread literacy democratized access to literature, ushering in an era of unprecedented cultural exchange and literary proliferation. Penny dreadfuls, serialized novels, and newspapers became the lifeblood of a rapidly expanding readership hungry for tales that mirrored their own turbulent realities.

Yet amidst the smoke and grime of the factory floor, a flicker of romanticism endured. Poets such as William Blake and Gerard Manley Hopkins sought solace in the beauty of the natural world, offering a counterpoint to the mechanistic march of progress and a reminder of humanity's enduring connection to the earth.

Thus, the impact of industrialization on English literature is as complex and multifaceted as the era itself. It is a story of transformation and turmoil, of innovation and introspection, weaving together threads of optimism and despair to form the rich tapestry of the literary canon.

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## women writers and shaping English literature from the 17th to the 20th century

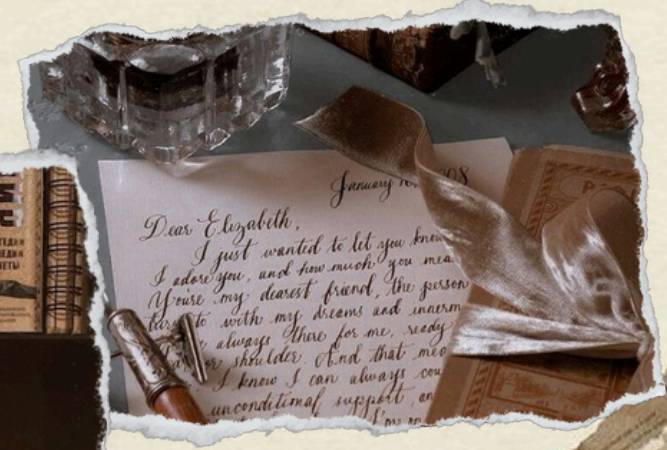
By Shirin Souri  
senior student of English literature

Women writers have long played a significant role in shaping English literature from the 17th to the 20th century. Their voices, though often marginalized, have contributed immensely to the literary landscape, offering unique perspectives and challenging societal norms through their works.

From the groundbreaking poetry of Elizabeth Barrett Browning to the insightful novels of Jane Austen, women writers have left an indelible mark on English literature, enriching it with their creativity and insight. In the 17th century, writers like Aphra Behn defied convention by publishing plays and novels, paving the way for future generations of female authors.

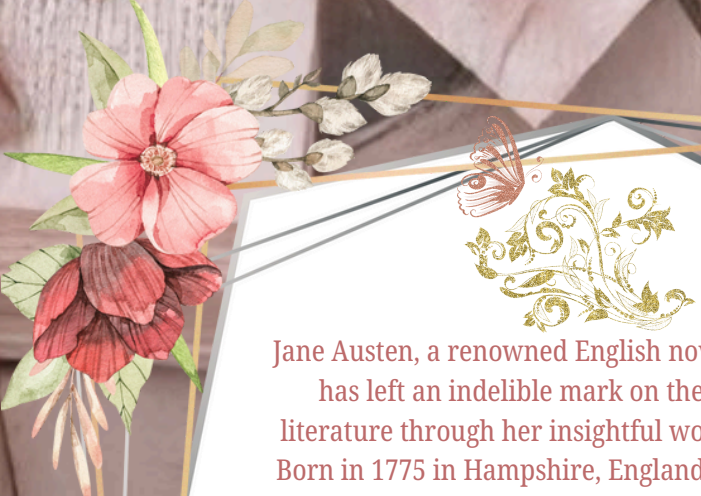


As the 18th century progressed, figures like Mary Wollstonecraft advocated for women's rights through their writing, sparking important conversations about gender equality. In the 19th century, the Brontë sisters captivated readers with their passionate tales of love and loss, while George Eliot challenged societal expectations with her intellectually rigorous novels. The 20th century saw the emergence of modernist writers like Virginia Woolf, whose experimental prose pushed the boundaries of literary form and style. Women writers have continuously pushed against the constraints of their time, leaving an enduring legacy that continues to inspire readers and writers alike.



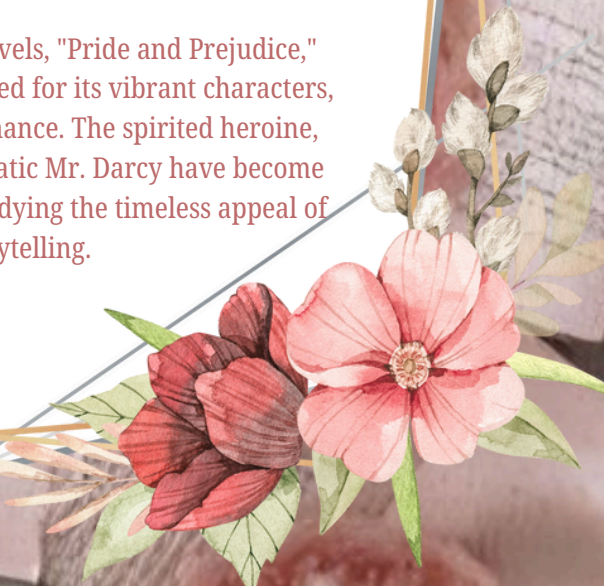
## Let's See how did Jane Austen played a role in this revolution:

By Shirin Souri  
senior student of English literature


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Jane Austen, a renowned English novelist of the 19th century, has left an indelible mark on the landscape of English literature through her insightful works and distinctive style. Born in 1775 in Hampshire, England, Austen's literary career blossomed during a time when female authors faced significant challenges in gaining recognition for their work. Despite these obstacles, Austen's keen observation of society and human nature propelled her to become one of the most celebrated writers of her time.

Austen's novels, characterized by their sharp wit, keen social commentary, and astute characterizations, continue to captivate readers worldwide. Her timeless themes of love, marriage, social class, and the role of women in society resonate with audiences across cultures and generations. Austen's enduring popularity is evident in the countless adaptations, from film and television to stage productions and literary retellings, that continue to re-imagine and reinterpret her works for modern audiences.

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One of Austen's most famous novels, "Pride and Prejudice," remains a beloved classic cherished for its vibrant characters, witty dialogue, and timeless romance. The spirited heroine, Elizabeth Bennet, and the enigmatic Mr. Darcy have become iconic figures in literature, embodying the timeless appeal of Austen's storytelling.



In addition to "Pride and Prejudice," Austen's other novels, including "Sense and Sensibility," "Emma," and "Mansfield Park," have also left an enduring legacy on English literature. Each work showcases Austen's unparalleled ability to craft compelling narratives that explore the intricacies of human relationships and society's expectations.

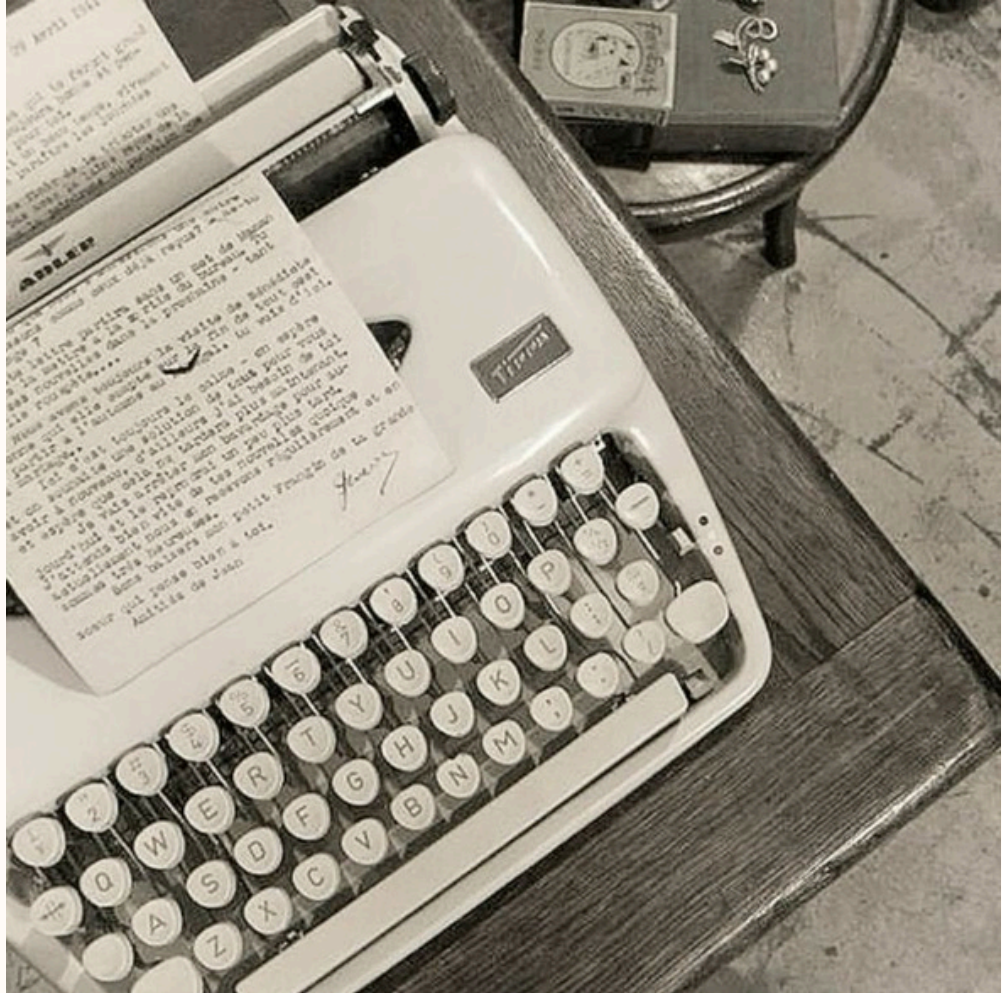
Austen's influence extends beyond her own literary achievements; her pioneering role as a female author paved the way for future generations of women writers. By daring to write and publish in a male-dominated industry, Austen challenged societal norms and shattered stereotypes, demonstrating the power of women's voices in literature.

In conclusion, Jane Austen's influence on English literature is undeniable, her novels continue to captivate readers with their timeless charm, wit, and insight into human nature. Through her enduring legacy, Austen remains a beloved figure whose contributions to literature continue to be celebrated and cherished by readers around the world.

# Criticism

## THE DEVELOPMENT OF LITERARY THEORY AND CRITICISM IN ENGLISH LITERATURE OVER THE CENTURIES

A RICH AND COMPLEX JOURNEY, MARKED BY VARIOUS MOVEMENTS, PARADIGMS, AND DEBATES



During the Renaissance period, literary criticism focused on the emulation of classical models, particularly those of ancient Greece and Rome. Scholars like Sir Philip Sidney emphasized the importance of poetry as a moral and didactic tool, advocating for the integration of literature into ethical education.

In the Neoclassical era, critics such as Samuel Johnson championed the principles of order, decorum, and imitation of classical norms in literature. Their emphasis on rationality and restraint led to a focus on clarity, balance, and adherence to prescribed literary forms.

The Romantic movement brought about a significant shift in literary theory, with a focus on individual expression, emotion, and the sublime. Figures like William Wordsworth and Samuel Taylor Coleridge emphasized the role of the imagination and the subjective experience of the artist, challenging the Neoclassical emphasis on rules and conventions.

The Romantic movement brought about a significant shift in literary theory, with a focus on individual expression, emotion, and the sublime. Figures like William Wordsworth and Samuel Taylor Coleridge emphasized the role of the imagination and the subjective experience of the artist, challenging the Neoclassical emphasis on rules and conventions.

The Victorian period saw the rise of realism and naturalism, with writers like Charles Dickens and George Eliot portraying the complexities of society and human experience. Critics began to analyze literature in relation to its social and historical context, exploring themes of class, gender, and power.

# Criticism

May 2024

By Alireza Zarghampour  
senior student of English literature

INC & ECHO

## THE MID-20TH CENTURY WITNESSED THE EMERGENCE OF VARIOUS CRITICAL SCHOOLS, INCLUDING FORMALISM, STRUCTURALISM, AND POSTSTRUCTURALISM.



Formalists like Cleanth Brooks focused on close textual analysis, while structuralists like Roland Barthes examined the underlying structures and systems that shape meaning in literature. Poststructuralists, including Jacques Derrida and Michel Foucault, questioned the stability of language and the authority of the author, advocating for a more fluid and open-ended approach to interpretation. Recent decades, literary theory has continued to evolve, with the rise of new perspectives such as feminism, postcolonialism, and queer theory. These approaches have highlighted the importance of diversity, representation, and marginalized voices in literature, challenging traditional notions of canon and authority.

The development of literary theory and criticism in English literature reflects the dynamic interplay between artistic innovation, cultural change, and intellectual inquiry. As new voices and perspectives continue to emerge, the study of literature remains a vibrant and ever-evolving field, enriching our understanding of the human experience.



## The Romantic movement and its impact on poetry in the early 19th century

By  
Mohammad Taha Jaseempour  
senior student of English literature

The Romantic movement, which emerged in the late 18th and early 19th centuries, had a profound impact on poetry, ushering in a new era of creative expression and emotional intensity. This literary movement was characterized by a rejection of the rationalism and formalism of the Enlightenment period, instead embracing emotion, imagination, and individualism as central themes in art and literature. Romantic poets, such as William Wordsworth, Samuel Taylor Coleridge, and Lord Byron, sought to explore the inner workings of the human psyche and the beauty of nature through their verse. They celebrated the sublime, finding inspiration in the awe-inspiring power of the natural world and its ability to evoke profound emotional responses.





It sought to celebrate individuality, emotion, and the untamed beauty of nature. One of the quintessential figures of English Romanticism is William Wordsworth, whose poetry epitomizes the movement's ideals of spontaneity and emotional intensity. Wordsworth's "Lines Composed a Few Miles Above Tintern Abbey" reflects his reverence for the natural world and its ability to inspire profound spiritual experiences. Another luminary of Romanticism, Samuel Taylor Coleridge, explored themes of the supernatural and the mysterious in works such as "Kubla Khan" and "The Rime of the Ancient Mariner." The Romantics were fascinated by the sublime—the overwhelming sense of awe and wonder in the face of nature's grandeur. Mary Shelley's "Frankenstein" exemplifies the Romantic fascination with the darker aspects of human nature and the consequences of unchecked ambition. In addition to poetry and prose, Romanticism also left its mark on English art, with painters like J.M.W. Turner capturing the sublime beauty of landscapes in their work. Romantic literature often depicted characters who rebelled against societal norms and pursued their passions with fervor, as seen in Jane Austen's "Pride and Prejudice" and Emily Brontë's "Wuthering Heights." The Romantic movement was not only a literary phenomenon but also a cultural and philosophical one, challenging the prevailing attitudes of the time and paving the way for a new era of artistic expression. Its legacy continues to inspire writers, artists, and thinkers to this day, reminding us of the enduring power of imagination, emotion, and the human spirit.



# in early 20th century

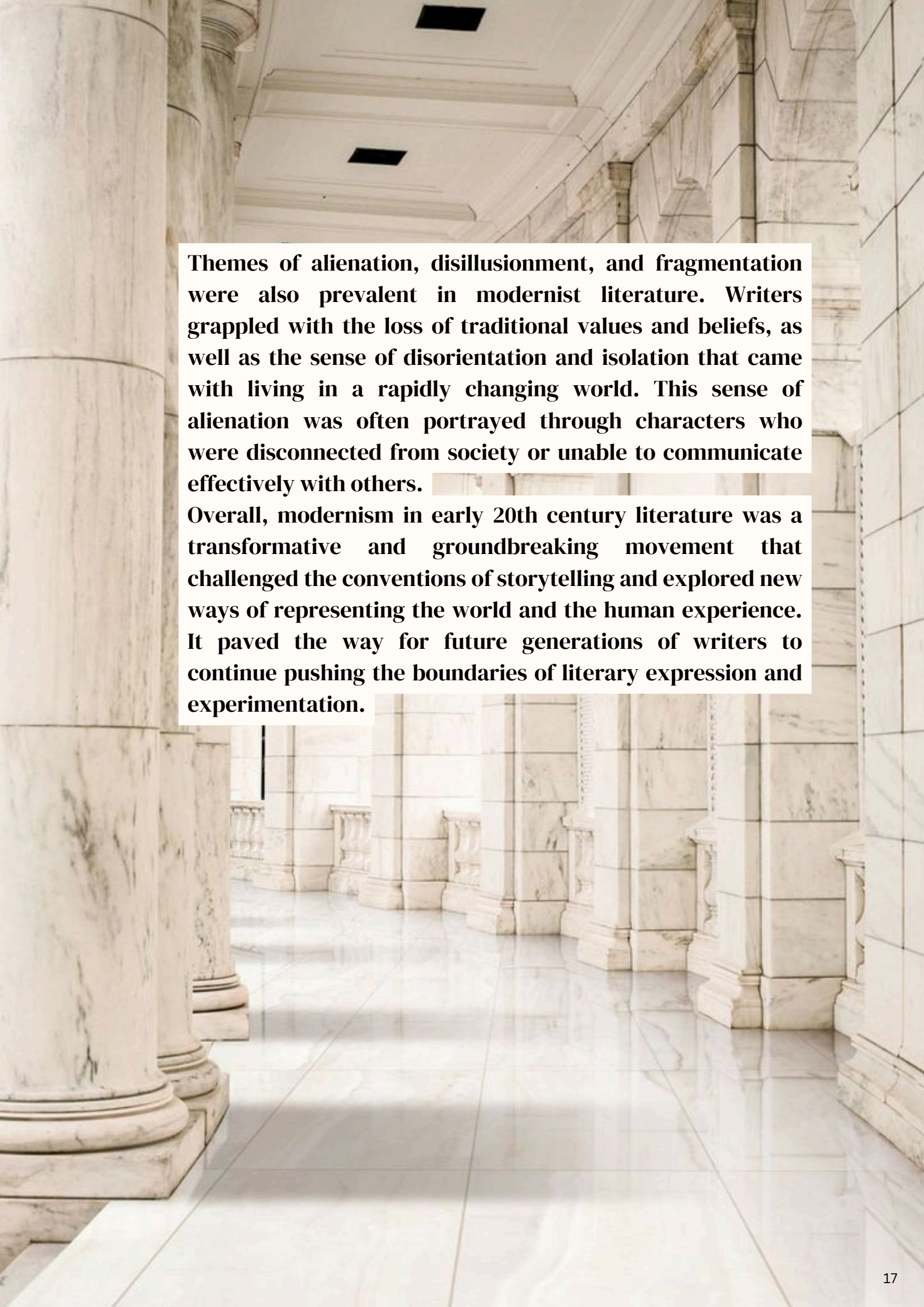
By Shirin Souri  
Senior student of English literature

# MODERNISM

Modernism in early 20th century literature was a literary movement that emerged in response to the rapidly changing world around them. Writers during this time sought to break away from traditional forms and styles of writing, and instead explore new ways of expressing their thoughts and ideas. This period of literature is characterized by its experimentation with language, narrative structure, and themes.


One of the key aspects of modernism in early 20th century literature was its rejection of the traditional conventions of storytelling. Writers began to experiment with stream-of-consciousness narration, fragmented plots, and non-linear storytelling. This allowed them to explore the inner workings of their characters' minds and emotions in a more depthful way. It also reflected the uncertainty and chaos of the world in which they lived, with its rapid technological advancements and social changes.

Another defining feature of modernism in early 20th century literature was its focus on the individual and subjective experience. Writers sought to capture the complexities and contradictions of human consciousness, often through the use of unreliable narrators or multiple perspectives. This shift towards a more introspective and personal style of writing was a reflection of the growing emphasis on individualism and self-expression in society at the time.

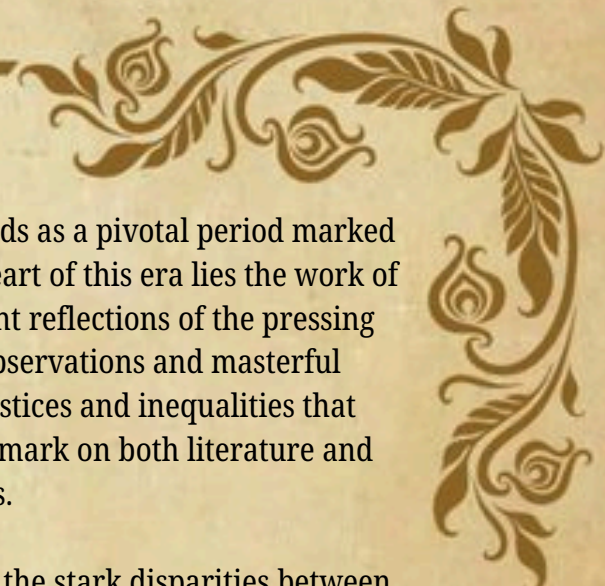


**Themes of alienation, disillusionment, and fragmentation were also prevalent in modernist literature. Writers grappled with the loss of traditional values and beliefs, as well as the sense of disorientation and isolation that came with living in a rapidly changing world. This sense of alienation was often portrayed through characters who were disconnected from society or unable to communicate effectively with others.**

**Overall, modernism in early 20th century literature was a transformative and groundbreaking movement that challenged the conventions of storytelling and explored new ways of representing the world and the human experience. It paved the way for future generations of writers to continue pushing the boundaries of literary expression and experimentation.**

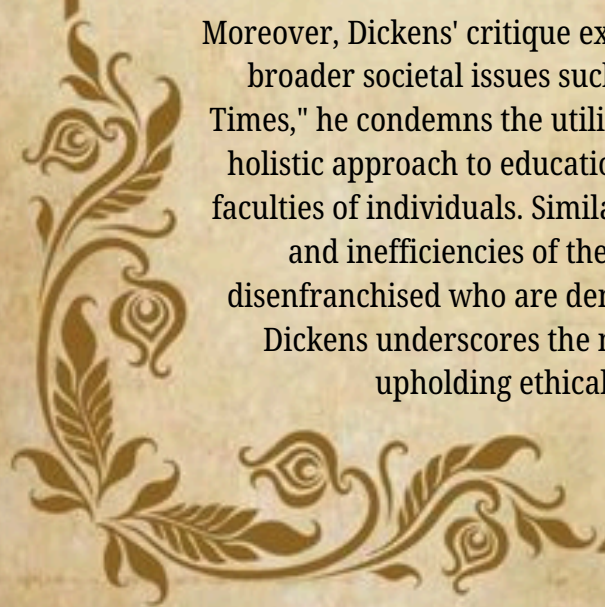
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## The Resonance of Social Commentary: Exploring Charles Dickens' Victorian Narratives

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In the annals of literature, the Victorian era stands as a pivotal period marked by social upheaval and transformation. At the heart of this era lies the work of Charles Dickens, whose novels serve as poignant reflections of the pressing social issues of his time. Through his keen observations and masterful storytelling, Dickens shines a light on the injustices and inequalities that plagued Victorian society, leaving an indelible mark on both literature and social consciousness.

Firstly, Dickens' works offer a vivid portrayal of the stark disparities between the privileged elite and the impoverished masses. In novels such as "Oliver Twist" and "David Copperfield," he exposes the harsh realities faced by the lower classes, depicting the grim conditions of urban slums, the exploitation of child labor, and the prevalence of crime and poverty. By giving voice to the marginalized and downtrodden, Dickens challenges the prevailing notion of social hierarchy and calls for greater empathy and compassion towards the less fortunate.

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Moreover, Dickens' critique extends beyond the economic sphere to encompass broader societal issues such as education, justice, and morality. In "Hard Times," he condemns the utilitarian ethos of industrialism, arguing for a more holistic approach to education that nurtures the emotional and imaginative faculties of individuals. Similarly, in "Bleak House," Dickens exposes the flaws and inefficiencies of the legal system, highlighting the plight of the disenfranchised who are denied access to justice. Through these narratives, Dickens underscores the need for social reform and the importance of upholding ethical values in a rapidly changing world.

By  
Mohammad Taha Braadaraan  
senior student of English literature

Furthermore, Dickens' characters serve as powerful archetypes that embody the various facets of Victorian society. From the virtuous and noble-hearted to the morally bankrupt and corrupt, his cast of characters reflects the diversity and complexity of human nature. In "Great Expectations," the enigmatic figure of Miss Havisham symbolizes the destructive influence of bitterness and resentment, while the orphaned protagonist, Pip, grapples with issues of identity and self-worth in a society obsessed with status and wealth. Through these character studies, Dickens invites readers to confront their own biases and preconceptions, prompting introspection and self-examination.

Additionally, Dickens' use of satire and irony adds depth and nuance to his social commentary, allowing him to critique societal norms and conventions with wit and humor. In "A Christmas Carol," he employs the character of Ebenezer Scrooge as a caricature of selfishness and greed, whose transformation serves as a powerful indictment of materialism and selfishness. Likewise, in "The Pickwick Papers," Dickens satirizes the absurdities of the legal system and the pomposity of the upper classes, exposing the hypocrisy and folly of Victorian society.

In conclusion, Charles Dickens' Victorian narratives continue to resonate with readers today, offering profound insights into the human condition and the enduring struggle for social justice. Through his richly drawn characters and compelling storytelling, Dickens sheds light on the pressing social issues of his time, challenging readers to confront the inequalities and injustices that persist in society. As we revisit his works, we are reminded of the power of literature to provoke thought, inspire change, and unite us in our shared humanity.

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By Shirin Souri  
Senior student of English literature

# Psychoanalytic Criticism



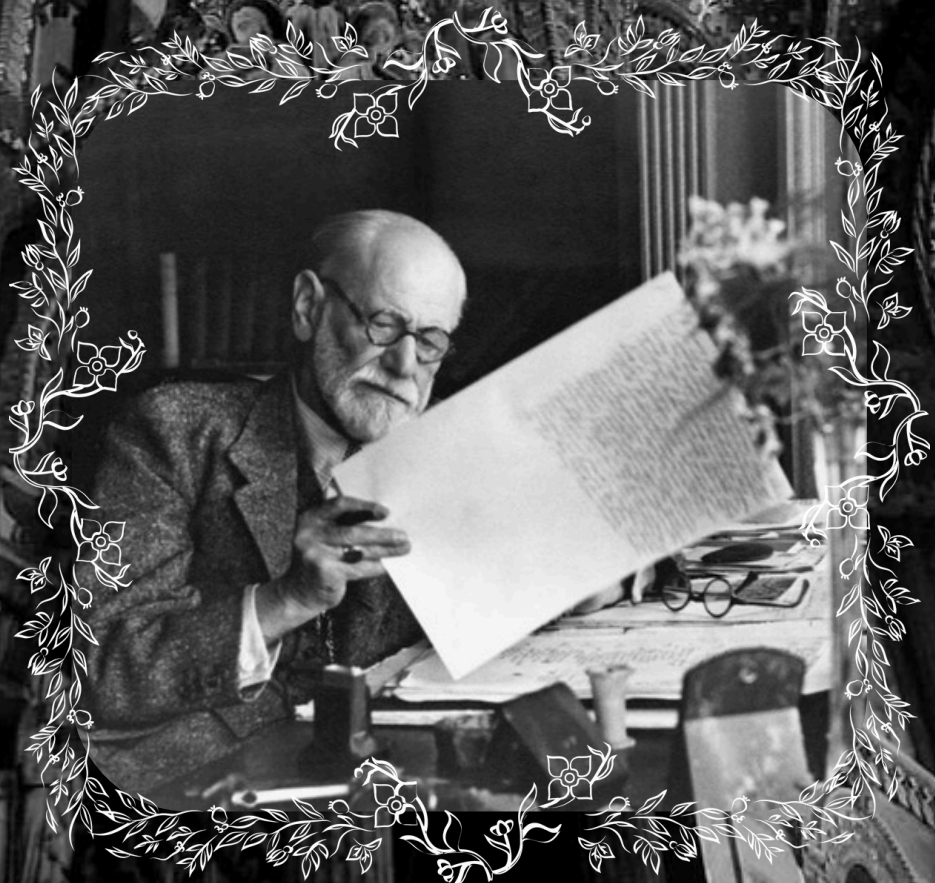
*Sigmund Freud on  
Psychoanalysis* "The  
ego is not master in its  
own house."



Psychoanalytic criticism is a literary theory that focuses on analyzing and interpreting literature through the lens of psychoanalytic concepts developed by Sigmund Freud. This approach involves understanding the unconscious mind, repressed desires, and conflicts that may be present in a literary work and its characters. It seeks to uncover the psychological motivations and underlying meanings in the text. One way psychoanalytic criticism is applied in literature is through the examination of characters' behavior and motivations. By analyzing characters' actions, thoughts, and relationships, critics can identify unconscious desires, fears, and conflicts that drive their behavior. For example, in William Shakespeare's play "Hamlet," psychoanalytic critics may explore the character's Oedipus complex, where Hamlet's feelings for his mother, Gertrude, and his rivalry with his father, King Hamlet, shape his actions throughout the play.



Freud believed that psychoanalytic criticism was essential for gaining a deeper understanding of literature by exploring the subconscious motivations of characters and authors. He argued that the interpretation of dreams and the analysis of symbols could reveal hidden meanings and desires within a text. Freud also believed that psychoanalytic criticism could provide insight into the complexities of human behavior and relationships depicted in literature. He emphasized the importance of exploring the unconscious mind and the role of childhood experiences in shaping personality and behavior. Overall, Freud saw psychoanalytic criticism as a valuable tool for uncovering the psychological underpinnings of literary works. Another approach in psychoanalytic criticism is the analysis of symbolism and imagery in literature. Critics often look for symbols, dreams, and subconscious desires that may be encoded in the text. For instance, in Charlotte Perkins Gilman's short story "The Yellow Wallpaper," psychoanalytic critics may interpret the yellow wallpaper as a symbol of the narrator's deteriorating mental state and her repressed desire for liberation from her oppressive husband.





Add a little bit of Carl Jung believed that psychoanalytic criticism was a valuable tool for understanding and interpreting literature, as it allows for a deeper exploration of the unconscious mind and the symbolism present in texts. Jung viewed literature as a reflection of the collective unconscious, containing archetypes and symbols that are universal across cultures and time periods. He believed that by applying psychoanalytic principles to literature, readers could gain insight into the cultural, social, and psychological factors influencing a text and its characters. Jung also emphasized the importance of examining the personal unconscious of the author and how their own experiences and beliefs shape their writing.



Furthermore, psychoanalytic criticism can also be applied to the author's own unconscious mind and experiences. By examining an author's biography, personal history, and relationships, critics can gain insights into how their own unconscious desires and conflicts may have influenced their work. For example, critics may analyze Sylvia Plath's poetry through the lens of her troubled personal life and mental health struggles, interpreting her works as a reflection of her inner turmoil and struggles.

Overall, psychoanalytic criticism offers a unique and insightful perspective on literature by delving into the complexities of the human mind and the unconscious motivations that drive our thoughts, actions, and relationships. By exploring the psychological dimensions of literary works, this approach helps readers gain a deeper understanding of the characters, themes, and symbolism within the text.



# Unveiling the Layers of Meaning in Ernest Hemingway's "A Farewell to Arms" Through Deconstruction Review

By  
Reza Saaki  
Senior student of English literature

Ernest Hemingway's "A Farewell to Arms" stands as a dateless disquisition of love, war, and the complications of the mortal experience. Within its runners lies a narrative that transcends the boundaries of traditional liars, inviting compendiums to engage with its themes and characters in profound ways. Through the lens of deconstruction review, we embark on a trip to unravel the layers of meaning woven into the fabric of this erudite masterpiece.

Central to deconstruction review is the notion of questioning established trueness and destabilizing fixed meanings. In "A Farewell to Arms," Hemingway challenges compendiums to interrogate the trustability of the narrator, Frederick Henry, and the authenticity of his guests. By presenting the narrative through Henry's perspective, filtered through his private lens, Hemingway blurs the lines between fact and fabrication, verity and vision. This deliberate nebulosity invites compendiums to review their hypotheticals and engage with the textbook on a deeper position, fetching the multifariousness of interpretations that attend within its runners.

Also, Hemingway's narrative fashion underscores the essential insecurity of language itself. Through his meager prose and minimalist style, he employs symbolism, conceit, and irony to endue the textbook with layers of meaning that repel straightforward interpretation. Take, for illustration, the recreating motif of rain, which serves as both a symbol of sanctification and destruction. By investing everyday objects and circumstances with multiple layers of significance, Hemingway challenges compendiums to grapple with the complications of mortal emotion and experience, transcending the limitations of language to capture the substance of the mortal condition. Similarly, Hemingway's narrative is characterized by what's left unsaid, inviting compendiums to share in the construction of meaning through their interpretations and reflections. The gaps and silences in the textbook conveyed through Henry's concise dialogue and elliptical history, serve as rich ground for disquisition and enterprise. By foregrounding absence alongside presence, Hemingway invites compendiums to defy the limitations of language and representation, fetching that meaning is frequently as important about what's neglected as what's articulated. In substance, deconstruction review offers a lens through which to appreciate the rich complexity of Hemingway's "A Farewell to Arms." By challenging established trueness, destabilizing language, and foregrounding absence, this approach invites compendiums to engage with the textbook in dynamic and transformative ways. Rather than seeking definitive answers or fixed interpretations, deconstruction encourages us to embrace the nebulosity and query essential in the mortal experience, fetching that meaning is eventually a product of our interpretations and reflections. In this way, "A Farewell to Arms" continues to reverberate with compendiums as a profound contemplation on love, war, and the insuperable spirit of the mortal soul.

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## THE CATCHER IN THE RYE

J.D. Salinger

"The Catcher in the Rye" by J.D. Salinger is a novel that follows the tumultuous journey of Holden Caulfield as he navigates the complexities of adolescence and adulthood.

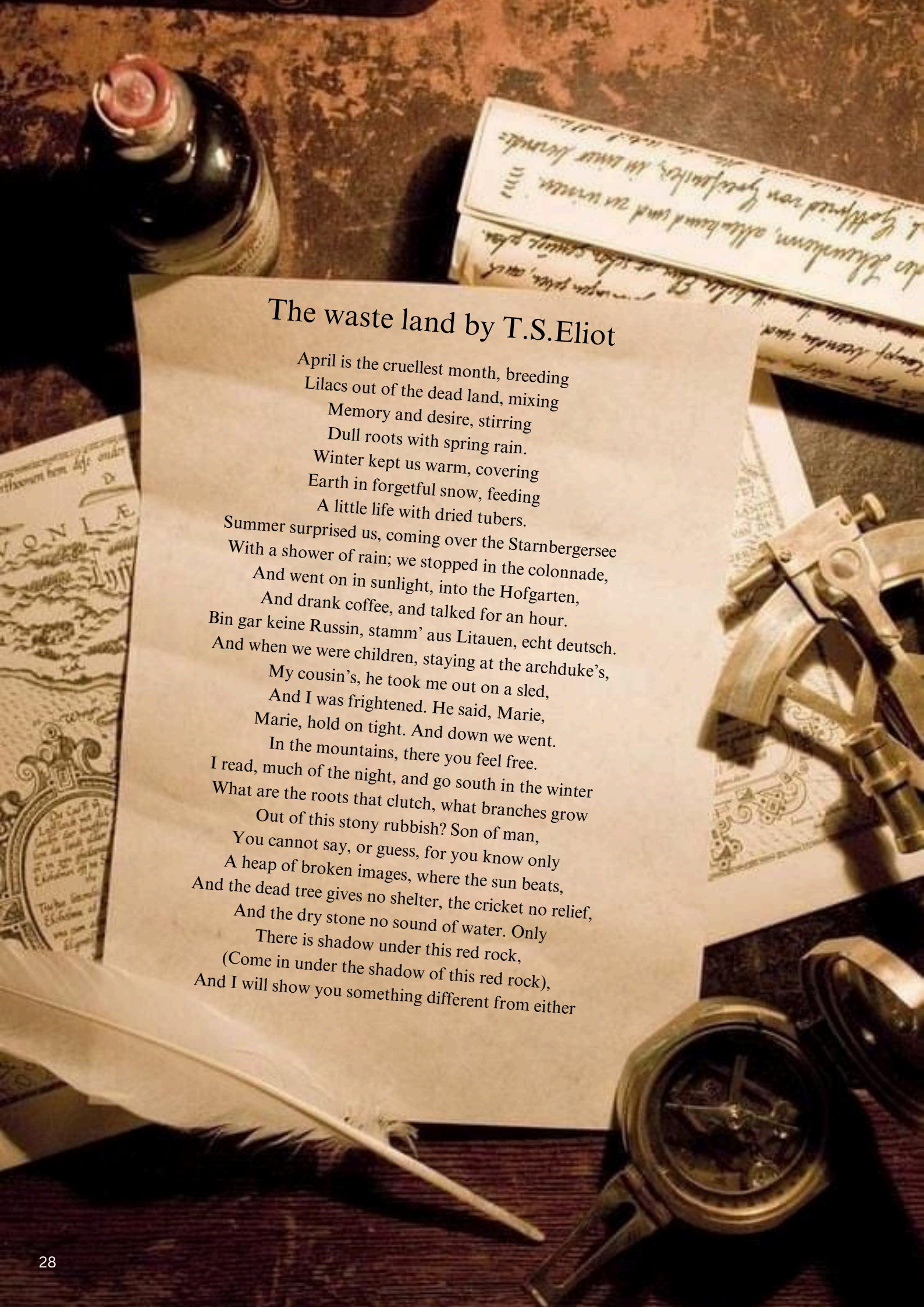
Holden Caulfield, the protagonist of the novel, struggles with feelings of alienation and disillusionment with society, leading him to retreat from the adult world and seek solace in his own fantasies.

Throughout the novel, Salinger explores themes of identity, authenticity, and the loss of innocence, as Holden grapples with his own personal demons and struggles to find his place in the world.

The novel is often praised for its candid portrayal of teenage angst and rebellion, as well as its sharp wit and dry humor that have resonated with readers for generations.

Taha Jassempour  
senior student of English literature





## The waste land by T.S.Eliot

April is the cruellest month, breeding  
Lilacs out of the dead land, mixing  
Memory and desire, stirring  
Dull roots with spring rain.  
Winter kept us warm, covering  
Earth in forgetful snow, feeding  
A little life with dried tubers.  
Summer surprised us, coming over the Starnbergersee  
With a shower of rain; we stopped in the colonnade,  
And went on in sunlight, into the Hofgarten,  
And drank coffee, and talked for an hour.  
Bin gar keine Russin, stamm' aus Litauen, echt deutsch.  
And when we were children, staying at the archduke's,  
My cousin's, he took me out on a sled,  
And I was frightened. He said, Marie,  
Marie, hold on tight. And down we went.  
In the mountains, there you feel free.  
I read, much of the night, and go south in the winter  
What are the roots that clutch, what branches grow  
Out of this stony rubbish? Son of man,  
You cannot say, or guess, for you know only  
A heap of broken images, where the sun beats,  
And the dead tree gives no shelter, the cricket no relief,  
And the dry stone no sound of water. Only  
There is shadow under this red rock,  
(Come in under the shadow of this red rock),  
And I will show you something different from either

*Ambergue le 19 mai 1900*

"The Waste Land" by T.S. Eliot is a modernist poem that is often seen as a reflection of the disillusionment and fragmentation of post-World War I society. The poem is characterized by its fragmented structure, multiple voices, and complex allusions to classical literature, religion, and mythology.

One interpretation of the poem is that it represents the spiritual and moral decay of Western civilization following the war. The wasteland is a metaphor for the barrenness and emptiness of modern existence, where traditional values and beliefs have been destroyed. The poem's speaker wanders through this wasteland, encountering various characters who are trapped in their own cycles of destruction and despair.

Another interpretation of "The Waste Land" is that it is a critique of modern society's obsession with materialism and superficiality. The poem's references to consumer culture, celebrity worship, and empty rituals suggest that the characters in the wasteland are lost in a world of illusions and distractions. The poem's many allusions to mythology and religion further emphasize the emptiness and meaninglessness of contemporary life.

Overall, "The Waste Land" is a complex and challenging poem that can be interpreted in many different ways. Its exploration of themes such as fragmentation, decay, and disillusionment continues to resonate with readers today, making it a timeless and enduring work of literature.



## ALBERT CAMUS

By Shirin Souri

Senior student of English literature

Albert Camus, a French philosopher and author, is known for his existentialist views and literary works that explore the human condition. His philosophy emphasizes the absurdity of life and the importance of finding meaning and purpose in a world that is inherently chaotic and indifferent. Camus believed in the power of individual freedom and responsibility, advocating for living authentically and embracing the uncertainty of existence.

*"The question is what about finding no meaning in life?"*

In his famous work "The Stranger," Camus presents the story of Meursault, a man who embodies the philosophy of the absurd by confronting life's inherent meaninglessness and the inevitability of death. Through Meursault's detached and apathetic demeanor, Camus challenges traditional notions of morality and societal norms, inviting readers to question their own beliefs and values. Camus also explored the concept of rebellion in his essay "The Myth of Sisyphus," where he famously declared that "one must imagine Sisyphus happy" in the face of his eternal punishment of rolling a boulder up a hill, only for it to roll back down each time. This metaphorical representation of the human struggle resonates with Camus' belief in the importance of embracing life's challenges and finding joy in the act of defiance against the absurdity of existence.



# SYLVIA PLATH, A COMBINATION OF WITCH AND GHOST PERHAPS

Sylvia Plath was a renowned American poet and writer known for her confessional style of poetry. Her work often delved into themes of mental illness, gender roles, and personal struggles. Plath's ideology can be seen in her writings, where she explored complex emotions and experiences with raw honesty.

Plath's work often delved into themes of mental illness, gender roles, and the complexities of human relationships. Her most famous work, "The Bell Jar," is a semi-autobiographical novel that explores the protagonist's descent into mental illness and her struggles with societal expectations.

with many readers and scholars examining her work through the lens of her struggles with mental health

.Despite the darkness in her writing, Plath's work is also celebrated for its lyrical beauty and emotional depth. She continues to be a significant figure in American literature, with her influence extending to contemporary writers and poets.

Tragically, Sylvia Plath died by suicide in 1963 at the age of 30. Her death has been a subject of much discussion and analysis, with many attributing it to her ongoing battle with depression and personal turmoil. Despite her untimely death, Plath's legacy continues to live on through her powerful and influential body of work.



Sylvia Plath photographed by Walter Evans c. 1959

# illuminating the Enlightenment (18th century): Alexander Pope's Journey into Rationalism and Empiricism

By Shima Rezayi

senior student of English literature

Add a little bit of The 18th century, known as the Age of Enlightenment, witnessed a profound shift in intellectual thought, marked by the rise of rationalism and empiricism. As thinkers grappled with questions of reason, knowledge, and human nature, literature became a powerful vehicle for exploring and disseminating these ideas. Among the prominent figures of this era, Alexander Pope stands out as a writer who skillfully navigated the realms of rationalism and empiricism, leaving an indelible mark on the literary landscape of the Enlightenment.

At the heart of Pope's literary endeavors lies a deep commitment to reason and rational inquiry. In works such as "An Essay on Criticism" and "An Essay on Man," Pope employs rationalist principles to analyze and critique various aspects of society and human behavior. Through his keen observations and logical arguments, Pope seeks to uncover universal truths and promote a greater understanding of the human condition. By championing reason as the ultimate arbiter of truth, Pope embodies the spirit of Enlightenment rationalism, which sought to liberate humanity from the shackles of ignorance and superstition.

Likewise, Pope's engagement with empiricism is evident in his meticulous attention to detail and emphasis on empirical observation. In his mock-epic poem "The Rape of the Lock," Pope employs a satirical lens to scrutinize the frivolous social customs and manners of his time. Through vivid descriptions and keen observations of everyday life, Pope invites readers to question the prevailing norms and values of society, encouraging a more empirical approach to understanding human behavior. By grounding his poetry in concrete, observable phenomena, Pope challenges readers to rely on their senses and experiences to discern truth from falsehood, therefore embodying the empiricist ideals of the Enlightenment.

Also, Pope's exploration of rationalism and empiricism extends beyond mere philosophical inquiry to encompass a profound engagement with the nature of language and literature itself. In his "Essay on Criticism," Pope articulates a theory of poetic aesthetics grounded in reason and sound judgment. By advocating for clear, concise expression and adherence to classical literary standards, Pope seeks to elevate poetry to the realm of universal truth and beauty. Through his meticulous craftsmanship and adherence to rationalist principles, Pope demonstrates the transformative power of literature to enlighten and edify the human mind.

Overall, Alexander Pope's literary contributions during the Age of Enlightenment exemplify a unique fusion of rationalism and empiricism, reflecting the intellectual currents of his time. Through his rigorous engagement with reason and empirical observation, Pope sought to illuminate the complexities of human existence and promote a greater understanding of the world around him. As we continue to grapple with questions of reason and knowledge in the modern era, Pope's writings serve as a timeless testament to the enduring relevance of Enlightenment ideals and the transformative power of literature to illuminate the human experience. text





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# Toldtarifsen.

Af Toldbetjent Barth.

## II.

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