

AMERICAN LITERATURE

American Literary Periods

Literary Period	Timeframe	Characteristics
Romanticism	Mid-19 th century	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Feeling more important than reason • Importance of the individual • Elements of the supernatural • Appreciation of beauty of nature • Personal introspection
Transcendentalism	Mid-19 th century	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Offshoot of Romanticism • Self-reliance, non-conformism • Seeks sublime in ordinary • Seeks self-perfection • Desire to transcend above the ordinary
Realism	Mid- to late 19 th century	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Pre- and post-Civil War • Rejects sentimentality • Represent true life experience, including the way people really acted and spoke • Avoid flowery diction • Opposes Romanticism • Beginning of rise of women's movement
Regionalism	19 th century	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Extension of Realism • Focus on local settings, customs, dialects
Naturalism	19 th century	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Extension of Realism • Dark themes: crime, poverty, prejudice, etc. • Wants to understand scientific or psychological reasons for behavior
Imagism	Early 20 th century	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Poetry movement • Use images as the things themselves • Willingness to play with forms
The Lost Generation	1914-	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A phrase coined by Gertrude Stein but made popular by Ernest Hemingway • Refers to the generation who lost fathers, husbands, sons, and brothers in WWI • Feelings of aimlessness • Disillusioned by traditional American values • Became expatriots, who left the US for Europe, Mexico, and elsewhere (Paris was a popular destination.)
The Harlem Renaissance	1920s	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Explosion of African-American visual arts, dance, music, and literature • Primarily centered in Harlem, NY • Langston Hughes is a symbol of the period.
Modernism	1918-1945	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Period between the end of WW I and the end of WW II

MOVEMENTS

- **Regionalism:** refers to works that describe a distinctive local geography and culture, and to movements that value smaller-scaled representations of place over representations of broad territorial range.
 - ❖ gained popularity in the mid to late 19th century into the early 20th century
 - ❖ Authors: Mark Twain, Mary Austin, Wendell Berry, George Washington Cable, Erskine Caldwell
- **Naturalism:** a type of literature that attempts to apply scientific principles of objectivity and detachment to its study of human beings.
 - ❖ Late 19th century
 - ❖ Rejection of Romanticism
 - ❖ Authors: Mark Twain, Henry James, Kate Chopin, Edgar Allan Poe
- **Transcendentalism:** traditional morality by leading the individual to seek direct contact with divinity in nature. Movement of literature and philosophy.
 - ❖ 19th century
 - ❖ Authors: Henry David Thoreau and Ralph Waldo Emerson
 - ❖ An example of transcendentalism is the belief that man is at his best when he is independent, and not a part of organized religion or politics.
- **Romanticism:** characterized by its emphasis on emotion and individualism as well as glorification of all the past and nature, preferring the medieval rather than the classical. It was partly a reaction to the Industrial Revolution, the aristocratic social and political norms of the Age of Enlightenment, and the scientific rationalization of nature—all components of modernity
 - ❖ 1830-1865
 - ❖ Authors: Edgar Allan Poe and Nathaniel Hawthorne
- **Colonial:**
 - ❖ Late 16th century: 1583-1763
 - ❖ literature emerged from the original U.S. colonies
 - ❖ largely influenced by British writers
 - ❖ Many of the characteristics of colonial American literature can be found in the poems, journals, letters, narratives, histories and teaching materials written by settlers and religious and historic figures of the period.
 - ❖ Puritans (Religion is prominent)
 - The Puritans wrote about the religious foundations of many of their settlements, especially the exodus from Britain, and employed the constant theme that God should be worshiped.
 - They also used texts that prepared them for worship.
 - Anne Bradstreet's poetry, the "Bay Psalm Book," and Pastor Edward Taylor's "Preparatory Meditations" are good examples of religious texts of the era
 - It was this type of writing that led to the Puritanism and Great Awakening movements.
 - Non-Puritan writers also used religion to show the religious tension between the colonial settlers and Native Americans.
 - ❖ characterized by the narrative, which was used extensively during this period
 - ❖ Authors: Mary Rowlandson, William Bradford, Anne Bradstreet and John Winthrop, Cotton Mather, Johnathan Edwards, Benjamin Franklin (Poor Richard almanac), Thomas Paine (Common Sense)

➤ **Nineteenth century**

- ❖ After the American Revolution, and increasingly after the War of 1812, American writers were exhorted to produce literature that was truly native.
- ❖ Authors: William Cullen Bryant, Washington Irving, James Fenimore Cooper, and Edgar Allan Poe
- ❖ Transcendentalism
- ❖ Regionalism (late 19th century)
- ❖ Naturalism (late 19th century)
- ❖ Romanticism (mid-19th century)

➤ **Modern**

- ❖ late 19th and early 20th centuries
- ❖ characterized by a break with traditional styles of poetry and verse. Modernists experimented with literary form and expression
- ❖ Authors: Knut Hamsun, Vladimir Nabokov, T. S. Eliot, James Joyce, William Faulkner, Ernest Hemingway, Franz Kafka, Joseph Conrad, Virginia Woolf, Andrei Bely, W.B. Yeats, F. Scott Fitzgerald, Ezra Pound, D.H. Lawrence, Katherine Mansfield, Gertrude Stein, Samuel Beckett, Menno ter Braak, Marcel Proust, Thomas Mann, Mikhail Bulgakov, Robert Frost and Boris Pasternak.

➤ **contemporary periods**

- ❖ The Contemporary Literature period in our literary history is a period of change and self-awareness.
- ❖ took place after World War Two, with some of the most famous artists and writers that are known to us as readers.
- ❖ a time of great romantic art and great writings.
- ❖ Authors: Thomas Pynchon, Toni Morrison, and Stephen King, who have produced some of the best novels ever read. The time period lasted into the 60s with these writers and many more.

➤ **American Renaissance period**

- ❖ In the 1830's, the American Renaissance started, and for which continued approximately till the end of the American Civil War.
- ❖ mostly descriptive of an expression of a national spirit
- ❖ known as a "Romantic Period in Literature."
- ❖ Authors: Henry Wadsworth Longfellow, Oliver Wendel Holmes, and James Russell Lowell

AUTHORS

➤ F. Scott Fitzgerald

- ❖ an American fiction writer, whose works helped to illustrate the flamboyance and excess of the Jazz Age. While he achieved popular success, fame, and fortune in his lifetime, he did not receive much critical acclaim until after his death. Perhaps the most notable member of the "Lost Generation" of the 1920s, Fitzgerald is now widely regarded as one of the greatest American writers of the 20th century. He finished four novels: *This Side of Paradise*, *The Beautiful and Damned*, *The Great Gatsby*, and *Tender Is the Night*. A fifth, unfinished novel, *The Last Tycoon*, was published posthumously. Four collections of his short stories were published, as well as 164 short stories in magazines during his lifetime. invites the reader to experience the intensity of his messages. One style element that F. Scott Fitzgerald is widely known for is his descriptive language. The way he uses striking adjectives creates a vivid picture for the reader. Fitzgerald uses his descriptive style to reveal qualities of his characters.
- ❖ **Famous works:** *This Side of Paradise*, *The Beautiful and Damned*, *The Great Gatsby*, and *Tender Is the Night*

➤ Ernest Hemingway

- ❖ an American journalist, novelist, short-story writer, and sportsman. His economical and understated style—which he termed the iceberg theory—had a strong influence on 20th-century fiction, while his adventurous lifestyle and his public image brought him admiration from later generations. Hemingway produced most of his work between the mid-1920s and the mid-1950s, and he won the Nobel Prize in Literature in 1954. He published seven novels, six short-story collections, and two nonfiction works. Three of his novels, four short-story collections, and three nonfiction works were published posthumously. Many of his works are considered classics of American literature.
- ❖ Iceberg theory: a literary style in which the story's deeper meaning should not be clear on the surface. Instead of understanding books meaning by what's given on a page, the deeper meaning is understood indirectly.
- ❖ **Famous works:** *The Torrents of Spring*, *The Sun Also Rises*, *A Farewell to Arms*, *To Have and Have Not*, *For Whom the Bell Tolls*, *Across the River and Into the Trees*, *The Old Man and the Sea*, *Adventures of a Young Man*, *Islands in the Stream*, *The Garden of Eden*

➤ Zora Neale Hurston

- ❖ an American author, anthropologist, and filmmaker. She portrayed racial struggles in the early-1700s American South and published research on hoodoo. The most popular of her four novels is *Their Eyes Were Watching God*, published in 1937. She also wrote more than 50 short stories, plays, and essays.
- ❖ American folklorist and writer associated with the Harlem Renaissance
- ❖ **Famous works:** *Mules and Men*, *Their Eyes Were Watching God*, and *Moses, Man of the Mountain*.

➤ John Steinbeck

- ❖ an American author. He won the 1962 Nobel Prize in Literature "for his realistic and imaginative writings, combining as they do sympathetic humor and keen social perception." He has been called "a giant of American letters," and many of his works are considered classics of Western literature.
- ❖ **Famous works:** *Of Mice and Men*, *The Grapes of Wrath*, *East of Eden*

➤ **James Baldwin**

- ❖ an American novelist, playwright, essayist, poet, and activist. His essays, as collected in *Notes of a Native Son* (1955), explore intricacies of racial, sexual, and class distinctions in Western societies, but most notably in mid-20th-century North America. Some of Baldwin's essays are book-length, including *The Fire Next Time* (1963), *No Name in the Street* (1972), and *The Devil Finds Work* (1976). An unfinished manuscript, *Remember This House*, was expanded and adapted for cinema as the Academy Award–nominated documentary film *I Am Not Your Negro*. One of his novels, *If Beale Street Could Talk*, was adapted into an Academy Award-winning dramatic film in 2018 directed and produced by filmmaker Barry Jenkins.
- ❖ **Famous works:** *If Beale Street Could Talk*, *Go Tell It on the Mountain*, *Giovanni's Room*

➤ **Ralph Ellison**

- ❖ an American novelist, literary critic, and scholar best known for his novel *Invisible Man*, which won the National Book Award in 1953. He also wrote *Shadow and Act* (1964), a collection of political, social and critical essays, and *Going to the Territory* (1986). For *The New York Times*, the best of these essays in addition to the novel put him "among the gods of America's literary Parnassus." A posthumous novel, *Juneteenth*, was published after being assembled from voluminous notes he left upon his death.
- ❖ **Famous works:** *Invisible Man*, *Juneteenth*, *Shadow and Act*

Nathaniel Hawthorne (1804-1864)

- Romanticism
- New England Craftsman
- Attended Bowdoin College in Maine
- Married Sophia Peabody
- Believed evil exist
- Stories are dark and gloomy
- Pessimistic outlook (believe that the worst will happen)
- Influenced H. Melville (author of *Moby Dick*)

Famous Works:

- ❖ The Scarlett Letter
- ❖ The House of Seven Gables
- ❖ Young Goodman Brown
- ❖ The Minister's Black Veil

The Scarlet Letter

Set in 17th century Puritan colony. Hester Prynne is accused of adultery and has a daughter, Pearl. The young minister, Arthur Dimmesdale is the father. Her husband sent her to America before him, but he never arrived. He was kidnapped by natives and learned their medicine ways. When he arrived at the village, Hester had Pearl and he suspected the father was Dimmesdale. He changed his name to Chillingworth and became the town dr. Dimmesdale was racked with guilt and became sick. Chillingworth moved in with Dimmesdale to take care of him but tortured him with guilt. Dimmesdale

and Hester decided to run away but Dimmesdale dies after revealing to the town he is Pearl's father and some mysterious item on his chest.

Young Goodman Brown

Young Goodman Brown, a young and innocent man, bids farewell to his young wife, Faith. Faith asks him to stay, but Goodman Brown says he must leave, just for the evening. He ventures into the gloomy forest of Salem and is soon approached by a man of about fifty, to whom he bears a strange resemblance. His companion wore simple clothing but carried a staff that resembled a great black snake and seemed to move like a living serpent. Time and again, Goodman Brown protests the trip, insisting that he must turn around. But his companion tells him that his father and grandfather had walked along the same path, as well as other important townspeople, such as the governor. Goodman Brown continues to follow. Along the path, they see a woman, Goody Cloyse, who taught Goodman Brown his catechism. His companion begins to resemble the devil, while the woman, a witch. The staff, too, seems to take life. After a while, Goodman Brown sits down, determined to not go any farther. His companions go ahead without him. As he sits, Goodman Brown thinks he hears the minister and Deacon Gookin on horseback discussing the night's meeting and a young woman who would be taken into communion that night. Goodman Brown begins to hear voices, and among them, the lamentations of Faith. He shouts her name, but hears only an echo, and then silence. A pink ribbon – Faith's ribbon – flutters down from above. "Maddened with despair", Goodman Brown rushes forth into the forest, laughing louder and louder, until he reaches the gathering. There, he sees an altar, surrounded by four blazing trees. Many of the town's most honorable members were present, as were some of the least welcomed – the sinners and criminals. Goodman Brown is led to the altar, where a cloaked female figure is also led. A dark figure prepares to welcome them into the fold, pointing to the crowd behind them - the crowd Young Goodman Brown had revered from youth. The figure revealed them all as sinners, noting that "evil is the nature of mankind. Evil must be your only happiness". The cloaked woman is revealed to be Faith. Before the figure could lay the mark of baptism on Goodman Brown, he called to Faith to "look up to Heaven and resist the wicked one." Immediately, he finds himself alone in the forest. The next morning, Goodman Brown arrives back in town, bewildered about the events from the previous night. He runs into many people he saw in the forest – the Deacon, Goody Cloyse - all acting as if nothing had happened. He sees Faith but passes without acknowledging her. Since the "night of that fearful dream" Goodman Brown became a dark and gloomy man, who saw nothing but blasphemy all around him

The Minister's Black Veil

One day, Parson Hooper, the reverend of Milford, arrives at mass on the Sabbath with a black veil covering his eyes. The townspeople immediately begin to gossip; some say that he has gone mad, while others believe he is covering a shameful sin. The Minister, however, acknowledges neither his own strange appearance nor the shocked and curious whispering of the townspeople. An energetic preacher, Hooper delivers a sermon that was as powerful as the rest – but, due to his veil, the people felt a certain sadness and mysteriousness in his words. Following the sermon, the townspeople continued to gossip about the mystery of the veil. Mr. Hooper continued to act as always, greeting the children and saluting his neighbors. But he was met with bewildered looks as the crowd avoided him. As he turned, a sad smile crept from underneath his veil. The minister appears again at two important ceremonies. First, he attends a funeral, where the people continue to fearfully gossip that the dead woman shuddered under the minister's gaze. That evening, he attends a wedding, and casts a dark horror over the lively event. Mr. Hooper makes a toast to the couple, but in doing so, catches his own reflection in the glass, a sight so frightful that he spilled the wine and left immediately. His lover, Elizabeth, attempts to uncover the mystery that none had yet been able to solve. In response to her questions, though, Hooper only

maintains that the veil is a symbol that he is bound to wear day and night, and that no mortal shall ever see it withdrawn. Even Elizabeth, he says, cannot see his face. She inquires as to whether the veil is to demonstrate sorrow or sin. He replies that "if I hide my face for sorrow, there is cause enough, and if I cover it for secret sin, what mortal might not do the same?" He asks Elizabeth not to desert him and tells her that he is lonely behind the veil. She asks him to lift the veil just once, but he refuses. At her departure, Hooper smiles sadly again. For the rest of his life, Hooper was conscious of the fear his veil instilled in the townspeople. It hurt him when children ran from him, and when rumors surfaced of a terrible crime he was hiding. He as "irreproachable in outward act, yet shrouded in dismal suspicious; kind and loving, though unloved and dimly feared; a man apart from men, shunned in their health and joy, but ever summon to their aid in mortal anguish." At Hooper's deathbed, Reverend Clark prays that Hooper allow the veil to be lifted. But Hooper resists with surprising strength. Still bearing his sad smile, Hooper accuses the rest of the crowd, asking why they tremble at him alone. All the townspeople have avoided him and show him no pity, he says. They are all hypocrites, as they all wear "black veils" and shield their eyes from God when they confide in others. Hopper dies and is buried with his black veil, his eyes forever covered.

Washington Irving (1783-1859)

- American author
- "Father of American Literature"
- Romanticism
- Used personas to publish stories

Famous Works:

- ❖ The Legend of Sleepy Hallow
- ❖ Rip Van Winkle

The Legend of Sleepy Hallow (short story)

- Written by persona Diedrich Knickerbocker
- Ichabod Crane (school master)
- Katrina Van Tassel (rich)
- Brom Bones (rival)

At a party, Brom tells the tale of the headless horseman. Brom uses the tale to play a prank on Ichabod because they are both pursuing Katrina. On the way home, Ichabod is chased by the headless horseman. As he crosses the bridge, the horseman throws his pumpkin head at Ichabod, hitting him in the head and throwing him off his horse. Afterwards, Ichabod is never found.

Rip Van Winkle (Short story)

- Rip Van Winkle (kind and generous, hates to work)
- Dame Van Winkle (Rip's nagging wife)
- Judith Gardner (Rip's grown daughter)

Rip hates to work and is nagged by his wife. He follows a stranger carrying a keg up the mountain. On the mountain, he watches a group of strangers play 9 pin and drink liquor. Afterwards, he falls asleep

and sleeps for 20 years. When he wakes up, he returns to the village and meets Judith Gardner and her baby Rip. Judith is Rip's grown daughter.

Herman Melville (1819-1891)

- American Renaissance
- Albany Classical School
- Worked as a sailor and in the navy
- Wrote about adventures at sea
- Dedicated *Moby Dick* to Hawthorne

Famous Works:

- ❖ Moby Dick
- ❖ Bartleby, the Scrivener

Moby Dick

Sailor Ishmael's narrative of the obsessive quest of Ahab, captain of the whaling ship Pequod, for revenge on Moby Dick, the giant white sperm whale that on the ship's previous voyage bit off Ahab's leg at the knee.

Bartleby, the Scrivener

A Wall Street lawyer hires a new clerk who, after an initial bout of hard work, refuses to make copies or do any other task required of him, with the words "I would prefer not to."

Edgar Allan Poe 1809-1849

- American Gothic
- Horror, suspense, mystery/detective stories
- Poetry
- Adopted by the Allan family (abandoned by family due to debt)
- Married 13-year-old cousin
- Died at age of 40 under mysterious circumstances

Famous Works:

- ❖ The Raven
- ❖ The Tell-Tale Heart
- ❖ The Fall of the House of Usher
- ❖ Annabel Lee
- ❖ The Cask of Amontillado
- ❖ The Masque of the Red Death

Mark Twain 1835-1910

- Realism
- Born Samuel Clemens
- Worked on a steamboat
- Married Olivia Langdon

Famous Works:

- ❖ Life on the Mississippi
- ❖ Adventures of Huckleberry Finn
- ❖ The Adventures of Tom Sawyer

Kate Chopin 1850-1904

- Realism
- Feminist Literature

Famous Works:

- ❖ The Awakening
- ❖ The Story of an Hour

The Awakening

- Edith: Protagonist. Middle class wife and mother. Bored with life. Has an affair and leaves husband and children to find herself. Her lover Robert tells her he can't be with her because she is married and leaves her. She returns to the lake where her affair first began and drowns herself in the water.

The Story of an Hour

Follows Louise Mallard as she deals with the news that her husband, Brently Mallard, has died. After being informed of her husband's tragic death in a railroad accident by Richards, a close friend of Brently, Louise reacts with immediate grief. Louise heads to her room and gradually comes to the realization that she is happy that her husband died. Though she bore no animosity towards her husband, the implications of his death include a new sense freedom for Mrs. Mallard. This realization of possibility the source of her joy. Later, she heads back downstairs, only to witness Brently coming home. Her joy turns to shock when at the sight of her husband and she dies as a result. "From the joy that kills."

Jack London 1876-1916

- Naturalism
- Grew up in poverty
- Raised by a former slave
- Went to Alaska for gold

- Variety of jobs that showed up in his writing
- Very successful writer

Famous Works:

- ❖ The Call of the Wild
- ❖ White Fang

The Call of the Wild

- Buck the dog
- Dognapped and abused
- Sold as a sled dog
- Other dogs are vicious

Walden by Henry David Thoreau (1854)

- Walden is a book by transcendentalist Henry David Thoreau.
- A series of 18 essays
- Important contribution to transcendentalism
- the book was a record of Thoreau's experiment in simple living on the northern shore of Walden Pond in eastern Massachusetts
- The text is a reflection upon simple living in natural surroundings. The work is part personal declaration of independence, social experiment, voyage of spiritual discovery, satire, and—to some degree—a manual for self-reliance.

Narrative of the Life of Frederick Douglass, an American Slave Memoir by Frederick Douglass (1845)

- First attempt at writing his autobiography
- Tells the story of growing up as a slave, escaping slavery, and becoming self-aware.
- Born 1818 but never knew this information when alive
- When he was young, his mother was sent to work on another plantation. Only met her a few times before she died when he was seven.
- Didn't know who his father was except it was a white man. Was suspected that it was his owner, Colonel Lloyd.

The Red Badge of Courage by Stephen Crane (1895)

- War novel
- Taking place during the American Civil War
- the story is about a young private of the Union Army, Henry Fleming, who flees from the field of battle.
- Overcome with shame, he longs for a wound, a "red badge of courage," to counteract his cowardice.
- When his regiment once again faces the enemy, Henry acts as standard-bearer, who carries a flag.

Uncle Tom's Cabin by Harriet Beecher Stowe (1852)

- Arthur Shelby must sell 2 slaves due to debt: Uncle Tom and Harry
- Emily Shelby promised her maid (Eliza) she would not sell her son Harry
- Tom is George Shelby's friend and mentor
- Eliza finds out and runs away with her son
- Tom saves a white girl name Eva, so her father buys him
- Eliza meets up with her husband George Harris and they head for Canada but are tracked by Tom Loker. Loker traps Eliza and George shoots him
- St. Clare promises to free Tom but is stabbed to death before it happens
- Tom is then sold to Simon Legree
- Legree beats Tom for refusing to whip the other slaves
- Loker has a change of heart and helps George, Eliza, and Harry get to Canada
- Slaves Cassy and Emmeline escape and Tom refuses to tell Legree where they are. Legree orders his death.
- George Shelby arrives to by Tom but is too late. He returns home and frees all his slaves

The Jungle by Upton Sinclair (1906)

- Jurgis Ruskus: Protagonist, Lithuanian immigrant. Takes a job at a slaughterhouse. Jurgis had thought the US would offer more freedom, but he finds working-conditions harsh. He and his young wife struggle to survive as they fall deeply into debt and become prey to con men. Hoping to buy a house, they exhaust their savings on the down payment for a substandard slum house, which they cannot afford. The family is eventually evicted after their money is taken. Jurgis' father dies due to unsafe work conditions at the meatpacking plant. One of the children, Kristoforas, dies from food poisoning. Jonas—the other remaining adult male aside from Jurgis—disappears and is never heard from again. Then an injury results in Jurgis being fired from the meatpacking plant; he later takes a job at Durham's fertilizer plant. The family's breakdown progresses as Jurgis discovers an arrangement in which Ona (Jurgis' wife) has traded regular sexual favors to Phil Connor, Jurgis' boss, in exchange for being allowed to keep her job. In revenge, Jurgis attacks Connor, resulting in his arrest and imprisonment.

Fahrenheit 451 by Ray Bradbury (1953)

- Dystopian
- Set in future, books are bad, independent thinking is bad. Fireman track down books and burns them. One fireman, Montag, steals a book to read and decides they are not bad and in turn must run for his life.

To Kill a Mockingbird by Harper Lee (1960)

- Scouts recount for how Jim broke his arm. Tom Robinson is on trial for rape of a white girl. Scout comes to understand racism. Even though the evidence proves Tom did not do it, he is still convicted. Tom tries to escape from prison and is shot. Scout is attacked by Bob Ewell and Boo Radley saves her.

The Giver by Lois Lowry (1993)

- Dystopian
- Set in a society which at first appears to be utopian but is revealed to be dystopian as the story progresses. The novel follows a 12-year-old boy named Jonas. The society has taken away pain and strife by converting to "Sameness", a plan that has also eradicated emotional depth from their lives. Jonas is selected to inherit the position of Receiver of Memory, the person who stores all the memories of the time before Sameness, as there may be times where one must draw upon the wisdom gained from history to aid the community's decision making. Jonas struggles with concepts of all the new emotions and things introduced to him: whether they are inherently good, evil, or in between, and whether it is even possible to have one without the other. The Community lacks any color, memory, climate, or terrain, all to preserve structure, order, and a true sense of equality beyond personal individuality.

The Hunger Games by Suzanne Collins (2008)

- Dystopian
- Society broke down into 12 sectors. To keep each sector in line, the Capital (the government) host an annual game which children die. Katniss volunteers to keep her sister safe.

BRITISH LITERATURE

Geoffrey Chaucer 1343-1400

- Middle English Period
- Widely considered the greatest English poet of the Middle Ages
- "Father of English literature"
- Philosopher
- Astronomer

Famous works:

- ❖ The Canterbury Tales
- ❖ The Knight's Tale

The Canterbury Tales

- a collection of 24 stories that runs to over 17,000 lines written
- *The Canterbury Tales* is a collection of tales describing a group of pilgrims who are traveling to the town of Canterbury to a shrine for the martyr Saint Thomas Becket. There are 29 pilgrims on the journey: the Knight, the Squire, the Yeoman, the Prioress, the Monk, the Friar, the Merchant, the Clerk, the Man of Law, the Franklin, the Haberdasher, the Carpenter, the Weaver, the Dyer, the Tapestry-Weaver, the Cook, the Shipman, the Physician, the Wife, the Parson, the Plowman, the Miller, the Manciple, the Reeve, the Summoner, the Pardoner, the Host, the Second Nun, and the Nun's Priest.

William Shakespeare 1564-1616

Famous Works:

- ❖ Romeo and Juliet (tragedy)
- ❖ Julius Caesar (tragedy)
- ❖ Othello (tragedy)
- ❖ Hamlet (tragedy)
- ❖ Macbeth (tragedy)
- ❖ Taming of the Shrew (comedy)
- ❖ A Midsummer Night's Dream (comedy)

William Blake 1757-1827

- Romanticism
- Poet, painter, and printmaker
- produced a diverse and symbolically rich oeuvre, which embraced the imagination as "the body of God" or "human existence itself".

Famous Works:

- ❖ Songs of Innocence

Jane Austen 1775-1817

- Romanticism/Victorian era
- English writer known for 6 major works
- Her use of biting irony, along with her realism, humor, and social commentary, have long earned her acclaim among critics, scholars, and popular audiences alike.

Famous Works:

- ❖ Pride and Prejudice
- ❖ Emma
- ❖ Sense and Sensibility

William Wordsworth 1770-1850

- Romantic poet
- Helped launch the Romantic Age in English literature

Famous Works:

- ❖ Lyrical Ballads

Thomas Hardy 1840-1928

- Victorian realist
- Novelist and poet
- Highly critical of the Victorian society, especially the declining status of the rural people in Britain

Famous Works:

- ❖ Tess of the D'Urbervilles
- ❖ Far from the Madding Crowd
- ❖ Jude the Obscure
- ❖ The Mayor of Casterbridge

William Butler Yeats 1865-1939

- Irish poet
- Irish literary renaissance
- literary Modernism

Famous Works:

- ❖ Leda and the Swan
- ❖ The Second Coming

George Eliot 1819-1880

- Novelist and poet
- Victorian era
- Real name: Mary Ann Evans

Famous Works:

- ❖ Adam Bede (1859)
- ❖ The Mill on the Floss (1860)
- ❖ Silas Marner (1861)
- ❖ Romola (1862–63)
- ❖ Felix Holt, the Radical (1866)
- ❖ Middlemarch (1871–72)
- ❖ Daniel Deronda (1876)

Virginia Woolf 1882-1941

- English writer
- Modern period
- Considered one of the most important modernist 20th-century authors and also a pioneer in the use of stream of consciousness as a narrative device.

Famous Works:

- ❖ Mrs. Dalloway (1925)
- ❖ Orlando: A Biography
- ❖ To the Lighthouse
- ❖ A Room of One's Own

Samuel Beckett 1906-1989

- Irish novelist, playwright, short story writer, theatre director, poet, and literary translator
- Wrote in both English and French
- Considered the last modernist writer

Famous Works:

- ❖ Waiting for Godot
- ❖ End Game

Jonathan Swift 1667-1745

- Anglo-Irish poet and satirist
- Restoration Period

Famous Works:

- ❖ A Modest Proposal
- ❖ Gulliver's Travels

Charles Dickens 1812-1870

- English writer and social critic
- Victorian era
- Regarded as the greatest novelist of the Victorian era

Famous Works:

- ❖ A Christmas Carol
- ❖ Oliver Twist
- ❖ Great Expectations
- ❖ David Copperfield
- ❖ Tale of Two Cities

Ellen Gaskell 1810-1865

- English novelist, biographer and short story writer
- Victorian Era
- Her novels offer a detailed portrait of the lives of many strata of Victorian society, including the very poor, and are of interest to social historians as well as readers of literature.

Wilfred Owen 1893-1918

- English poet and soldier
- Leading poet of WWI
- war poetry on the horrors of trenches and gas warfare

Famous Works:

- ❖ "Dulce et Decorum est"
- ❖ "Insensibility"
- ❖ "Anthem for Doomed Youth"
- ❖ "Futility"
- ❖ "Spring Offensive"
- ❖ "Strange Meeting".

Beowulf (1815)

- Old English Epic Poem
- Author unknown

Sir Gawain and the Green Knight

-

Paradise Lost (1667)

- Written by John Milton
- Epic poem in blank verse

Wuthering Heights (1847)

- Written by Emily Bronte under her pseudonym "Ellis Bell"
- Bronte's only finished novel

Frankenstein (1818)

- Written by Mary Shelley
- the story of Victor Frankenstein, a young scientist who creates a hideous sapient creature in an unorthodox scientific experiment.

Animal Farm (1945)

- Written by George Orwell
- Story of a group of farm animals who rebel against their human farmer, hoping to create a society where the animals can be equal, free, and happy.

Brave New World (1932)

- Written by Aldous Huxley
- Largely set in a futuristic World State, whose citizens are environmentally engineered into an intelligence-based social hierarchy, the novel anticipates huge scientific advancements in reproductive technology, sleep-learning, psychological manipulation and classical conditioning that are combined to make a dystopian society which is challenged by only a single individual: the story's protagonist.

Lord of the Flies (1954)

- Written by William Golding
- Focuses on a group of British boys stranded on an uninhabited island and their disastrous attempt to govern themselves.

BRITISH LITERARY PERIODS

- Old English (Anglo-Saxon) Period (450–1066)
 - Middle English Period (1066–1500)
 - The Renaissance (1500–1660)
 - The Neoclassical Period (1600–1785)
 - The Romantic Period (1785–1832)
 - The Victorian Period (1832–1901)
 - The Edwardian Period (1901–1914)
 - The Georgian Period (1910–1936)
 - The Modern Period (1914–?)
 - The Postmodern Period (1945–?)

Old English (Anglo-Saxon) Period (450–1066)

The term Anglo-Saxon comes from two Germanic tribes: The Angles and the Saxons. This period of literature dates back to their invasion (along with the Jutes) of Celtic England circa 450. The era ends in 1066 when Norman France, under William, conquered England.

Much of the first half of this period—prior to the seventh century, at least—had oral literature. A lot of the prose during this time was a translation of something else or otherwise legal, medical, or religious in nature; however, some works, such as *Beowulf* and those by period poets Caedmon and Cynewulf, are important.

Middle English Period (1066–1500)

The Middle English period sees a huge transition in the language, culture, and lifestyle of England and results in what we can recognize today as a form of “modern” (recognizable) English. The era extends to around 1500. As with the Old English period, much of the Middle English writings were religious in nature; however, from about 1350 onward, secular literature began to rise. This period is home to the likes of Chaucer, Thomas Malory, and Robert Henryson. Notable works include “Piers Plowman” and “Sir Gawain and the Green Knight.”

The Renaissance (1500–1660)

Recently, critics and literary historians have begun to call this the “Early Modern” period, but here we retain the historically familiar term “Renaissance.” This period is often subdivided into four parts, including the Elizabethan Age (1558–1603), the Jacobean Age (1603–1625), the Caroline Age (1625–1649), and the Commonwealth Period (1649–1660).

The Elizabethan Age was the golden age of English drama. Some of its noteworthy figures include Christopher Marlowe, Francis Bacon, Edmund Spenser, Sir Walter Raleigh, and, of course, William Shakespeare. The Jacobean Age is named for the reign of James I. It includes the works of John Donne, Shakespeare, Michael Drayton, John Webster, Elizabeth Cary, Ben Jonson, and Lady Mary Wroth. The King James translation of the Bible also appeared during the Jacobean Age. The Caroline Age covers the reign of Charles I (“Carolus”). John Milton, Robert Burton, and George Herbert are some of the notable figures.

Finally, the Commonwealth Period was so named for the period between the end of the English Civil War and the restoration of the Stuart monarchy. This is the time when Oliver Cromwell, a Puritan, led Parliament, who ruled the nation. At this time, public theaters were closed (for nearly two decades) to prevent public assembly and to combat moral and religious transgressions. John Milton and Thomas

Hobbes' political writings appeared and, while drama suffered, prose writers such as Thomas Fuller, Abraham Cowley, and Andrew Marvell published prolifically.

The Neoclassical Period (1600–1785)

The Neoclassical period is also subdivided into ages, including The Restoration (1660–1700), The Augustan Age (1700–1745), and The Age of Sensibility (1745–1785). The Restoration period sees some response to the puritanical age, especially in the theater. Restoration comedies (comedies of manner) developed during this time under the talent of playwrights like William Congreve and John Dryden. Satire, too, became quite popular, as evidenced by the success of Samuel Butler. Other notable writers of the age include Aphra Behn, John Bunyan, and John Locke.

The Augustan Age was the time of Alexander Pope and Jonathan Swift, who imitated those first Augustans and even drew parallels between themselves and the first set. Lady Mary Wortley Montagu, a poet, was prolific at this time and noted for challenging stereotypically female roles. Daniel Defoe was also popular.

The Age of Sensibility (sometimes referred to as the Age of Johnson) was the time of Edmund Burke, Edward Gibbon, Hester Lynch Thrale, James Boswell, and, of course, Samuel Johnson. Ideas such as neoclassicism, a critical and literary mode, and the Enlightenment, a particular worldview shared by many intellectuals, were championed during this age. Novelists to explore include Henry Fielding, Samuel Richardson, Tobias Smollett, and Laurence Sterne as well as the poets William Cowper and Thomas Percy.

The Romantic Period (1785–1832)

The beginning date for the Romantic period is often debated. Some claim it is 1785, immediately following the Age of Sensibility. Others say it began in 1789 with the start of the French Revolution, and still others believe that 1798, the publication year for William Wordsworth and Samuel Taylor Coleridge's book *Lyrical Ballads* is its true beginning.

The time period ends with the passage of the Reform Bill (which signaled the Victorian Era) and with the death of Sir Walter Scott. American literature has its own Romantic period, but typically when one speaks of Romanticism, one is referring to this great and diverse age of British literature, perhaps the most popular and well-known of all literary ages.

This era includes the works of such juggernauts as Wordsworth, Coleridge, William Blake, Lord Byron, John Keats, Charles Lamb, Mary Wollstonecraft, Percy Bysshe Shelley, Thomas De Quincey, Jane Austen, and Mary Shelley. There is also a minor period, also quite popular (between 1786–1800), called the Gothic era. Writers of note for this period include Matthew Lewis, Anne Radcliffe, and William Beckford.

The Victorian Period (1832–1901)

This period is named for the reign of Queen Victoria, who ascended to the throne in 1837, and it lasts until her death in 1901. It was a time of great social, religious, intellectual, and economic issues, heralded by the passage of the Reform Bill, which expanded voting rights. The period has often been divided into "Early" (1832–1848), "Mid" (1848–1870) and "Late" (1870–1901) periods or into two phases, that of the Pre-Raphaelites (1848–1860) and that of Aestheticism and Decadence (1880–1901). The Victorian period is in strong contention with the Romantic period for being the most popular, influential, and prolific period in all of English (and world) literature. Poets of this time include Robert and Elizabeth Barrett Browning, Christina Rossetti, Alfred Lord Tennyson, and Matthew Arnold, among others. Thomas Carlyle, John Ruskin, and Walter Pater were advancing the essay form at this time. Finally, prose fiction truly found its place under the auspices of Charles Dickens, Charlotte and Emily Bronte, Elizabeth Gaskell, George Eliot (Mary Ann Evans), Anthony Trollope, Thomas Hardy, William Makepeace Thackeray, and Samuel Butler.

The Edwardian Period (1901–1914)

This period is named for King Edward VII and covers the period between Victoria's death and the outbreak of World War I. Although a short period (and a short reign for Edward VII), the era includes incredible classic novelists such as Joseph Conrad, Ford Madox Ford, Rudyard Kipling, H.G. Wells, and Henry James (who was born in America but spent most of his writing career in England); notable poets such as Alfred Noyes and William Butler Yeats; and dramatists such as James Barrie, George Bernard Shaw, and John Galsworthy.

The Georgian Period (1910–1936)

The Georgian period usually refers to the reign of George V (1910–1936) but sometimes also includes the reigns of the four successive Georges from 1714–1830. Here, we refer to the former description as it applies chronologically and covers, for example, the Georgian poets, such as Ralph Hodgson, John Masefield, W.H. Davies, and Rupert Brooke.

Georgian poetry today is typically considered to be the works of minor poets anthologized by Edward Marsh. The themes and subject matter tended to be rural or pastoral in nature, treated delicately and traditionally rather than with passion (like was found in the previous periods) or with experimentation (as would be seen in the upcoming modern period).

The Modern Period (1914–?)

The modern period traditionally applies to works written after the start of World War I. Common features include bold experimentation with subject matter, style, and form, encompassing narrative, verse, and drama. W.B. Yeats' words, "Things fall apart; the center cannot hold," are often referred to when describing the core tenet or "feeling" of modernist concerns.

Some of the most notable writers of this period include the novelists James Joyce, Virginia Woolf, Aldous Huxley, D.H. Lawrence, Joseph Conrad, Dorothy Richardson, Graham Greene, E.M. Forster, and Doris Lessing; the poets W.B. Yeats, T.S. Eliot, W.H. Auden, Seamus Heaney, Wilfred Owens, Dylan Thomas, and Robert Graves; and the dramatists Tom Stoppard, George Bernard Shaw, Samuel Beckett, Frank McGuinness, Harold Pinter, and Caryl Churchill.

New Criticism also appeared at this time, led by the likes of Woolf, Eliot, William Empson, and others, which reinvigorated literary criticism in general. It is difficult to say whether modernism has ended, though we know that postmodernism has developed after and from it; for now, the genre remains ongoing.

The Postmodern Period (1945–?)

The postmodern period begins about the time that World War II ended. Many believe it is a direct response to modernism. Some say the period ended about 1990, but it is likely too soon to declare this period closed. Poststructuralist literary theory and criticism developed during this time. Some notable writers of the period include Samuel Beckett, Joseph Heller, Anthony Burgess, John Fowles, Penelope M. Lively, and Iain Banks. Many postmodern authors wrote during the modern period as well.

WORLD LITERATURE

LITERARY FORMS

- Epic: a long poem, typically one derived from ancient oral tradition, narrating the deeds and adventures of heroic or legendary figures or the history of a nation.
- Ballad: a form of verse, often a narrative set to music.
- T'ang poetry: The early Tang period was best known for its lushi (regulated verse), an eight-line poem with five or seven words in each line; zi (verse following strict rules of prosody); and jueju (truncated verse), a four-line poem with five or seven words in each line.
- Romance: usually characterized by its treatment of chivalry, that came into being France in the mid-12th century.

WRITERS

Homer

- semi-legendary author of the Iliad and the Odyssey

Works:

- ❖ Iliad
- ❖ Odyssey

Li Po

- Chinese poet
- was invited to the court in Chang'an in 742
- Was banished from court in 744
- Was sentenced to death in 756 but saved and exiled instead

Works:

- ❖ On Gazing into a Mirror
- ❖ The Solitude of Night
- ❖ The Ching-Ting Mountain
- ❖ Reaching the Hermitage

Ovid

- Roman poet during the reign of Augustus
- ranked as one of the three canonical poets of Latin literature

Works:

- ❖ Metamorphoses

Rumi

- 13th-century Persian poet, faqih, Islamic scholar, theologian, and Sufi mystic originally from Greater Khorasan in Greater Iran

Works:

- ❖ Masnavi

- ❖ Love's Ripening
- ❖ The Illuminated

Leo Tolstoy

- Russian writer
- regarded as one of the greatest authors of all time

Works:

- ❖ War and Peace
- ❖ Anna Karenina
- ❖ The Death of Ivan Ilyich

Chinua Achebe 1930-2013

- Nigerian novelist, poet, professor, and critic

Works:

- ❖ Things Fall Apart
- ❖ A Man of the People
- ❖ No Longer at Ease

Bessie Head 1937-1986

- South African writer
- novels, short fiction and autobiographical works that are infused with spiritual questioning and reflection.

Works:

- ❖ A Collector of Treasures
- ❖ Maru
- ❖ A Question of Power
- ❖ When Rain Clouds Gather

Wole Soyinka 1934-

- Nigerian playwright, poet and essayist

Works:

- ❖ The Lion and the Jewel
- ❖ Death and the King's Horseman
- ❖ The Interpreters
- ❖ A Dance of the Forests

Athol Fugard 1932-

- South African playwright, novelist, actor, and director
- Widely regarded as "South Africa's greatest playwright"
- Best known for his political plays opposing the system of apartheid

Works:

- ❖ "Master Harold" ...and the Boys
- ❖ The Island
- ❖ Blood Knot
- ❖ Boesman and Lena

Derek Walcott 1930-1982

- Saint Lucian poet and playwright

Works:

- ❖ A Lesson for This Sunday
- ❖ In the Village
- ❖ The Fist

Henrik Ibsen 1828-1906

- Norwegian playwright and theatre director
- one of the founders of modernism in theatre
- often referred to as "the father of realism"
- one of the most influential playwrights of his time

Works:

- ❖ A Doll's House
- ❖ Hedda Gabler
- ❖ Ghosts
- ❖ The Wild Duck

Anton Chekhov

- Russian playwright and short-story writer
- considered to be among the greatest writers of short fiction in history

Works:

- ❖ The Cherry Orchard
- ❖ Ivanov
- ❖ The Seagull
- ❖ Three Sisters
- ❖ Uncle Vanya

Franz Kafka 1883-1924

- German-speaking Bohemian novelist and short-story writer
- Widely regarded as one of the major figures of 20th-century literature
- Fuses elements of realism and the fantastic.

Works:

- ❖ The Trial
- ❖ The Castle
- ❖ A Country Doctor
- ❖ The Metamorphosis

Gabriel García Márquez 1927-2014

- Colombian novelist, short-story writer, screenwriter, and journalist
- Considered one of the most significant authors of the 20th century, particularly in the Spanish language

Works:

- ❖ One Hundred Years of Solitude
- ❖ Love in the Time of Cholera
- ❖ Chronicles of a Death Foretold
- ❖ The Autumn of the Patriarch

Rabindranath Tagore 1861-1941

- pen name Bhanu Singha Thakur
- poet and song writer

Works:

- ❖ Nationalism
- ❖ The Gardener
- ❖ The Post Office

Pablo Neruda 1904-1973

- Pen Name Pablo Neruda
- Chilean poet-diplomat and politician who won the Nobel Prize for Literature in 1971

WORKS

The Tale of Genji

- Written by The Tale of Genji
- Classical Japanese Literature
- Written in early 11th century by a noblewoman and lady-in-waiting
- The work recounts the life of Hikaru Genji, or "Shining Genji", the son of an ancient Japanese emperor

Don Quixote (1605)

- Written by Spanish novel by Miguel de Cervantes
- The plot revolves around the adventures of a noble (hidalgo) from La Mancha named Alonso Quixano, who reads so many chivalric romances that he loses his mind and decides to become a knight-errant (*caballero andante*) to revive chivalry and serve his nation, under the name *Don Quixote de la Mancha*. He recruits a simple farmer, Sancho Panza, as his squire, who often employs a unique, earthy wit in dealing with Don Quixote's rhetorical monologues on knighthood, already considered old-fashioned at the time. Don Quixote, in the first part of the book, does not see the world for what it is and prefers to imagine that he is living out a knightly story.

The Iliad (750 BC)

- Written by Homer
- Greek epic poem in dactylic hexameter
- Set during the Trojan War, the ten-year siege of the city of Troy (Ilium) by a coalition of Greek states, it tells of the battles and events during the weeks of a quarrel between King Agamemnon and the warrior Achilles.

the Upanishads

- ancient Sanskrit texts of spiritual teaching and ideas of Hinduism.

VOCAB TO KNOW

- **Brainstorming:** a prewriting technique designed to bring subconscious ideas into consciousness. It's a good technique to use when you know a general subject, you're interested in writing about but don't exactly know what aspect of the subject you want to pursue.
- **Drawing on prior knowledge or personal experience:** to use information, knowledge, or experience you had prior to writing as part of your research.
- **Outlining:** to write information in order, from the most important to the least important. Main topics, subtopics and details are the important parts of an outline. Outlining will help you learn how to take notes and remember the main ideas of what you've read.
- **Graphic organizers:** graphic organizers are a way to organize information visually
- **Abstract words:** refer to ideas or concepts; they have no physical referents.
- **Concrete words:** refer to objects or events that are available to the senses
- **Simple sentences:** a sentence consisting of only one clause, with a single subject and predicate.
- **Compound sentences:** a sentence with more than one subject or predicate.
- **Complex sentences:** a sentence containing a subordinate clause or clauses.
- **Compound complex sentences:** has at least two independent clauses and at least one dependent clause.
- **Appositive phrase:** a noun or pronoun that renames or identifies another noun or pronoun in some way.
 - Ex. **My best friend, Sammy, lives in Cleveland.** *Sammy is the appositive because it can replace the noun "friend"*
 - Ex. **My childhood home, a yellow and blue house, is just down the road.** *Yellow and blue house is the appositive because it can replace the noun "home"*
 - Ex. **His fish, Gill and Phineas, need to be fed once a day.** *Gill and Phineas are the appositive because they can replace the noun "fish"*
- **Adjectival phrase:** a group of words headed by an adjective that modifies a noun.
 - Ex. **She had extremely blue eyes.** *"Extremely blue" is the adjectival phrase because it modifies the noun "eyes"*
 - Ex. **She wore very expensive shirts.** *"Very expensive" is the adjectival phrase because it modifies shirts.*
- **Adverbial phrase:** two or more words which play the role of an adverb
 - Ex. **I will sit in silence.** *"In silence" is the adverbial phrase*
- **Participial phrase:** an adjective phrase that starts with a participle.
 - Ex. **You could see the panther releasing its grip.** *"Releasing" is the participial and "releasing its grip" is the participial phrase.*
- **Prepositional phrase:** a phrase that starts with a preposition and ends with a noun (or a pronoun)
 - Ex. **A singer with passion**
 - Ex. **A town near London**
 - Ex. **Keep in time.**
 - Ex. **He acts without thinking.**
- **Independent clause:** a clause that can stand alone as a sentence (i.e., it expresses a complete thought).
 - Ex. **The patrol had spotted the sniper, who was hiding in an attic.**
 - Ex. **Do you know the butcher who went to court on Saturday?**
 - Ex. **I am not tidying the dishes unless Peter helps.**
- **Dependent clause:** one that cannot stand alone as a complete sentence (i.e., it does not express a complete thought).

Ex. The patrol **had spotted** the sniper, who was hiding in an attic.

Ex. Do you know the butcher who went to court on Saturday.

Ex. I am not tidying the dishes unless Peter helps.

- **Adverbial clause:** a group of words which plays the role of an adverb.
Ex. Keep hitting the gong until I tell you to stop.
- **Phonics:** a method of teaching beginners to read and pronounce words by learning the phonetic value of letters, letter groups, and especially syllables
- **Semantic cues:** refer to the meaning in language that assists in comprehending texts, including words, speech, signs, symbols, and other meaning-bearing forms.
- **Syntactic cues:** using the clues about sentence structure to determine the meaning of the word.
- **Context clues:** a form of information (such as a definition, synonym, antonym, or example) that appears near a word or phrase and offers direct or indirect suggestions about its meaning
- **Word structure:** the admissible arrangement of sounds in words (morphology)
- **Homonyms:** one of two or more words spelled and pronounced alike but different in meaning.
(Ex. **Their, there, they're, two, too, to**)
- **Synonyms:** one of two or more words or expressions of the same language that have the same or nearly the same meaning in some or all senses (Ex. **Amazing, astounding, surprising, stunning. Annihilation, destruction, carnage, extinction**)
- **Antonyms:** A word that has the exact opposite meaning of another word (Ex. **Stop, go. Fast, slow**)
- **Denotative meaning:** specific object or concept that a word signifies
- **connotative meanings:** range of associated meanings that the word signifies, depending on the context.
- **Idioms:** a group of words whose meaning is figurative and different from the actual words of the expression. (Ex. **a dime a dozen, back to the drawing board, best thing since sliced bread, break a leg**)
- **Similes:** a figure of speech that makes a comparison, showing similarities between two different things. (Ex. **Our soldiers are as brave as lions, her cheeks are red like a rose, He is as funny as a monkey, the water well was as dry as a bone, He is as cunning as a fox**)
- **Metaphors:** a figure of speech that makes an implicit, implied, or hidden comparison between two things that are unrelated, but which share some common characteristics (Ex. My brother was **boiling mad**. [This implies he was too angry], The assignment was a **breeze**. [This implies that the assignment was not difficult], It is going to be **clear skies** from now on. [This implies that clear skies are not a threat and life is going to be without hardships], The skies of his future began to **darken**. [Darkness is a threat; therefore, this implies that the coming times are going to be hard for him], Her voice is **music to his ears**. [This implies that her voice makes him feel happy]
- **Biography:** A biography must cover the accounts of a person's life in the third person. The biography can cover the subject's entire life or a distinct portion. The accounts for a person's biography are based on another's perception of that person, which is different than an autobiography, which is a personal account of the writer's life.
- **Autobiography:** Is when a person tells you what they remember of an event, may include a flashback, written in the 1st person point of view ("I, we, us"), autobiographies are inherently subjective, written by the person the autobiography is about.
- **Essay:** Should contain a narrow topic, well developed thesis, stay on topic, and provide both an introduction and a conclusion.
- **Memoir:** history or record composed from personal observation and experience. Closely related to, and often confused with, autobiography, a memoir usually differs chiefly in the degree of

emphasis placed on external events; whereas writers of autobiography are concerned primarily with themselves as subject matter, writers of memoir are usually persons who have played roles in, or have been close observers of, historical events and whose main purpose is to describe or interpret the events

- **newspaper accounts of events:** for general audience, to inform about current events and local and regional news.
- **digital texts:** hyperlinks, audio, video, interactive images (photo galleries, maps, diagrams, simulations), pop ups, interactive questions, and comment/note options.
- **SOAPSTone** (Speaker, Occasion, Audience, Purpose, Subject, Tone)
- **Exaggeration:** a statement that makes something worse, or better, than it really is. In literature and oral communication, writers and speakers use exaggeration as a literary technique, to give extra stress and drama in a work or speech.
- **Understatement:** a figure of speech employed by writers or speakers to intentionally make a situation seem less important than it really is.
- **Analogy:** a comparison in which an idea or a thing is compared to another thing that is quite different from it. It aims at explaining that idea or thing by comparing it to something that is familiar. Metaphors and similes are tools used to draw an analogy. Therefore, analogy is more extensive and elaborate than either a simile or a metaphor.
- **Anecdote:** a short and interesting story, or an amusing event, often proposed to support or demonstrate some point, and to make the audience laugh.
- appeals to emotion or authority
- **Folktale:** a story originating in popular culture, typically passed on by word of mouth.
Characteristics include: Set in the past, Use some form or variation of "Once upon a time", Fantasy or make-believe elements, Enchanted setting - can include forests, castles, water or kingdoms, Clearly defined good and evil characters, Magical elements, Characters take on unusual forms (giants, witches, dwarfs, talking animals), Groups of 3 (objects, people or events), Clearly defined problem, climax and resolution, Most often they have a happy ending, teach a lesson that is important to the culture it came from
- **Epic:** long narrative poem, which is usually related to heroic deeds of a person of an unusual courage and unparalleled bravery. **Characteristics include:** The hero is outstanding. They might be important, and historically or legendarily significant, the setting is large. It covers many nations, or the known world, the action is made of deeds of great valor or requiring superhuman courage, supernatural forces—gods, angels, demons—insert themselves in the action, it is written in a very special style (verse as opposed to prose), the poet tries to remain objective, epic poems are believed to be supernatural and real by the hero and the villain.
- **Fantasy:** a plot cannot occur in the real world. Its plot usually involves witchcraft or magic, taking place on an undiscovered planet of an unknown world. **Characterized by** imaginary and unrealistic elements. Fantasies typically involve supernatural powers, like magic and magical creatures. Fantasy stories often contain elements of Medievalism, such as castles, knights, kings, magical swords, and references to ancient spells.
- **Mystery:** stories focus on a puzzling crime, situation, or circumstance that needs to be solved. Characteristics include:
- **realistic novel:** can be characterized by its complex characters with mixed motives that are rooted in social class and operate according to a highly developed social structure. The characters in a realistic novel interact with other characters and undergo plausible and everyday experiences.

- **Plot:** events that make up a story, or the main part of a story. These events relate to each other in a pattern or a sequence. The structure of a novel depends on the organization of events in the plot of the story.
- **Setting:** an environment or surrounding in which an event or story takes place. It may provide information about placement and timing
- **Characterization:** a literary device that is used step-by-step in literature to highlight and explain the details about a character in a story. It is in the initial stage in which the writer introduces the character with noticeable emergence. After introducing the character, the writer often talks about his behavior; then, as the story progresses, the thought-processes of the character
- **Theme:** main idea or an underlying meaning of a literary work, which may be stated directly or indirectly.
- **First person point of view.** First person is when “I” am telling the story. The character is *in* the story, relating his or her experiences directly.
- **Second person point of view.** The story is told to “you.” This POV is not common in fiction, but it’s still good to know (it *is* common in nonfiction).
- **Third person point of view, limited.** The story is about “he” or “she.” This is the most common point of view in commercial fiction. The narrator is outside of the story and relating the experiences of a character.
- **Third person point of view, omniscient.** The story is still about “he” or “she,” but the narrator has full access to the thoughts and experiences of *all* characters in the story.
- **Irony:** a figure of speech in which words are used in such a way that their intended meaning is different from the actual meaning of the words. It may also be a situation that ends up in quite a different way than what is generally anticipated.
 - Situational irony: occurs when, for instance, a man is chuckling at the misfortune of another, even when the same misfortune is, unbeknownst to him, befalling him.
Example: *Great Expectations*
 - Verbal irony: involves what one does not mean. For example, when in response to a foolish idea, we say, “What a great idea!” Example: *The Cask of Amontillado*
 - Dramatic irony: occurs in literature when one or more characters lack a vital piece of information that has been provided to the audience. Example: *Romeo and Juliet*
- **Flashback:** are interruptions that writers do to insert past events, in order to provide background or context to the current events of a narrative. By using flashbacks, writers allow their readers to gain insight into a character’s motivations and provide a background to a current conflict. Dream sequences and memories are methods used to present flashbacks.
- **Foreshadowing:** a literary device in which a writer gives an advance hint of what is to come later in the story. Foreshadowing often appears at the beginning of a story, or a chapter, and helps the reader develop expectations about the coming events in a story.
- **Symbolism:** the use of symbols to signify ideas and qualities, by giving them symbolic meanings that are different from their literal sense. Symbolism can take different forms. Generally, it is an object representing another, to give an entirely different meaning that is much deeper and more significant. Sometimes, however, an action, an event or a word spoken by someone may have a symbolic value
- **Archetypes:** a typical character, an action, or a situation that seems to represent universal patterns of human nature.
- **Tone:** is an attitude of a writer toward a subject or an audience. Tone is generally conveyed through the choice of words, or the viewpoint of a writer on a subject.

- **sound devices:** literary elements used in prose and poetry to stress certain sounds and create musical effects. The writers make their texts vibrant, emotive and pleasing with the use of these devices.
- **Comedy:** represents the sense of renewal and rebirth, which is why this genre traditionally ends in a wedding and the expectation of a future generation. The pain and pity projected by a tragedy is replaced with absurdity and mass intellect in comedy. Characters behave in comic and absurd ways, serving as a mirror for society that encourages corrective behaviors. Romantic comedies point out the absurdities people perform when in love, which usually lead to unsuspecting unions. Dark comedies, on the other hand, leave the audience with a grim truth that's presented in humorous, playful seriousness.
- **Tragedy:** deals with a serious action in which the consequences are of great magnitude to the characters involved. This genre tells the story through action instead of through narrative. It often deals with profound problems that are universal to the human experience. The tragic hero, or protagonist, of the drama often has one tragic flaw that causes his undoing, usually hubris, or too much pride. The protagonist realizes the severity of the flaw too late, which leads to inevitable downfall. A tragedy's action is meant to fill the audience with fear and pity while the action takes place; however, at the conclusion of the action the audience is meant to leave the theater uplifted and enlightened about the drama's unfolded events.
- **Melodrama:** the tragedy or problem is caused by external forces outside of the protagonist's control. It sets itself apart from tragedy because the protagonist does not take responsibility for the action, nor does she feel guilty. In fact, the protagonist is often the victim of circumstance. The melodrama has clearly distinguished good and evil characters. These plays end with a strict moral judgment that rewards the good and punishes evil in a fitting way.
- **Tragicomedy:** attempts to portray characters and life in the most realistic way. Action, characters and plot are not absolute, but nonjudgmental. A character changes his mind and acts out of character, and the plot ends unpredictably. Tragicomedies are meant to show complex dynamics of human relationships and that society is in a constantly changing flux. As the name suggests, these plays present a thorough mix of tragedy and comedy.
- **introduction/exposition:** a literary device used to introduce background information about events, settings, characters, or other elements of a work to the audience or readers.
- **rising action:** a series of relevant incidents that create suspense, interest, and tension in a narrative. In literary works, a rising action includes all decisions, characters' flaws, and background circumstances that together create turns and twists leading to a climax.
- **Climax:** particular point in a narrative at which the conflict or tension hits the highest point. It is a structural part of a plot and is at times referred to as a "crisis." It is a decisive moment or a turning point in a storyline at which the rising action turns around into a falling action. Thus, a climax is the point at which a conflict or crisis reaches its peak, then calls for a resolution or *denouement* (conclusion).
- **falling action:** occurs right after the climax, when the main problem of the story resolves. Falling action wraps up the narrative, resolves its loose ends, and leads toward the closure.
- **resolution/denouement** means the unfolding or solution of a complicated issue in a story. Technically, resolution is also known as a "denouement." Most of the instances of resolution are presented in the final parts or chapters of a story. It mostly follows the climax. In certain mystery novels, climax and resolution may occur simultaneously. However, in other forms of literature, resolution takes place at the end of the story. Considering that it ends a story, resolution is an integral part of the conflict of the story.
- **Soliloquy:** Within a dramatic play, an insightful monologue that conveys a character's inner feelings, viewpoints and thoughts

- **Aside:** character delivers directly to the audience, or to himself, while other actors on the stage appear not to hear. Only the audience knows that the character has said something to them (Think of saved by the bell and Zach's time out moments)
- **Subplot:** a secondary plot, or a strand of the main plot that runs parallel to it and supports it. Also known as the minor story.
- **Irony:** a figure of speech in which words are used in such a way that their intended meaning is different from the actual meaning of the words
- **Suspense:** a literary device that authors use to keep their readers' interest alive throughout the work. It is a feeling of anticipation that something risky or dangerous is about to happen. The purpose of using this type of anxiety in literature is to make readers more concerned about the characters, and to form sympathetic association with them.
- **Ode:** a literary technique that is lyrical in nature, but not very lengthy. You have often read odes in which poets praise people, natural scenes, and abstract ideas. Ode is derived from a Greek word *aeidein*, which means to chant or sing.
- **Villanelle:** a poetic device that requires a poem to have 19 lines and a fixed form. It has five tercets (first 15 lines), a quatrain (last four lines), and a couplet at the end of the quatrain.
- **Sonnet:** has 14 lines and is written in iambic pentameter. Each line has 10 syllables. It has a specific rhyme scheme, and a *volta*, or a specific turn
 - ❖ **Italian Sonnet:** The rhyme scheme of a Petrarchan sonnet features the first eight lines, called an octet, which rhymes as abba–abba–cdc–dcd. The remaining six lines are called a sestet and might have a range of rhyme schemes.
 - ❖ **Shakespearean Sonnet:** generally written in iambic pentameter, in which there are 10 syllables in each line. The rhyme scheme of the Shakespearean sonnet is abab–cdcd–efef–gg, which is difficult to follow.
 - ❖ **Spenserian Sonnet:** The rhyme scheme in this sonnet is abab–bcbc–cdcd–ee, which is specific to Spenser
 - ❖ Miltonic Sonnet:
 - ❖ Terza Rima Sonnet
 - ❖ Curtal Sonnet
- **Haiku:** a Japanese poem of seventeen syllables, in three lines of five, seven, and five, traditionally evoking images of the natural world. pattern in this Japanese genre is 5-7-5.
- **Free verse:** a literary device that can be defined as poetry that is free from limitations of regular meter or rhythm, and does not rhyme with fixed forms
- **Blank verse:** a literary device defined as un-rhyming verse written in iambic pentameter. In poetry and prose, it has a consistent meter with 10 syllables in each line (pentameter); where, unstressed syllables are followed by stressed ones, five of which are stressed but do not rhyme.
- **Iambic pentameter:** made up of two words, where pentameter is a combination of 'pent,' which means *five*, and 'meter,' which means *to measure*. Iambic, on the other hand, is a metrical foot in poetry in which a stressed syllable is followed by an unstressed syllable. It means iambic pentameter is a beat or foot that uses 10 syllables in each line. Simply, it is a rhythmic pattern comprising five iambs in each line, like five heartbeats.
- **Couplet:** literary device that can be defined as having two successive rhyming lines in a verse and has the same meter to form a complete thought. It is marked by a usual rhythm, rhyme scheme, and incorporation of specific utterances.
- **Tercet:** a three-lined verse, or a group, or unit of three lines.
- **Quatrain:** a verse with four lines, or even a full poem containing four lines, having an independent and separate theme.

- **Slant rhyme:** a rhyme in which the stressed syllables of ending consonants match, however the preceding vowel sounds do not match.
- **Alliteration:** the repetition of usually initial consonant sounds in two or more neighboring words or syllables (such as wild and woolly, *threatening throngs*)
- **Assonance:** when two or more words, close to one another repeat the same vowel sound, but start with different consonant sounds.
- **Consonance:** repetitive sounds produced by consonants within a sentence or phrase. This repetition often takes place in quick succession, such as in “pitter, patter.”
- **Onomatopoeia:** imitates the natural sounds of a thing. Example: Buzz, splash, thump, roaring, rustling, moo, oink
- **Imagery:** to use figurative language to represent objects, actions, and ideas in such a way that it appeals to our physical senses.
- **Allusion:** a brief and indirect reference to a person, place, thing or idea of historical, cultural, literary or political significance.
- **Simile:** a figure of speech that makes a comparison, showing similarities between two different things
- **Metaphor:** a figure of speech that makes an implicit, implied, or hidden comparison between two things that are unrelated, but which share some common characteristics
- **Metonymy:** a figure of speech that replaces the name of a thing with the name of something else with which it is closely associated.
- **Hyperbole:** derived from a Greek word meaning “over-casting,” is a figure of speech that involves an exaggeration of ideas for the sake of emphasis. It is a device that we employ in our day-to-day speech
- **Tone:** in written composition, is an attitude of a writer toward a subject or an audience. Tone is generally conveyed through the choice of words, or the viewpoint of a writer on a particular subject.
- **Mood:** a literary element that evokes certain feelings or vibes in readers through words and descriptions.
- **Theme:** a main idea or an underlying meaning of a literary work, which may be stated directly or indirectly.