

# EUROPEAN LITERATURE

Matt Joyce

3<sup>rd</sup> Period

Ms. Munley

# Table of Contents

- ▣ Renaissance – 1485- 1680
- ▣ Enlightenment – 1650- 1800
- ▣ Romanticism – 1798 – 1870
- ▣ Realism – 1820-1920
- ▣ Victorian Period – 1837- 1901
- ▣ Modernism – 1910 – 1965
- ▣ Post-Modernism – 1965- Present

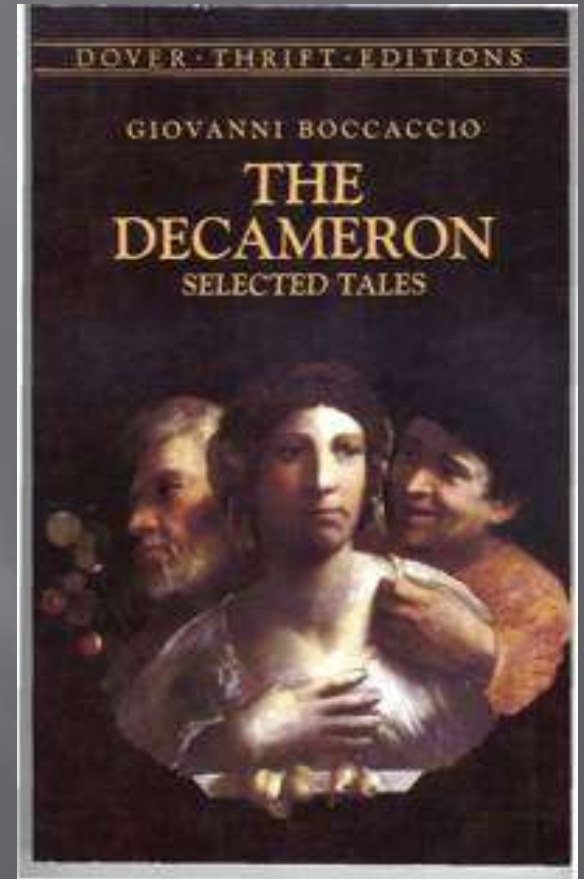
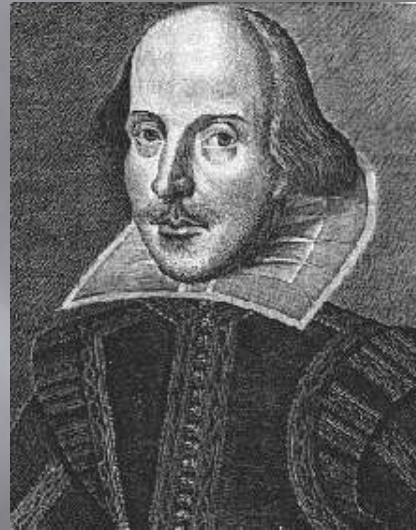
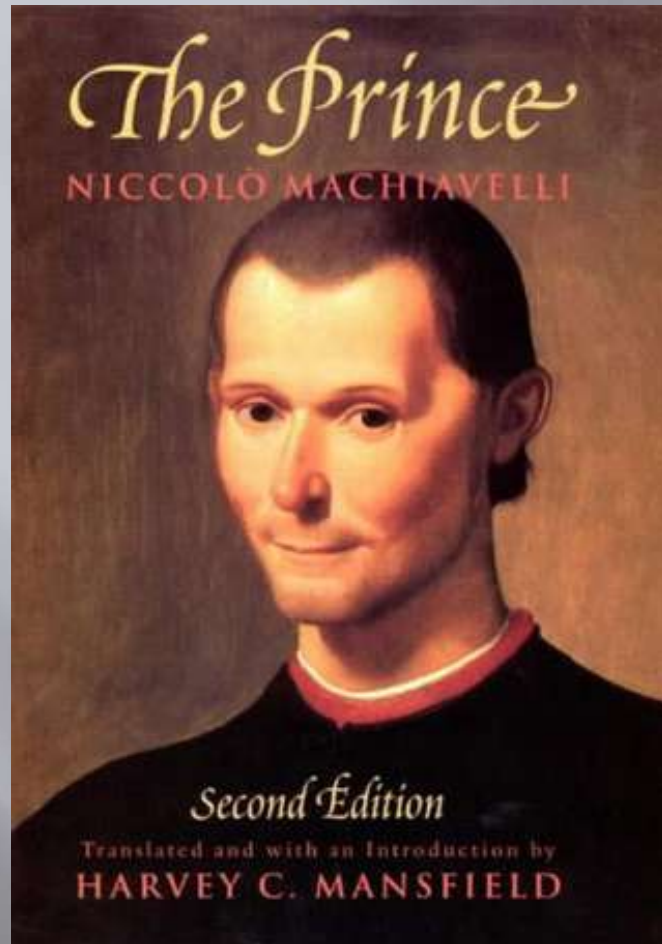
# Renaissance

- ▣ The creation of the printing press by Johannes Guttenberg in 1440 allowed for much of the literature during this time to be read by a much larger audience.
- ▣ With the new wave of knowledge, many writers of this time period drew on classical methods and styles from the ancient greats. These included Aristotle, Homer, Plato, and Socrates. Some Romans that were modeled were Cicero, Horace, Sallust, and Virgil.
- ▣ Politics were often an influence on Renaissance literature. Some writers wrote directly about politics, and gave advice to rulers, seen by Niccolo Machiavelli's famous work, The Prince.
- ▣ Another source of inspiration was Christianity, which had immense influence during this time.

# Important Renaissance Works

- ▣ Miguel de Cervantes, *Don Quixote*
- ▣ William Shakespeare, *Hamlet, Macbeth, Romeo and Juliet*
- ▣ Niccolo Michiavelli, *The Prince*
- ▣ Giovanni Boccaccio, *The Decameron*
- ▣ Petrarch, *Canzoniere, Trionfi*
- ▣ Sir Francis Bacon, *New Atlantis*
- ▣ Sir Thomas More, *Utopia*
- ▣ John Milton, *Paradise Lost*
- ▣ Christopher Marlowe, *Doctor Faustus*





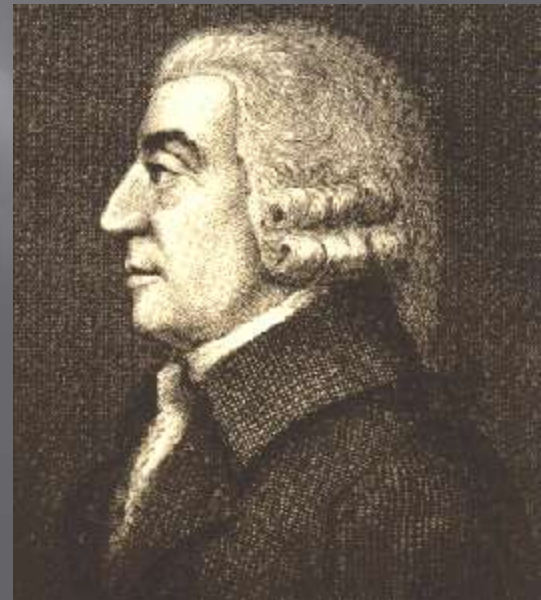
# The Enlightenment Period

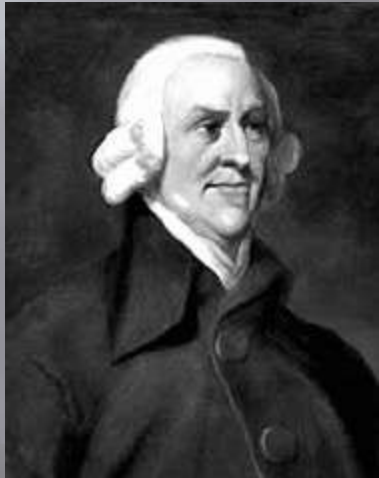
- ▣ This period in literature is marked by new emphasis on logic and intellectualism
- ▣ Writers put more attention to useful rather than abstract thought, and expressed desires for improving the conditions of humanity through tolerance, freedom, and equality.
- ▣ With the reason of reason and logic, many writers began to question the established churches of the time, and a rise of deism was seen during this time.
- ▣ The philosophes in France during this time were important to the period and contributed many new thoughts characteristic of the Enlightenment.
- ▣ The rising middle class during this time made their preferences of prose novels and short stories significant literary genres.



# Works of the Enlightenment

- ▣ Montesqueiu, *Spirit of the Laws*
- ▣ John Locke, *An Essay Concerning Human Understanding*
- ▣ Marry Wollstonecraft, *A Vindication of the Rights of Woman*
- ▣ Adam Smith, *The Wealth of Nations*
- ▣ Daniel Defoe, *Robinson Crusoe*
- ▣ Voltaire, *Candide*
- ▣ Denis Diderot, *Encyclopedie*





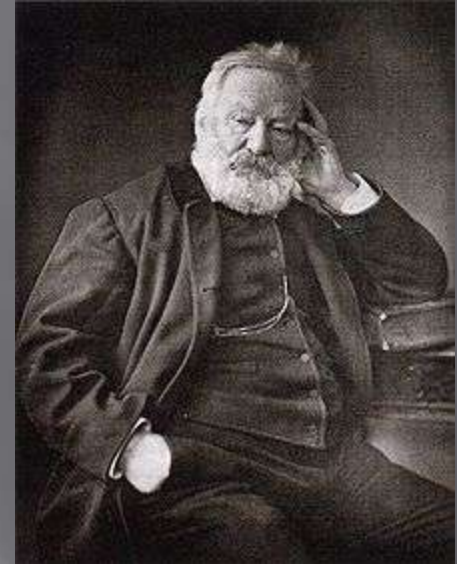


# Romanticism

- ▣ This period was a movement away from the enlightenment focus of reason and logic, focusing more on imagination and emotions instead.
- ▣ Key characteristics of this period include an interest in the common man and childhood, emotions and feelings, the awe of nature, emphasis on the individual, myths, and the importance of the imagination.
- ▣ Symbolism was seen as superior because they could suggest many things instead of the direct interpretations of allegories
- ▣ Instead of the scientific view of the universe as a machine, romanticism saw it as organic, such as a living tree.

# Romantic authors

- ▣ Mary Shelley, *Frankenstein*
- ▣ Victor Hugo, *Les Miserables*
- ▣ Samuel Taylor Coleridge, *Lyrical Ballads*
- ▣ Friedrich Schlegel, *Lucinde*
- ▣ Lord Byron, *Childe Harold's Pilgrimage*
- ▣ Johann Wolfgang von Goethe, *Faust*
- ▣ Sir Walter Scott, *Tales of the Crusaders*
- ▣ Thomas Carlyle, *On Heroes and Hero-Worship*
- ▣ Chateaubriand, *Genius of Christianity*
- ▣ Hegel, *Phenomenology of Mind*



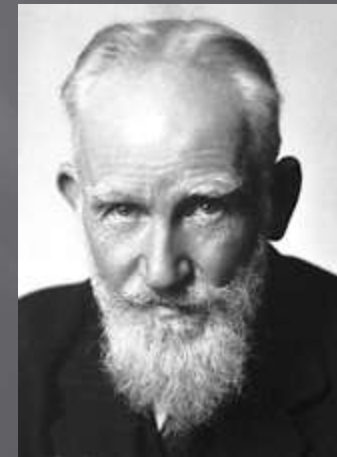


# Realism

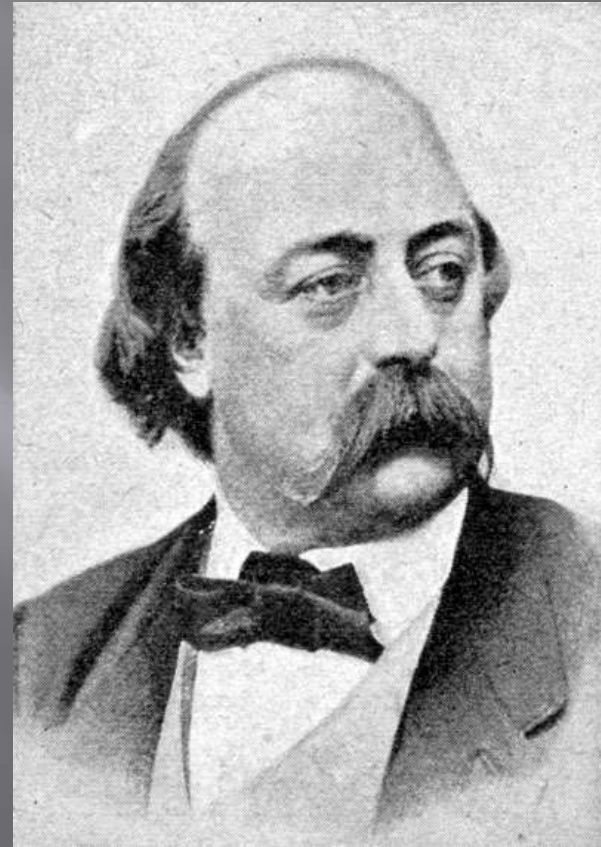
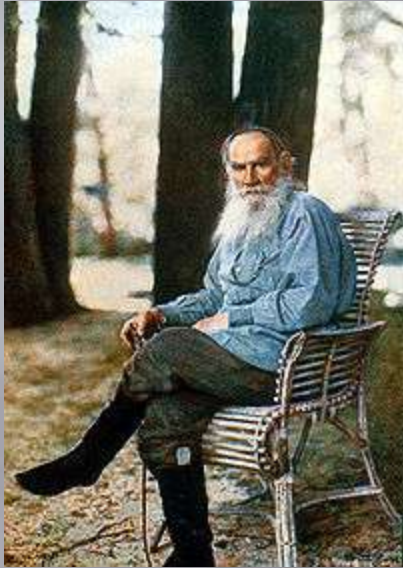
- ▣ The realist movement portrayed the hypocrisy, brutality, and dullness of life for the bourgeois.
- ▣ Scientific objectivity and observation were used to influence literature during the period of realism.
- ▣ Realism often confronted readers with the harsh realities that life had to offer.
- ▣ This movement rejected the idealization of nature, the poor, love, and polite society during the romantic period and instead showed the dark side of life.
- ▣ Some writers portrayed the cruelty of the developing industrialism in Europe during this time.

# Realist writers

- ▣ Gustave Flaubert, *Madame Bovary*
- ▣ Henrik Ibsen, *A Doll's House*
- ▣ George Benard Shaw, *Mrs. Warren's Profession*
- ▣ Charles Dickens, *The Adventures of Oliver Twist*
- ▣ Claude Bernard, *Introduction to the Study of Experimental Science*
- ▣ Emile Zola, *L'Assommoir*
- ▣ Fyodor Dostoyevsky, *Crime and Punishment*
- ▣ Leo Tolstoy, *War and Peace*







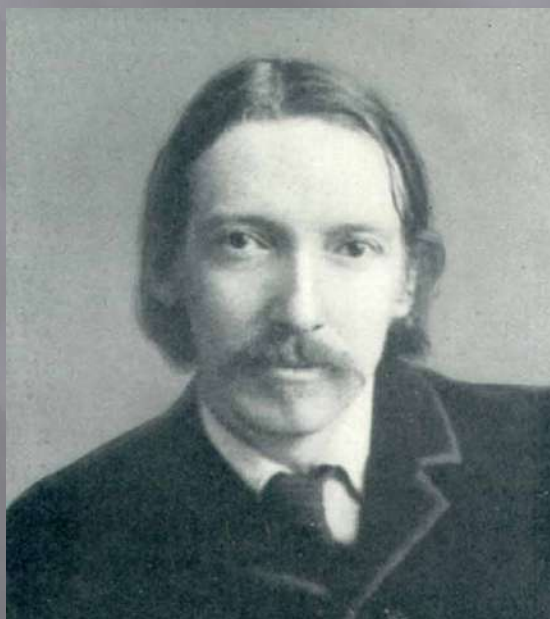
# Victorian Period

- ▣ The Victorian Period showed a much more sober view of idealism than the visionary view seen in Romanticism.
- ▣ The Victorian saw nature as harsh and cruel, contrasting the kind and harmonious view during the Romantic era.
- ▣ Some focuses of this era were the middle class, reality, work, and nations as a whole instead of the individual.
- ▣ The trinity of the Victorian period was religion, science and morality.
- ▣ Some of the values were earnestness, respectability, utilitarianism, and a strong emphasis on duty.
- ▣ Major ideas of this period of literature included the glorification of war, expansion of empires, industrialism, economic prosperity, and reform.

# Victorian Period writers

- ▣ Robert Browning
- ▣ Robert Louis Stevenson, *Treasure Island*
- ▣ Oscar Wilde, *The Importance of Being Earnest*
- ▣ George Eliot
- ▣ Elizabeth Barret Browning
- ▣ Emily Bronte, *Wuthering Heights*
- ▣ Thomas Hardy
- ▣ Charles Dickens, *Oliver Twist*
- ▣ Matthew Arnold
- ▣ Gerard Manley Hopkins
- ▣ Anthony Trollope, *Chronicles of Barsetshire*
- ▣ Lord Alfred Tennyson





# Modernism

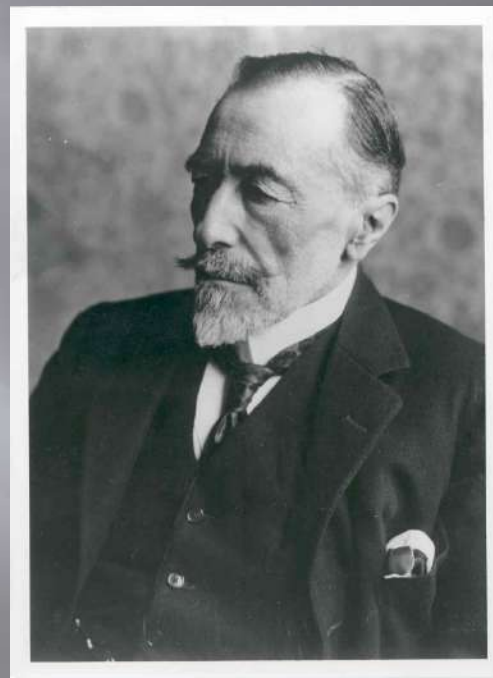
- ▣ Like the period of Realism, Modernism was also critical of middle class society and morality, but wasn't concerned by social issues like Realism was.
- ▣ Modernism was characterized as having a concern for the aesthetic and beautiful.
- ▣ Many English writers challenged the values of the Victorian time period.
- ▣ While it arose before World War I, it would flourish after it because of the immense turmoil and social problems it created.
- ▣ Experimentation and individualism become virtues, while they had been discouraged in the past.
- ▣ This period was marked by quick and unexpected shifts from traditional ways of viewing the world.



# Modernist writers

- ▣ Virginia Woolf, *A Room of One's Own*
- ▣ Leonard Woolf
- ▣ James Joyce, *Ulysses*
- ▣ Franz Kafka
- ▣ William Butler Yeats, *The Tower*
- ▣ Joseph Conrad, *Heart of Darkness*
- ▣ D. H. Lawrence
- ▣ Alfred Döblin, *Berlin Alexanderplatz*
- ▣ Hugo von Hofmannsthal





# Postmodernism

- ▣ Postmodernism developed after World War II and utilized techniques such as fragmentation, paradox, and questionable narrators
- ▣ This was a reaction against Enlightenment ideas that were seen in literature from Modernism
- ▣ Postmodernism tended to stray from the neatly tied-up ending in modernism, and celebrated chance over craft.
- ▣ Questioning of the distinctions between low and high culture through a jumble of various ingredients, known as pastiche, that before wasn't seen as appropriate for literature
- ▣ Metafiction was also often employed to undermine the writer's authority

# Postmodernist works

- ▣ Vladimir Nabokov, *Mother Night*
- ▣ John Fowles, *The French Lieutenant's Woman*
- ▣ Venedikt Erofeev, *Moscow-Petushki*
- ▣ Roald Dahl, *Charlie and the Chocolate Factory*
- ▣ George Perec, *Life: A User's Manual*
- ▣ Italo Calvino, *If on a winter's night a traveler*
- ▣ Alasdair Gray, *Lanark: A Life in Four Books*
- ▣ Alan Moore, *Watchmen*
- ▣ Dmitry Galkovsky, *The Infinite Deadlock*
- ▣ Umberto Eco, *Foucault's Pendulum*
- ▣ Walter Abish, *How German Is It*







# Works Cited

- ▣ "Characteristics of Romanticism." NCTE. Web. 19 Mar. 2012.  
<[http://www.readwritethink.org/files/resources/lesson\\_images/lesson1142/CharacteristicsRomanticism.pdf](http://www.readwritethink.org/files/resources/lesson_images/lesson1142/CharacteristicsRomanticism.pdf)>.
- ▣ "Characteristics of Victorian Era Literature." Web. 19 Mar. 2012.  
<[http://teachers.ewrsd.k12.nj.us/savedoff/humanities\\_9/victorian/characteristics\\_of\\_victorian\\_era.htm](http://teachers.ewrsd.k12.nj.us/savedoff/humanities_9/victorian/characteristics_of_victorian_era.htm)>.
- ▣ "Early Periods of Literature." Web. 19 Mar. 2012.  
<[http://web.cn.edu/kwheeler/documents/Periods\\_Lit\\_History.pdf](http://web.cn.edu/kwheeler/documents/Periods_Lit_History.pdf)>.
- ▣ Kagan, Donald, Steven E. Ozment, and Frank M. Turner. *The Western Heritage: Since 1300*. Upper Saddle River, NJ: Pearson Prentice Hall, 2007. Print.
- ▣ "Literature, The 18th Century (Age of Enlightenment)." *The 18th Century (Age of Enlightenment)*. Web. 19 Mar. 2012.  
<[http://www.countriesquest.com/europe/france/culture/literature/the\\_18th\\_century\\_age\\_of\\_enlightenment.htm](http://www.countriesquest.com/europe/france/culture/literature/the_18th_century_age_of_enlightenment.htm)>.
- ▣ "Modernism." *Literature Periods & Movements*. Web. 19 Mar. 2012. <<http://www.online-literature.com/periods/modernism.php>>.
- ▣ "Postmodern Literature." *Wikipedia*. Wikimedia Foundation, 16 Mar. 2012. Web. 19 Mar. 2012. <[http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Postmodern\\_literature](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Postmodern_literature)>.
- ▣ "Romanticism." Web. 19 Mar. 2012.  
<<http://academic.brooklyn.cuny.edu/english/melani/cs6/rom.html>>.
- ▣ "Victorian Period A Time Of Change." *Classic Literature*. Web. 19 Mar. 2012.  
<[http://classiclit.about.com/od/victorianliteratu/a/aa\\_victorian.htm](http://classiclit.about.com/od/victorianliteratu/a/aa_victorian.htm)>.