NATIONAL UNIVERSITY OF LIFE AND ENVIRONMENTAL SCIENCES OF UKRAINE

FACULTY OF HUMANITIES AND PEDAGOGY

DEPARTMENT OF ROMANCE AND GERMANIC LANGUAGES AND TRANSLATION

CONTEMPORARY LITERATURE OF THE ENGLISH-SPEAKING COUNTRIES

Kyiv – 2015

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Contemporary literature of the English-speaking countries: A textbook for training students in accordance with Educational and Qualification level "Bachelor" in subject area 0203 "Humanities" of specialty 6.020303 "Philology" (full-time and part-time education) is given.

Recommended for publication by the Academic Board of the NULES of Ukraine (minutes of meeting № 4 on 30.10.2015)

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Рекомендовано до друку вченою радою Національного університету біоресурсів і природокористування України (протокол № 4 від 30.10.2015 р.)

Арістова Н.О.

А 81   Сучасна література англомовних країн: Навчальний посібник для студентів ОКР «Бакалавр» галузі знань 0203 «Гуманітарні науки» напряму підготовки 6.020303 «Філологія» (денна та заочна форма навчання) – К., 2015. – 240 с.

Навчальний посібник спрямовано на вироблення у студентів цілісної когнітивної картини про сучасну літературу англомовних країн, особливості розвитку історичних літературних періодів та їхні відмінності, різноманітні жанри, широко вживані в сучасній літературі англомовних країн, а також поглиблення навичок володіння іноземною мовою на базі читання та аналізу художніх творів різних жанрів в оригіналі.

Призначається студентам та викладачам філологічних факультетів вищих навчальних закладів України.

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UNIT 1. LITERATURE AND MAJOR FORMS OF LITERARY ART

Before we start discussing everything that concerns literature, we have to answer two questions. They are as follows: "What is literature?" and "What is contemporary literature of the English-speaking countries?" Although, they may seem rather simple, and many people have some ideas in order to explain them, the answers can be very contradictory [21].

Thus, for instance, for many of us the word "literature" is often associated with poems, fictional short stories, novels and novellas. According to the website *Tc.umn.edu,*

> *… telling made-up stories in written story form is a rather recent art. The novel and the short story, as such, did not really exist until after moveable type was invented in medieval times by Johannes Gutenberg, and after the slow spread of general education in reading and writing that followed the invention of moveable type.*
>
> *However, with the spread of reading and writing, suddenly large numbers of people had the ability and opportunity to sit down with a book of their own and actually understand what the*

> *words in it were saying. Literature exploded, both in quantity and variety.*[1]

Therefore, literature, in a very general sense, is a form of human expression. But, not everything expressed in words and sentences – even when organized and written down – can be considered as literature.

The word "literature" comes from Latin *literatura/litteratura* ("learning, a writing, grammar", originally "writing formed with letters"), which comes from *litera/littera,* which means "letter" [30]. The word literature means "things made from letters". So, literature is the art of written work which can, in some circumstances, refer exclusively to published sources [26].

And yet, what is contemporary literature of the English-speaking countries? Frankly speaking, it is very difficult to draw a clear line as there are many colonial countries in the world where the English language is considered official [21].
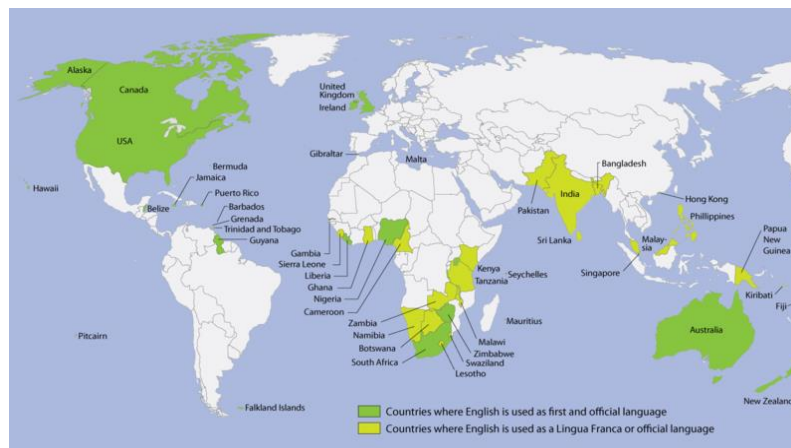
Countries in which English is an official
or *de facto* official language (green and yellow areas)

_____

[1]Literature: The Language Art

<http://www.tc.umn.edu/~jewel001/humanities/book/13literature.htm>

In this textbook, we shall talk about literature written in the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland and the USA. That is why we can apply the term "contemporary literature of the English-speaking countries" to the creative, imaginative works of poetry, prose and drama written by various authors from the abovementioned countries [21].

The major forms of literary art, which are widely used in contemporary literature of the English-speaking countries and written in various genres, include prose, poetry and drama.

Prose, which is usually presented in two forms such as fiction and non-fiction, is an ordinary form of written language.

Drama, which has a noble and ancient history, is a form of literary art. It usually presents a story written to be performed by actors.

In poetry writers use a language for its aesthetic qualities as composing poems they often use imagery, figurative language, and special devices [1; 23; 24; 25; 26].

UNIT 2. AN OVERVIEW OF LITERARY GENRES

What are the main literary genres? Under which genre does a literary composition fall? Before answering these questions, it is important to clarify the meaning of the word "genre". "Genre" comes from an Old French word *kind* or *gender* that means *kind, category, or sort, esp of literary or artistic work* [30].

 So "genre" has since been used to describe the style or category of art, literature, music, or any other type of discourse, written or spoken.

It is obvious that the fiction categories or genres cover a wide range of works, and that's why subgenres have been introduced: to narrow down the difference between what might appear in one story and what might not appear in another, similar one. So, while, alternative world fantasy and contemporary

fantasy may both fall under fantasy, one does not expect to read about magical creatures hidden amongst us in the former, or different worlds hidden within or parallel to our own in the latter.

A literary genre therefore means a category of literary composition or endeavor which can be determined by the writing style, technique, tone, length, and content of the composition [1].

Examples of literary genres determined by:

1. Style and technique: prose, poetry or drama.
2. Tone (purpose): religious, children's literature, women's fiction.
3. Length: a short story, a novel.
4. Content: science fiction, realistic fiction, fantasy or mystery.

Genre may fall under one of two categories: Fiction and Non-fiction. Therefore, any genre can be either **a work of fiction** or a **work of non-fiction** (picture 1)**:**

```
                    ┌──────────────────┐
                    │      GENRE       │
                    └──────────────────┘
              ┌─────────────┴─────────────┐
    ┌──────────────────┐       ┌──────────────────┐
    │ A WORK OF FICTION│       │ A WORK OF NON-   │
    │                  │       │     FICTION      │
    └──────────────────┘       └──────────────────┘
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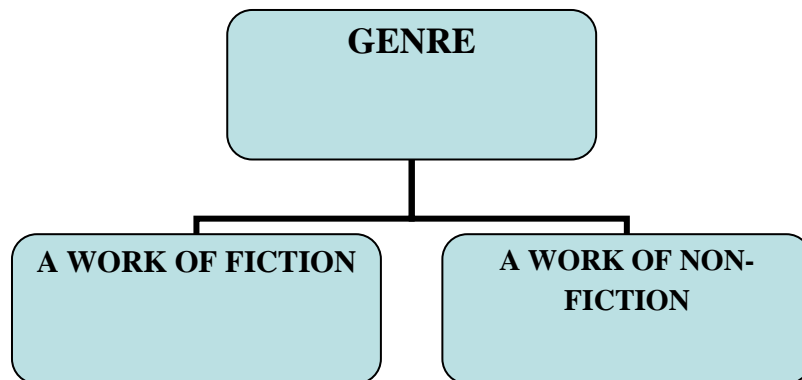
Picture 1. Genre categories

In a work of fiction, nonfactual descriptions and events are usually invented by its author. In a work of non-fiction, all descriptions and events are considered to be factual.

A list of generally acknowledged literary genres can be divided into three groups, namely: fiction genres, which are written in prose and are opposed to poetry, poetry genres, non-fiction genres [23; 24; 25].

2.1. FICTION GENRES

Tall tales. Scholars describe a tall tale as a fiction genre, which is specific to literature of the USA and which, originally, was an oral form of entertainment.

Tall tales either explain the origins of natural phenomena or describe adventures of popular folk heroes in an extravagant and humorous way.

The best examples of tall tales include *"Bear Lake Monster", "Arkansas Travelers", "Arizona Weather", "Cowboys in Heaven", "Connecticut Yankee"* [24; 25].

Fairy Tales. Many scholars regard a fairy tale as a unique fiction genre. Fairy tales are written for little children and include magical characters such as elves, dragons, fairies, hobgoblins etc.

The most prominent examples of fairy tales comprise *"Cinderella", "Snow White", "Hansel and Gretal", "Jack and the Beanstalk", "The Shoemaker and the Elves", "Goldilocks and the Three Bears"* [24; 25].

Fables. A fable is a brief allegorical narrative, in verse or prose, illustrating a moral thesis or satirizing human beings. The characters of a fable are usually animals who talk and act like people while retaining their animal traits. The examples of fables include *"The Ant and the Grasshopper", "The Fighting Roosters and the Eagle"* [34].

The most prominent person credited with the authorship of various fables is Aesop. All his fables contain morals, which are still well-known and popular among numerous readers.

Contemporary scholars support the idea that William Caxton was the first scientist who translated Aesop's fables from French into English and his first translated collection of fables was published in 1484.

Legends. The definition of the term *"legend"* emerges from the idea that it usually represents a story which is historical in nature but which lacks substantiation. The most famous examples of legends are written about popular national heroes, such as King Arthur, Blackbeard and Robin Hood.

A legend can also be regarded as a story handed down from generation to generation, but which can continue to develop with time [19; 20].

Fantasy is an imaginative or fanciful work dealing with supernatural or unnatural events or characters. Contemporary scholars divide this genre into various subgenres, namely:

a) alternative world fantasy,

b) contemporary fantasy,

c) medieval fantasy,

d) juvenile fantasy,

e) urban fantasy,

f) historical fantasy,

g) quest fantasy,

h) superhero fantasy,

i) sword & sorcery [15].

Since fantasy is one of the most popular genres in the contemporary world, we shall discuss its various subgenres more thoroughly. Thus, as it is stated on the website *Cuebon.com,* alternative world fantasy is a subgenre, which involves different worlds hidden within or parallel to our own world. In past times these worlds could be found in a mysterious country, as in Johnathan Swift's best known full-length work and a classic of English literature *"Gulliver's Travels".* Johnathan Swift wrote this novel in 1726 and then amended it in 1735 [15].

With the Earth explored, some were envisioned inside a mirror, as with Lewis Carroll's novel *"Through the Looking Glass, and What Alice Found There"* which was written in 1871 and which was the sequel to *"Alice's Adventures in Wonderland"* [15].

"Alice's Adventures in Wonderland" (the first edition, 1865)

One more prolific author who wrote in the genre of **Alternative World** fantasy is a contemporary American writer Roger Joseph Zelazny who is well-known for his *"The Chronicles of Amber"* series. The events described in it take place in two "true" worlds: Amber and the Courts of Chaos [15].

Contemporary fantasy is "a subgenre which posits that magical creatures are hidden amongst us. These tales are set in modern times and in deceptively familiar situations [15]." For instance, Neil Richard MacKinnon Gaiman who is a contemporary English author and who has won numerous awards created the novel *"Neverwhere"* in 1996. This novel depicts a vast magical underground London.

Mercedes Ritchie Lackey's *"Diana Tregarde"* novels represent another good example of contemporary fantasy subgenre. Mercedes Ritchie, who is a contemporary American writer, brings realistic magic to contemporary Dallas and Oklahoma in her novels [15].

Medieval fantasy is defined by its name, as these subgenre's stories are set in the period which is in between the ancient or Arthurian worlds and the modern industrial era. Medieval fantasy stories usually feature knights and knaves, often together with sorcerers and dragons. Many medieval fantasy subgenres that are set on Earth or elsewhere have a "pseudomedieval" setting that includes: ox carts, tavern wenches, and swords. You will not be able to find any automobiles, stock brokers, or firearms in these stories [15].

Juvenile fantasy is a specific genre dedicated to young readers. *"The Hobbit, or There and Back Again"* written by John Ronald Ruel Tolkien and better known as *"The Hobbit"* (1937) is the most prominent example of a juvenile fantasy genre [15].
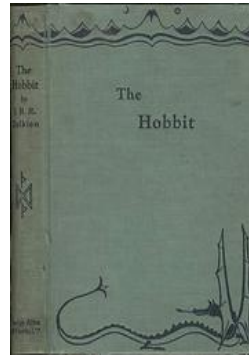
The Hobbit
(Cover of the 1937 first edition)

Urban Fantasy novels are set in a modern, urban environment where werewolves live in abandoned subway stations, or pixies hide in the small spaces of a campus dormitory. In contemporary literature of the USA there is an unwritten rule that if urban fantasy novels involve vampires they must be set in-and-around New Orleans.

One of the most vivid representatives of urban fantasy genre in contemporary literature of the USA is Jody Lynn Nye. She is an American science fiction writer who specializes in science fiction or fantasy action novels and whose novels often incorporate unusual characters.

Robert Weinberg who is also a contemporary American writer and whose work spans several genres including non-fiction, science fiction, horror, and comic books is another famous representative of urban fantasy genre. In his novel *"A Logical Magician"* which features adaptable beings such as "mall nymphs", a computer nerd is up against ancient evil [15].

Historical fantasy is the genre's answer to historical fiction. The setting of history fantasy novels is usually a specific period from Earth's history but with fantastic elements blended in. One of the best examples of historical fantasy genre, which can be found in contemporary literature of the English-speaking countries, is *"Soldier of the Mist"* by Gene Wolfe [15].

Gene Wolfe is an American science fiction and fantasy writer. He is a prolific novelist who has won many science fiction and fantasy literary awards.

Quest fantasies involve just that. It's a descriptive category, in which the main hero is involved in some perilous all-consuming quest.

One of the most successful works written in this genre is *"Two Hearts"* by Peter Beagle. In this novelette a nine-year-old girl, Sooz, sets off alone to free her village from a murderous gryphon.

Although Terry Goodkind is an American writer known for the epic fantasy *"The Sword of truth"* series, his novel *"Wizard's First Rule"* is another fine example of quest fantasy genre, which can be found in contemporary literature of the English-speaking countries [15].

Superhero fantasy needs no introduction. Whether in films, comic books or novels, characters such as Superman and Spiderman are familiar indeed. Some authors even create their own new superheroes. These superheroes may gain their special abilities from magic or technology or something else, and usually those will far exceed anything deemed plausible by science [15].

Sword & Sorcery tales embody the action-packed aspect of fantasy, with powerful barbarians clearing a bloody swath across their pseudomedieval worlds [2].

The best example of a fictional sword and sorcery genre is *"Conan the Barbarian"* by Robert Ervin Howard who was an American pulp writer of fantasy. Conan the Barbarian consisted of a series of fantasy stories published in *"Weird Tales"* magazine in 1932 [15].

Young adult fiction is a literary genre, which is selected for reading by young adults, ages 13 to 18. It may be published specifically for young adults or the general public which shares the fundamental elements of fiction with other stories: character, plot, setting, theme, and style. This literary genre portrays an adolescent as the protagonist, rather than an adult or a child. The subject matter and story lines are typically consistent with the age and experience of the main character. Themes in these stories often focus on the challenges of youth. Young adult fiction can also comprise several subgenres. For example, **amateur sleuth**

stories are defined by their name. The young protagonists investigate crimes, sometimes bending the rules, even taking a few serious risks [24; 25].

Children's literature is a genre, which presents stories for readers and listeners up to about age twelve, and is often illustrated. Children's literature can include books that are written by children, books written specifically for children, or books that are chosen by/for children [1].

By Children or Juvenilia is a small but genuine subgenre. These commercially published tales are written, in full, by children. A famous example is Daisy Ashford's 1919 British novella *"The Young Visiters, or, Mister Salteena's Plan"*.

(*"Visiters"* remains in print, and preserves then nine-year-old Miss Ashford's spelling mistakes.)

D

Daisy Ashford (1881-1972) in 1890, the year she wrote The Young Visiters
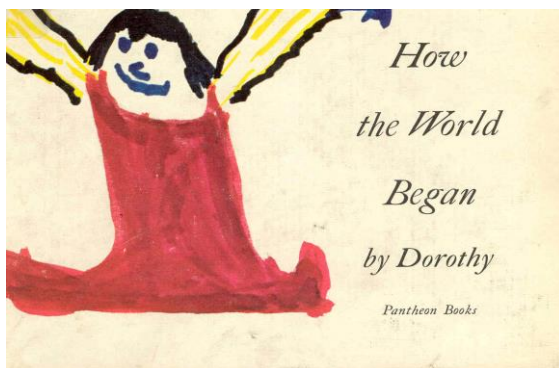
How the World Began
(Cover of the first edition)

The youngest known author, certainly of prose in English, is Dorothy Straight of Washington, DC. She was four when she wrote a story *"How the World Began"*. Dorothy Straight dedicated it to her grandmother in 1962. The story was published in 1964.

Nowadays few nonprofit organizations are dedicated to publishing young writers.

Early Readers are intended to help children master their basic reading skills. The text is usually in large print, and most of the words are just one syllable long. Most have illustrations, but the kids are supposed to gain the

meaning of-and-from the printed words. The most prominent examples that represent this fiction genre are the famous old "see Spot run" books.

Picture Books are vividly illustrated, and have minimal printed text. These are intended for a parent, teacher, or caregiver to read aloud. In recent times these books have gained more variety, with different lifestyles and ethnic groups appearing within.

Next genre, which is worth noticing, is **adventure.** It pertains to an exciting or very unusual experience, participation in exciting undertakings or enterprises, a bold, usually risky undertaking, or hazardous action of uncertain outcome.

Mystery is a literary genre whose plot involves a crime or other event that remains puzzlingly unsettled until the very end.

Historical fiction. Literary genre pertaining to, treating, or characteristic of history or past events, based on or reconstructed from an event, custom, or style, in the past, or having once existed or lived in the real world, as opposed to being part of legend or fiction or as distinguished from religious belief.

Realistic fiction is a literary genre which is interested in, concerned with, or based on what is real, practical, pertaining to, characterized by, or given to the representation in literature or art of things as they really are, or resembling or simulating life.

Women's fiction. Most literary critics say that there is no harder genre to define than women's fiction. There are different ideas of what it is. For instance, some critics claim that it is fiction for women. Others say that it is fiction written by women or it is fiction with a female protagonist. We define women's fiction as a specific literary genre dedicated to women, their self-discovery, self-preservation, self-acceptance or self-improvement. Women's fiction "tackles extraordinary real life issues and emotions [41]."

2.2. POETRY GENRES

Contemporary literature of the English-speaking countries is represented by various poetry genres, which emerged during different literary periods. Some of them originated in literature of other countries and then were borrowed and developed by English and American poets. Despite their origin and diversity, they all became a distinguishing characteristic of contemporary literature of the English-speaking countries. Thus, the main **purpose** of the following subunit is to investigate the diversity of poetry genres in contemporary literature of the English-speaking countries from the diachronic viewpoint.

A poetry genre means a category of literary composition which is written with proper rules about form, rhyme and rhythm or without them and which expresses emotions, experiences and ideas.

Diachronic viewpoint allows us to elicit poetry genres peculiar to literature of the English-speaking countries and to trace their evolution through time. A list of generally acknowledged poetry genres includes *epic, ballad, couplet, concrete, triplet, sonnet, Mother Goose and Nursery Rhymes, free verse, diamante, limerick, cinquain, haiku and tanka.* Let us now focus on them in more detail.

Epic. The earliest recorded poems emerged during the Anglo-Saxon period marked from the invasion of Celtic England by Germanic tribes in the first half of the 5th century to the conquest of England in 1066 by William the Conqueror.

Anglo-Saxon poetry of that time was recited as a song or a riddle and poets who usually were the historians of the tribe used alliterative verse (that is the repetition of a definite sound in a phrase) and linked two lines together, divided by a caesura:

The folk-kings' former fame we have heard of,
How princes displayed then their prowess-in-battle [4].

There are lots of F's in the first line: *f*olk-kings', *f*ormer, *f*ame and lots of P's in the second line: *p*rinces, dis*p*layed, *p*rowess.

Alliteration is still a commonly used tool in the literature of English-speaking countries, tracing its origins back to Old English and other Germanic languages such as Old High German, Old Norse, and Old Saxon. *"Caedmon's Hymn",* *"Beowulf", "The Wanderer",* and *"The Seafarer"* vividly represent the Anglo-Saxon period [4].
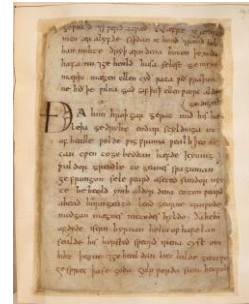
The Beowulf-manuscript

The Beowulf-manuscript was damaged by fire in 1731, but much of its text remains readable.

Ballad is a poetry genre written as a short story in the form of a poem or song. It was basically used in dance songs in ancient France. Later on, during the late 16[th] and 17[th] century, it spread over the majority of European nations. The ballads, which come down to us, fall into two types, namely: folk and literary. The first ones were composed by anonymous singers and were passed down from generation to generation before they were written down and the latter ones were composed and written down by famous poets. They both preserved the local events, beliefs, customs and characters in an easily remembered form. Although ballads lost their popularity during the latter half of the 19th century, people still read and listen to them with great interest [5; 19].

Couplet is a poetry genre, which includes two lines of poetry, one following the other, that are the same length. These two lines often belong together and often share a similar idea. The distinctive feature of two lines is

that they rhyme and have the same meter. Let us consider the classic example from *"The Canterbury Tales"* by Geoffrey Chaucer:

Singing he was, or fluting all the day

He was as fresh as is the month of May [10].

Triplet is a poetry genre, which has three lines and which is written in metrical form. Most often these three lines rhyme:

Football is the game for me

The stadium is a great place to be

Touchdowns are what I like to see [24].

Some triplets have only two rhymed lines:

Down by the lake

Grandpa and I drop a line

Then have lots of fish to take [24].

Sonnet is a poetry genre of fourteen lines. The sonnet as a form was developed in Italy in the thirteenth century. It was Petrarch, who raised the sonnet to its greatest Italian perfection and gave it his own name.

Although the form was introduced into England by Thomas Wyatt who translated Petrarchan sonnets into English, English sonnets are called Shakespearean in order to honor one of the most famous sonneteers in England [33]:

Music to hear, why hear'st thou music sadly?

Sweets with sweets war not, joy delights in joy:

Why lov'st thou that which thou receiv'st not gladly,

Or else receiv'st with pleasure thine annoy?

If the true concord of well-tuned sounds,

By unions married do offend thine ear,

They do but sweetly chide thee, who confounds

In singleness the parts that thou shouldst bear:

Mark how one string sweet husband to another,

Strikes each in each by mutual ordering;

Resembling sire, and child, and happy mother,

Who all in one, one pleasing note do sing:

Whose speechless song being many, seeming one,

Sings this to thee, "Thou single wilt prove none" [33].

Mother Goose and Nursery Rhymes. The name, Mother Goose made its way into England from France. A collection of eight famous folk tales by Charles Perrault entitled *"Contes de ma mère l'Oye"* was published in 1697 in France. Here there is a 1695

The 1695 frontispiece to *"Contes de ma mère l'Oye"*

frontispiece to the manuscript pages, which in 1697 were to become the first edition of Charles Perrault's *"Tales of Mother Goose"*.

These stories were translated into English and published as *"Tales of Mother Goose"* in 1729. Since then the literary genre written in metrical form for children has been called **Mother Goose and Nursery Rhymes** [36]:

LITTLE FRED

When little Fred went to bed,
He always said his prayers;
He kissed mamma, and then papa,
And straightway went upstairs [28].

The history and origins of most nursery rhymes are often connected with nature, people's believes, habits, traditions, customs, etc.

For instance, the words and lyrics of the famous nursery rhyme *"A swarm of bees in May"* reflect the belief that if people are attentive they can predict the weather.

A SWARM OF BEES IN MAY

A swarm of bees in May
Is worth a load of hay;
A swarm of bees in June
Is worth a silver spoon;
A swarm of bees in July
Is not worth a fly [3].

The origin of the old rhyme *"Wash on Monday..."* is believed to be connected with the English tradition of washing clothes on a definite day of the week (Monday). This tradition was taken to America by the women who were aboard *"The Mayflower"*. When they came ashore on Monday, November 13, 1620, the first thing they did was the washing:

WASH ON MONDAY

Wash on Monday,
Iron on Tuesday,
Bake on Wednesday,
Brew on Thursday,
Churn on Friday,
Mend on Saturday,
Go to meeting on Sunday [38].

The nursery rhyme *"The Ring around the rosy"* reflects events in British history as it refers to the Bubonic plague. The words to the famous *"The Ring around the rosy"* have their origin in English history. The historical period dates back to the Great Plague of London in 1665 or even before when the first outbreak of the Plague hit England in the 1300's. The nursery rhyme was entitled *"Ring around the rosy"* because the symptoms of the plague included a rosy red rash in the shape of a ring on the skin. People filled their pockets with sweet smelling herbs (posies) which were carried due to the belief that the disease was transmitted by bad smells. The term *"Ashes Ashes"* refers to the cremation of the dead bodies. The death rate was very high and the plague was only halted by the Great Fire of London in 1666 which killed the rats which carried the disease. The term *"A-tishoo, A-tishoo"* refers to violent sneezing as it was another symptom of the disease [32].

RING AROUND THE ROSY

A pocketful of posies
"Ashes, Ashes"
We all fall down
Ring-a-Ring o'Rosies
A Pocket full of Posies
"A-tishoo! A-tishoo!"
We all fall Down!

The words of *"Remember, Remember"* refer to Guy Fawkes with origins in 17[th] century English history. On the 5[th] November 1605 Guy Fawkes was caught in the cellars of the Houses of Parliament with several dozen barrels of gunpowder and sentenced to death which reflected the serious nature of the crime of treason. The nursery rhyme *"Remember, Remember"* is a warning to each new generation that treason will never be forgotten. In England the 5[th] of November is still commemorated each year with fireworks and bonfires [31].

REMEMBER, REMEMBER

Remember, remember the fifth of November
Gunpowder, treason and plot.
I see no reason why gunpowder, treason
Should ever be forgot... [31]

Limerick is a poetry genre written as a humorous short poem that is not only often nonsensical but ribald and has five lines that rhyme. Scholars claim that the origin of the limerick is unknown, but it has been suggested that the name derives from the chorus of an 18th-century Irish soldiers' song, *"Will You Come Up to Limerick?"*

Limericks have a definite structure in which all lines usually rhyme. The main distinctive feature of a limerick is the number of syllables in lines. The first, second and fifth lines usually have eight to ten syllables. The third and fourth lines, in their turn, have five to seven syllables.
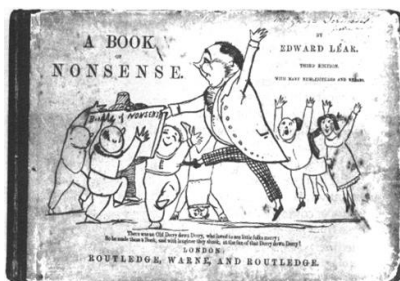
The cover of the first edition (1846)

The first collections of limericks in the English language date from the beginning of the 19[th] century. A typical example of a limerick is a verse by Edward Lear, who composed and illustrated one of the first collections in his *"Book of Nonsense"* (1846):

There was an Old Man who supposed

That the street door was partially closed;

But some very large rats

Ate his coats and his hats,

While that futile Old Gentleman dozed.

Many variations of this poetry genre were quickly developed and acquired widespread popularity in the early years of the 20th century, and limerick contests were often held by magazines and business houses. For instance, the following limerick was written in the form of a tongue twister:

A tutor who taught on the flute

Tried to teach two tooters to toot.

Said the two to the tutor,

"Is it harder to toot, or

To tutor two tooters to toot? [22].

Cinquain is a poetry genre written in metrical form that consists of five lines. The word cinquain comes from the French word *cinq* which means *five* (from Old French *cinc*; see *cinque) + (quatr)ain.* Cinquains are particularly vivid in their imagery and are meant to convey a certain mood or emotion [7].

The founder of this poetry genre was Adelaide Crapsey (1878–1914). She was an American poet. Adelaide Crapsey took her inspiration from Japanese haiku and tanka and applied the term *"cinquain"* to a five-line verse form of specific metre that she developed by herself. She composed a collection of poems entitled *"Verse"*. It included 28 cinquains and was published in 1915 [7].

Because Adelaide Crapsey created the cinquain as a poetic form, the best examples of a cinquain are poems that she composed. For instance, *"November Night"*:

Listen…

With faint dry sound

Like steps of passing ghosts,

the leaves, frost-crisp'd, break from the trees

And fall [8].

Another famous cinquain composed by Adelaide Crapsey is *"Snow":*

Look up…

From bleakening hills

Blows down the light, first breath

Of wintry wind…look up, and scent

The snow! [8]

There have been many variations of the cinquain since its invention. One of the most popular forms used today is a *didactic cinquain.* It is very popular among poets because of its simplicity. As it was above-mentioned, didactic cinquains consist of five lines. The first line names the subject, the second line includes two descriptive words; the third line consists of -ing words about what the subject does; the fourth line comprises a sentence about the subject and the fifth line is another name for the subject. Let us consider the following example of a didactic cinquain entitled *"Watermelon":*

Watermelon

Juicy, sweet

Dripping, slurping, smacking

So messy to eat

Yummy [8].

The second popular variation of the cinquain is different from the didactic one in a way that the fourth line is a complete sentence and may have more than four words:

Star

Hot, radiant

Shining, burning, exploding

It gives life to everything

Sun [8].

Diamante is a poetry genre written in metrical form, which has seven lines that are in a diamond shape. Hence, the name of this poetry genre is diamante. The form was developed by Iris Tiedt in A New Poetry Form: *"The Diamante"* (1969). A diamante poem does not have to rhyme because a poet is discribing something. It is usually written about two opposite subjects, which are compared with one another. Subjects might include war-peace, fire-ice, love-hate, hot-cold, etc.

A diamante poem usually consists of seven lines. The first line contains one noun that names the first subject; the second line includes two adjectives that describe the first subject. The third line of a diamante poem comprises 3 – ing words that are related to the first subject. In the fourth line four nouns are used: first two nouns are related to the first subject in the first line and the second two nouns are related to the second subject. In the fifth line there are 3 – ing words that are related to the second subject and in the sixth line there are two adjectives that describe the second subject presented in the seventh line [40].

Let us consider the following example of a diamante poem:

WATER

Wet, Deep

Flowing, Splashing, Swaying

Lake, Ocean, Island, Forest

Growing, Stabilizing, Living

Hard, Dry

LAND

Sometimes contemporary poets add a transition noun in the fourth line in order to unite the opposite subjects. Let us look at the scheme of such a poem:

WORD A

2 adjectives (referring to word A)

3-ing verbs (referring to word A)

2 nouns (for word A), transition noun, 2 nouns (for word B)

3-ing verbs (referring to word B)

2 adjectives (referring to word B)

WORD B

Return now to some examples of diamante poems with a transition noun in the fourth line. Thus, the first poem describes two opposite subjects such as study and rest:

STUDY

interesting exciting

laughing studying writing

students teachers exams internet bed

sleeping eating dreaming

joyful active

REST

The second poem is dedicated to differences between men and women:

MEN

strict brave

earning working sleeping

money car house children beauty

spending washing cooking

pretty kind

WOMEN

Haiku is a poetry genre, which was borrowed from Japanese literature and became popular among numerous poets in the USA.

This unrhymed Japanese poem consists of three lines and has a specific syllable pattern. Haiku poems are usually written on topics and things that easily identified by readers. For instance, seasons, animals and nature. Initially, haiku poems were called *"hokku"* and the first three masters who represented this poetry genre were Basho, Buson and Issa.

Haiku poems, which are usually about two contrasting parts, comprise three lines and 17 syllables in total. The first and the last lines consist of five syllables and the second one is composed of seven syllables.

One of the best examples of haiku poetry is *"Old Pond"* by Basho. It contains two contrasting parts one of which is frog that is jumping and second one is the sound of water. The syllable pattern corresponds to a 5-7-5 format.

OLD POND

Old pond

a frog jumps

the sound of water [17].

One more popular poetry genre, which was borrowed from Japenese literature and became popular in the USA is **tanka:**

Pretty colored trees

That are orange, red and yellow

In the Autumn air

An old barn by the water

With a white fence around it [13].

Tanka poems, which have historically been the basic form of Japanese poetry, usually consist of 5 lines and 31 syllables:

Beautiful mountains
Rivers with cold, cold water.
White cold snow on rocks
Trees over the place with frost
White sparkly snow everywhere [12].

Free Verse is a poetry genre which is written without proper rules about form, rhyme or rhythm. Free verses lack rhyme and have less predictable rhythm. They do not have any set rules and are based on normal pauses and natural rhythmical phrases. This type of poetry genre is commonly used by contemporary poets. Some of them use this technique as a freedom from rhythm and rhyme because they think that it changes the mind of people. Therefore, free verse is also called *vers libre*.

One of the best examples of free verse poems, which doesn't have a regular rhyme scheme and rhythm, is represented by *"Soonest Mended"* by John Ashbury:

SOONEST MENDED

Barely tolerated, living on the margin
In our technological society, we were always having to be rescued
On the brink of destruction, like heroines in Orlando Furioso
Before it was time to start all over again.
There would be thunder in the bushes, a rustling of coils,
The whole thing might not, in the end, be the only solution.
Came plowing down the course, just to make sure everything was O.K.
About how to receive this latest piece of information [16].

Concrete is a poetry genre, which is written with the help of words, phrases and physical shape. They usually capture the attention of readers and convey a definite idea. Each line should be a complete unit of thought [24].

A brief analysis conducted from the diachronic viewpoint allows us to conclude that contemporary literature of the English-speaking countries is characterised by the diversity of poetry genres, which greatly influenced its evolution. Although all poetry genres emerged during different literary periods, some of them were even borrowed from literature of other countries globalization and the fact that they were written on topics and things that the readers could easily identify helped them become popular and recognizable in contemporary literature of the English-speaking countries.

2.3. NON-FICTION GENRES

*"If **non-fiction** is where you do your best writing,*
or your best teaching of writing,
don't be buffaloed into the idea that it's an inferior species.
The only important distinction is between good writing and bad writing."
William Zinsser, On Writing Well *, 2006*

Contemporary literature of the English-speaking countries is also represented by various non-fiction genres which help us gain insight into common ways of understanding life, gain a greater knowledge of ourselves

comparing our lives to those we discover in non-fiction literature, explore points of view of different people on some events separated from us by time. Thus, the main purpose of the following subunit is to investigate the diversity of non-fiction genres in contemporary literature of the English-speaking countries and to find out what the difference between fiction and non-fiction is.

In order to understand what the difference between fiction and non-fiction is, we need to answer several questions of what can or cannot be real in life. Is it possible that a wolf eats somebody's grandmother and then puts on her clothes? Or, is it real that children who get lost in a forest find a house made of gingerbread? We know that these things are fictional because they cannot happen in real life. Non-fiction, in its turn, is usually about people, events or places that exist or existed in real life. It provides us with real information.

Thus, we can define non-fiction as a broad category of literature that is based on true events. As it is stated on the website *Ehow.com,* Mark Twain who was the author of the classic American novels *"The Adventures of Tom Sawyer and Adventures of Huckleberry Finn"* wrote that

> *truth is actually stranger than fiction because fiction is obliged to stick to possibilities and truth isn't. When you consider the richness of non-fiction genres, it is easy to see why he made this claim.* [2]

There is no universal definition of what "a non-fiction genre" is, that is why we can regard any text that complies with this criterion as non-fiction. There is also "no universal classification system exists for non-fiction writing, so it is difficult to say exactly how many different types of non-fiction there are [24]."

_____

[2] Types of Non-Fiction Genres
<http://www.ehow.com/info_8543213_types-nonfiction-genres.html>

However, as several different types of non-fiction available to the readers have many common features we can group them as follows:

- journalism,
- article,
- biography,
- autobiography,
- letters,
- memoir,
- essay,
- speech,
- encyclopedia,
- interview,
- self-help books,
- historical non-fiction,
- travel books.

Let us consider them in more detail. Thus, journalism is the branch of non-fiction, which deals with the reporting of events and trends. Like essays, journalism deals strictly with facts. The most common examples of journalism are newspaper, journal and magazine articles and columns [18].

Article, in its turn, is "a non-fictional prose composition that usually forms an independent part of a publication (as a magazine, newspaper or journal) [39]."

Next common non-fiction genre is biography. It can be defined as a written account of another person's life or the reconstruction in print or on film, of the lives of real people [18]. One of the most famous biographies in contemporary literature of the English-speaking countries is *"Steve Jobs"* by Walter Isaacson. Based upon numerous interviews with Steve Jobs, members of his family, colleagues and competitors, Walter Isaacson provides an account of Job's personal and professional life.

Autobiography. Its definition is very simple. It is a person's interpretation of his/her own life [24]. One of the best examples of autobiographies in contemporary literature of the English-speaking countries is *"My life"* by Bill Clinton (published in 2004). This biography presents a detailed account of the private and public life of one of the most prominent leaders of the USA: problems, conflicts and achievements.

Letters belong to a literary non-fiction genre that deals with direct written correspondence between two or more people. Letters usually contain personal and sometimes confidential information that gives the readers insight into the types of people who correspond with each other are or were. Letters can often be published in biographies or as appendices to novels or other books [18].

Memoir is a literary non-fiction genre, which has been written since the ancient times. The word memoir comes from the French word *mémoire* ("memoir"), from Latin *memoria,* which means memory [30]. Thus, memoir is a piece of writing by someone important and famous in which he/she writes about his/her life and experiences. The main difference between a memoir and an autobiography is that the first one does not focus on the author as the primary subject matter, but on people and events in the author's life. Emphasis is placed on personal observations about external events.

"Dreams from my father" by Barack Obama published in 1995 is first memoir written before his completion of a presidency. It is a portrait of a person who is searching for who he is and struggling to find his place in the present-day world.

Essay is a short piece of writing giving someone's ideas about politics, society etc. Most essays have a single major focus and a clear introduction, body, and conclusion [18]. There are many types of essays, but most can be placed into one of four main categories:

- expository,
- narrative,

- argumentative (or persuasive),

- descriptive.

Thus, **an expository essay** is a literary non-fiction genre, which requires the writer to investigate an idea, evaluate evidence, expound on the idea, and set forth an argument concerning that idea in a clear and concise manner. This can be accomplished through comparison and contrast, definition, example, the analysis of cause and effect etc [14].

A **narrative essay**, in its turn, is a story about a real-life experience of its author. When writing a narrative essay, authors might think of it as telling a story. Narrative essays can often be anecdotal, experiential, and personal – allowing writers to express themselves in a creative and, quite often, moving ways [29].

A **persuasive essay** usually presents and supports writer's opinion. It is a non-fiction genre, which requires a writer to investigate a definite topic. At first, the writer should collect, generate, and evaluate evidence. Detailed research allows the writer to learn about the topic and to understand different points of view regarding the topic so that she/he may choose a position and support it with the evidence collected during research. Then, regardless of the amount or type of research involved, the writer should establish a position on the topic in a concise manner [2].

A **descriptive essay** is a literary non-fiction genre, which writers use for describing different things. These things can include various objects, people, places, positive and negative emotions, situations, etc. Moreover, this non-fiction genre allows writers to use a great deal of artistic freedom [11].

Speech is a talk, especially a formal one about a particular subject, given to a group of people. Speeches are some of the most treasured pieces of non-fiction. Lincoln's *"Gettysburg Address"* and Martin Luther King's *"I Have a*

Dream" are two outstanding examples of famous oratory pieces that have been transcribed and reproduced countless times [18].

Encyclopedia is a "work that contains information on all branches of knowledge or treats comprehensively a particular branch of knowledge usually in articles arranged alphabetically by subject [39]."

Interview is an occasion when a famous person is asked questions about his/her life, experiences, or opinions for a newspaper, magazine, television programme etc.

Self-help books give instructions, techniques and ideas on how to improve just about every area of your life. If you want to lose weight, get better at time management, update your wardrobe or have better relationships, this is the genre to research [37].

Historical Non-fiction tells the true stories of historical events. This type of non-fiction involves a great deal of research and investigation. As with other forms of non-fiction, great care is taken to weed through inaccuracies and only publish facts [18]. One of the most interesting examples of historical non-fiction in contemporary literature of the English-speaking countries is *"Elizabeth: The struggle for the Throne"* by David Starkey which was published in 2000. In this book the author provides an overview of the early years of the life of Elizabeth I and tells a wonderful story of how the character of this outstanding woman was forged.

Travel books are as diverse as Earth itself. You can explore the mysterious stone sculptures of Easter Island or the kitschy roadside attractions of America's highways from the comfort of your own bed. Dangerous locations or places that are not receptive to visitors can be investigated via travel books [37].

QUESTIONS FOR DISCUSSION

1. Give the definition of the word *"literature"*.

2. What are the major forms of literary art?

3. Give the definition of poetry.

4. Give the definition of prose.

5. Give the definition of drama.

6. What does the word *"genre"* mean?

7. How many groups can generally acknowledged literary genres be divided into?

8. How many categories may literary genres fall under?

9. What are the factors according to which a literary genre can be determined? Give some examples.

10. What was the purpose of introducing sub-genres?

11. What is the origin of Mother Goose and Nursery Rhymes?

12. What is the origin of the nursery rhyme *"A swarm of bees in May"*?

13. What does the nursery rhyme *"Wash on Monday..."* reflect?

14. What are the main features of a free verse?

15. What special features do haikus have?

16. Who were the first three masters of the haiku genre?

17. What is haiku poetry full of?

18. What is the origin of Ballad poetry?

19. Who developed the form of a diamante poem?

20. What are the main features of a diamante poem?

21. What is the origin of limerick and what is its structure?

22. Who composed and illustrated a collection of limericks entitled *Book of Nonsense"*?

23. How many cinquains did a collection of poems, entitled *"Verse"*, include?

24. What is a Didactic Cinquain? Why is it popular among poets?

25. Does the universal classification system exist for non-fiction writing?

26. How many different types of non-fiction are there?

27. What is direct written correspondence between two or more people?

28. What are common examples of journalism?

29. What is the difference between a memoir and a simple autobiography?

30. What categories can many types of essays fall under?

31. What information do self-help books usually give?

32. What are the two enduring examples of speeches in contemporary American literature?

33. What is the main difference between biography and autobiography?

34. What is the main difference between fiction and non-fiction?

TESTS

Variant 1

1) *What is a fairy tale?*

a) It is a brief allegorical narrative, in verse or prose, illustrating a moral thesis or satirizing human beings.

b) It is a story purported to be historical in nature, but without substantiation.

c) It is a unique fiction genre written as a story, usually for children, about elves, hobgoblins, dragons, fairies, or other magical creatures.

d) It is an extravagantly and humorously exaggerated story of the backwoods exploits of an American frontiersman.

2) *What is a fable?*

a) It is a brief allegorical narrative, in verse or prose, illustrating a moral thesis or satirizing human beings.

b) It is a story purported to be historical in nature, but without substantiation.

c) It is a unique fiction genre written as a story, usually for children, about elves, hobgoblins, dragons, fairies, or other magical creatures.

d) It is an extravagantly and humorously exaggerated story of the backwoods exploits of an American frontiersman.

3) *What is a legend?*

a) It is a brief allegorical narrative, in verse or prose, illustrating a moral thesis or satirizing human beings.

b) It is a story purported to be historical in nature, but without substantiation.

c) It is a unique fiction genre written as a story, usually for children, about elves, hobgoblins, dragons, fairies, or other magical creatures.

d) It is an extravagantly and humorously exaggerated story of the backwoods exploits of an American frontiersman.

4) What is a tall tale?

a) It is a fiction genre, which is peculiar to literature of the USA.

b) It is an extravagantly and humorously exaggerated story of the backwoods exploits of an American frontiersman.

c) Variants a) and b) are correct.

d) No individual variant is correct.

5) What is an epic?

a) It is a short story written in the form of a poem or a song.

b) The earliest recorded poem emerged during the Anglo-Saxon period.

c) It is a poem written in metrical form for children.

d) It is a poem developed in Italy in the thirteenth century.

6) What is the genre of the following poem?

Football is the game for me
The stadium is a great place to be
Touchdowns are what I like to see.

a) a cinquain

b) an epic

c) a triplet

d) a haiku

7) What is the genre of the following poem?

Old pond
a frog jumps
the sound of water.

a) a ballad

b) an epic

c) a triplet

d) a haiku

*8) **What is journalism?***

a) It is the branch of non-fiction that deals with the reporting of events and trends.

b) It is a written account of another person's life or the reconstruction in print or on film, of the lives of real men and women.

c) It is a history of a person's life written or told by that person or an individual's interpretation of his own life.

d) It is a short piece of writing giving someone's ideas about politics, society etc.

*9) **What is an autobiography?***

a) It is the branch of non-fiction that deals with the reporting of events and trends.

b) It is a written account of another person's life or the reconstruction in print or on film, of the lives of real men and women.

c) It is a history of a person's life written or told by that person or an individual's interpretation of his own life.

d) It is a short piece of writing giving someone's ideas about politics, society etc.

*10) **Which poetry genre did Iris Tiedt develop?***

a) a limerick

b) a diamante

c) a cinquain

d) an epic

*11) **What is the genre of the following poem?***

WATERMELON

Watermelon

Juicy, sweet

Dripping, slurping, smacking

So messy to eat

Yummy.

a) a cinquain

b) an epic

c) a triplet

d) a haiku

12) **What is a diamante poem usually written about?**
a) two similar subjects
b) two opposing subjects compared with one another
c) Variants a) and b) are correct.
d) No individual variant is correct.

13) **What fantasy subgenre involves different worlds hidden within or parallel to our own?**
a) medieval fantasy
b) contemporary fantasy
c) alternate world fantasy
d) juvenile fantasy

14) **What fantasy subgenre is set in between the ancient or Arthurian worlds and the modern industrial era?**
a) medieval fantasy
b) contemporary fantasy
c) alternate world fantasy
d) juvenile fantasy

15) **What novella did Daisy Ashford write in 1919?**
a) *"How the World Began"*
b) *"Conan"*
c) *"The Young Visiters, or, Mister Salteena's Plan"*
d) *"The Hobbit"*

16) **What is realistic fiction?**
a) It is a history of a person's life written or told by that person or an individual's interpretation of his own life.
b) It is a short piece of writing giving someone's ideas about politics, society etc.
c) It is a literary genre which is interested in, concerned with, or based on what is real, practical, pertaining to, characterized by, or given to the representation in literature or art of things as they really are, or resembling or simulating life.
d) No individual variant is correct.

*17) **What story did Dorothy Straight of Washington, DC write in 1964?***

a) *"How the World Began"*

b) *"Conan"*

c) *"The Young Visiters, or, Mister Salteena's Plan"*

d) *"The Hobbit"*

*18)   **What is an expository essay?***

a) It is a story about a real-life experience of its author.

b) It is a literary non-fiction genre using which the writer investigates an idea, evaluates evidence, expounds on the idea, and sets forth an argument concerning that idea in a clear and concise manner.

c) It is a literary non-fiction genre, which deals with the description of something – object, person, place, experience, emotion, situation etc

d) It is a literary non-fiction genre, which presents and supports writer's opinion.

*19) **Who invented the moveable type?***

a) Johnathan Swift

b) Jody Lynn Nye

c) Peter Beagle

d) Johannes Gutenberg

*20) **What is women's fiction?***

a) It is a literary fiction genre dedicated to a woman or women.

b) It is a literary fiction genre written by a women or women.

c) Variants a) and b) are correct.

d) No individual variant is correct.

*21) **What is a persuasive essay?***

a) It is a story about a real-life experience of its author.

b) It is a literary non-fiction genre using which the writer investigates an idea, evaluates evidence, expounds on the idea, and sets forth an argument concerning that idea in a clear and concise manner.

c) It is a literary non-fiction genre, which deals with the description of something – object, person, place, experience, emotion, situation etc.

d) It is a literary non-fiction genre, which presents and supports writer's opinion.

22)   ***What way was poetry of the Anglo-Saxon period recited?***

a) It was recited as a song.

b) It was recited as a riddle.

c) Variants a) and b) are correct.

d) No individual variant is correct.

23)   ***What form of literary art has a noble and ancient history?***

a) prose

b) poetry

c) drama

d) No individual variant is correct.

24)   ***What is a narrative essay?***

a) It is a story about a real-life experience of its author.

b) It is a literary non-fiction genre using which the writer investigates an idea, evaluates evidence, expounds on the idea, and sets forth an argument concerning that idea in a clear and concise manner.

c) It is a literary non-fiction genre, which deals with the description of something – object, person, place, experience, emotion, situation etc

d) It is a literary non-fiction genre, which presents and supports writer's opinion.

25)   ***What groups can a list of generally acknowledged literary genres be divided into?***

 a) fiction genres which are written in prose and are opposed to poetry

 b) non-fiction genres

 c) poetry genres

 d) Variants a), b) and c) are correct.

26)   ***What group of literary genres do tall tales fall under?***

 a) fiction genres written in prose

 b) non-fiction genres

 c) poetry genres

 d) No individual variant is correct.

27) *What is the genre of "Snow White"?*
a) a fable
b) a tall tale
c) a fairy tale
d) a legend

28) ***What is Johnathan Swift's best known full-length work and a classic of English literature?***
a) *"Beowulf"*
b) *"The Adventures of Tom Sawyer and Adventures of Huckleberry Finn"*
c) *"Gulliver's Travels"*
d) No individual variant is correct.

29) ***What is the genre of the following poem?***

Shoes

Sho
es, Shoes
everybody loves s
hoes. Red   ones, gre
een ones   and purple
ones too!
Heels, flat
s, even ten
nis shoes
are what i
love to shop
for....I can handle ab
out one   hundr
ed pairs   mor
e! Wea   r the
m with   blue
jeans,   lea
ther, e   ve
n with   a
swea   ter!   If you
know   me as well as you think you
do y   ou'll know just how much I love
sho   es. Shoes are what I live for. All I wa
nt f   or Christmas is more shoes. Hey Mom that's
good   news! Please or please get me more shoe
s. N   ow you know I how much I love shoes, yo
get   the clue. **Morghan Barnes**

a) a ballad
b) a triplet
c) a sonnet
d) a concrete poem

30) ***When did limericks acquire widespread popularity?***
a) in the early years of the 20th century
b) in the middle of the 20th century
c) in the late years of the 20th century
d) No individual variant is correct.

Variant 2

1) How many lines does a diamante usually consist of?

a) 2

b) 3

c) 5

d) 7

2) A literary genre which is intended to help children master their basic reading skills is known as … .

a) by children or juvenilia

b) picture books

c) early readers

d) young adult fiction

3) Women's fiction is a book … .

a) about a female protagonist over thirty but under sixty

b) about a woman or women

c) written by a woman or women

d) about a family or family drama

4) The major forms of literary art include … .

a) fiction and non-fiction

b) a novel, a novella and a short story

c) a novel, a novella and a poet

d) prose, poetry and drama

5) *A poetry genre written as a short story in the form of a poem or song which was basically used in dance songs in ancient France is … .*

a) a couplet

b) a ballad

c) a concrete poem

d) a cinquain

6) *By Children or Juvenilia is a small but genuine subgenre which is … .*

a) intended to help children master their basic reading skills

b) written by a child or children

c) presents stories for readers and listeners up to about age twelve

d) often illustrated

7) *What does the word literature literally mean?*

a) "things made from letters"

b) "things made from words"

c) "things made from sentences"

d) "things made from idioms"

8) *Literary genre written in metrical form that has five lines and which comes from the French word which means five.*

a) a diamante poem

b) a haiku poem

c) a limerick

d) a cinquain

9) **Literary genre written as a humorous short poem that is often nonsensical, frequently ribald and has five lines that rhyme**.

a) a diamante poem

b) a haiku poem

c) a limerick

d) a cinquain

10) **Literary genre written in metrical form that is an unrhymed Japanese poem with three lines and a specific syllable pattern.**

a) a diamante poem

b) a haiku poem

c) a limerick

d) a cinquain

11) **A poetry genre written in metrical form which has seven lines that are in a diamond shape is ... .**

a) a diamante poem

b) a haiku poem

c) a limerick

d) a cinquain

12) **Which poem reflects the belief that if people are attentive they can predict the weather?**

a) *"The Ring around the rosy"*

b) *"A swarm of bees in May"*

c) *"Remember Remember"*

d) *"November Night"*

13)   ***Who is considered to be the founder of poetry genre which is called cinquain?***

a) Dorothy Straight

b) Adelaide Crapsey

c) Thomas Wyatt

d) Daisy Ashford

14)   ***Which poem refers to Guy Fawkes with origins in 17th century English history?***

a) *"The Ring around the rosy"*

b) *"A swarm of bees in May"*

c) *"Remember, Remember"*

d) *"November Night"*

15)   ***Where and when was sonnet developed as a form?***

a) In Italy in the 13th century.

b) In England in the 15th century.

c) In France in the late 16th century.

d) In England in the 14th century.

16)   ***Who is the youngest known author, certainly of prose in English?***

a) Dorothy Straight

b) Adelaide Crapsey

c) Thomas Wyatt

d) Daisy Ashford

17) *… is an occasion when a famous person is asked questions about his/her life, experiences, or opinions for a newspaper, magazine, television programme etc.*

a) an encyclopedia

b) an essay

c) an article

d) an interview

18) *Who did Dorothy Straight dedicate her story "How the World Began" to?*

a) her mother

b) her father

c) her sister

d) her grandmother

19) *What is a story, usually for children, about elves, hobgoblins, dragons, fairies, or other magical creatures?*

a) a myth

b) a legend

c) a fairy tale

d) juvenile fantasy

20) *Who is the author of "Gulliver's Travels"?*

a) Lewis Carroll

b) Johnathan Swift

c) Robert Weinberg

d) Roger Joseph Zelazny

21) *… is a piece of writing about a particular subject in a newspaper or magazine.*

a) an encyclopedia

b) an essay

c) an article

d) an interview

22) *A poetry genre in which poets use words, phrases and physical shape to capture the attention of readers and convey a definite idea.*

a) a couplet

b) a ballad

c) a concrete poem

d) a cinquain

23) *Which poem reflects events in British history as it refers to the Bubonic plague?*

a) *"The Ring around the rosy"*

b) *"A swarm of bees in May"*

c) *"Remember, Remember"*

d) *"Wash on Monday"*

24) *Which genre does imaginative work, dealing with supernatural or unnatural events or characters, belong to?*

a) a legend

b) a tall tale

c) a fable

d) fantasy

25)	*A genre which presents vividly illustrated books that have minimal printed texts is … .*

a) by children or juvenilia

b) picture books

c) early readers

d) young adult fiction

26)	*Who is the author of a famous speech "I Have a Dream"?*

a) Lewis Carroll

b) Martin Luther King

c) Johnathan Swift

d) Mark Twain

27)	*What are usually the characters of a fable?*

a) elves

b) hobgoblins

c) dragons

d) animals

28)	*What is a large book or set of books containing facts about many different subjects, usually arranged in alphabetical order?*

a) an encyclopedia

b) an essay

c) an article

d) an interview

29) **A literary genre which is selected for reading by young adults, ages 13 to 18, is … .**

a) by children or juvenilia

b) picture books

c) early readers

d) young adult fiction

30) **What old rhyme is believed to be connected with the English tradition of washing clothes on a definite day of the week?**

a) *"The Ring around the rosy"*

b) *"A swarm of bees in May"*

c) *"Remember, Remember"*

d) *"Wash on Monday"*

THESAURUS

adventure   a literary genre which describes an exciting or very unusual experience, participation in exciting undertakings or enterprises

article   a piece of writing about a particular subject in a newspaper or magazine

autobiography   a story of a person's life written or told by that person or an individual's interpretation of his own life

ballad   a short story in the form of a poem or song

biography   a written account of another person's life or the reconstruction in print or on film, of the lives of real men and women

cinquain   a verse that has five lines. The word cinquain comes from the French word *cinq* which means *five* (from Old French *cinc*; see **cinque**) + *(quatr)ain*.

concrete poem   a poetry genre in which poets and poetesses use words, phrases and physical shape to capture the attention of readers and convey a definite idea

couplet   two lines of poetry, one following the other, that are the same length

dialogue   a conversation meant to be spoken by the actors

diamante   a poem about two opposite subjects which consists seven lines and makes a comparison between them by moving from one to the other

descriptive essay   a non-fiction genre which deals with the description of something – object, person, place, experience, emotion, situation etc.

drama	a form of literary art which presents a story written to be performed by actors
epic	the earliest recorded poems emerged during the Anglo-Saxon period marked
essay	a short piece of writing giving someone's ideas about politics, society etc.
expository essay	a non-fiction genre which requires the writer to investigate an idea, evaluate evidence, expound on the idea, and set forth an argument concerning that idea in a clear and concise manner
fantasy	an imaginative or fanciful work
fairy tale	a story, usually for children, about elves, hobgoblins, dragons, fairies, or other magical creatures
free verse	a poetry genre which is written without proper rules about form, rhyme or rhythm
folklore	songs, stories, myths, proverbs of a people or "folk" which are handed down by word of mouth and considered to be false or based on superstition
genre	a category of literary composition or endeavor which can be determined by the writing style, technique, tone, length, and content of the composition
haiku	an unrhymed Japanese poem with three lines and a specific syllable pattern
historical non-fiction	true stories of historical events
journalism	the branch of non-fiction that deals with the reporting of events and trends

legend	a story purported to be historical in nature, but without substantiation
letters	a non-fiction genre which represents direct written correspondence between two or more people that can give the reader insight into the type of person the authors are or were
literature	the art of written work which can, in some circumstances, refer exclusively to published sources
literary genre	a category of literary composition or endeavor which can be determined by the writing style, technique, tone, length, and content of the composition
limerick	a humorous short poem that has five lines that rhyme
memoir	a book by someone important and famous in which they write about their life and experiences
Mother Goose and Nursery Rhymes	short traditional poems or songs for children
mystery	is a literary genre whose plot involves a crime or other event that remains puzzlingly unsettled until the very end
narrative essay	a story about a real-life experience of its author
non-fiction	a broad category of literature which is based on true events
novel	a long work of fiction which contains characters, plot, conflict, and setting
novella	a work of fiction intermediate in length and complexity between a short story and a novel
papyrus	rough paper-like material made from reeds
picture book	a vividly illustrated book that has minimal printed text
plot	events that form the main story of a book, film, or play

poetry	a form of literary art in which language is used for its aesthetic qualities, and not usually for its apparent meaning
prose	the ordinary form of written language presented in two forms, fiction and non-fiction
protagonist	a main character
rhyme	a short poem or song, especially for children, using words that rhyme
self-help books	instructions, techniques and ideas on how to improve every area of your life
short story	a brief work of fiction
sonnet	a poetry genre of fourteen lines, following one or another of several set rhyme-schemes
speech	a talk, especially a formal one about a particular subject, given to a group of people
stanza	a group of lines in a repeated pattern forming part of a poem
syllable	a word or part of a word which contains a single vowel sound
tall tale	an extravagantly and humorously exaggerated story of the backwoods exploits of an American frontiersman
tanka	a Japanese poem with 5 lines and 31 syllables that has historically been the basic form of Japanese poetry
triplet	a poetry genre which is written in metrical form which has three lines
young adult fiction	literary genre selected for reading by young adults, ages 13 to 18

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MODULE 2. LONG AND SHORT PROSE FORMS

PLAN
UNIT 3. NOVELS, NOVELLAS AND SHORT STORIES
    3.1. NOVELS
    3.2. NOVELLAS
    3.3. SHORT STORIES
UNIT 4. MAIN ELEMENTS OF NOVELS, NOVELLAS AND SHORT STORIES

UNIT 3. NOVELS, NOVELLAS AND SHORT STORIES

3.1. NOVELS

"The Novel is a picture of real life and manners,
and of the time in which it is written.
The Romance, in lofty and elevated language,
describes what never happened nor
is likely to happen."

Clara Reeve,
The Progress of Romance,
1785

Many scholars agree that a novel is a somewhat recent literary creation and add that in literature of the English-speaking countries lengthy fictional narratives written in prose, which can be regarded as novels, appeared before 1700. So, what a novel is. According to the website *i.word.com,* a novel is

an invented prose narrative that is usually long and complex and
deals especially with human experience through a usually

connected sequence of events.[3]

Contemporary scholars are still arguing about the length of a novel. Nevertheless, "there is a fairly standard range: with the shortest containing somewhere between 60-70,000 words and all but the very longest coming in around 200,000 [30]".

There is no universally established classification of novels but as a rule scholars distinguish the following types:

- classic novels;
- realistic fiction novels;
- magic realism novels;
- Gothic novels*;*
- Southern Gothic novels;
- graphic novels;
- picaresque novels;
- epistolary novels;
- sentimental novels;
- psychological novels;
- apprenticeship novels;
- mysterious novels;
- Westerns;
- Roman à clef novels;
- non-fiction novels.

Classic novels are "considered model examples of the novel form: they are well-written and they stand the test of time [14]." These are the "novels that make you feel like you are getting to know real people dealing with believable situations can be considered realistic fiction [14]."

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[3] Novel <http://i.word.com/idictionary/novel>

For instance, a novel *"To Kill a Mockingbird"* by Nelle Harper Lee that was published in 1960 and won the Pulitzer Prize for Fiction in 1961 is considered to be a classic of contemporary American literature. The novel deals with the issues of racism and expresses the feelings of different people towards black people.

According to the website *Education-portal.com*,

> **Realistic fiction** *is a genre consisting of novels that could have actually occurred to people or animals in a believable setting. These novels resemble real life, and fictional characters within these novels react similarly to real people. ...Their plots usually highlight social or personal events or issues that mirror contemporary life, such as falling in love, marriage, finding a job, divorce, alcoholism, etc. They depict our world and our society.*[4]

Realistic fiction novel that deserves high attention is *"The Catcher in the Rye"* written by J.D. Salinger. Since the novel was published in 1951, it has become popular with numerous readers all over the world.
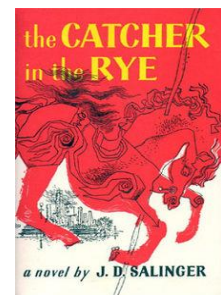
"The Catcher in the Rye" that deals with complex issues of belonging, identity, loss and alienation is considered to be one of the 100 best English-language novels of the 20th century [41].

Magic realism is a literary genre "in which realistic narrative and naturalistic technique are combined with surreal elements of dream and fantasy [21]."

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[4] What is Realistic Fiction? <http://education-portal.com/academy/lesson/what-is-realistic-fiction-definition-characteristics-examples.html >

One of the most prominent novels in contemporary literature of the English-speaking countries written in the genre of magic realism belongs to *"Beloved"* by Toni Morrison.

Gothic novel is considered to be pseudomedieval fiction that has a prevailing atmosphere of mystery and terror and whose "imaginative impulse is drawn from medieval buildings and ruins [16]." Gothic novels usually include "such settings as castles or monasteries equipped with subterranean passages, dark battlements, hidden panels, and trapdoors [16]. They usually "combine elements from horror and romanticism deal with supernatural events or events occurring in nature that cannot be easily explained or over which man has no control and it typically follows a plot of suspense and mystery. A list of some common elements found in gothic novels includes:

- gloomy, decaying setting (haunted houses or castles with secret passages, trapdoors, and other mysterious architecture);
- supernatural beings or monsters (ghosts, vampires, zombies, giants);
- curses or prophecies;
- damsels in distress;
- heroes;
- romance;
- intense emotions [17]."

Southern Gothic novels that are unique to American literature appeared in the 19[th] century. Southern Gothic novels are usually set in the South of the USA and take place on a plantation. These novels usually include many Southern elements such as dialect, habits, and personalities. The characters are complex and, what is more, many of them are mentally unstable, broken in spirit and struggling to find a place in society once again. They try to make sense of the world around them and the society in which they live. Sometimes the plots of Southern Gothic novels include supernatural elements. They often contain

ironic events as a writing style. Many of the events depicted in the novels are linked to racism, violence, and poverty [38].

Graphic novel, in simple words, is a type of text that combines words and images. The term "**graphic novel**" that appeared in the 1970s means "a long comic narrative for a mature audience, published in hardback or paperback and sold in bookstores, with serious literary themes and sophisticated artwork [18].

The term **"picaresque novel"** that appeared in Spain in the 16[th] century refers to "a first-person narrative, relating the adventures of a rogue or low-born adventurer as he drifts from place to place and from one social milieu to another in his effort to survive [34]." One of the best examples of picaresque novels is *"Huckleberry Finn"* by Mark Twain that is a realistic novel but that contains all the elements of the picaresque novel as well [27; 34].

Epistolary novel is a novel that is "told through the medium of letters written by one or more of the characters [12]." Epistolary novels that are considered to be one of the earliest forms of novels appeared in the 18[th] century.

Sentimental novels refer to a widespread European novelistic development of the 18[th] century and represent "any novel that exploits the reader's capacity for tenderness, compassion, or sympathy to a disproportionate degree by presenting a beclouded or unrealistic view of its subject [36]."

The **psychological novels** that first emerged in France in the 17[th] century appeared in literature of the English-speaking countries during the Victorian era. They usually present "a few characters whose motives for action could be examined and analyzed [28]."

Pastoral novels are a type of "fiction that presents rural life as an idyllic condition, with exquisitely clean shepherdesses and sheep immune to foot-rot, is of very ancient descent [26]."

Apprenticeship novel is "a biographical novel that concentrates on an individual's youth and his social and moral initiation into adulthood [2]." There are two prominent examples of apprenticeship novels in literature of the

English-speaking countries: *"David Copperfield"* by Charles Dickens (an English example) and *"Look Homeward, Angel"* by Thomas Wolfe (an American example) [2].

Mysterious novels are novels that thrill "the reader with mysterious crimes, usually of a violent nature, and puzzles his reason until their motivation and their perpetrator are, through some triumph of logic, uncovered [24]."

Westerns reflect "man's concern with taming wild land, or advancing frontiers, or finding therapy in reversion from the civilized life to the atavistic". Westerns that are "now thought of predominantly as a cinematic form, arose out of literature [25]."

Roman à clef novel that can be translated as a novel with a key portrays "well-known real people more or less thinly disguised as fictional characters [35]."

For instance, *"Primary Colors"* (1996) written by a political journalist Joe Klein is thought to be related to the life of Bill Clinton [35].

Non-fiction novels belong to novels that are written in such categories as biographies, historical events, travel, science, religion, philosophy, and art.

3.2. NOVELLAS

"To reduce the novella to nothing more than
a short novel is like saying a pony is a baby horse."

George Fetherling,
Canadian poet and novelist

A famous American Science fiction writer, Robert Silverberg, wrote that "the novella is one of the richest and most rewarding of literary forms … [39]."

It is considered to be an ancestor of the modern novel. Literary critics claim that Geoffrey Chaucer's "*Canterbury Tales*", written in the 14[th] century, is one of the earliest examples of novellas in the literature of the English-speaking countries [39].

So, what a novella is. The **novella** is a "literary genre of written fiction that is shorter than a full-length novel but longer than a short story. They are typically about 60 to 120 pages, or 7,500 to 40,000 words [29]."

Like the English word *"novel"*, the word *"novella"* comes from the Italian word *"novello"* which means *"short story"*. Originally, it meant *"one of the tales or short stories in a collection",* later *"long work of fiction* [33].*"*

Although novels and novellas contain all the main elements – *setting, theme, conflict, character and plot,* novels and novellas have some special features that distinguish them from each other. The first distinctive feature we can use to distinguish them is the length. Novellas have fewer words and pages than full-length novels.

The second feature is the number of essential elements novels and novellas contain. Novels usually have several plots and subplots, several main characters and novels can take place in a number of locations [44]. But exactly how are they different? Firstly, novellas have fewer conflicts, characters and subplots. Secondly, novellas are not usually divided into chapters [29].

The events of novellas as a rule turn around a single problem, or issue. There is a limited number of principal characters – and in fact the story is probably centred on just one or two. There are no sub-plots or parallel actions. And the events are likely to take place in one location. To sum up, a novella is more likely to be concentrated on one plot, it contains one or two characters and it is located in one place [44].

"Due to their more ideal length, novellas often make successful source material for film adaptations. Even though novellas are not as popular of a

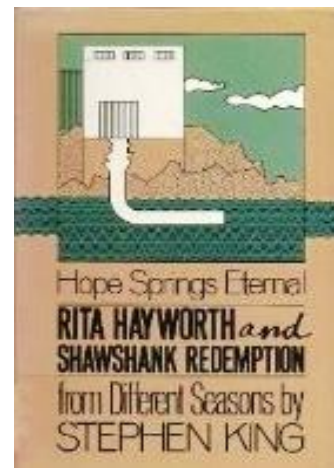literary form as the full-length novel, some of the most acclaimed stories in literature are novellas [29]."

Thus, one of the most famous novellas in contemporary literature of the English-speaking countries is *"The Mist"* (1980) by the prominent American writer Stephen King, which was adapted into a film in 2007.

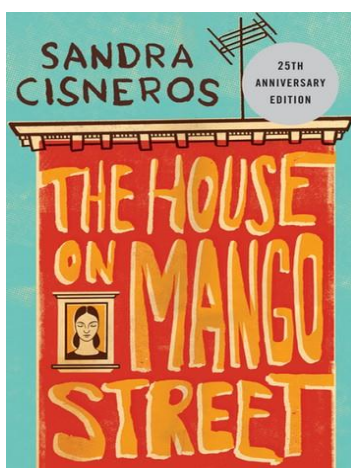The cover of the first edition

It is considered to be a horror novella about supernatural fog that covers Brighton and brings strange creatures.

Another well-known novella written by Stephen King is *"Rita Hayworth and Shawshank Redemption"* which was published in 1982. It is about a wrongly convicted person who finds himself in a prison run by a sadistic warden.

The novella, then, was adapted into a film known as *"Shawshank Redemption"* (1994).

The cover of the first edition

The cover of the first edition

One more successful example of novellas in contemporary literature of the English-speaking countries is *"The House on Mango Street"* by Sandra Cisneros which was published in 1984.

The main protagonist, a Latina girl named Esperanza Cordero, describes the lives of Mango Street residents in a collection of vignettes which creates a whole novella.

3.3. SHORT STORIES

In this subunit, we have to discuss peculiarities of a short story as well as its origin. "A short story is a short work of fiction. Fiction, as you know, is prose writing about imagined events and characters [15]."

It had been quite problematic to determine the main peculiarities of a short story and what distinguishes it from other literary works, before Edgar Allan Poe gave its classic definition. Edgar Allan Poe, who contributed significantly to the theory of the short story, believed that it should take a person 30 minutes to 2 hours to read a short story. And, in a collection of short stories, each story can be read in less than thirty minutes [10].

According to Edgar Allan Poe, the most remarkable peculiarity of a short story is its length. Some definitions place the maximum word length of a short story at 7,500 words. Other definitions refer a short story to the work of fiction no longer than 20,000 words and no shorter than 1,000. Nonetheless, it is possible to find short stories whose length is shorter and even longer. Therefore, a short story, in very simple words, can be defined as a brief fictional work, usually written in prose that is no shorter than 1,000 and no longer than 20,000 words [37].

Another peculiarity of a short story is that it covers a short period of time and comprises one plot and one setting. Besides, a number of characters are limited [10].

Although, the main difference between novels, novellas and short stories is that novels usually contain many characters, they cover the whole lifetime or several generations of characters, they can also contain several themes and have various sub-plots. There is one more distinctive feature that distinguishes short stories from novels and novellas – short stories usually deal with "a trivial incident that illustrates a small aspect of human nature, or simply evokes a mood or a sense of place [44]."

As for origin, most scholars introduce an idea that the short story originates form fables and myths. According to length and content, fables and myths were not sprawling epics but concise tales containing only a few characters and often a single focused message. Think of stories like *"The Fighting Roosters and the Eagle"* or *"The Ant and the Grasshopper"* that have some main characters and a single focused message and you'll understand they really took precession of short stories.

One of the most famous examples of short stories in contemporary literature of the English-speaking countries is *"Nine Stories"* by American fiction writer J.D. Salinger (1953) that includes nine separate stories:

1) *"A Perfect Day for Bananafish"*;

2) *"Uncle Wiggly in Connecticut";*

3) *"Just Before the War with the Eskimos"*;

4) *"The Laughing Man"*;

5) *"Down at the Dinghy"*;

6) *"For Esme – with Love and Squalor"*;

7) *"Pretty Mouth and Green My Eyes"*;

8) *"De Daumier-Smith's Blue Period"*;

9) *"Teddy"*.
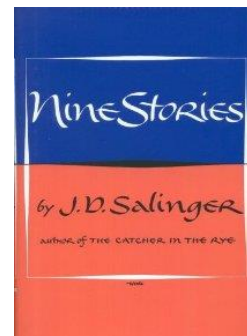
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UNIT 4. MAIN ELEMENTS OF NOVELS, NOVELLAS AND SHORT STORIES

Novels, novellas and short stories usually contain the same elements – except that there may be more than one of each of these elements in a story. Unfortunately, there is no definite classification of how many elements novels, novellas and short stories contain. For instance, the first group of scholars claims that *setting, theme, character, plot and point of view* are elements that can be found in any novel, novella or short story [8]. The second group adds two more elements to the abovementioned: *character, plot, setting, theme, point of view, style and tone* [11]. The third group itemizes such common elements as *setting, theme, conflict, character* and *plot* since only these five elements should be mentioned regarding any story.

In this subunit we'll stop more thoroughly at such novel elements as setting, theme, conflict, character and plot, since they are undisputable from different points of view and all of them make an integral part of any story.

Let us start with the first element that is **setting.** Setting is usually defined using two simple words – "place and time [11]." It helps its readers imagine a picture in their mind of where and when the story takes place:

In those days Mr Sherlock Holmes was still living in Baker Street and the Bastables were looking for treasure in the Lewisham Road. In those days, if you were a boy you had to wear a stiff Eton collar every day, and schools were usually nastier than now. But meals were nicer; and as for sweets, I won't tell you how cheap and good they were, because it would only make your mouth water in vain [7].

A novel usually can contain more than one setting and each of them can have some sub-settings. For instance, there are two main settings in all the books

about Harry Potter: the Muggle World and the World of Magic. And each of these settings has other sub-settings. For instance, within the Muggle World they include Uncle Vernon's house on Privet Drive, Platform 9 $^3/_4$ etc. In the World of Magic there are different sub-settings too: Hogwarts School of Witchcraft and Wizardry, the Quidditch pitch, the Weasley house, the various magical shops, the Forbidden Forest etc.

Most scholars agree that there are two types of settings: ***integral*** and ***backdrop***. The main difference between them is the importance of the setting to the story. If the story can take place in any setting it is defined as ***backdrop*** [11].

If everything (characaters, theme, action) in the story is influenced by its setting it is defined as ***integral*** [11].

The second important element of any story is **theme**. Theme is "the main idea that weaves the story together, the why, the underlying ideas of what happens in the piece of literature, often a statement about society or human nature [11]." In other words, it is a principle idea that the author wants to communicate in his/her literary work [13].

For instance, the theme of the famous fable "*The Ant and the Grasshopper*" by Aesop is that it is best to prepare for days of need.

Another important element of a book is **conflict,** as it is hardly possible to imagine a story without it. In literature, a conflict is defined as "a literary element that involves a struggle between two opposing forces [4]."

Some scholars consider that "the most effective way to identify a conflict is to write a conflict statement. A conflict statement is a sentence that briefly states what the main character wants and what is preventing him/her from attaining that desire [19]."

Conflicts may be internal and external. In a story an internal conflict does not usually represent a "visual opposition [6]." It is "a struggle that takes place in a character's mind [6]." Internal conflict emerges when the main character

experiences mixed feelings or emotions and has to make a choice between good and evil, right or wrong etc.

For instance*, a teenager goes through hard times after losing his parents in a car accident.*

External conflict, in its turn, is a struggle that occurs between the main character and any outside force. There are several types of external conflict in literature, namely:
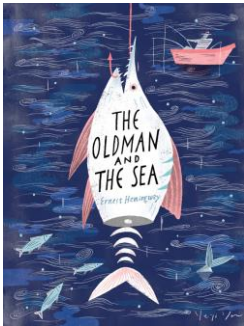
a) character versus character (characters);

b) character versus society;

c) character versus nature;

d) character versus supernatural;

e) character versus technology [3; 5].

In **a character versus character** type of conflict, the main character usually has a problem with another character (characters) in a story. Sometimes another character is depicted as an animal and not a person.

A character versus character is "almost always the conflict present when a hero fights against a villain. This form of conflict may present alone, or in conjunction with other external conflicts [5]." An American epic space opera *"Star Wars"* is an excellent example of **a character versus character** type of conflict, where Luke Skywalker fights with Darth Vader [5]."

When **a story has a character versus society** type of conflict, it includes "any conflict against a large organization or societal norms [3]." An example of **a character versus society** type of conflict can be *"Fahrenheit 451"* by Ray Bradbury which was published in 1953. The novel shows a future society in which knowledge is considered to be bad and books are outlawed and whose main character, Guy Montag, though it's his job to burn books, secretly collects them.

A **character versus nature** type of conflict comes from "the naturalism movement [3]." With this type of conflict, the main character fights with various forces of nature in order to overcome them.

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Although stories with this type of conflict usually take place in the wilderness, they can occur in urban settings as well [13].

"The Old Man and the Sea" by Ernest Hemingway is one of the best examples of a **character versus nature** type of conflict.

If a story has **a character versus supernatural** type of conflict it means that the main character fights against something that doesn't belong to our world: it can an alien from another planet or a strange creature with some magical powers.

When the main character confronts some technological forces, it is **character versus technology type** of conflict. These technological forces are usually represented by robots or computers.

Numerous writers, literary critics and scholars claim that "each of these types of conflicts rarely exists alone; it is common to have two, three [3]" or even all of them in the same story.

The fourth main element we have to consider in this subunit is **character**. In fiction, writers usually use different characters that perform different roles in the narrative process and these characters are not equal. In order to classify them researchers suggest several criteria according to which characters can fall into four groups:

a) character's importance;

b) personality development of a character;

c) character's role in the story;

d) depth of the character's personality.

According to the first criterion, characters are subdivided into the protagonist, other major characters, minor characters and extras [22].

The most important character in a story is the **protagonist**. Although there can be two or more major characters only one of them is the protagonist. "Even if a novel has several leading characters, all of them of seemingly equal importance it is usually possible to single out one of them as being at the novel's core [22]."

Other major characters may include some other leading characters as well as the **antagonist**. They are "vital to the development and resolution of the conflict. In other words, the plot and resolution of conflict revolves around these characters [47]."

Minor characters are the opposite of major characters and that's why writers do not usually spend much time describing them. They "serve to complement the major characters and help move the plot events forward [47]."

Extras are not real characters. Writers usually use them in order to bring some realism to the story.

According to personality criterion, there are eight types of characters in a story: round, flat, dynamic, static, stock, love interest, confidantes and foils [46]. Let us look at them in more detail.

Round characters are also often called major and dynamic characters. To tell the truth there is a slight difference between round and dynamic characters that we shall discuss later. These are characters that "develop throughout the story, making their qualities difficult to identify completely, right up to the end [46]." Round characters usually have many complex personality traits that help writers develop them more fully.

Flat characters do not usually have a complex personality but some of their traits that are described make them recognizable and as a result stereotypical. They do not develop throughout the story. They just play "a supporting role to the main character [46]."

Dynamic characters are major characters that can represent both the protagonist and antagonist. They are so-called developing characters "whose personality changes through the course of the story [46]". Due to this change characters' personality changes completely and irreversibly and that is the main difference between dynamic and round characters. Although round characters develop throughout the story, their personalities do not change.

Static characters do not develop and remain the same throughout a story. They are minor characters whose personalities are consistent and unchangeable throughout the whole story [46].

Stock characters are usually represented by flat ones whose personality traits are not only recognizable, stereotypical and very easy to identify but mocked as well. Thus, one of the most vivid examples of a stock character in all the books about Harry Potter is Professor McGonagall who represents some traits typical for very strict and rule-abiding teachers [46].

In some stories we can find **love interest characters.** Writers depict them as "the romantic focus of another character [46]."

Although we are discussing characters and not real people there is often a need in someone whom main characters can believe, trust and unbosom their feelings. This way, readers get to know everything about thoughts and secrets of main characters. Such a character is called a **confidante** [46].

One more type of character we can single out using the personality development criterion is a **foil** who serves as a contrast to the protagonist's personality. This type of character is used when the writer wants to enhance protagonist's virtues through the obvious contrast [46].

Next classification that should be mentioned in this subunit is represented by four types of characters (character's role in the story): protagonists, antagonists, underdogs and sidekicks [46].

The **protagonist** (he or she) is the main character in any literary work. It is usually a good person who has a definite goal and who wants to achieve it [46].

The **antagonist** is the character who usually opposes the protagonist's goals, is the cause of the conflict and whom the protagonist confronts. The antagonist is not always a bad person with negative traits but he/she is the kind of character that readers love to hate [46].

The **underdog** is a character that is cheated, abused or mistreated by other characters in a book but doesn't want to give up. Underdogs usually believe in their own abilities that can affect their destiny [46].

The **sidekick** is usually represented by flat or static character. It is a "relatively recent linguistic term [45]" that derived from the term "side kicker", both terms mean "a close companion" or "associate". The sidekick's personality is often weaker than protagonist's personality and his/her main role is to support the protagonist or antagonist. Nevertheless, in a book the sidekick can perform a number of different functions and highlight protagonist's behavior or best qualities.

One of the most famous sidekicks in the English-speaking literature is Dr. Watson who appears throughout all the stories about Sherlock Holmes but who is a secondary character as the main focus remains on Sherlock Holmes [45].

One more classification we have to discuss in this subunit is based on depth of the character's personality criterion according to which all characters are divided into one, two and three-dimensional.

The term "one-dimensional" means "relating to a single dimension or having no depth or scope [43]." It is used with characters who lack depth and whose only side of the personality comes through. That is why readers see one-dimensional characters only from one view.

Writers use one-dimensional characters to create a life-like setting, namely: taxi-drivers, waiters, shop-assistants etc.

Two-dimensional characters, in their turn, are "integral to the plot's progression and usually interact with the protagonist [32]."

Although two-dimensional characters neatly fit into a story they do not have their own history. They are included in a story to assist the protagonist to undergo some changes throughout the story and they never change themselves.

Three-dimensional characters have very complex and changing personalities. They are full of emotions and worries and play important roles in a novel. They are not always ideal but they look real and recognizable. They are able to undergo some changes and become better.

Regardless various classifications writers are very concerned to develop good characters to make them have the fullness and believability of human life. That's why in order to make characters believable writers usually describe not only how they look, sound and what they wear, but also emotions and desires they experience, their hobbies, secrets, past actions and future plans [20].

Next main element that we have to discuss in this subunit is a **plot**. As Richard Jewell claims the plot is the basic plan of any story and is "one of the most essential elements contained in novels, novellas and short stories [20].""The plot is like a pillar of the building. In case we remove the pillar, the whole building will certainly collapse [8]."

Ronald B. Tobias in his the book *"20 Master Plots"* (1993) singles out 20 different types of a plot:

1) guest;
2) adventure;
3) pursuit;
4) rescue;
5) escape;
6) revenge;
7) the riddle;

8) rivalry;

9) underdog;

10)   temptation;

11)   metamorphosis;

12)   transformation;

13)   maturation;

14)   love;

15)   forbidden love;

16)   sacrifice;

17)   discovery;

18)   wretched excess;

19)   ascension;

20)   descension [40].

Plots can have three types of endings: a happy ending plot, an unhappy ending plot and inconclusive plot.

A Happy Ending Plot. As the very name reveals its connotation, it is the plot which has a happy ending [8].

An Unhappy Ending Plot. "A novel, which has an unhappy ending, is referred to as an unhappy ending plot. In this type of plot, usually, the main character sacrifices his life for the sake of a great cause. This cause may be anything, but not less in its magnitude and importance [8]."

Inconclusive Plot. "Inconclusive plot is a plot, wherein the ending of the novel is ambiguous [8]."

Typically, the plot of every novel contains certain core elements of dramatic structure (or so-called Freytag's pyramid), namely: exposition, rising action, climax, falling action and resolution [9].
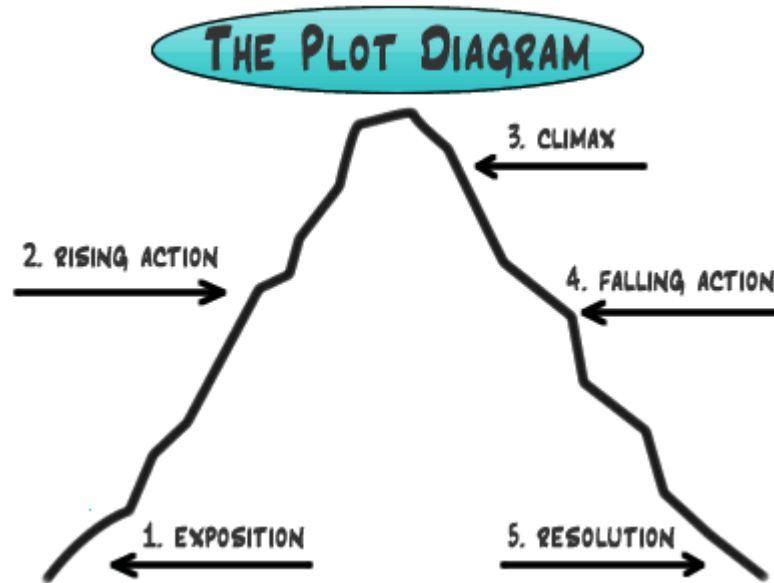
Freytag's pyramid

These are important elements of a plot. Let us now focus on them in more detail.

An exposition (introduction) is the very first phase of the plot. It occurs at the beginning of a story. Here readers are introduced to the main characters, the setting and the conflict.

A rising action is a part of a plot where the conflit begins to develop [9].

A climax is the point of highest interest in terms of the conflict and the point of the story with the most action [9].

A falling action is a part of a plot where the conflict between the protagonist and antagonist unravels, with the protagonist winning or losing against the antagonist [9].

A resolution is the point of the story when the conflict is resolved. It is considered to be the final stage of plot that brings an end to the plot and settles the long lasting conflict [9].

Contemporary literature of the English-speaking countries contains some of the best examples of novels, novellas and short stories written by prominent

American and British writers among which there are Cormac McCarthy, Jim Crace, J.D. Salinger, Toni Morrison, Sandra Cisneros etc. What makes them such remarkable writers? They are true masters at combining the five key elements that go into every story: character, setting, conflict, plot and theme.

QUESTIONS FOR DISCUSSION

1. What essential elements do novels, novellas and short stories usually contain?

2. Give the definition of a setting. What is the difference between the integral and backdrop setting?

3. What is a theme?

4. Give the definition of a conflict. What is the difference between the internal and external conflict?

5. How many types of external conflict are there in literature?

6. Is there a universally established classification of characters? If yes, what it is? If no, what are criteria according to which characters can be classified into?

7. What is the main difference between a protagonist and an antagonist?

8. What is the difference between a confidante and a foil?

9. What is the basic plan of any story?

10. How many types of a plot are there in literature?

11. Who singled out 20 different types of a plot?

12. What are three types of plot endings?

13. What is a plot element?

14. How many plot elements are there?

15. What is an exposition?

16. What is a rising action?

17. What is a climax?

18. What is a falling action?

19. What is the shortest type of fiction?

20. What is a novel?

21. What is a novella? What is the origin of the word "novella"?

22. What are the main differences between novels and novellas?

23. What are the main differences between novellas and short stories?

24. What is a classic novel? Give an example.

25. What is a realistic fiction novel? Give an example.

26. What is a gothic novel? Name common elements that can be found in gothic novels.

27. When and where did the term "picaresque novel" appear?

28. What do pastoral novels represent?

29. What is a Roman à clef novel? Give an example.

30. What is magic realism? Give an example of a novel written in this genre.

31. What is a non-fiction novel?

32. What did Edgar Allan Poe write about the length of a short story?

33. What thoughts did Edgar Allan Poe have about the construction of what he called a short prose narrative?

34. When did the short story grow in popularity?

35. What is an ancestor of a novel?

36. How long should a novel be?

37. How long should a novella be?

TEST

Variant 1

1) a character that is cheated, abused or mistreated by other characters in a book but doesn't want to give up

a) an antagonist

b) a protagonist

c) a sidekick

d) an underdog

2) a biographical novel that concentrates on an individual's youth and his social and moral initiation into adulthood

a) an apprenticeship novel

b) a biography

c) an epistolary novel

d) a sentimental novel

3) a type of novel that combines words and images

a) a gothic novel

b) a graphic novel

c) a non-fiction novel

d) a biography

4) a short, usually descriptive literary sketch

a) a novel

b) a novella

c) a short story

d) a vignette

5) *a novel that is told through the medium of letters written by one or more of the characters*

a) a sentimental novel

b) a Roman à clef novel

c) an epistolary novel

d) a biography

6) *the main hero's unconditionally loving friend*

a) an antagonist

b) a protagonist

c) a sidekick

d) an underdog

7) **a** *literary genre in which realistic narrative and naturalistic technique are combined with surreal elements of dream and fantasy*

a) realistic fiction

b) magic realism

c) fantasy

d) surrealism

8) *a literary genre of written fiction which is shorter than a full-length novel but longer than a short story*

a) a novel

b) a novella

c) a short story

d) a vignette

9) the person, place, idea or physical force against the protagonist

a) an antagonist

b) a protagonist

c) a sidekick

d) an underdog

10) the basic plan of a story

a) a theme

b) a resolution

c) a plot

d) a conflict

11) How long should it take a person to read a short story according to Edgar Allan Poe?

a) 15 minutes to 30 minutes

b) 30 minutes to 1 hour

c) 30 minutes to 2 hours

d) 1 hour to 2 hours

12) What is one of the earliest examples of novellas in the literature of the English-speaking countries?

a) *"The House on Mango Street"* by Sandra Cisneros

b) *"Canterbury Tales"* by Geoffrey Chaucer

c) *"The Mist"* by Stephen King

d) *"To Kill a Mockingbird"* by Nelle Harper Lee

13) the background where the action takes place

a) a theme

b) a conflict

c) a setting

d) a plot

14) When did Southern Gothic novels that are unique to American literature appear?

a) in the 17th century

b) in the 18th century

c) in the 19th century

d) in the 20th century

15) a part of a plot where the conflit begins to develop

a) an exposition

b) a rising action

c) a falling action

d) a climax

16) an invented prose narrative that is usually long and complex and deals especially with human experience through a usually connected sequence of events

a) a novel

b) a novella

c) a short story

d) a vignette

17) characters that just mentioned in order to bring some realism to the story

a) extras

b) minor characters

c) major characters

d) protagonists

18) the point of the highest dramatic intensity or so-called the turning point

a) an exposition

b) a rising action

c) a falling action

d) a climax

19) What type of novel is considered a model example of the novel form?

a) a classic novel

b) a pastoral novel

c) a sentimental novel

d) an epistolary novel

20) background material about the characters, setting and dramatic situation with which the author introduces the essentials of the story to the reader

a) an exposition

b) a rising action

c) a falling action

d) a climax

21) a major character whose personality changes through the course of the story

a) a flat character
b) a stock character
c) a dynamic character
d) a round character

22) the point of the story when the conflict is resolved

a) a theme
b) a resolution
c) a plot
d) a conflict

23) Who singles out 20 different types of a plot?

a) Geoffrey Chaucer
b) Edgar Allan Poe
c) Robert Silverberg
d) Ronald B. Tobias

24) What is one of the best examples of picaresque novels in literature of the English-speaking countries?

a) *"Canterbury Tales"* by Geoffrey Chaucer
b) *"Huckleberry Finn"* by Mark Twain
c) *"The Catcher in the Rye"* by J.D. Salinger
d) *"The Mist"* by Stephen King

25) a character who serves as a contrast to the protagonist's personality

a) an antagonist

b) a foil

c) a confidante

d) a love interest character

26) a novel with a key that portrays well-known real people more or less thinly disguised as fictional characters

a) a sentimental novel
b) a Roman à clef novel
c) an epistolary novel
d) a biography

27) When did the psychological novels appear in literature of the English-speaking countries?

a) during the Medieval period
b) during the Renaissance period
c) during the Victorian period
d) during the Romantic period

28) What is the genre of the novel "Beloved" by Toni Morrison?

a) realistic fiction
b) magic realism
c) non-fiction
d) mystery

29) What originates form fables and myths?

a) a novel
b) a novella
c) a short story
d) a vignette

30) According to what criterion, characters are divided into the protagonist, other major characters, minor characters and extras?

a)   character's importance
b)   personality development of a character
c)   character's role in the story
d)   depth of the character's personality

THESAURUS

antagonist	the person, place, idea or physical force against the protagonist
apprenticeship novel	a biographical novel that concentrates on an individual's youth and his social and moral initiation into adulthood
atmosphere	the general mood, feeling or spirit of a story
character	a person in a story
characterization	the way that the author describes characters
climax	the point of the highest dramatic intensity; the turning point
conflict	the problem in the story that triggers the action
description	well described settings, sensory details about the characters and their actions, and, often, good simile, metaphor, and other use of symbols to help us see what people and things in the story symbolize or stand for
dynamic character	a major character whose personality changes through the course of the story
epistolary novel	a novel that is told through the medium of letters written by one or more of the characters
exposition	background material about the characters, setting and dramatic situation with which the author introduces the essentials of the story to the reader
external conflict	happens outside the character
extras	characters that just mentioned in order to bring some realism to the story
falling action	falling action is a part of a plot where the conflict between

	the protagonist and antagonist unravels, with the protagonist winning or losing against the antagonist
foil	a character who serves as a contrast to the protagonist's personality
gothic novel	pseudomedieval fiction that has a prevailing atmosphere of mystery and terror and whose imaginative impulse is drawn from medieval buildings and ruins
graphic novel	a type of novel that combines words and images
inconclusive plot	a plot where the ending of the novel is ambiguous
internal conflict	happens inside the character (character vs. himself/herself)
non-fiction novels	novels that are written in such categories as biographies, historical events, travel, science, religion, philosophy, and art
novel	a long work of fiction which contains characters, plot, conflict, and setting
novella	a literary genre of written fiction which is shorter than a full-length novel but longer than a short story
magic realism	a literary genre in which realistic narrative and naturalistic technique are combined with surreal elements of dream and fantasy
pastoral novel	a type of fiction that presents rural life as an idyllic condition, with exquisitely clean shepherdesses and sheep immune to foot-rot, is of very ancient descent
plot	the basic plan of a story
plot element	a component or element of the plot of a story
protagonist	the most important character in a play, film, or story
realistic fiction	a genre that include novels that could have actually

	occurred to people or animals in a believable setting
resolution	the point of the story when the conflict is resolved
Roman à clef novel	a novel with a key that portrays well-known real people more or less thinly disguised as fictional characters
round characters	characters that usually have many complex personality traits
rising action	a part of a plot where the conflit begins to develop
sentimental novel	a novel that exploits the reader's capacity for tenderness, compassion, or sympathy to a disproportionate degree by presenting a beclouded or unrealistic view of its subject
setting	the background where the action takes place
short story	a brief work of fiction
sidekick	the main hero's unconditionally loving friend
static characters	characters whose personalities are consistent and unchangeable throughout the whole story
stock characters	characters whose personality traits are recognizable, stereotypical and very easy to identify
subplot	a plot that is connected with but less important than the main plot in a story, novel or novella
theme	the main idea that weaves the story together, the why, the underlying ideas of what happens in the piece of literature, often a statement about society or human nature
underdog	a character that is cheated, abused or mistreated by other characters in a book but doesn't want to give up
vignette	a short, usually descriptive literary sketch

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MODULE 3. A SHORT HISTORY OF LITERATURE OF THE ENGLISH-SPEAKING COUNTRIES

PLAN

INTRODUCTION
UNIT 5. EARLY PERIODS OF ENGLISH LITERATURE
5.1. THE MEDIEVAL PERIOD
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INTRODUCTION

Periodization of literary movements is based on grouping various literary pieces of work written at a certain time. This way it is possible to trace the evolution of the world literature. Although the numbers, dates or the names of these periods are very indeterminate, the following periodized structure, which is acknowledged all over the world, includes the Medieval period, the Renaissance and Reformation, the Enlightenment period, the Romantic period, the Victorian period, the Modern period and the Postmodern period [1; 5].

PERIODS OF LITERATURE

№	PERIODS	YEARS
I	**THE MEDIEVAL PERIOD**	**450 – 1485 AD**
	THE EARLY MIDDLE AGES	450 – 1066 AD
	THE MIDDLE ENGLISH PERIOD - HIGH MIDDLE AGES (1066 – 1300 AD) - THE LATE MIDDLE AGES (1300 – 1500 AD)	1066 – 1485 AD
II	**THE RENAISSANCE AND REFORMATION**	**1485 – 1660 AD**
III	**THE ENLIGHTENMENT**	**1660 – 1785 AD**
IV	**THE ROMANTIC PERIOD**	**1785 – 1830 AD**
V	**THE VICTORIAN PERIOD**	**1832 – 1901 AD**

VI	**THE MODERN PERIOD**	**1914? – 1945?**
VII	**THE POSTMODERN PERIOD**	**1945? –**

Most contemporary scholars agree that the early periods of English literature can be divided into the Medieval period (450 – 1485 AD) and the Renaissance and Reformation (1485 – 1660 AD).

The Medieval period, in its turn, is subdivided into the Early Middle Ages (or Anglo-Saxon period) and the Middle English period that includes the High Middle Ages and the Late Middle Ages. Let us look at them more thoroughly.

UNIT 5. EARLY PERIODS OF ENGLISH LITERATURE
5.1. THE MEDIEVAL PERIOD
5.1.1. THE EARLY MIDDLE AGES (ANGLO-SAXON PERIOD)

Literature of the Anglo-Saxon period has been of great interest to critics and various scholars in study of literature of the English-speaking countries not only in the USA and the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland but in Ukraine as well (Debora B. Schwartz, S. Duffy, W.F. Klein, N. Jacobs, B.J. Timmer, S.B. Liljergen, M. Alekseev, M. Shapovalova, H. Rubanova, V. Motornyy). Although most of them dedicated their investigations to the analysis of world-famous poems such as *"Beowulf"* and *"The Seafarer"*, there is still no complex research dedicated to lexical, stylistic and phonographic features of poetry of the Anglo-Saxon period, peculiarities of development of literature of the Anglo-Saxon period and biographic information about writers who lived and worked during the abovementioned period.

Thus, the main aim of the following subunit is to provide the reception of literature of the Anglo-Saxon period from a present-day perspective. The stated aim provides the solution of the following tasks, namely:

- to offer biographic information about writers of the stated period,

- to find out peculiarities of development of literature of the Anglo-Saxon period;
- to conduct a complex research of lexical, stylistic and phonographic features of poetry of the Anglo-Saxon period.

The Anglo-Saxon period began when Celtic England was invaded by Germanic tribes in the first half of the 5th century and ended in 1066 when the country was conquered by the Norman French (under the leadership of William the Conqueror).

Contemporary scholars consider that the Anglo-Saxon period is represented by pagan and Christian literature that encompasses poetry written in the form of verses, oral sagas, as well as various pieces of writing composed in so-called Old English and in Latin (after the adoption of Christianity). Moreover, it is a well-known fact that most scops, living during the Anglo-Saxon period, recited numerous verses that were composed in the form of songs or riddles and were popular among people. This fact allows contemporary scholars to explain the popularity of riddling and add that it was one of the most popular pastimes at that time. Scholars call these verses alliterative, define alliteration as the repetition of definite sounds in a phrase and state that its origin may be traced back to several Germanic languages [19].

"Three grey geese in a green field grazing. Grey were the geese and green was the grazing" is an example of alliteration with consonants that is called consonance and *"The angry alligator ate Andy"* is an example of alliteration with vowels that is called assonance [3; 5].

What is more, Anglo-Saxon poets often used other literary elements such as *kennings, variations, litotes* and *compoundings* [11].

A kenning is a figurative phrase that replaces a common noun. It usually represents a two-word metaphorical name. For instance, a kenning for word *"the sun"* can be *"God's beacon"* or *"sky's candle"*; *"wound-dew"* for the word *"blood"*; *"bone's house"* for *"body"* [11; 13].

A variation is the restatement of a concept or term using different words. For instance, *"headland, the homes of many water-monsters"* would be a variation [11].

Litotes is a figure of speech that consists of an understatement in which emphasis is typically achieved by negation. For instance, *"This is no small problem"* for *"This is a big problem"* or *"She was not a little upset"* for *"She was extremely upset"* [15].

A compounding, in its turn, is "the combining of two words to make a new word". An example is *feorhseoc*, literally *"lifesick"* (*feorh* means *life* and *seoc* is sick), which can be translated as mortally wounded [11].

Since the pagan literature of the Anglo-Saxon period was an oral art very few poems written in Old English survived to us today. According to Debora B. Schwartz, Latin was considered the only language of learning and culture until late in the medieval period. And as the poetry, which was composed orally in the vernacular of Anglo-Saxon, was not considered decent literature by monks and scholars of that time, they simply "didn't want to waste parchment and ink writing it down [4]."

Nevertheless, some poems written in Old English and some biographical information about Anglo-Saxon poets have come to us, namely: *"Beowulf"*, *"The Seafarer"*, *"Caedmon's Hymn"*, *Caedmon, the Venerable Bede, "Ecclesiastical History of the English people"*, *Cynewulf etc.*

Thus, one of the most famous poems written in Old English is *"Beowulf"* which is considered the greatest Germanic epic in the world of literature. Most scholars believe that the poem had been composed long before it was recorded in writing. Some of them think that it emerged in the 8[th] century, others believe that it appeared in the 11[th] century. What they know for sure is that it is the oldest surviving Anglo-Saxon epic poem written in Old English [1; 2].

The poem *"Beowulf"* was discovered in the 16[th] century. It happened when Laurence Nowell bought a manuscript on the pages of which he found the

poem. Scholars managed to find his name, along with the date, 1563, which was written in pencil on the back of the abovementioned manuscript and since then it has been known as the Nowell Codex. Moreover, contemporary scholars carried out the analysis of scribes' handwriting. The provided analysis allowed them to claim that two completely different people wrote the poem in about 1000-1010 AD. Nowadays the original of the Nowell Codex is located in the British library [20].

One more non-religious poem, which belongs to literature of the Anglo-Saxon period and deserves our attention, is *"The Seafarer"*. Scholars claim that like *"Beowulf"* people passed it in oral versions long before the unknown scribe wrote it down at the end of the 10th century. At first, it turned out be very controversial for most scholars because of textual problems. Some scholars thought that it represented a dialogue, others believed that is was a monologue. But contemporary scholars have come around to the view that it is a monologue told by a single speaker.

Other survived poems represent Christian literature of that period. Thus, one of them is entitled *"Caedmon's Hymn"*. It is a unique example of the earliest recorded poems in Old English. Despite its title scholars claim that it was written down by another person due to the fact that its author was illiterate. All biographical information about Caedmon has come to us due to the Venerable Bede who was one of his closest contemporaries. Unfortunately, not much is known about Caedmon, nothing is known about his date of birth, but according to ancient manuscripts he worked as a herdsman at a monastery established at Whitby around 657 [4].

Contemporary scholars consider Caedmon one of the first founders of the school of Christian poetry and often call poetry composed during that period *"Caedmonian"*.

The earliest vernacular versions of the abovementioned poem have come down to us by accident. It happened only because scribes who were copyng the

"Ecclesiastical History of the English people" in Latin not only recognized *"Caedmon's Hymn"*, but also appended its translation in Old English to the margins of the stated manuscript.

Nowadays, the poem occurs in several dialects. Thus, for instance, two eight-century manuscripts that are held in the Cambridge University library and in the National Library of Russia (St. Petersburg) contain the poem in a Northumbrian dialect:

CAEDMON'S HYMN
Nū scylun hergan hefaenrīcaes Uard,
Metudæs maecti end his mōdgidanc,
uerc uuldurfadur, suē hē uundra gihuaes,
ēci dryctin,ōr āstelidæ.
Hē āērist scop aelda barnum heben til hrēfe,hāleg Scepen.
Thā middungeard moncynnæs Uard,
ēci Dryctin, æfter tiadæ
firum foldu, Frēa allmectig [7].

The following poem represents an example of modern English translation of *"Caedmon's Hymn"* written in a Northumbrian dialect:

CAEDMON'S HYMN
Now let me praise the keeper of Heaven's kingdom,
The might of the Creator, and his thought,
The work of the Father of glory, how each of wonders
The Eternal Lord established in the beginning.
He first created for the sons of men
Heaven as a roof, the holy Creator,
Then Middle-earth the keeper of mankind,
The Eternal Lord, afterwards made,
The earth for men, the Almighty Lord [7].

Another person we have to mention in this subunit is the Venerable Bede who is widely regarded as the greatest of all the Anglo-Saxon scholars. Although he was one of the most prominent historians who lived during the Anglo-Saxon period there is not much biographical information about him. What is well-known is that Bede was born in Jarrow, England. It was either in 672 or 673. He was taken to St. Peter's Monastery at Wearmouth Abbey at a very young age, but by 685 he moved to St. Paul's Monastery at Jarrow where he spent his whole adult life.

Despite the fact that Bede wrote more than 60 books, most of them are extant. The most prominent book that survived is *"Ecclesiastical History of the English people"*. He dedicated it to the development and organization of the church of England, miracles, heresies, various stories of miraculous healing and life of noble people etc. *"Ecclesiastical History of the English people"* comprises five parts and describes ecclesiastical life and political history of England. It also covers the period beginning from Julius Caesar's invasion in 55 BC to the date of the completion of manuscript in 731. The first printed edition of the manuscript appeared in 1480 AD, after Johannes Gutenberg invented his printing press.

One more poet who lived at that time and composed Old English Christian poems was Cynewulf. Contemporary scholars believe that he lived in Northumbria in the 9th century and claim that most of them unfortunately are extinct. The only four poems that have come down to us include *"Elene"*, *"The Fates of the Apostles"*, *"The Ascension"* and *"Juliana"*.

His masterpiece is *"Elene"*. Cynewulf dedicated it to Saint Helena, her travelling to Jerusalem and discovery of the Cross. The distinctive feature of a poem is that it is written in prose and poetry.

"The Ascension" describes Christ's Advent, Ascension and Doomsday.

"The Fates of the Apostles" is dedicated to the death of each of the apostles.

As an epilogue to each poem contained runic characters that represented the letters *c, y, n, (e), w, u, l, f*, this discovery allowed contemporary scholars to assume that it was the name of the author.

Unfortunately, there is no other information that can throw light on the biography of Cynewulf [16].

The provided overview allows us to offer biographic information about the most prominent writers who lived and worked during the Anglo-Saxon period, to find out peculiarities of development of literature of the Anglo-Saxon period and to conduct a complex research of lexical, stylistic and phonographic features of poetry of the stated period.

5.1.2. THE MIDDLE ENGLISH PERIOD (1066 – 1485 CE)

The Middle English period began in 1066 when Norman French armies invaded and conquered England under William the Conqueror. The date 1485 is an arbitrary but convenient one to mark the end of the Middle English period.

After the Norman invasion of England, the French language became the dominant language of secular medieval literature. Most literary works of that time were of religious character and included hymns and hagiographies that were more popular that the Bible.

Although there is very little information about authors who wrote during the Middle English period some of them are well-known all over the world: so-called Pearl Poet, William Langland, John Gower and Geoffrey Chaucer.

Thus, for instance, there was an anonymous author, who wrote a poem called *"The Pearl"*. As there was no information about this writer, scholars called him the Pearl Poet.

The Pearl Poet also wrote a poem *"Sir Gawain and the Green Knight"*.

The poem is written in romance genre that usually involves a main hero who goes on a quest to demonstrate and test his prowess.

Sir Gawain and the Green Knight
(from original manuscript, artist unknown)

In this sense *"Sir Gawain and the Green Knight"* is not an exception as it describes the adventures of Sir Gawain who accepts a challenge from a mysterious Green Knight. Sir Gawain who was a knight of King Arthur's Round table and a nephew of King Arthur demonstrated chivalry and loyalty during his adventures.

Since the manuscript in which the poem was found dates from the late fourteenth century, scholars agree that its author probably lived in the fourteenth century [18].

Other poems that were also found in the same fourteenth-century manuscript and attributed to Pearl Poet include *"Purity"* and *"Patience"*.

Necessity has no law.
William Langland

William Langland (1330? – 1400?). Unfortunately, there is no authoritative information about his biographical data. Everything that is known about William Langland is educated conjecture based on the poem *"The Vision of Piers Plowman"*.

Modern scholars consider it as one of the greatest works of English literature of the Middle English period along with *"Sir Gawain and the Green Knight"* and *"The Canterbury Tales"*.

The poem was rewritten for several times

The First Page of
"Piers Plowman"

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from 1362 to the time of the death of William Langland. Over 50 versions of the poem in manuscript form have come down to us.

"The Vision of Piers Plowman" is an allegorical poem in which the main character falls asleep and has a series of dream visions. These dream visions represent an allegory for heaven, hell and the people on earth.

Due to the poem scholars assumed that William Langland was born sometime around 1330, had a deep knowledge of medieval theology and was committed to all the implications of Christian doctrine.

The date of his death is uknown too. Modern scholars usually mention two dates – 1387 and 1400 making reference to different resources [14].

But in proverb I have herde say,
That who that wel his werk beginneth,
The rather a good end he winneth.

John Gower

John Gower (born 1330? – 1408?) − a contemporary of William Langland and a good friend of Geoffrey Chaucer.

John Gower

Although he wrote a lot of ballads and poems, he is famous for three poems written in French, Latin and English.

First of them was written in Anglo-Norman French is *"Speculum Meditantis"* or *"Mirour de I'Omme"* (in French). The poem contains a dense exposition of religion and morality.

"Vox Clamantis" ("The voice of one crying out") written in Latin is his second prominent work. It incorporates information about Peasants' Revolt that occurred in 1381 and whose bystander John Gower became.

The First Cover of
"Vox Clamantis"

In *"Vox Clamantis"* Gower depicted all the techniques that were used to suppress the revolt.

The third poem *"Confessio Amantis"* (*The Lover's Confession)* that is John Gower's greatest English work represents a collection of tales dedicated to love.

All these poems contain common moral and political themes [12].

Forbid us something,
and that thing we desire.
Geoffrey Chaucer

Geoffrey Chaucer (1343? – 1400?). Geoffrey Chaucer, the author of *"The Canterbury Tales",* is considered to be one of the most prominent Middle English writers.

Geoffrey Chaucer

Geoffrey Chaucer was born between 1340 and 1345 in a family of a prosperous wine merchant in London. During his lifetime, he "held a number of positions at court and frequently travelled abroad on diplomatic missions [17, 89]."

His first major work was *"The Book of the Dutchess"* (1370). It was an elegy for the first wife of his patron John of Gaunt who was the king's fourth son.

"The House of Fame" (1374-1385), *"Parliament of Fowls"*, *"Troilus and Criseyde"* (1385) and *"The Canterbury Tales"* are among his famous works which are also worthy of special mention.

"Troilus and Criseyde" that tells the story of two lovers who lived during the Trojan War is considered to be one of the great poems dedicated to love in the English language.

But the most unusual book for literature of the Middle English period is *"The Canterbury Tales"*. It includes twenty-four stories called tales. Pilgrims who travel from London to Canterbury Cathedral tell each other stories about their lives.

Geoffrey Chaucer started to write his masterpiece in 1387 and continued writing it until his death.

It is a well-known fact that about 80 copies of *"The Canterbury Tales"* survived from the 1500s. This fact allows numerous scholars to admit that *"The Canterbury Tales"* was an extremely popular piece of writing [10].

Geoffrey Chaucer was a writer who made a great contribution to the development of literature of the Middle English period and many scholars claim that his writing was a starting point of English literature [17, p. 89].

5.2. THE RENAISSANCE/REFORMATION PERIOD

(The Renaissance takes place in the late 15th, 16th, and early 17th century in Britain, but somewhat earlier in Italy and southern Europe, somewhat later in northern Europe.)

The term "renaissance" comes from the French word that means "rebirth". Scholars usually apply it to an intellectual and artistic flowering that began in Italy in the 14th century, culminated there in the 16th century, and greatly influenced other parts of Europe. They consider rebirth as a revival of the values that belong to the classical world [17].

As it is stated in *"Oxford illustrated encyclopedia of The Arts"*,

> *in literature the Renaissance was led by humanist scholars and poets, notably Petrarch, Dante, and Boccacio in Italy. Poetry and prose began to be written in the vernacular instead of Latin, and the invention of printing contributed to the spread of ideas. Among the notable writers of the Renaissance beyond Italy are Erasmus in the Netherlands; Montaigne and Rabelais, and the poets of the Pleiade in France; Lope de Vega and Cervantes in Spain; and Edmund Spenser, Sir Philip Sidney, Shakespeare, and Sir Francis Bacon in Britain. All of these writers gave expression in the fine, classical tones that distinguished the language of the time, and to a new clarity of thought and sensual vitality. The Renaissance profoundly affected the presentation and content of theatrical production. Basing themselves on the architectural works of Vitruvius (c.15 bc), theatre buildings and set design were constructed according to the principles of Roman theatre. Dramatists introduced classical form and restraint into their works, which were to be codified, notably in France, with greater severity than in classical times. A revival of plays by Terence in 15th-century Venice was staged before an audience seated in a horseshoe-shaped auditorium facing a proscenium arch-platform, and this was to become the model of theatre-building all over.* [3]

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[3] Oxford illustrated encyclopedia of The Arts / John Julius Norwich – Oxford University Press, 1990. – P. 379.

What distinguishes the writers of the Renaissance period from the writers of the Medieval period is that they started thinking about their position in the world independently of religious motivations.

Besides, the invention of the printing press made it easier not only to transmit ideas in writing but to transmit works of art as well.

Among the notable writers of the Renaissance period in Britain contemporary scholars usually distinguish the following ones, namely:

- Edmund Spenser,

- Christopher Marlowe,

- Sir Philip Sidney,

- William Shakespeare,

- Sir Francis Bacon.

The poets' scrolls will outlive the monuments of stone.

Genius survivies, all else is claimed by death.

Edmund Spenser

Edmund Spenser (1552 /1553? – 1599).

Edmund Spenser is an English poet who is recognized as one of the premier craftsmen of Modern English verse in its infance.

Edmund Spenser is best known for his epic poem *"The Faerie Queene"* dedicated to the Tudor dynasty and the Elizabeth I [9].
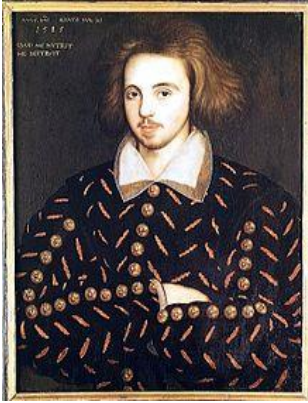

Edmund Spenser

Christopher Marlowe (1564 – 1593)

Christopher Marlowe

Christopher Marlowe who was an English dramatist, poet and translator of the Elizabethan era influenced William Shakespeare and generations of writers to follow.

His famous plays include *"Doctor Faustus"*, *"Edward II"* and *"The Massacre at Paris"*.

But one of the most celebrated and the most quoted English writer of the Renaissance Period is considered to be **William Shakespeare**.

We know what we are,

but know not what we may be.

William Shakespeare

William Shakespeare (1564 – 1616).

William Shakespeare

William Shakespeare was born in Stratford-upon-Avon and lived there untill he was eighteen. Then he moved to London and began his theatrical career. Unfortunately, there is no exact information about the beginning of his career as a writer.

He published his first poems *"Venus and Adonis"* and *"The Rape of Lucrece"* in 1953-1954.

The list of most famous works by William Shakespeare includes *"Hamlet", "Macbeth", "Julius Caesar", "The Tempest", "King Lear", "Romeo and Juliet", "King John", "Much Ado About Nothing" and "The Winter's Tale" etc.*

William Shakespeare influenced every generation of writers since his death and he continues to have a great impact on contemporary literature of the English-speaking countries.

QUESTIONS FOR DISCUSSION

1. When did the Anglo-Saxon period begin?

2. Why was riddling a popular pastime during the Anglo-Saxon period?

3. What is alliteration? Give an example.

4. What is the difference between consonance and assonance? Give an example.

5. What is a caesura?

6. What is a kenning? Give an example.

7. What is a variation? Give an example.

8. Give the definition of litotes.

9. What is a compounding? Give an example.

10. What language was considered the only language of learning and culture until late in the medieval period?

11. What poem is considered to be the greatest Germanic epic in the world of literature?

12. Who is considered to be the founder of the school of Christian poetry?

13. Who wrote the *"Ecclesiastical History of the English people"*?

14. When did the French language become the dominant language of secular medieval literature?

15. What language was considered the only language of learning and culture until late in the medieval period?

16. Why did very few poems written in Old English survive to us today?

17. When did monks print the first edition of *"Ecclesiastical History of the English people"* in 1480 AD?

18. Who was the author of four extant poems written in Old-English?

19. When did the Middle English period begin?

20. Who were the most notable writers of the Middle English period?

21. What was John Gower famous for?

22. Who was recognized as one of the premier craftsmen of Modern English verse in its infance?

23. What was Edmund Spenser best known for?

24. Who was the author of *"The Canterbury Tales"*?

25. How many copies of *"The Canterbury Tales"* survived from the 1500s?

26. Who was the author of *"The Vision of Piers Plowman"*?

27. Whose work is regarded as the starting point of English literature?

28. What does the term "renaissance" come from?

29. What made it easier to transmit works of art during the Renaissance period?

30. Who were the most notable writers of the Renaissance period in Britain?

TEST

1) Who was England's first and most renowned scholar of Anglo-Saxon?
a) Laurence Nowell
b) Venerable Bede
c) William the Conqueror
d) Caedmon

2) When did the Anglo-Saxon period begin?
a) in the first half of the 5th century
b) in the second half of the 5th century
c) in the middle of the 5th century
d) at the end of the 5th century

3) Who is famous for three poems written in French, Latin and English?
a) Geoffrey Chaucer
b) John Gower
c) William Langland
d) Pearl Poet

4) What literature is the Anglo-Saxon period represented by?
a) pagan in the form of oral sagas
b) Christian literature
c) pagan and Christian literature in the form of verses and oral sagas
d) comedies

5) What is alliteration?
a) a figurative phrase that replaces a common noun
b) an audible pause that breaks up a line of verse
c) a restatement of a concept or term using different words
d) a repetition of the definite sounds in a phrase

6) What is consonance?

a) an example of alliteration with vowels

b) an example of alliteration with consonants

c) a repetition of the definite sounds in a phrase

d) a restatement of a concept or term using different words

7) What is a kenning?

a) a figurative phrase that replaces a common noun

b) an audible pause that breaks up a line of verse

c) a restatement of a concept or term using different words

d) a repetition of the definite sounds in a phrase

8) Who composed "Caedmon's Hymn"?
a) Laurence Nowell
b) Venerable Bede
c) William the Conqueror
d) Caedmon

9) What is assonance?

a) an example of alliteration with vowels

b) an example of alliteration with consonants

c) a repetition of the definite sounds in a phrase

d) a restatement of a concept or term using different words

10) Who is the author of "Sir Gawain and the Green Knight"?
a) Geoffrey Chaucer
b) John Gower
c) William Langland
d) Pearl Poet

11) Who was the Nowell Codex named after?

a) Laurence Nowell
b) Venerable Bede
c) William the Conqueror
d) Caedmon

12) Which language became the dominant one of secular medieval literature after the Norman invasion of England?

  a) Latin
  b) French
  c) Italian
  d) Spanish

13) Who is considered to be the founder of the school of Christian poetry?

a) Laurence Nowell
b) Venerable Bede
c) William the Conqueror
d) Caedmon

14) Who was "Caedmon's Hymn" written down by?

a) Cynewulf
b) Venerable Bede
c) William the Conqueror
d) Caedmon

15) Who wrote "Ecclesiastical History of the English people"?

a) Cynewulf

b) Venerable Bede

c) William the Conqueror

d) Caedmon

16) Who is the author of four extant poems written in Old-English?

a) Cynewulf

b) Venerable Bede

c) William the Conqueror

d) Caedmon

17) Who is the author of "The Vision of Piers Plowman"?

   a) Geoffrey Chaucer

   b) John Gower

   c) William Langland

   d) Pearl Poet

18) What is an allegorical poem in which the main character falls asleep and has a series of dream visions?

   a) "Sir Gawain and the Green Knight"

   b) "Ecclesiastical History of the English people"

   c) "The Vision of Piers Plowman"

   d) "The Canterbury Tales"

19) Which masterpiece consists of a series of twenty-four tales told by a group of pilgrims who come from all layers of the 14th century society?

   a) "Sir Gawain and the Green Knight"

   b) "Ecclesiastical History of the English people"

   c) "The Vision of Piers Plowman"

   d) "The Canterbury Tales"

20) **Whose work is considered to be the starting point of English literature?**

a) Geoffrey Chaucer's

b) John Gower's

c) William Langland's

d) Pearl Poet's

21) **During which period all the prose and poetry began to be written in the vernacular instead of Latin?**

a) the Anglo-Saxon period

b) the Middle English period

c) the Renaissance period

d) the Medieval period

22) **Who is one of the most celebrated and the most quoted English writer of the Renaissance Period?**

a) Christopher Marlowe

b) Sir Philip Sidney

c) William Shakespeare

d) Sir Francis Bacon

23) **Which of the following masterpieces covers the history of England, ecclesiastical and political, from the time of Julius Caesar's invasion in 55 BC to 731 AD?**

a) *"Sir Gawain and the Green Knight"*

b) *"Ecclesiastical History of the English people"*

c) *"The Vision of Piers Plowman"*

d) *"The Canterbury Tales"*

24) **What is the oldest surviving Anglo-Saxon epic poem written in Old English?**

a) "Beowulf"
b) "Caedmon's Hymn"
c) "Ecclesiastical History of the English people"
d) "The Fates of the Apostles"

25) **Which term is used to describe the combining of two words to make a new one?**

a) a kenning
b) a variation
c) litotes
d) a compounding

26) **Which language was considered the only language of learning and culture until late in the medieval period?**

a) Latin
b) French
c) Italian
d) Spanish

27) **Where was William Shakespeare born?**

a) in Liverpool
b) in Stratford-upon-Avon
c) in London
d) in Cardiff

28) **Why did not Caedmon write down "Caedmon's Hymn"?**

a) He was blind.

b) He did not have hands.

c) He was illiterate.

d) He did not have much time.

29) **Which of the following dates marks the end of the Middle English period?**
   a) 450
   b) 1066
   c) 1485
   d) 1660

30) **Which of the following poems is written in romance genre that involves a main hero who goes on a quest to demonstrate and test his prowess?**
   a) *"Sir Gawain and the Green Knight"*
   b) *"Ecclesiastical History of the English people"*
   c) *"The Vision of Piers Plowman"*
   d) *"The Canterbury Tales"*

THESAURUS

alliteration the repetition of the definite sounds in a phrase

assonance an example of alliteration with vowels

"Beowulf" the greatest Germanic epic in the world of literature

"The Canterbury Tales" a series of twenty-four tales told by a group of pilgrims who come from all layers of the 14th century society

"Caedmon's Hymn" an example of the earliest recorded poem in Old English written down by Venrable Bede

caesura an audible pause that breaks up a line of verse

Geoffrey Chaucer one of the most prominent Middle English writers

compounding the combining of two words to make a new word

consonance an example of alliteration with consonants

John Gower a contemporary of William Langland and a good friend of Geoffrey Chaucer (famous for three poems written in French, Latin and English)

kenning a figurative phrase that replaces a common noun (a two-word metaphorical name)

litotes a figure of speech that consists of an understatement in which emphasis is typically achieved by negation

Christopher Marlowe an English dramatist, poet and translator of the Elizabethan era who influenced William Shakespeare and generations of writers to follow

Cynewulf an Anglo-Saxon poet who wrote Old English Christian poems, the author of four extant poems written in Old-English

Renaissance intellectual and artistic flowering that began in Italy in the

	14th century, culminated there in the 16th century, and greatly influenced other parts of Europe
"Sir Gawain and the Green Knight"	a poem written in romance genre that usually involves a main hero who goes on a quest to demonstrate and test his prowess
Edmund Spenser	an English poet who is recognized as one of the premier craftsmen of Modern English verse in its infance
the Middle English period	a perod that began in 1066 when Norman French armies invaded and conquered England under William the Conqueror
"The Vision of Piers Plowman"	an allegorical poem written by William Langland
variation	the restatement of a concept or term using different words
Venerable Bede	the author of the *"Ecclesiastical History of the English people"*

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UNIT 6. LATER PERIODS OF LITERATURE

6.1. THE ENLIGHTENMENT PERIOD

The Enlightenment period, which was marked by America's revolution against England, began in 1660. As it is stated in *"Oxford illustrated encyclopedia of The Arts"* the term Enlightenment is used,

> *to describe the philosophical, scientific and rational attitudes, the freedom from superstition, the belief in religious tolerance of much of 18th century Europe. ... In literature, some have seen a connection between the philosopy of the Enlightenment, the growth of literary realism, and the rise of the novel.* [4]

Although the numerous representatives of this period were mostly scientific people, there were many writers, who won recognition from the public.

The most influential writers, who lived and created their masterpieces during the above-mentioned period, were Alexander Pope, Daniel Defoe and Jonathan Swift. Let us now focus on their writing in more detail.

Thus, scholars consider **Alexander Pope** (May 21, 1688 – May 30, 1744) the most prominent poet of the Enlightenment period. His poem *"An Essay on Criticism"* written in heroic couplets is among the most quoted poems written in English.

Alexander Pope

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[4] Oxford illustrated encyclopedia of The Arts / John Julius Norwich – Oxford University Press, 1990. – P. 147.

The best of men cannot suspend their fate:
The good die early, and the bad die late.

Daniel Defoe

Daniel Defoe (1660 – 1731) is another important representative of the abovementioned period. Although Daniel Defoe wrote poetry, essays and articles, he is known as one of the earliest writers of the English novel.

Daniel Defoe

Defoe's notable publications include *"An Essay upon Projects"* (1697), *"The True-Born Englishman"* (1701) and *"Robinson Crusoe"* (1719) which became an immediate success after its publication.

Books, the children of the brain.

Jonathan Swift

Jonathan Swift (1667 – 1745) is a prominent Irish satirist well-known for writing political pamphlets. His most famous pamphlets include *"A Discourse on the Contests and Dissensions in Athens and Rome"* (1701) and *"A Tale of a Tub"* (1710). The latter one was so critical that the Church of England condemned it.

Jonathan Swift

And the most successful piece of writing by Jonathan Swift was *"Gulliver's Travels"* published in 1726.

6.2. THE ROMANTIC PERIOD

The Romantic period emerged at the end of the 18th century and its representatives greatly cared about nature, positive and negative emotions, wrote about individuality and described internal moods of their main heroes and heroins.

According to *"Oxford illustrated encyclopedia of The Arts"* Romanticism is,

a sweeping but indispensable term applied to the profound shift in Western attitudes to art and human creativity which dominated much of European culture in the first half of the 19th century, and which has shaped most subsequent developments in the arts - even those reacting against it. In its most coherent early form, as it emerged from the 1790s in Germany and Britain, and from the 1820s in France and elsewhere, it is known as the Romantic Movement. Its chief emphasis was upon freedom of individual self-expression: sincerity, spontaneity, and originality became the new standards in the arts, replacing the decorous imitation of classical models favoured in the 18th century. Rejecting the ordered rationality of the Enlightenment as mechanical, impersonal, and artificial, the Romantics turned to the emotional directness of personal experience and to the boundlessness of individual imagination and aspiration. Increasingly independent of the declining system of aristocratic patronage, they saw themselves as free spirits expressing their own imaginative truths rather than adorning the household of a noble master. Several found a new audience among an expanding middle-class public eager for emotional sustenance and sensation, and ready to hero-worship the artist as a genius or prophet. The restraint and balance valued in 18th-century culture was abandoned in favour of emotional intensity, often taken to extremes of rapture, nostalgia (for childhood or the past), horror, melancholy, or sentimentality. Some - but not all - Romantic artists cultivated the appeal of the exotic, the bizarre, or the macabre; almost all showed a new interest in the irrational realms of dream and delirium or of folk superstition and legend. The creative imagination occupied the centre of Romantic views of art, which replaced the mechanical rules of conventional form with an organic principle of natural growth and free development. [5]

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[5] Oxford illustrated encyclopedia of The Arts / John Julius Norwich – Oxford University Press, 1990. – P. 389-390.

William Blake, George Gordon Byron, John Keats, Percy Shelley, Mary Wollstonecraft Shelley, Jane Austen and Bronte sisters were the most vivid representatives of the Romantic period. Let us consider them in more detail.

> *The true method of knowledge is experiment*.
>
> *William Blake*

William Blake

William Blake (November 28, 1757 – August 12, 1827) was a famous British printmaker and a poet. During his lifetime, he published numerous poems, which became very successful.

But his most prominent works include two collections of poems entitled *"Poetical Sketches"* (1783) and *"Songs of Innocence"* (1789).

> *If I could always read, I should never feel the want of company.*
>
> *George Gordon Byron*

George Gordon Byron (January 22, 1788 – April 19, 1824) was a great English poet who was famous for the poems such as *"Don Juan"*, *"Childe Harold's Pilgrimage"* and *"She Walks in Beauty"*.

George Gordon Byron

The poetry of the earth

is never dead.

John Keats

John Keats (October 31, 1795 – February 23, 1821) was a prominent English poet whose talant unfortunately was not acknowledged by contemporaries during his lifetime.

John Keats

The more we study,

the more we discover our ignorance.

Percy Shelley

Percy Shelley (August 4, 1792 – July 8, 1822) was one of the major poets of the Romantic period. His best known poems included *"The Cloud"*, *"Music"*, *"Ode to the West Wind"*, *"Queesn Mab"* and many others (Appendix 6).

Percy Shelley

My dreams were at once more fantastic and agreeable than my writings.
Mary Shelley

Mary Wollstonecraft Shelley (August 30, 1797 – February 1, 1851) was the author of one of the greatest Gothic romances *"Frankenstein"* written in 1818.

Mary Wollstonecraft Shelley

Jane Austen

Jane Austen (December 15, 1775 – July 18, 1817) is not only one of the most renowned English authors, it is a writer whose timeless novels are still popular with numerous readers all over the world.

According to the website *Janeausten.org,* Jane is the author of six novels, four of which were published during her lifetime:

- *"Sense and Sensibility"* (1811);
- *"Pride and Prejudice"* (1813);
- *"Mansfield Park"* (1814);
- *"Emma"* (1815).

And two novels *"Persuasion"* (1817) and *"Northanger Abbey"* (1817) were published posthumously [6].

6.3.   THE VICTORIAN PERIOD

Victorian period is defined as a period which lasted during the reign of Queen Victoria of England. According to the website *Study.com*,

*Victorian literature is just literature written during the reign of **Queen Victoria** in Great Britain… Queen Victoria reigned from 1837-1901. Currently her reign is the longest of any British monarch - 63 years and 7 months…*

Some major events that took place during the Victoria era include:

*A **huge growth in population**. During Victoria's reign, the population of England more than doubled, from 14 million to 32 million.*

*There were also some significant **improvements in technology**. The Victorian era slightly overlaps with Britain's Industrial Revolution, which saw big changes to the way that people lived, worked, and traveled. These improvements in technology offered a lot of opportunities for the people in England but also represented a major upheaval in regards to how people lived their lives and interacted with the world…*

*Another characteristic of the Victorian era is **changing world views**. In addition to the major developments in technology, there were emerging scientific beliefs, like Charles Darwin's theory of evolution, and those things were changing how people in England thought about themselves and how they interacted with the world around them. Most notably, a lot of people were distancing themselves from the church.*

*And finally, there were **poor conditions for the working class**. The Industrial Revolution led to the distance between the haves and have-nots growing at a really high rate, and a lot of people (especially artists,*

like writers) felt obligated to speak out against what they believed to be societal injustices ...[6]

> **There are books of which the backs and covers are by far the best parts.**
>
> *Charles Dickens*

Charles Dickens (February 7, 1812 – June 9, 1870) was a great English writer who wrote a lot of novels about the struggles of the poor and the battle between right and wrong.

Charles Dickens

As it is stated in *"Oxford illustrated encyclopedia of The Arts"*,

Painful childhood memories inspired much of his fiction, notably "David Copperfield" (1849-50), in which his father appears as Micawber. He worked as a court stenographer, became a parliamentary reporter, and began contributing to periodicals: the articles were subsequently published in "Sketches by Boz" (1836). These led to the creation of "Mr Pickwick and the publication of The Posthumous Papers of the Pickwick Club" (1836-7). In 1850 he started the periodical Household Words, which published much of his later work. "A Christmas Carol" (1843) and "The Cricket on the Hearth" (1846) were among his series of Christmas books. His other novels,

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[6]Introduction to Victorian Literature <http://study.com/academy/lesson/introduction-to-victorian-literature-overview-of-themes-style-and-authors.html>

most of which appeared first in monthly instalments, are "Oliver Twist" (1837-8); "Nicholas Mckleby" (1838-9); "The Old Curiosity Shop" (1841); "Barnaby Rudge" (1841); "Martin Chuzzlewit" (1843-4.); "Dombey and Son" (1847-8); Bleak House (1852-3); Hard Times (1854); "Little Dorrit" (1855-7); "A tale of Two Cities" (1859); "Great Expectations" (1861); "Our Mutual Friend" (1864-5); "The Mystery of Edwin Drood" (1870, unfinished). He visited the USA twice but his initial favourable impressions turned to disillusion, and his portrayal of American stereotypes in Martin Chuzzlewit caused much offence. During these productive years he raised a large family, occupied himself with philanthropic work, amateur theatricals, and public readings of his own works. Through his works and his readings, Dickens aroused the Victorian social conscience and captured the popular imagination. His high-spirited humour and his brilliance of caricature (often labelled "Dickensian") is seldom absent from his work, and he has created the greatest gallery of characters (including Fagin, Scrooge, Uriah Heep, Little Nell) in English fiction.[7]

Another notable novelist from that time was *George Eliot* who was actually a woman. According to *"Oxford illustrated encyclopedia of The Arts",*

Eliot, George (Mary Ann, later Marian, Evans) (1819 -1880), British novelist. She renounced her early evangelical Christian faith, but remained strongly influenced by religious concepts of love and duty. She became assistant editor on the Westminster Review and in 1851 began her notorious relationship with the writer G. H. Lewes (1817- 1878), a married man with whom she lived until his death.

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[7]Oxford illustrated encyclopedia of The Arts / John Julius Norwich – Oxford University Press, 1990. – P. 130.

The three stories "Scenes of Clerical Life" (1858) attracted praise for their domestic realism, pathos, and humanity, as well as speculation about the identity of "George Eliot". After the publication of "Adam Bede" (1859) she was recognized as a major novelist and sustained this reputation with further novels, including "The Mill on the Floss" (1860), "Silas Marner" (1861), "Romola" (1863), and "Felix Moll" (1866). Her masterpiece "Middlemarch" (1871-1872), a sensitive study of moral responsibilities, set in a small provincial town resembling Coventry, is regarded by many critics as the greatest English novel. Her last novel, "Daniel Deronda" (1874-1876), displayed her sympathies for Jewish nationalism. Her work is noted for its intelligent and serious exploration of moral problems, and for its development of the psychological analysis that characterizes the modern novel. [8]

Victorian poetry. Victorian poetry is different from Victorian novels in a lot of ways. Some of the notable poets from the Victorian era are *Lord Alfred Tennyson, Robert Browning* and *Elizabeth Barrett Browning*, and also *Matthew Arnold.* Their poems were often characterized by a strong desire to connect with the past, a skepticism about religion, which could tie in with Darwin's theory of evolution coming in to prominence during that time, and they also had a stronger sense of humor than was generally present in the Romantic poetry that came before it [4].

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[8] Oxford illustrated encyclopedia of The Arts / John Julius Norwich – Oxford University Press, 1990. – P. 143.

Dreams are true while they last,

and do we not live in dreams?

Lord Alfred Tennyson

**Lord Alfred
Tennyson**

Lord Alfred Tennyson (August 6, 1809 – October 6, 1892) was one of the most popular British poets. During the reign of Queen Victoria he held an honorary position of the Poet Laureate of Great Britain and Ireland.

Lord Alfred Tennyson is famous for his collections of poems, for instance, *"Poems, Chiefly Lyrical"* (1830), *"Poems"* (1833), *"The Lady of Shalott"*, *"The Lotus-eaters"*, *"Morte d'Arthur"* and *"Ulysses"* (1842) etc.

God is the perfect poet.

Robert Browning

Robert Browning

Robert Browning (May 7, 1812 – December 12, 1889) was a famous British poet who greatly interested in human emotions and motives.

As it is stated in *"Oxford illustrated encyclopedia of The Arts"*,
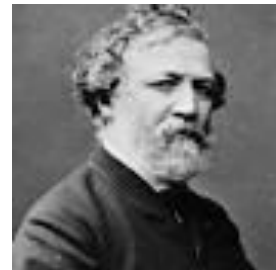
His experiments in form and content and his technical virtuosity have considerably influenced modern poets, notably Eliot and Pound. "The success of Paracelsus" (1835), a blank-verse dramatic poem, led to friendship with the actor Macready, who played the title role in Browning's blank-verse play "Strafford" (1837). "Dramatic Lyrics" (1842) and "Dramatic Romances and Lyrics" (1845) contained some of his most accomplished poems but

achieved little public success. In 1846 he married Elizabeth Barrett who was to inspire some of his finest work. "Men and Women" (1855) included some of his most successful dramatic monologues and his love-poem, "Love Among the Ruins". "Dramatis Personae" (1864), a collection of poems, reflects his grief at his wife's death. His greatest triumph was "The Ring and the Book" (1868-9), series of dramatic monologues, a form in which Browning excelled.[9]

The mind is everything. What you think you become.

Elizabeth Barrett Browning

Elizabeth Barrett Browning *(*March 6, 1806 – June 29, 1861) was a very successful British poet of the Victorian period whose poems became very popular during her lifetime.

According to *"Oxford illustrated encyclopedia of The Arts",*

Elizabeth Barrett Browning

A semi-invalid from youth, in 1845 she began her correspondence with Robert Browning which culminated in their secret marriage and elopement to Italy in the following year. Her "Poems" (1844) received such acclaim that she was widely canvassed as Wordsworth's successor as Poet Laureate, but her progressive social ideas and audacious metrical experiments were considered unconventional. "Sonnets from the Portuguese" (1850) reflect her developing love for Browning.

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[9]Oxford illustrated encyclopedia of The Arts / John Julius Norwich – Oxford University Press, 1990. – P. 62.

Her major work, the verse novel "Aurora Leigh" (1857), speculates with wit and force on social responsibilities and the position of women, with vivid sketches of the English countryside and luminous Italian landscapes. The stridently political "Poems before Congress" (1860) injured her popularity. Some of her best-known lyrics are contained in her posthumously published "Last Poems" (1862).[10]

Poetry is simply the most beautiful, impressive, and widely effective mode of saying things.

MatthewArnold

Matthew Arnold (December 24, 1822 − April 15, 1888) was an outstanding English poet and a cultural critic. His reputation of a poet was established after publishing *"Empedocles on Etna"* (1852) and *"Poems"* (1853).

Matthew Arnold

Although Matthew Arnold was a very prolific poet, he is well known for two critical works in which he reflected the predominant values of the Victorian period − *"Essays in Criticism"* (1865) and *"Culture and Anarchy"* (1869).

Short Fiction and the Novel. During the Victorian period short fiction and the novel were perhaps the most prevalent genres. The novel was especially well suited to authors who wanted to capture the wide diversity of industrial life and the class conflict and divisions that created industrialism.

A common theme among Victorian novelists involved a protagonist who was trying to define himself or herself relative to class and social systems [4].

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[10] Oxford illustrated encyclopedia of The Arts / John Julius Norwich − Oxford University Press, 1990. – P. 62.

Poetry. While prose fiction was the most widely circulated kind of writing in the Victorian period, poetry retained its iconic status as "high literature". Most readers continued to expect poetry to teach a moral lesson, even though many poets were uncomfortable with that aim.

Poets of the Victorian period ranged widely in their subject matter: some sought to revive mythic themes while others turned a critical eye on the industrial abuses of the present (such as the problem of child labor) [4].

Non-fiction Prose. During the Victorian period, authors were attracted to non-fiction prose as the best vehicle for addressing.

Non-fiction prose authors who at the same time were often writers of fiction and poetry tackled diverse subjects such as politics, religion, art, economics, and education [4].

QUESTIONS FOR DISCUSSION

1. When did the Enlightenment period begin?
2. Name the most prominent representatives of the Enlightenment period.
3. When did the Romantic period emerge?
4. Name the most prominent representatives of the Romantic period.
5. Give the definition of the term "Victorian literature".
6. Name the most prominent representatives of the Victorian period.
7. What were the most prevalent genres during the Victorian period?
8. What did a common theme among Victorian novelists involve?
9. How many periods may literature of the age of the Enlightenment be divided into?
10. What did romantic poets write about?

TEST

1) When did the Enlightenment period begin?

a) 1560

b) 1660

c) 1760

d) 1860

2) Who is famous for writing novels about the struggles of the poor and the battle between right and wrong?

 a) Robert Browning

 b) Jane Austen

 c) Charles Dickens

 d) George Eliot

3) When was George Eliot recognized as a major novelist of Victorian period?

a) After the publication of *"Scenes of Clerical Life"*.

b) After the publication of *"Middlemarch"*.

c) After the publication of *"Adam Bede"*.

d) After the publication of *"Daniel Deronda"*.

4) How many novels did Jane Austin write according to the website Janeausten.org?

a) 2

b) 4

c) 6

d) 8

5) Who is the author of one of the greatest Gothic romances "Frankenstein" written in 1818?

a) Jane Austen

b) Mary Wollstonecraft Shelley

c) Percy Shelley

d) George Eliot

6) **What two novels by Jane Austen were published posthumously?**

a) *"Persuasion"* (1817) and *"Northanger Abbey"* (1817)

b) *"Sense and Sensibility"* (1811) and *"Pride and Prejudice"* (1813)

c) *"Mansfield Park"* (1814) and *"Northanger Abbey"* (1817)

d) *"Mansfield Park"* (1814) and *"Emma"* (1815)

7) Who of the following notable writers was not the representative of the Renaissance period?

a) Geoffrey Chaucer

b) Edmund Spenser

c) Christopher Marlowe

d) William Shakespeare

8) Who is the author of "Poetical Sketches" (1783) and "Songs of Innocence" (1789)?

a) William Blake

b) George Gordon Byron

c) John Keats

d) Percy Shelley

9) Who is considered the most prominent poet of the Enlightenment period?

a) John Keats

b) Alexander Pope

c) William Blake

d) Percy Shelley

10) What poem written in heroic couplets is among the most quoted poems written in English?

a) *"Doctor Faustus"*

b) *"An Essay on Criticism"*

c) *"The Massacre at Paris"*

d) *"Much Ado About Nothing"*

11) Who is the author of "Gulliver's Travels"?

a) Daniel Defoe

b) Alexander Pope

c) Johathan Swift

d) John Gower

12) Who is the author of "Robinson Crusoe"?

a) Daniel Defoe

b) Alexander Pope

c) Johathan Swift

d) John Gower

13) **When was a novel *"Robinson Crusoe"* first published?**

a) on April 25, 1719
b) on May 25, 1719
c) on April 19, 1725
d) on May 19, 1725

14) **Who is the author of *"An Essay on Criticism"*?**
a) Daniel Defoe
b) Alexander Pope
c) Johathan Swift
d) John Gower

15) **How many periods may the literature of the age of the Enlightenment be divided into?**
a) 1
b) 2
c) 3
d) 4

16) **What literary period did Alexander Pope represent?**

a) the Anglo-Saxon period

b) the Enlightenment period

c) the Victorian period

d) the Romantic period

17) **What literary period did Jane Austen and the Bronte sisters represent?**

a) the Anglo-Saxon period

b) the Enlightenment period

c) the Victorian period

d) the Romantic period

18)   What did romantic poets write about?

a) nature

b) imagination

c) individuality

d) Variants a), b) and c) are correct.

19)   Who was the most well-known Victorian writer?
a) Alexander Pope
b) Charles Dickens
c) Johathan Swift
d) John Gower

20)   What did Charles Dickens write about?

a) He wrote about the struggles of the poor.

b) He wrote about nature.

c) He wrote about the battle between right and wrong.

d) Variants a) and c) are correct.

21)   Who is the author of the novel "Oliver Twist"?

a) Alexander Pope

b) Charles Dickens

c) Johathan Swift

d) GeorgeEliot

22)   Who wrote under the name George Eliot?

a) Jane Austen

b) Mary Ann Evans

c) Emily Dickinson

d) No individual variant is correct.

*23)**   **What literary period started in 1790?***

a) the Anglo-Saxon period

b) the Enlightenment period

c) the Victorian period

d) the Romantic period

*24)**   **What literary period started in 1830s?***

a) the Anglo-Saxon period

b) the Enlightenment period

c) the Victorian period

d) the Romantic period

*25)**   **Who is the author of the novel "Middlemarch"?***

a) Alexander Pope

b) Charles Dickens

c) Johathan Swift

d) George Eliot

*26)**   **What were the most prevalent genres during the Victorian Period?***

a) short fiction and the novel

b) short fiction and non-fiction

c) short fiction and poetry

d) Variants b) and c) are correct.

*27)**   **What is considered the best novel written by George Eliot?***

a) *"Oliver Twist"*

b) *"Middlemarch"*

c) *"David Copperfield"*

d) *"Robinson Crusoe"*

28)   Who were the most prominent representatives of Sentimentalism?

a) Alexander Pope and Johathan Swift

b) Charles Dickens and George Eliot

c) Goldsmith and Sterne

d) No individual variant is correct.

29)   What term is used to describe the philosophical, scientific and rational attitudes, the freedom from superstition, the belief in religious tolerance of much of 18th century Europe?

a) the Enlightenment period

b) the Renaissance period

c) the Romantic period

d) the Postmodern period

30)   Representatives of what literary period greatly cared about nature, positive and negative emotions and wrote about individuality and described internal moods of their main heroes?

a) the Enlightenment period

b) the Renaissance period

c) the Romantic period

d) the Postmodern period

THESAURUS

Austen, Jane
(December 15, 1775 – July 18, 1817)
one of the most renowned English writers; author of *"Sense and Sensibility"* (1811), *"Pride and Prejudice"* (1813), *"Mansfield Park"* (1814), *"Emma"* (1815), *"Persuasion"* (1817) and *"Northanger Abbey"* (1817)

Blake,   William
(November, 28 1757 – August 12, 1827)
a famous British printmaker and a poet

Browning,   Elizabeth Barrett
*(*March 6, 1806 – June 29, 1861)
a very successful British poet of the Victorian period whose poems became very popular during her lifetime

Browning,   Robert
(May 7, 1812 – December 12, 1889)
a famous British poet

Byron,   George Gordon
(January 22, 1788 – April 19, 1824)
a great English poet

"David Copperfield"
a novel written by Charles Dickens

Defoe, Daniel
(1660 – 1731)
one of the earliest writers of the English novel

Dickens, Charles
(February 7, 1812 – June 9, 1870)
a great English writer who wrote a lot of novels about the struggles of the poor and the battle between right and wrong

Eliot, George
(Mary Ann, Marian, Evans)
(1819 – 1880)
a famous British novelist

"Gulliver's Travels"
a novel by Jonathan Swift published in 1726

Keats, John
(October 31, 1795 –
a prominent English poet whose talant unfortunately

February 23, 1821)	was not acknowledged by contemporaries during his lifetime
Tennyson, Alfred (August 6, 1809 – October 6, 1892)	one of the most popular British poets who he held an honorary position of the Poet Laureate of great Britain and Ireland during the reign of Queen Victoria
"Oliver Twist"	a novel written by Charles Dickens
Pope, Alexander (May 21, 1688 – May 30, 1744)	one of the most prominent poets of the Enlightenment period
Swift, Jonathan (1667 – 1745)	a prominent Irish satirist well-known for writing political pamphlets
Shelley, Percy (August 4, 1792 – July 8, 1822)	one of the major poets of the Romantic period
Victorian period (1832 – 1901)	a literary period which lasted during the reign of Queen Victoria of England

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MODULE 4. LITERATURE OF THE 20th – 21st CENTURIES (WITH REFERENCE TO LITERATURE OF THE ENGLISH-SPEAKING COUNTRIES)

UNIT 7. LITERATURE OF THE 20TH – 21ST CENTURIES
7.1. THE MODERN PERIOD IN LITERATURE

At the beginning of the 20th century a new literary period emerged. Shaping of this period was greatly influenced by the development of modern industrial societies and the rapid growth of cities which followed after the end of WWI. According to *"Oxford illustrated encyclopedia of The Arts"* Modernism is,

> *a general term applied retrospectively to the wide range of experimental trends in the arts of the The Penguin Pool (1933) at Regent's Park Zoo in London was designed by the Russian-born Berthold Lubetkin, who was one of the most potent forces in establishing the Modern Movement m Britain. The clean, uncluttered forms are typical of the movement, but the taut interlocking ramps (which the penguins use as promenades or diving platforms) are highly original − a novel solution to an unusual design problem. ... Modernist literature is characterized by a rejection of the 19th-century consensus between author and reader; the conventions of realism, for instance, were abandoned by Kafka and the writers of the nouveau roman. Many writers saw themselves as an avant-garde disengaged from bourgeois values, and disturbed their readers by adopting complex and obscure forms and styles. In fiction, the accepted continuity of chronological development was upset by Conrad, Proust, and Faulkner, while Joyce and Woolf attempted new ways of tracing the flow of characters' thoughts in their stream of consciousness styles.*

In poetry Pound and T. S. Eliot, using free verse instead of traditional metres, replaced logical thoughts with fragmentary images. Pirandello, Brecht, and Ionesco opened up the theatre to new forms of abstraction. Modernist writing often expresses a sense of cultural disintegration following World War I. In English, its landmarks are Joyce's Ulysses.[11]

Technically Modernism encompasses different literary movements such as Imagism, Dadaism, Surrealism, Futurism and Expressionism. Let us look at them in more detail.

Imagism emerged in the early 1900s. It came out of the Modernist movement in poetry (the movement which was created by poets who abandoned the old ways of writing poems). Modernist poets believed they had to use very few simple words while writing poetry.

As it is stated on the website *Poetryfoundation.org*, Ezra Pound who was one of the most influential American poets of the 20th century formulated three main rules to writing Imagist poetry, namely:

1) direct treatment of the subject;

2) use no word that does not contribute to the presentation;

3) compose poems in the rhyme of musical phrase [11].

The following poem is a typical example of Imagist poetry:

NO TEACHER WITHOUT TEA

TEAchers,

Begin,

Having Tea.....!

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[11]Oxford illustrated encyclopedia of The Arts / John Julius Norwich – Oxford University Press, 1990. – P. 300.

Expressionism is a literary movement that emerged in Germany in 1914 and ended in 1924. As a complex movement, Expressionism both rejected and accepted many elements from previous and contemporary European intellectual and literary movements; and therefore any study of Expressionism inevitably involves a discussion of Naturalism, Realism, Symbolism, Neo-romanticism, and Impressionism. As it is mentioned in *"Oxford illustrated encyclopedia of The Arts"* Expressionism is,

> *a term used to denote the use of distortion and exaggeration for emotional effect, chiefly associated with the visual arts. In its broadest sense it can be used of any art that raises subjective feeling above objective observation, reflecting the state of mind of the artist rather than images that conform to what we see in the external world. ... In a narrower sense, the word Expressionism is applied to a broad trend in modern European art that traces its origin to van Gogh, who used colour and line emotionally "to express . . . man's terrible passions". Among the great artists who represent this type of Expressionism are the Belgian Ensor and the Norwegian Munch. In its narrowest sense, the term Expressionism is applied to one aspect of the trend just described − a movement that was the dominant force in German art from about 1905 to about 1930, led by the Brucke and Blaue Reiter groups. Expressionism represented a rebellion against the naturalism of 19th-century art, and its insistence on the supreme importance of the artist's personal feelings has been one of the foundations of aesthetic attitudes in the 20th century. Representatives of other art-forms in whose work elements of Expressionism are found include the early works of Bergand Schoenberg in music, and Dostoyevsky and Kafka in fiction. In drama, Expressionism was a movement that began in Germany in about 1910, and is best typified in the theatre by the plays of Georg Kaiser and Ernst Toller. The Expressionist theatre was a theatre of protest, mainly against the contemporary social order. Most of its dramatists were poets who used the theatre to further their ideas. One of the few dramatists outside Germany to be influenced by Expressionist drama was Eugene O'Neill, particularly in The Emperor*

Jones (1920) and The Hairy Ape (1922).[12]

Futurism, in its turn, is defined as,

> *an Italian art movement founded in 1909 by the poet Filippo Tommaso Marinetti. It was originally a literary movement, but the dominant figures were painters and it also embraced sculpture, architecture, music, the cinema, and photography. The aim of the movement, which was outlined in various manifestos, was to break with the past and to celebrate modern technology, dynamism, and power. The rendering of movement was one of the key concerns of Futurist painters, and their work at times approached abstraction. As an organized movement Futurism did not last much beyond the death of Boccioni and the end of World War I, but it had wide influence, notably in Ru.ssia, where there was a Russian Futurist movement, and also in Britain, on Vorticism. The Dadaists also owed something to it, particularly in their noisy publicity techniques.* [13]

Futurist literature primarily focuses on several aspects such as intuition, analogy, irony, abolition of syntax, metrical reform, onomatopoeia, and essential/synthetic lyricism. For instance, onomatopoeia is the formation or use of words that imitate the sounds associated with the objects or actions they refer to. Onomatopoeia allows writers to make the description more realistic and expressive.

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[12]Oxford illustrated encyclopedia of The Arts / John Julius Norwich – Oxford University Press, 1990. – P. 150-151.

[13]Oxford illustrated encyclopedia of The Arts / John Julius Norwich – Oxford University Press, 1990. – P. 166.

Dadaism was not only an international literary movement, but it was also a form of artistic anarchy. It originally emerged in Switzerland (Zurich) in 1916 and ended in 1923. As Dadaism was born out of disgust for the social, political and cultural values of the time, it emphasized the meaningless of the modern world using nonsense and ridicule.

Contemporary scholars claim that Dadaism is the only literary movement which was named by its founders. According to one version this term appeared when two poets (Richard Huelsenbeck and Hugo Ball) found the word "Dada" in a French/German dictionary. They liked it very much and decided to choose it as a name of a literary movement.

Surrealism is a cultural movement that began in the early 1920s. Nowadays it is best known for its visual artworks and writings. The founder of this movement was André Breton who defined the movement in philosophical and psychological term in his first Manifesto of Surrealism in 1924s. Contemporary scholars agree that Surrealism developed out of the Dada activities during World War I.

As it is stated in *"Oxford illustrated encyclopedia of The Arts"* Surrealism is,

a movement in art and literature that originated in France in the 1920s and subsequently had a richly varied influence on Western culture. Characterized by a fascination with the bizarre, the incongruous, and the irrational, it was a many-sided movement, but its essential aim was to try to liberate the creative powers of the unconscious mind by overcoming the dominance ofreason. The group's objectives were partially anticipated by Dadaism, a more extreme movement, which flourished between about 1916 and 1922. Andre Breton, the main founder and theoretician of Surrealism, said its purpose was "to resolve the previously contradictory conditions ofdream and reality into an absolute reality, a super-reality". Within

this aim it embraced a number of different and not altogether coherent doctrines and techniques, and in spite of Breton's efforts to hold the movement together there was little unity among the Surrealists, defections, expulsions, and personal attacks being a feature of the group. Many of them drew liberally on Freud's theories concerning the unconscious and its relation to dreams, but the ways in which they gave expression to these theories varied greatly. Dali and other artists painted in a scrupulously detailed style to give a hallucinatory sense of reality to scenes that make no rational sense; while artists such as Max Ernst experimented with relinquishing conscious control altogether (automatism). Surrealism became the most widely disseminated and controversial aesthetic movement between the wars, spreading not only throughout Europe, but also to the USA, where many artists migrated during the war years. With its stress on the marvellous and poetic, it offered an alternative approach to Cubism.[14]

One more movement, which is worth mentioning and is peculiar for literature of the USA is **Harlem Renaissance**. It emerged at the beginning of the 20[th] century and became the most influential movement in the history of African American literature. Contemporary scholars consider it unusual for its close relationship to civil rights and various reform organizations. As it is stated on the website *Ushistory.org,*

> *it was time for a cultural celebration. African Americans had endured centuries of slavery and the struggle for abolition. The end of bondage had not brought the promised land many had envisioned. Instead, WHITE SUPREMACY was quickly, legally, and violently restored to the New*

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[14]Oxford illustrated encyclopedia of The Arts / John Julius Norwich – Oxford University Press, 1990. – P. 440-441.

*South, where ninety percent of African Americans lived. Starting in about 1890, African Americans migrated to the North in great numbers. This GREAT MIGRATION eventually relocated hundreds of thousands of African Americans from the rural South to the urban North. Many discovered they had shared common experiences in their past histories and their uncertain present circumstances. Instead of wallowing in self-pity, the recently dispossessed ignited an explosion of cultural pride. Indeed, African American culture was reborn in the **HARLEM RENAISSANCE**. ... The most prolific writer of the Harlem Renaissance was Langston Hughes. Hughes cast off the influences of white poets and wrote with the rhythmic meter of blues and jazz. Claude Mckay urged African Americans to stand up for their rights in his powerful verses. Jean Toomer wrote plays and short stories, as well as poems, to capture the spirit of his times. Book publishers soon took notice and patronized many of these talents. Zora Neale Hurston was noticed quickly with her moving novel, "Their Eyes Were Watching God".[15]*

7.2. THE POSTMODERN LITERARY PERIOD

Even though the term "Postmodernism" is widely spread and not a new one, many contemporary scholars still consider it elusive as it means many things. Moreover, as an area of academic study Postmodernism was only shaped in the mid-1980s.

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[15]The Harlem Renaissance <http://www.ushistory.org/us/46e.asp>

The first mentioning of the term "Postmodern" can be found in Rudolf Pannwitz's *"The Crisis of European Culture"* (1917), who used it in order to describe the Nitzschean superman. Then, Federico de Onis, a famous Spanish studies scholar, introduced the term "Postmodernism" in his *"Anthology of Contemporary Spanish and Latin-American poetry"* (1932). F. Onis defined it as a minor reaction to Modernism. A decade later, Arnold Toynbee, a prominent British historian, used it to describe the post WWI era and a new historical cycle in Western civilization. Another popular point of view on defining this term is that it was

> *coined in the mid-1970s to describe the reaction against the dogmatic and uncompromisingly purist international style of the Modern Movement in architecture. The prophet of PostModernism is the US architect and critic Charles Jencks, whose writings have essentially defined the movement. Post-Modern architects, most of whom had received conventional Modernist training, sought to find a point of conjunction between 20th-century technology and the traditional styles of the past, particularly classicism. In reaction to the austerity of the Modern Movement, architects returned to regional and traditional sources, introducing ornament, colour, and sculpture, often in a hybrid and "jokey" manner. ... The term PostModernism has also been extended to other forms of art and literature, describing works that reject the theories and practices of modernism.[16]*

The term "Postmodernism", concerning literature, was introduced by a famous American scholar Ihab Hassan in 1977 who strongly believed that Postmodernism in literature was of American origin. Ihab Hassan also

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[16]Oxford illustrated encyclopedia of The Arts / John Julius Norwich – Oxford University Press, 1990. – P. 363.

developed the classification of postmodern literary techniques which then became classic.

Different events greatly influenced the development of Postmodernism, namely: Genocide, the Chinese Cultural Revolution, a state of political and military tension after WWII, new technologies etc.

One of the most influential movements that appeared during Postmodernism was **The Beat Generation**. It lasted for several years from the 1950s to 1960s. The Beat Generation was founded by a group of young American poets, including Jack Kerouac, Gary Snyder and Allen Ginsberg.

Jack Kerouac was not only the leader of this movement he was the person who introduced the term "The Beat Generation" (1948).

7.3. A GENERAL OVERVIEW OF POSTMODERN CHARACTERISTICS

Literature of any period has its own characteristics, which distinguish it from literature of any other period, and postmodern literature is not an exception. Contemporary scholars agree that the following literary techniques are peculiar to postmodern literature, namely:
- irony, playfulness and black humor;
- pastiche;
- intertextuality;
- technoculture and hyperreality;
- metafiction;
- historiographic metafiction;
- temporal distortion;
- faction;
- paranoia;

- maximalism;

- minimalism;

- participation [1; 9].

Scholars also admit that postmodern writers often use *irony, playfulness and black humor* when they want to treat serious subjects from a distant position. They also call these characteristics the hallmarks of postmodern style.

Pastiche is based on combing of various literary genres and styles in order to create something new. Thomas Pynchon's writing is distingished by the abovementioned characteristic.

Intertextuality is based on the dependence of postmodern literature on different pieces of writing created earlier.

Postmodern writers use *metafiction* in order to make their readers aware of their presence. Moreover, they often define it as writing about writing.

Historical metafiction, in its turn, is used when writers intent to fictionalize some historical events and people in their pieces of writing.

Next characteristic, which is peculiar to postmodern literature, is *temporal distortion*. It is a literary technique, which allows writers to use some cultural and historical references, which are not consistent with the plot.

To reflect the fact the information age influences all spheres of our lives postmodern, writers use such a literary technique as *technoculture and hyperreality*. It allows writers to create different situations in which main characters cannot escape modern science and technology.

Paranoia reflects the idea that modern society is very chaotic and frightening. And impossibility to understand it brings many authors to the usage of such a literary technique as paranoia.

Like historical metafiction, faction is based on actual events. But unlike it, faction helps writers blur the clear line between fact and fiction in a book.

Writers use **maximalism** to defend their long, emotionally disconnected and disorganized pieces of writing.

Minimalism is not an exclusively postmodern technique, but it is often used by postmodern writers who tend to depict ordinary characters and everyday situations.

Writers use ***participation*** in order to involve their readers over the course of a book they read. As a rule, participation allows readers to make decisions concerning the plot and it often takes the form of asking readers questions.

Literary critics define ***magical realism*** as a postmodern technique, which helps writers introduce fantastic elements into a piece of writing [1; 4; 6; 9].

UNIT 8. MAJOR WRITERS OF THE 20^TH – 21^ST CENTURIES

While it is impossible to rank the most important postmodern American writers, here is a list of authors (with some biographical notes) you have to know about as they made an indisputable contribution to the development of literature of the USA.

FRANCIS SCOTT KEY FITZGERALD
(September 24, 1896 – December 21, 1940)

> *You don't write because you want to say something,*
> *you write because you have something to say.*
>
> *Francis Scott Key Fitzgerald*

Francis Scott Key Fitzgerald was a great American novelist who had a rather fruitful career. F. S. K. Fitzgerald was also known for being a member of the "Lost Generation" – a famous group of American writers.

"This Side of Paradise" (1920) was not only his first novel, it was a literary work that brought him stardom overnight. Then it was *"The Beautiful and Damned"* published in 1922.

The third and the most prominent was *"The Great Gatsby" (1925)* dedicated to a man who was betrayed by his own dreams. Next novel, which literary critics consider semibiographical, was *"Tender is the Night" (1934).*The only novel, which was published posthumously, is *"The Love of the Last Tycoon"*. Francis Scott Key Fitzgerald is also famous for his short stories.

THOMAS STEARNS ELIOT
(September 26, 1888 – January 4, 1965)

We read many books,
because we cannot know enough people.
Thomas Stearns Eliot

Thomas Stearns Eliot was a famous writer, whose poetic genius was highly estimated by Ezra Pound. Although he was born in the USA, T.S. Eliot immigrated to England and spent there much time. His American citizenship was renounced when he was 39.

Literary critics established him as one of the leading poets of the avant-garde, after publishing *"Prufrock and Other Observations"* (1917).

Returning to the USA T.S. Eliot published two collections of poems − *"Ash Wednesday"* (1930) and *"Four Quarters"* (1943) which became very successful.

Alongside with making verses T. S. Eliot was known for writing dramas for instance *"Murder in the Cathedral"*, *"The Family Reunion"* and *"The Cocktail Party"*.

T. S. Eliot received the Nobel Prize for Literature in 1948.

WILLIAM SOMERSET MAUGHAM
(January 25, 1874 – December 16, 1965)

There are three rules for writing the novel.
Unfortunately no one knows what they are.

Somerset Maugham

William Somerset Maugham was a short story writer, a dramatist and one of the most popular British novelists.

His first novel *"Liza of Lambeth"* was published in 1897.

By the beginning of World War I W.S. Maugham published 10 novels and 10 plays.

In 1915 he published a novel *"Of Human Bondage"*, which Theodor Dreiser regarded as the work of genius.

The most successful novels and short stories by William Somerset Maugham include *"The Moon and Sixpence"* (1916), *"Ashenden: Or the British Agent" (1928),"An Appointment in Samarra"* (1933) and etc.

HARPER LEE

The book to read is not the one which thinks for you,
but the one which makes you think.
No book in the world equals the Bible for that.
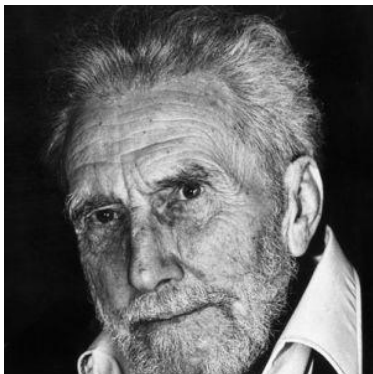
Harper Lee

Harper Lee (1960 –) is a famous American writer known for writing the Pulitzer Prize-winning best-seller *"To Kill a Mockingbird"* (1960) which is her one and only published novel.

Harper Lee

EZRA WESTON LOOMIS POUND
(October 30, 1885 – November 1, 1972)

Great literature is simply language charged with
meaning to the utmost possible degree.

Ezra Weston Loomis Pound

Ezra Weston Loomis Pound is considered one of the founders of Imagist poetry and one of the most influential American poets of the 20th century.

Ezra Pound was the person who formulated three main rules to writing Imagist poems, namely:

4) direct treatment of the subject;

5) use no word that does not contribute to the presentation;

6) compose poems in the rhyme of musical phrase [11].

His prominent works include *"Ripostes"* (1912), *"Hugh Selwyn Mauberley"* (1920) and *"The Cantos"* (1917-1969) which is the unfinished 120-section epic.

During his lifetime, Ezra Weston Loomis Pound authorized about 70 books and promoted many young writers who then became successful and well-known all over the world, including T. S. Eliot, James Joyce and many others.

TENNESSEE WIILLIAMS
(March 26, 1911 – February 25, 1983)

I cannot write any sort of story unless there is
at least one character in it for whom I have physical desire

Tennessee Williams
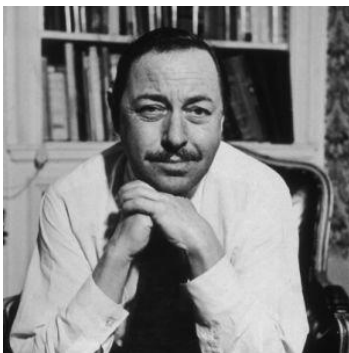
Tennessee Williams is acknowledged as one of the greatest American dramatists of the post-World War II era and his creative work has been of great interest to critics and various specialists in the study of contemporary American literature.

Tennessee Williams was influenced by Anton Chekhov, William Shakespeare, Emily Dickinson and Ernest Hemingway. But his greatest influence came from the work of a poet whose name was Hart Crane.

Tennessee Williams was very prolific and wrote more than 40 plays. The most successful works written by Tennessee William include *"Beauty Is the Word" (1930)*, *"The Strangest Kind of Romance" (1942)*, *"The Glass Menagerie"* (1944), *"Streetcar Named Desire"* (1947), *"Cat On a Hot Tin*

Roof" (1955), *"I Can't Imagine Tomorrow" (1970), "Steps Must Be Gentle" (1980) etc.*

Although Tennessee Williams' plays are still controversial, he is widely considered as the greatest Southern playwright and one of the greatest playwrights in the history of American drama.

ERNEST MILLER HEMINGWAY
(July 21, 1899 – July 2, 1961)

> *There is no friend*
> *as loyal as a book.*
> *Ernest Miller Hemingway*

Ernest Miller Hemingway is a famous American author whose works are considered classics of American literature.

Ernest Miller Hemingway is well-known not only for writing novels and short stories, but for creating non-fiction works as well.

The first literary work that got E. M. Hemingway fame was *"The Sun Also Rises"* (1926). Among his other novels, the most prominent were *"For Whom the Bell Tolls"* (1940) and *"The Old Man and the Sea"* (1952).

His most successful collections of short stories include *"Three Stories and Ten Poems"* (1923), *"Men Without Women"* (1927), *"Winner Take Nothing"* (1933), *"The Fifth Column and the First Forty-Nine Stories"* (1938).

Ernest Miller Hemingway was awarded the Nobel Prize in Literature in 1954.

J.D. SALINGER

(January 1, 1919 – January 27, 2010)

The true poet has no choice of material.
The material plainly chooses him, not he it.

J.D.Salinger

J.D. Salinger is an American writer who is well-known for his specific narrative style. Literary critics consider this style, which is full of irony, as Salinger's most important contribution to literature of the USA. Although J.D. Salinger wrote many short stories, readers remember him as the author of a novel entitled *"The Catcher in the Rye"* (1951). A short story *"Hapworth 16th,1924"* (1965) is his last work. One of the most important peculiarities of Salinger's work is his language. His literary works contain much slang which many young people use in their everyday speech.

Although he was very popular and people were interested in his life, J.D. Salinger finished his career very early. What is more, he refused to give interviews.

KURT VONNEGUT, JR.

(November 11, 1922 – April 11, 2007)

New knowledge is the most valuable commodity on earth.
The more truth we have to work with, the richer we become.

Kurt Vonnegut, Jr. was a well-known postmodern writer whose works included such novels as *"Cat's Cradle"* (1963), *"Slaughterhouse-Five"* (1969) and *"Breakfast of Champions"* (1973).

Kurt Vonnegut, Jr. was born in Indianapolis. His father, Kurt Vonnegut, Sr., was one of the most outstanding architects in the city. Kurt had a brother, Bernard, and a sister, Edith.

While he was studying at high school, Kurt started his writing career as a school journalist.

From 1950s to 1970s Kurt Vonnegut wrote several novels which made him a real celebrity.

Numerous literary critics recognized Kurt Vonnegut's rare talent and called him one of the most prominent postmodern novelists in the world.

TONI MORRISON
(February 18, 1931 –)

If there is a book that you want to read,
but it hasn't been written yet,
you must be the one to write it.
Toni Morrison

America's most celebrated novelist is Toni Morrison (Chloe Anthony Wofford) who won the Pulitzer Prize in 1988 and the Nobel Prize in Literature in 1993. Most literary critics regard her as an author who vividly depicts different aspects of life in contemporary American society.

"The Bluest Eye" (1970), *"Sula"*, *"Song of Solomon"* (1977), *"Jazz"*, *"Beloved"* (1988) which are characterized by her unique narrative technique and based on her great sense of equity are among the best known novels by this outstanding American writer.

In addition to her breathtaking novels, Toni Morrison is the author of short stories, a children's book and non-fiction, which includes stories various reviews, essays, social and literary criticism.

CLAUDIA EMERSON

(January 13, 1957 – December 4, 2014)

Contemporary literature of the English-speaking countries is represented by various poets, who deserve recognition, as their literary work is inspirational, powerful and points out at the heart of life. Although the question of influence is a tricky one in the literary realm, the name of Claudia Emerson, is among the names of the most important contemporary poets.

She was honored the Pulitzer Prize for her collection *"Late Wife"* in 2006 and later served as Virginia's poet laureate from 2008 to 2010. She also won the Association of Writers and Writing Programs Intro Award (1991), Academy of American Poets Prize (1991), Erskine J. Poetry Prize (2004) and a 2011 Guggenheim fellowship, which she used to travel to Italy to pursue a poetry project about mummies.

Although Claudia Emerson was a classic example of the late-blooming poet, she was very prolific. She published her first volume of poems, *"Pharaoh, Pharaoh"* (1997), at the age of 40. Her other collections included:

- *"Pinion: An Elegy"* (2002),

- *"The Late Wife"* (2006),

- *"Figure Studies"* (2008),

- *"Secure the Shadow"* (2012),

- *"The Opposite House"* (2015).

In addition to these collections, her poems were also included in such anthologies as:

- *"Yellow Shoe Poets"*,

- *"The Made Thing"*,

- *"Strongly Spent: 50 Years of Shenandoah Poetry"*,

- *"Common wealth: Contemporary Poets of Virginia"*.

Claudia Emerson is one of the finest American poets of her generation whose poems echo with remarkable insight into the true nature of life. Her poetry includes such themes as the nature of faith, relationships between women and men, person's identity, death, love, memory, etc.

SAMUEL BARCLAY BECKETT
(April 13, 1906 – December 22, 1989)

Samuel Barclay Beckett, who is considered one of the last modernists in literature of the English-speaking countries, lived in Paris for most of his adult life. Samuel Beckett was a well-known Irish novelist, playwright and poet who was awarded the 1969 Nobel Prize in Literature.

It is interesting to know that literary critics consider S.B. Beckett as the last modern writer and the first postmodern writer.

The most successful works written by S.B. Beckett include *"Dante…Bruno. Vico…Joyce"* (1929), *"Waiting for Godot"* (1949), *"Endgame"* (1957), *"Happy Days"* (1961) and *"Play"* (1963).

THOMAS RUGGLES PYNCHON, JR.
(May 8, 1937 –)

The general public has long been divided into two parts; those who think that science can do anything and those who are afraid it will.

Thomas Ruggles Pynchon, Jr.

Thomas Ruggles Pynchon, Jr. is a prominent American novelist and a short story writer whose fiction and non-fiction is distinguished by various genres and themes. Thomas Ruggles Pynchon, Jr. won the 1974 U.S. National Book Award for Fiction.

His famous novels include:

"V." (1963);

- *"The Crying of Lot 49"* (1966);
- *"Gravity's Rainbow"* (1973);
- *"Mason &Dixon"* (1997);
- *"Bleeding Edge"* (2013).

RAY BRADBURY
(August 22, 1920 – June 5, 2012)

There are worse crimes than burning books.
One of them is not reading them.

Ray Bradbury

Ray Bradbury was born in Waukegan, Illinois, on the 22nd August 1920. When he was a child, he liked reading adventure and fantasy fiction and decided to become a writer at the age of eleven.

When he was 12, he received a toy typewriter that he used to type his first stories.

Ray Bradbury's professional career as a writer started several years after his family moved to Los Angeles in 1934. He published his first professional science fiction short story *"Pendulum"* (co-authored with Henry Hasse) in 1941. As it is mentioned in the *"Dictionary of Literary Influences: The twentieth Century, 1914-2000"*,

> *While selling newspapers for income, 1940-43, Bradbury broke into the professional market in 1941 with a story co-written with Henry Hasse. As Bradbrury's reputation grew, Arkham House published a book-length collection of his short stories, **Dark Carnival** (1947). The fantasy and horror stories written in his distinctive poetic style were readily accepted by genre magazines…. His first novel, **Fahrenheit 451** (1953), is revered as both an attack on censorship and the growing power of television in the mass culture. Between the 1960s and 1970s Bradbury focused on dramatic writing and poetry. He returned to fiction and short stories in the 1980s and published a fourth novel, **From the Dust Returned** (2001), based on his fantasy short stories …*[17]

_____

[17] Dictionary of Literary Influences: The twentieth Century, 1914-2000 / edited by John Powell – Greenwood Press, Westport, 2004. – p. 627.

During his lifetime R. Bradbury was given various awards, namely:

-   the O. Henry Memorial Award,
-   the Benjamin Franklin Award,
-   the Aviation-Space Writer's Association Award,
-   the World Fantasy Award for lifetime achievement,
-   the Grand Master Award from the Science Fiction Writers of America etc.

Ray Bradbury who was a famous American novelist, short story writer, essayist, playwright, screenwriter and poet, became one of the most celebrated 20th century American writers during his lifetime.

Ray Bradbury died in Los Angeles on the 5th of June, 2012, at the age of 91.

SANDRA CISNEROS
(December 20, 1954 –)

I am a woman, and I am a Latina.
Those are the things that make my writing distinctive.
Those are the things that give my writing power.

Sandra Cisneros

Another contemporary American novelist, short-story writer, essayist and poet whose works contain various fresh ideas and culture resonance is Sandra Cisneros.

She is one of the first American writers of Mexican origin whose works are dedicated not only to different conflicts among city residents but also to

social problems, which Mexican-American women face. Sandra Cisneros is the author of several poetry collections, novels and essays.

Most literary critics admit that her writing is full of different emotions and feelings among which alienation and degradation take an important place.

"The House on Mango Street" published in 1984 is one of the most prominent novellas written by Sandra Cisneros.

JAMES JOICE
(February 2, 1882 – January 13, 1941)

Writing in English is the most ingenious torture ever devised for sins committed in previous lives.
The English reading public explains the reason why.

James Joice

James Joice was an outstanding Irish novelist and a poet who was famous for experimental use of language.

He was the author of *"Dubliners"*, *"Ulysses"*, *"A Portrait of the Artist as a Young Man"*, *"Finnegan Wakes"* etc.

Literary and Historical Society of University College Dublin launched an award named after James Joice who was one of its famous alumni. Nowadays it is given to people who achieve considerable success in their professional life.

ADELINE VIRGINIA WOOLF
(January 25, 1882 – March 28, 1941)

Every secret of a writer's soul,
every experience of his life,
every quality of his mind
is written large in his works.
Adeline Virginia Woolf

Adeline Virginia Woolf was an English writer and one of the greatest modernists of the 20th century. She was a member of "Bloomsbury Group".

Her most outstanding works include three novels and a book-length essay:

- *"Mrs Dalloway" (1925);*
- *"To the Lighthouse" (1927);*
- *"Orlando" (1928);*
- *"A Room of One's Own" (1929).*

EDGAR LAWRENCE DOCTOROW
(January 6th 1931 – July 21, 2015)

Writing is an exploration.
You start from nothing and learn as you go.
Edgar Lawrence Doctorow

Edgar Lawrence Doctorow was one of the most eminent American writers of the 20th century and one of contemporary fiction's most restless experimenters.

His popular, critically admired and award-winning novels included *"Ragtime"*, *"Billy Bathgate"*, *"The March"*, *"The Book of Daniel"* etc.

E.L. Doctorow's contributions to literature of the USA are manifold. His novels have been published in more than 30 countries.

QUESTIONS FOR DISCUSSION

1. What prize was Samuel Beckett awarded in 1969?

2. What awards was R. Bradbury given during his lifetime?

3. When did Ray Bradbury's professional career as a writer start?

4. When did Ray Bradbury publish his first professional science fiction short story *"Pendulum"* (co-authored with Henry Hasse)?

5. What story by Ray Bradbury was included in the annual issues of *"Best American Short Stories"?*

6. What prize was Claudia Emerson honored for her collection *"Late Wife"* in 2006?

7. What was James Joice famous for?

8. What did Literary and Historical Society of University College Dublin launch?

9. Who is considered one of the last modernists in literature of the English-speaking countries?

10. Who is one of the first American writers whose works brought the perspective of Mexican-American (Chicana) women into the mainstream of literary feminism?

11. What is one of the most famous novellas written by Sandra Cisneros?

12. What is Salinger's most important contribution to literature of the USA according to numerous literary critics?

13. Who is considered one of the founders of Imagist poetry and one of the most influential American poets of the 20[th] century?

14. What are the most successful plays by Tennessee Williams?

15. What are the most famous novels by Francis Scott Key Fitzgerald?

16. What rules did Ezra Pound formulate to writing Imagist poems?

17. What are the most successful novels by Ernest Miller Hemingway?

TEST

1) *What literary movement emerged in Germany in 1914 and ended in 1924?*

a) Dadaism

b) Imagism

c) Expressionism

d) Surrealism

2) *When and where did Expressionism emerge?*

a) in England in 1900

b) in France in 1910

c) in Germany in 1915

d) in Italy in 1924

3) *Which of the following is not an example of onomatopoeia?*

a) The gushing stream flows in the forest.

b) The sack fell into the river with a splash.

c) The rustling leaves kept me awake.

d) The folk-kings' former fame we have heard of,
   How princes displayed then their prowess-in-battle.

4) *Who was the founder of Imagism?*

a) William James

b) Filippo Tommaso

c) Hans Richter

d) Ezra Pound

5) *What movement came out of the Modernist movement in poetry (the movement that was created by poets who abandoned the old ways of writing poems)?*

a) Dadaism

b) Imagism

c) Surrealism

d) Futurism

6) *What literary period emerged at the beginning of the 20th century and lasted until the end of World War II?*

a) the Enlightenment period

b) the Modern period

c) the Postmodern period

d) the Victorian period

7) *When did the Modern period in literature emerge?*

a) at the end of the 19th century

b) at the beginning of the 19th century

c) at the end of the 20th century

d) at the beginning of the 20th century

8) *Who is the author of "The House on Mango Street"?*

a) Toni Morrison

b) Sandra Cisneros

c) Claudia Emerson

d) Kurt Vonnegut, Jr.

9) *What international literary movement used nonsense and ridicule to emphasize the meaningless of the modern world?*

a) Dadaism
b) Imagism
c) Surrealism
d) Futurism

10) *When and where did Dadaism emerge?*

a) in Paris in 1914
b) in Zurich in 1916
c) in Berlin in 1918
d) in London in 1919

11) *What is a definition of such a stylistic technique as minimalism?*

a) The act of writing about writing or making readers aware of the fictional nature of the very fiction they are reading.
b) The use of non-linear timelines and narrative techniques in a story.
c) The use of characters and events, which are decidedly common and non-exceptional characters.
d) Disorganized, lengthy and highly detailed writing.

12) *What is a definition of such a stylistic technique as maximalism?*

a) The act of writing about writing or making readers aware of the fictional nature of the very fiction they are reading.
b) The use of non-linear timelines and narrative techniques in a story.
c) The use of characters and events, which are decidedly common and non-exceptional characters.
d) Disorganized, lengthy and highly detailed writing.

13) ***What is a definition of such a stylistic technique as metafiction?***

a) The act of writing about writing or making readers aware of the fictional nature of the very fiction they are reading.

b) The use of non-linear timelines and narrative techniques in a story.

c) The use of characters and events, which are decidedly common and non-exceptional characters.

d) Disorganized, lengthy and highly detailed writing.

14) ***What is a definition of such a stylistic technique as temporal distortion?***

a) The act of writing about writing or making readers aware of the fictional nature of the very fiction they are reading.

b) The use of non-linear timelines and narrative techniques in a story.

c) The use of characters and events, which are decidedly common and non-exceptional characters.

d) Disorganized, lengthy and highly detailed writing.

15) ***What is a definition of such a stylistic technique as pastiche?***

a) The taking of various ideas from previous writings and literary styles and pasting them together to make new styles.

b) The acknowledgment of previous literary works within another literary work.

c) The introduction of impossible and unrealistic events into a narrative that is otherwise realistic.

d) The mixing of actual historical events with fictional events without clearly defining what is factual and what is fictional.

16)   What is a definition of such a stylistic technique as faction?

a) The taking of various ideas from previous writings and literary styles and pasting them together to make new styles.
b) The acknowledgment of previous literary works within another literary work.
c) The introduction of impossible and unrealistic events into a narrative that is otherwise realistic.
d) The mixing of actual historical events with fictional events without clearly defining what is factual and what is fictional.

17)   What is a definition of such a stylistic technique as intertextuality?

a) The taking of various ideas from previous writings and literary styles and pasting them together to make new styles.
b) The acknowledgment of previous literary works within another literary work.
c) The introduction of impossible and unrealistic events into a narrative that is otherwise realistic.
d) The mixing of actual historical events with fictional events without clearly defining what is factual and what is fictional.

18)   What is a definition of such a stylistic technique as magic realism?

a) The taking of various ideas from previous writings and literary styles and pasting them together to make new styles.
b) The acknowledgment of previous literary works within another literary work.
c) The introduction of impossible and unrealistic events into a narrative that is otherwise realistic.
d) The mixing of actual historical events with fictional events without clearly defining what is factual and what is fictional.

19)   Which of the following is not a novel written by Toni Morrison?

a) *"The Bluest Eye"*

b) *"Sula"*

c) *"The House on Mango Street"*

d) *"Song of Solomon*"

20)   Who was honored Erskine J. Poetry Prize in 2004?

a) Toni Morrison

b) Sandra Cisneros

c) Claudia Emerson

d) Kurt Vonnegut, Jr.

21)   Who is the author of "Streetcar Named Desire" written in 1947?

a) J.D. Salinger

b) Tennessee Williams

c) Ernest Miller Hemingway

d) Thomas Stearns Eliot

22)   Who is the author of "The Great Gatsby"?

a) Ernest Miller Hemingway

b) J.D.Salinger

c) Thomas Stearns Eliot

d) Francis Scott Key Fitzgerald

23)   When was Samuel Beckett awarded the Nobel Prize in Literature?

a) in 1959

b) in 1969

c) in 1979

d) in 1989

24)   *What was "The Bloomsbury Group"?*

a) It was a circle of journalists who wrote about the Bloomsbury district of London.

b) It was a circle of poets who wrote about the Bloomsbury district of London.

c) It was a circle of writers, artists and intellectuals who lived in the Bloomsbury district of London.

d) No individual answer is correct.

25)   *How many members did "The Bloomsbury Group" originally start off with?*

a) 5

b) 7

c) 9

d) 10

26)   *Who was the founder of Surrealism?*

a) Andre Breton

b) Filippo Tommaso

c) Hans Richter

d) Ezra Pound

27)   *Who was honored the Pulitzer Prize for the collection of poems "Late Wife" in 2006?*

a) Toni Morrison

b) Sandra Cisneros

c) Claudia Emerson

d) Ezra Pound

28) **Who was a member of the "Lost Generation" of the 1920s?**

a) Ernest Miller Hemingway

b) J.D.Salinger

c) Thomas Stearns Eliot

d) Francis Scott Key Fitzgerald

29) **Who of the following writers was awarded the Nobel Prize in Literature?**

a) Claudia Emerson

b) Virginia Woolf

c) Toni Morrison

d) Sandra Cisneros

30) **Who of the following writers was awarded the Nobel Prize in Literature?**

a) Ernest Miller Hemingway

b) J.D.Salinger

c) Thomas Stearns Eliot

d) Kurt Vonnegut, Jr.

THESAURUS

Beckett, Samuel
(April 13, 1906 –
December 22, 1989)

a well-known Irish novelist, playwright and poet awarded the 1969 Nobel Prize in Literature

Bradbury, Ray
(August 22, 1920 –
June 5, 2012)

a famous American novelist, short story writer, essayist, playwright, screenwriter and poet (one of the most celebrated 20[th] century American writers during his lifetime)

Cisneros, Sandra
(December 20, 1954 –)

a contemporary American novelist, short-story writer, essayist and poet

Emerson, Claudia
(January 13, 1957 –
December 4, 2014)

a contemporary poet, honored the Pulitzer Prize in 2006

Dadaism

an international literary movement and a form of artistic anarchy, which originally emerged in Switzerland (Zurich) in 1916 and ended in 1923

Expressionism

a literary movement that emerged in Germany in 1914 and ended in 1924.

Fitzgerald, Francis Scott Key
(September 24, 1896 –
December 21, 1940)

a great American novelist who had a rather fruitful career, a member of the "Lost Generation" – a famous group of American writers

Futurism

an Italian art movement founded in 1909 by the poet Filippo Tommaso Marinetti

Imagism

a movement which was created by poets who abandoned the old ways of writing poems and which emerged in the early 1900s

intertextuality

a literary technique based on the dependence of

	postmodern literature on different pieces of writing created earlier
Joice, James (February 2, 1882 – January 13, 1941)	an outstanding Irish novelist and a poet famous for experimental use of language
Lee, Harper (1960 –)	a famous American writer known for writing the Pulitzer Prize-winning best-seller *"To Kill a Mockingbird"* (1960)
magical realism	a postmodern technique which helps writers introduce fantastic elements into a piece of writing
Maugham, William Somerset (January 25, 1874 – December 16, 1965)	a popular British novelist, short story writer and a dramatist
Modernism	a general term applied retrospectively to the wide range of experimental trends in the arts
Morrison, Toni (Chloe Anthony Wofford) (February 18, 1931 –)	one of the most celebrated novelist in the USA, who won the 1993 Nobel Prize in Literature
pastiche	a literary technique based on combining various literary genres and styles in order to create something new
Post-Modernism	a term coined in the mid-1970s to describe the reaction against the dogmatic and uncompromisingly purist international style of the Modern Movement in architecture (the term "Postmodernism" has also been extended to other forms of art and literature, describing works that reject the theories and practices of

modernism)

Pynchon, Thomas Ruggles Jr. (May 8, 1937 –)	a prominent American novelist and a short story writer
Salinger, J.D. (January 1, 1919 – January 27, 2010)	an American writer who is well-known for his specific narrative style
Surrealism	a cultural movement best known for its visual artworks and writings
temporal distortion	a literary technique, which allows writers to use some cultural and historical references, which are not consistent with the plot
Kurt Vonnegut, Jr. (November 11, 1922 – April 11, 2007)	a well-known postmodern writer
Woolf, Adeline Virginia (January 25, 1882 – March 28, 1941)	an English writer and one of the greatest modernists of the 20th century

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FINAL TEST

1) What was a movement in the 1920s and 1930s that involved an explosion of African-American art and writing?

a) the Lost Generation

b) the Jazz Age

c) the Harlem Renaissance

d) Variants a) and b) are correct.

2) Literature of what period is marked, both stylistically and ideologically, by a reliance on such literary conventions as fragmentation, paradox, unreliable narrators, often unrealistic and downright impossible plots, games, parody, paranoia, dark humor and authorial self-reference?

a) the Victorian period

b) the Romantic period

c) the Modern period

d) the Postmodern period

3) Who was the founder of surrealism?

a) Andre Breton

b) Filippo Tommaso

c) Hans Richter

d) Ezra Pound

4) What originates form fables and myths?

a) a novel

b) a novella

c) a short story

d) a vignette

5) **What is a tall tale?**

a) It is a fiction genre, which is peculiar to literature of the USA.

b) It is an extravagantly and humorously exaggerated story of the backwoods exploits of an American frontiersman.

c) Variants a) and b) are correct.

d) No individual variant is correct.

6) *What is one of the best examples of picaresque novels in literature of the English-speaking countries?*

a) *"Canterbury Tales"* by Geoffrey Chaucer

b) *"Huckleberry Finn"* by Mark Twain

c) *"The Catcher in the Rye"* by J.D. Salinger

d) *"The Mist"* by Stephen King

7) **What is an epic?**

a) It is a short story written in the form of a poem or a song.

b) The earliest recorded poem emerged during the Anglo-Saxon period.

c) It is a poem written in metrical form for children.

d) It is a poem developed in Italy in the thirteenth century.

8) **Who invented the moveable type?**

a) Johnathan Swift

b) Jody Lynn Nye

c) Peter Beagle

d) Johannes Gutenberg

*9) **What is women's fiction?***

a) It is a literary fiction genre dedicated to a woman or women.

b) It is a literary fiction genre written by a women or women.

c) Variants a) and b) are correct.

d) No individual variant is correct.

*10) **The major forms of literary art include** … .*

a) fiction and non-fiction

b) a novel, a novella and a short story

c) a novel, a novella and a poem

d) prose, poetry and drama

*11) **What is the genre of "Beloved" by Toni Morrison?***

a) realistic fiction

b) magic realism

c) non-fiction

d) mystery

*12) **Who is the author of "Streetcar Named Desire" written in
1947?***

a) J.D. Salinger

b) Tennessee Williams

c) Ernest Miller Hemingway

d) Thomas Stearns Eliot

13) **What are usually the characters of a fable?**

a) elves

b) hobgoblins

c) dragons

d) animals

14) **Who is the author of "The Great Gatsby"?**

a) Ernest Miller Hemingway

b) J.D.Salinger

c) Thomas Stearns Eliot

d) Francis Scott Key Fitzgerald

15) **A poetry genre in which poets use words, phrases and physical shape to capture the attention of readers and convey a definite idea.**

a) a couplet

b) a ballad

c) a concrete poem

d) a cinquain

16) **the person, place, idea or physical force against the protagonist**

a) an antagonist

b) a protagonist

c) a sidekick

d) an underdog

17) Who is the author of a famous speech "I Have a Dream"?

a) Lewis Carroll

b) Martin Luther King

c) Johnathan Swift

d) Mark Twain

18) the basic plan of a story

a) a theme
b) a resolution
c) a plot
d) a conflict

19) a part of a plot where the conflit begins to develop

a) an exposition

b) a rising action

c) a falling action

d) a climax

20) What is consonance?

a) an example of alliteration with vowels

b) an example of alliteration with consonants

c) a repetition of the definite sounds in a phrase

d) a restatement of a concept or term using different word

21) What is a kenning?

a) a figurative phrase that replaces a common noun

b) an audible pause that breaks up a line of verse

c) a restatement of a concept or term using different word

d) a repetition of the definite sounds in a phrase

22) **What international literary movement used nonsense and ridicule to emphasize the meaningless of the modern world?**

a) Dadaism

b) Imagism

c) Surrealism

d) Futurism

23) **What two novels by Jane Austen were published posthumously?**

a) *"Persuasion"* (1817) and *"Northanger Abbey"* (1817)

b) *"Sense and Sensibility"* (1811) and *"Pride and Prejudice"* (1813)

c) *"Mansfield Park"* (1814) and *"Northanger Abbey"* (1817)

d) *"Mansfield Park"* (1814) and *"Emma"* (1815)

24) **When and where did Dadaism emerge?**

a) in Paris in 1914

b) in Zurich in 1916

c) in Berlin in 1918

d) in London in 1919

25) **Who of the following notable writers was not the representative of the Renaissance period?**

a) Geoffrey Chaucer

b) Edmund Spenser

c) Christopher Marlowe

d) William Shakespeare

26) *What is the genre of "Snow White"?*
a) a fable
b) a tall tale
c) a fairy tale
d) a legend

27) *What literary period emerged at the beginning of the 20th century and lasted until the end of World War II?*
a) the Enlightenment period
b) the Modern period
c) the Postmodern period
d) the Victorian period

28) *What is Johnathan Swift's best known full-length work and a classic of English literature?*
a) *"Beowulf"*
b) *"The Adventures of Tom Sawyer and Adventures of Huckleberry Finn"*
c) *"Gulliver's Travels"*
d) No individual variant is correct.

29) *What does the word literature mean?*
a) "things made from letters"
b) "things made from words"
c) "things made from sentences"
d) "things made from idioms"

30) Who was called "one of contemporary fiction's most restless experimenters"?

a) Francis Scott Key Fitzgerald

b) Edgar Lawrence Doctorow

c) Ernest Miller Hemingway

d) Thomas Stearns Eliot

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FICTION GENRES

TALL TALES

BEAR LAKE MONSTER
A Utah Ghost Story
retold by
S. E. Schlosser

If you travel to Bear Lake in Utah on a quiet day, you just might catch a glimpse of the Bear Lake Monster. The monster looks like a huge brown snake and is nearly 90 feet long. It has ears that stick out from the side of its skinny head and a mouth big enough to eat a man. According to some, it has small legs and it kind of scurries when it ventures out on land. But in the water - watch out! It can swim faster than a horse can gallop - makes a mile a minute on a good day. Sometimes the monster likes to sneak up on unwary swimmers and blow water at them. The ones it doesn't carry off to eat, that is.

A feller I heard about spotted the monster early one evening as he was walking along the lake. He tried to shoot it with his rifle. The man was a crack shot, but not one of his bullets touched that monster. It scared the heck out of him and he high tailed it home faster than you can say Jack Robinson. Left his rifle behind him and claimed the monster ate it.

Sometimes, when the monster has been quiet for a while, people start saying it is gone for good. Some folks even dredge up that old tale that says how Pecos Bill heard about the Bear Lake monster and bet some cowpokes that he could wrestle that monster until it said uncle. According to them folks, the fight lasted for days and created a hurricane around Bear Lake. Finally, Bill flung that

there monster over his shoulder and it flew so far it went plumb around the world and landed in Loch Ness, where it lives to this day.

Course, we know better than that. The Bear Lake Monster is just hibernating-like. Keep your eyes open at dusk and maybe you'll see it come out to feed. Just be careful swimming in the lake, or you might be its next meal!

Connecticut Yankee
(A Connecticut Folktale
retold by S.E. Schlosser)

Now, here in the South, we all do not approve of your so-called Connecticut Yankee peddlers. So when one appeared in the yard of my tavern, I was not of a mind to give him room for the night.

He was a scrawny fellow with a mop of white hair and a withered face. He did not seem like a crafty Yankee peddler. He looked more like a grandfather on his last legs. Surely this Connecticut Yankee had no harm in him!

Curiosity being my downfall, as my wife would be the first to tell you, I was keen to see a real Yankee trick. So I told him that he might have lodgings for the night if he would play a Yankee trick before he left. Well, he promised me the trick, but said he was tired and went directly to bed.

The next morning, everything went wrong. My yard boy never showed up. I was forced to care for the horses myself while my wife cooked breakfast. When I finally got inside, my wife was leaning over a table full of the peddler's wares. She was fingering a coverlet which matched the ones we had upstairs. The peddler named a ridiculously low price and my wife nodded eagerly. Just then one of our other customers called me to his table to pay his bill, so I did not

see the peddler finalize the sale. It was only after the peddler had called for his buggy, paid for his room, and begun to drive away that I suddenly remembered his promise.

"Peddler!" I called. "What about the Yankee trick you promised? I did not see any trick!"

"You will," he said, whipping up his horse.

Just then, my wife stuck her head out from one of the rooms upstairs.

"Harry!" she cried. "That sneaky Yankee just sold me the cover from off his bed!"

FICTION GENRES

A FAIRY TALE

Cinderella by Amy Peters

Once upon a time, there was a beautiful girl named Cinderella, who lived with her two stepsisters and stepmother. The stepmother didn't like Cinderella and frequently nagged and scolded her. She made Cinderella do all of the housework.

She had to do all the laundry, all the dishes, and all the cleaning and scrubbing and mending and washing. Despite all this hard work, and the ragged dress she was forced to wear, Cinderella remained kind and optimistic.

One day, it was announced that the king had decided to give a ball in honor of his son, the prince. Invitations were sent out to all the young, unmarried girls in the kingdom. Cinderella and her two stepsisters were invited.

Immediately, the stepmother began purchasing fancy gowns for her daughters, hoping the prince would fall in love with one of them.

Cinderella, of course, was put to work altering the gowns, taking up the hems, and letting out the waists (for her stepsisters were a bit plump).

"Oh, Cinderella," teased the older stepsister, "wouldn't you like to come to the ball?"

Cinderella turned away so her stepsisters wouldn't see the tears in her eyes.

Both stepsisters looked at each other and laughed merrily at the thought of their dirty servant stepsister standing in rags at the ball.

At last the stepsisters were ready, and their carriage pulled up before the front door. Cinderella waved and watched the carriage roll down the street until it was completely out of sight. Then the poor girl burst into tears.

"Why are you crying, child?" said a voice.

Cinderella looked down and saw a tiny, sparkling woman no larger than a teacup standing on the table. "Who are you?" the teary-eyed girl asked.

"I am your Fairy Godmother," said the little woman. "Why are you so sad?"

But Cinderella was too sad to respond.

"You wish you could go to the ball?" The Fairy Godmother finally asked.

"Yes," wept Cinderella. "But I am too poor and ugly, everyone would laugh."

"Nonsense," laughed the fairy. "You are beautiful and kind and have all you need. I'll just give you a little help."

"Okay," Cinderella said.

"First, we'll need a pumpkin," said the little fairy.

Cinderella brought a pumpkin in from the garden, and the Fairy Godmother gently touched it with her wand. Instantly the pumpkin was transformed into a jeweled coach.

Next, her wand transformed mice into prancing horses to draw the carriage. Some frogs became footmen, and two rats became the coachman and the coach driver.

"Now," said the Fairy Godmother, "you have your carriage. We must see to your gown." She touched Cinderella with her wand. Instantly the ragged dress became a stunning white gown of silk, with beads and pearls and diamonds glittering everywhere. On her feet were a pair of glass slippers, the most beautiful shoes Cinderella had ever seen.

"Now, go to the ball," said the Fairy Godmother. "But be sure to leave before midnight. At the last stroke of midnight, the coach will be a pumpkin

again, the horses will become mice, the coachmen rats, and the footmen will be frogs. And," she added, "your gown will turn back into rags."

When Cinderella arrived to the ball, the prince hurried to greet her. He gave her his hand and led her into the great hall.

When the two made their entrance, the crowd fell silent. So beautiful a pair was the prince and the strange girl that no one could say a word.

Then, Cinderella and the prince began to waltz.

"What a fine dancer she is," said the stepmother, not recognizing the young girl.

"Her dress is better than mine," sulked the older stepsister.

"Her shoes are nicer than mine," hissed the younger one.

"Quiet, you two," snarled the stepmother.

The hours passed like minutes. Cinderella danced and talked with the prince. Then the clock sounded the hour of twelve. Terrified that she might be discovered, she had time only to kiss the prince softly on the cheek. She rushed down the steps, hopped into her coach, and was gone.

Cinderella ran away so quickly that she didn't even realize one of her slippers had fallen off. It was picked up by the prince who had turned to follow the girl whose name he hadn't even learned.

Just as they were out of sight of the palace, the coach and horses and coachmen and footmen changed back into a pumpkin and rats and mice and frogs.

Next day, a proclamation was issued that the prince himself would be visiting every house in the town to find the owner of the missing glass slipper.

The prince tried the slipper on all the other princesses and duchesses in the court, but none of their feet could fit into it. He then began going to the houses of everyone in the kingdom.

The two stepsisters knew that he would arrive soon. They fluttered and twittered about until the stepmother shouted for them to calm down.

The doorbell rang. "Open the door for the prince."

"Welcome, Your Highness," giggled the first stepsister.

The prince frowned, but he asked the two girls to remove their shoes.

The stepsisters tried to make the shoe fit. They shoved and pried and pushed and squeezed and shoved again, but the slipper would not fit.

At last, Cinderella peeked around the corner. "May I try?" she asked meekly.

"You?" scoffed the stepmother.

"That's just the cleaning girl," said the older stepsister.

"Let her try," said the prince.

Cinderella sat down in the chair, and the prince lifted the slipper to her foot. It fit beautifully.

"Are you my Princess?" the prince asked.

"I am," Cinderella said happily.

"She can't be!" cried the stepmother.

"Impossible!" shouted the two stepsisters.

From her pocket, Cinderella pulled the other glass slipper and put it on.

The prince took Cinderella's hand and led her off to the palace, where they were married in splendor and lived happily ever after.

The stepsisters and stepmother still live together in a rather unkempt home.

FICTION GENRES

FABLES

The Fighting Roosters and the Eagle
retold by S.E. Schlosser

"That's it!" Black Rooster crowed to himself when he spotted Red Cock flirting with the hens again. "I've had it with that impudent Rooster. I am the Master of the Farm Yard, not him!"

Black Rooster threw back his head and crowed loudly: "Cock-a-doodle-doo! I will fight you."

Red Rooster turned around slowly, fluffing out every feather on his body as he moved. "Oh yeah? Just try it," he replied.

The hens squawked and gabbled as the two Roosters flew toward each other. They huddled together as the Roosters pecked and kicked and pounded one another with outstretched wings. Feathers flew everywhere.

Red Rooster aimed a mighty blow to Black Rooster's head, but Black Rooster ducked and bit Red Rooster's leg. Red Rooster screamed in rage and pummeled Black Rooster with his wings, but Black Rooster was older and wilier than Red Rooster and hustled out of reach. Then Black Rooster bit Red Rooster from behind, right in the shoulder. Red Rooster screamed in agony and flapped away to a private corner to bleed in misery.

"I won!" Black Rooster crowed in delight. "I won!" He threw out his chest and flapped mightily. Then he flew up to the top of a high wall and stretched his wings to their full length, calling exultantly at the top of his voice. "I am the WINNER!"

High above the farm yard, Eagle floated lazily on an updraft. His keen eye was searching for his next meal, when he spotted Black Rooster dancing atop the high wall. His keen ear heard Black Rooster crowing in triumph. "Ah ha! Dinner at last," said Eagle, folding his wings and diving toward the ground.

"I won! I won! I, the mighty Black Rooster, have won!" Black Rooster strutted and danced on the high wall above the farm yard. Beneath him, the hens cackled wildly and flattened themselves on the ground as a shadow blotted out the sky.

"I wo…." Black Rooster's triumphant crow was cut off as Eagle snatched him off the wall and carried him away in his mighty talons.

Red Rooster peered anxiously from his corner and saw Black Rooster floating away in the Eagle's grasp.

A few black feathers cascaded down onto the head of a broody hen sitting on a nest in the shade of the wall.

Red Rooster shook his feathers into place, gave his wounded shoulder a quick preen, and strutted out into the farmyard. "You may have won, but I am Master of the Farm Yard," he called after the retreating black speck floating skyward in Eagle's talons. And all the hens, strutting back into the yard to feed, happily agreed.

Moral: Pride goes before destruction.

The Ant and the Grasshopper by Aesop

In a field one summer's day a Grasshopper was hopping about, chirping and singing to its heart's content. An Ant passed by, bearing along with great toil an ear of corn he was taking to the nest.

"Why not come and chat with me," said the Grasshopper, "instead of toiling and moiling in that way?"

"I am helping to lay up food for the winter," said the Ant, "and recommend you to do the same."

"Why bother about winter?" said the Grasshopper; "We have got plenty of food at present." But the Ant went on its way and continued its toil.

When the winter came the Grasshopper had no food and found itself dying of hunger – while it saw the ants distributing every day corn and grain from the stores they had collected in the summer. Then the Grasshopper knew: It is best to prepare for days of need.

POETRY GENRES

THE REAL MOTHER GOOSE AND NURSERY RHYMES

CRY, BABY

Cry, baby, cry,

Put your finger in your eye,

And tell your mother it wasn't I.

THE CAT AND THE FIDDLE

Hey, diddle, diddle!

The cat and the fiddle,

The cow jumped over the moon;

The little dog laughed

To see such sport,

And the dish ran away with the spoon.

TOMMY TITTLEMOUSE

Little Tommy Tittlemouse

Lived in a little house;

He caught fishes

In other men's ditches.

A WALNUT

As soft as silk, as white as milk,

As bitter as gall, a strong wall,

And a green coat covers me all.

THE THREE SONS

There was an old woman had three sons,

Jerry and James and John,

Jerry was hanged, James was drowned,

John was lost and never was found;

And there was an end of her three sons,

Jerry and James and John!

LITTLE BOY BLUE

Little Boy Blue, come, blow your horn!

The sheep's in the meadow, the cow's in the corn.

Where's the little boy that looks after the sheep?

Under the haystack, fast asleep!

FINGERS AND TOES

Every lady in this land

Has twenty nails, upon each hand

Five, and twenty on hands and feet:

All this is true, without deceit.

A SEASONABLE SONG

Piping hot, smoking hot.

What I've got

You have not.

Hot gray pease, hot, hot, hot;

Hot gray pease, hot.

RAIN

Rain, rain, go away,

Come again another day;

Little Johnny wants to play.

THIRTY DAYS HATH SEPTEMBER

Thirty days hath September,

April, June, and November;

February has twenty-eight alone,

All the rest have thirty-one,

Excepting leap-year, that's the time

When February's days are twenty-nine.

IF WISHES WERE HORSES

If wishes were horses, beggars would ride.

If turnips were watches, I would wear one by my side.

And if "ifs" and "ands"

Were pots and pans,

There'd be no work for tinkers!

BARBER

Barber, barber, shave a pig.

How many hairs will make a wig?

Four and twenty; that's enough.

Give the barber a pinch of snuff.

NON-FICTON GENRES

SPEECH

I Have a Dream
by Martin Luther King's

I am happy to join with you today in what will go down in history as the greatest demonstration for freedom in the history of our nation.

Five score years ago, a great American, in whose symbolic shadow we stand today, signed the Emancipation Proclamation. This momentous decree came as a great beacon light of hope to millions of Negro slaves who had been seared in the flames of withering injustice. It came as a joyous daybreak to end the long night of their captivity.

But one hundred years later, the Negro still is not free. One hundred years later, the life of the Negro is still sadly crippled by the manacles of segregation and the chains of discrimination. One hundred years later, the Negro lives on a lonely island of poverty in the midst of a vast ocean of material prosperity. One hundred years later, the Negro is still languishing in the corners of American society and finds himself an exile in his own land. So we have come here today to dramatize a shameful condition.

In a sense we have come to our nation's capital to cash a check. When the architects of our republic wrote the magnificent words of the Constitution and the Declaration of Independence, they were signing a promissory note to which every American was to fall heir. This note was a promise that all men, yes, black men as well as white men, would be guaranteed the unalienable rights of life, liberty, and the pursuit of happiness.

It is obvious today that America has defaulted on this promissory note insofar as her citizens of color are concerned. Instead of honoring this sacred

obligation, America has given the Negro people a bad check, a check which has come back marked "insufficient funds." But we refuse to believe that the bank of justice is bankrupt. We refuse to believe that there are insufficient funds in the great vaults of opportunity of this nation. So we have come to cash this check – a check that will give us upon demand the riches of freedom and the security of justice. We have also come to this hallowed spot to remind America of the fierce urgency of now. This is no time to engage in the luxury of cooling off or to take the tranquilizing drug of gradualism. Now is the time to make real the promises of democracy. Now is the time to rise from the dark and desolate valley of segregation to the sunlit path of racial justice. Now is the time to lift our nation from the quick sands of racial injustice to the solid rock of brotherhood. Now is the time to make justice a reality for all of God's children.

It would be fatal for the nation to overlook the urgency of the moment. This sweltering summer of the Negro's legitimate discontent will not pass until there is an invigorating autumn of freedom and equality. Nineteen sixty-three is not an end, but a beginning. Those who hope that the Negro needed to blow off steam and will now be content will have a rude awakening if the nation returns to business as usual. There will be neither rest nor tranquility in America until the Negro is granted his citizenship rights. The whirlwinds of revolt will continue to shake the foundations of our nation until the bright day of justice emerges.

But there is something that I must say to my people who stand on the warm threshold which leads into the palace of justice. In the process of gaining our rightful place we must not be guilty of wrongful deeds. Let us not seek to satisfy our thirst for freedom by drinking from the cup of bitterness and hatred.

We must forever conduct our struggle on the high plane of dignity and discipline. We must not allow our creative protest to degenerate into physical violence. Again and again we must rise to the majestic heights of meeting physical force with soul force. The marvelous new militancy which has engulfed

the Negro community must not lead us to a distrust of all white people, for many of our white brothers, as evidenced by their presence here today, have come to realize that their destiny is tied up with our destiny. They have come to realize that their freedom is inextricably bound to our freedom. We cannot walk alone.

As we walk, we must make the pledge that we shall always march ahead. We cannot turn back. There are those who are asking the devotees of civil rights, "When will you be satisfied?" We can never be satisfied as long as the Negro is the victim of the unspeakable horrors of police brutality. We can never be satisfied, as long as our bodies, heavy with the fatigue of travel, cannot gain lodging in the motels of the highways and the hotels of the cities. We cannot be satisfied as long as the Negro's basic mobility is from a smaller ghetto to a larger one. We can never be satisfied as long as our children are stripped of their selfhood and robbed of their dignity by signs stating "For Whites Only". We cannot be satisfied as long as a Negro in Mississippi cannot vote and a Negro in New York believes he has nothing for which to vote. No, no, we are not satisfied, and we will not be satisfied until justice rolls down like waters and righteousness like a mighty stream.

I am not unmindful that some of you have come here out of great trials and tribulations. Some of you have come fresh from narrow jail cells. Some of you have come from areas where your quest for freedom left you battered by the storms of persecution and staggered by the winds of police brutality. You have been the veterans of creative suffering. Continue to work with the faith that unearned suffering is redemptive.

Go back to Mississippi, go back to Alabama, go back to South Carolina, go back to Georgia, go back to Louisiana, go back to the slums and ghettos of our northern cities, knowing that somehow this situation can and will be changed. Let us not wallow in the valley of despair.

I say to you today, my friends, so even though we face the difficulties of today and tomorrow, I still have a dream. It is a dream deeply rooted in the American dream.

I have a dream that one day this nation will rise up and live out the true meaning of its creed: "We hold these truths to be self-evident: that all men are created equal."

I have a dream that one day on the red hills of Georgia the sons of former slaves and the sons of former slave owners will be able to sit down together at the table of brotherhood.

I have a dream that one day even the state of Mississippi, a state sweltering with the heat of injustice, sweltering with the heat of oppression, will be transformed into an oasis of freedom and justice.

I have a dream that my four little children will one day live in a nation where they will not be judged by the color of their skin but by the content of their character.

I have a dream today.

I have a dream that one day, down in Alabama, with its vicious racists, with its governor having his lips dripping with the words of interposition and nullification; one day right there in Alabama, little black boys and black girls will be able to join hands with little white boys and white girls as sisters and brothers.

I have a dream today.

I have a dream that one day every valley shall be exalted, every hill and mountain shall be made low, the rough places will be made plain, and the crooked places will be made straight, and the glory of the Lord shall be revealed, and all flesh shall see it together.

This is our hope. This is the faith that I go back to the South with. With this faith we will be able to hew out of the mountain of despair a stone of hope. With this faith we will be able to transform the jangling discords of our nation

into a beautiful symphony of brotherhood. With this faith we will be able to work together, to pray together, to struggle together, to go to jail together, to stand up for freedom together, knowing that we will be free one day.

This will be the day when all of God's children will be able to sing with a new meaning, "My country, 'tis of thee, sweet land of liberty, of thee I sing. Land where my fathers died, land of the pilgrim's pride, from every mountainside, let freedom ring."

And if America is to be a great nation this must become true. So let freedom ring from the prodigious hilltops of New Hampshire. Let freedom ring from the mighty mountains of New York. Let freedom ring from the heightening Alleghenies of Pennsylvania!

Let freedom ring from the snowcapped Rockies of Colorado!

Let freedom ring from the curvaceous slopes of California!

But not only that; let freedom ring from Stone Mountain of Georgia!

Let freedom ring from Lookout Mountain of Tennessee!

Let freedom ring from every hill and molehill of Mississippi. From every mountainside, let freedom ring.

And when this happens, when we allow freedom to ring, when we let it ring from every village and every hamlet, from every state and every city, we will be able to speed up that day when all of God's children, black men and white men, Jews and Gentiles, Protestants and Catholics, will be able to join hands and sing in the words of the old Negro spiritual, "Free at last! free at last! thank God Almighty, we are free at last!"

THE CLOUD

by Percy Shelley

I bring fresh showers for the thirsting flowers,

From the seas and the streams;

I bear light shade for the leaves when laid

In their noonday dreams.

From my wings are shaken the dews that waken

The sweet buds every one,

When rocked to rest on their mother's breast,

As she dances about the sun.

I wield the flail of the lashing hail,

And whiten the green plains under,

And then again I dissolve it in rain,

And laugh as I pass in thunder.

I sift the snow on the mountains below,

And their great pines groan aghast;

And all the night 'tis my pillow white,

While I sleep in the arms of the blast.

Sublime on the towers of my skiey bowers,

Lightning my pilot sits;

In a cavern under is fettered the thunder,

It struggles and howls at fits;

Over earth and ocean, with gentle motion,

This pilot is guiding me,

Lured by the love of the genii that move
In the depths of the purple sea;
Over the rills, and the crags, and the hills,
Over the lakes and the plains,
Wherever he dream, under mountain or stream,
The Spirit he loves remains;
And I all the while bask in Heaven's blue smile,
Whilst he is dissolving in rains.

The sanguine Sunrise, with his meteor eyes,
And his burning plumes outspread,
Leaps on the back of my sailing rack,
When the morning star shines dead;
As on the jag of a mountain crag,
Which an earthquake rocks and swings,
An eagle alit one moment may sit
In the light of its golden wings.
And when Sunset may breathe, from the lit sea beneath,
Its ardours of rest and of love,
And the crimson pall of eve may fall
From the depth of Heaven above,
With wings folded I rest, on mine aëry nest,
As still as a brooding dove.

That orbèd maiden with white fire laden,
Whom mortals call the Moon,
Glides glimmering o'er my fleece-like floor,
By the midnight breezes strewn;
And wherever the beat of her unseen feet,

Which only the angels hear,
May have broken the woof of my tent's thin roof,
The stars peep behind her and peer;
And I laugh to see them whirl and flee,
Like a swarm of golden bees,
When I widen the rent in my wind-built tent,
Till calm the rivers, lakes, and seas,
Like strips of the sky fallen through me on high,
Are each paved with the moon and these.

I bind the Sun's throne with a burning zone,
And the Moon's with a girdle of pearl;
The volcanoes are dim, and the stars reel and swim,
When the whirlwinds my banner unfurl.
From cape to cape, with a bridge-like shape,
Over a torrent sea,
Sunbeam-proof, I hang like a roof,
The mountains its columns be.
The triumphal arch through which I march
With hurricane, fire, and snow,
When the Powers of the air are chained to my chair,
Is the million-coloured bow;
The sphere-fire above its soft colours wove,
While the moist Earth was laughing below.

I am the daughter of Earth and Water,
And the nursling of the Sky;
I pass through the pores of the ocean and shores;
I change, but I cannot die.

For after the rain when with never a stain

The pavilion of Heaven is bare,

And the winds and sunbeams with their convex gleams

Build up the blue dome of air,

I silently laugh at my own cenotaph,

And out of the caverns of rain,

Like a child from the womb, like a ghost from the tomb,

I arise and unbuild it again.

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FOR NOTES

Навчальне видання

Н. О. Арістова

Сучасна література англомовних країн : Навчальний посібник для студентів ОКР «Бакалавр» галузі знань 0203 «Гуманітарні науки» напряму підготовки 6.020303 «Філологія» (денна та заочна форма навчання)