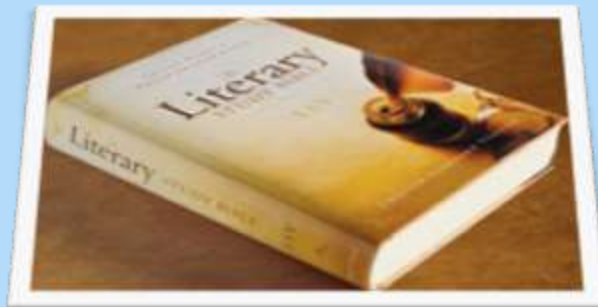


Modern Literary Movements

Part Three



MAIN LITERARY PERIODS



Main Literary Periods

1. Enlightenment
2. Elizabethan era
3. Victorian era
4. Modernism
5. Postmodernism
6. Postcolonial literature



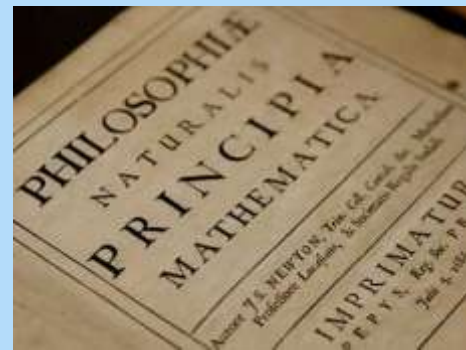
Objectives



- **By the end of this part, you will be able to:**
 1. **List** the main literary Periods in English literature.
 2. **Recognize** the historical setting of each period.
 3. **Explain** the main characteristics of each period.
 4. **Recognize** the development from one period to another.
 5. **Name** the main writers in each period.

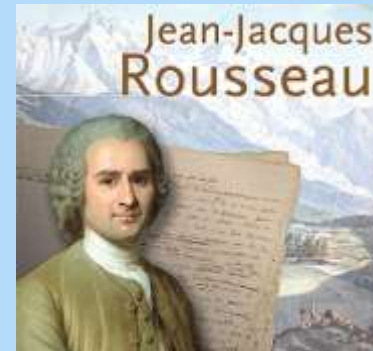
Enlightenment

- **Enlightenment (c. 1660–1790):** An intellectual movement in France and other parts of Europe that emphasized the importance of **reason, progress, and liberty**.



Enlightenment

- The Enlightenment, sometimes called the **Age of Reason**, is primarily associated with nonfiction writing, such as essays and philosophical treatises.
- Major Enlightenment writers include **Thomas Hobbes, John Locke, Jean-Jacques Rousseau, René Descartes.**



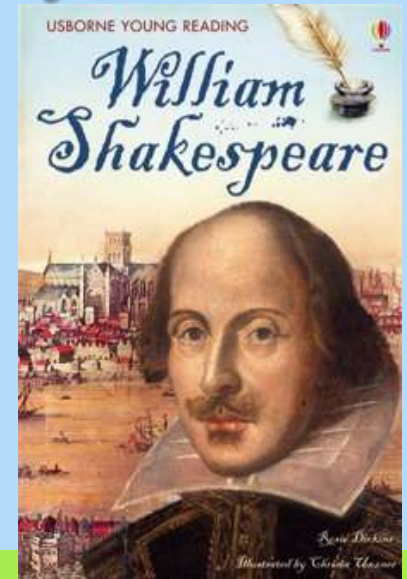
Elizabethan era

- **Elizabethan era (c. 1558–1603):** A flourishing period in English literature, particularly drama, that coincided with the reign of **Queen Elizabeth I**



Elizabethan era

- Elizabethan era included writers such as Francis Bacon, Ben Jonson, Christopher Marlowe, William Shakespeare, Sir Philip Sidney, and Edmund Spenser.



Victorian era

- **Victorian era (c. 1832–1901):** The period of English history between the passage of the first Reform Bill (1832) and the death of **Queen Victoria** (reigned 1837–1901).



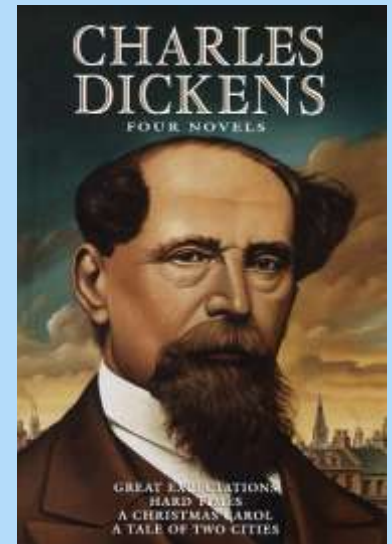
Victorian era



- Though remembered for **strict social, political, and sexual conservatism** and frequent clashes between **religion and science**, the period also saw prolific **literary activity** and significant social reform and criticism.

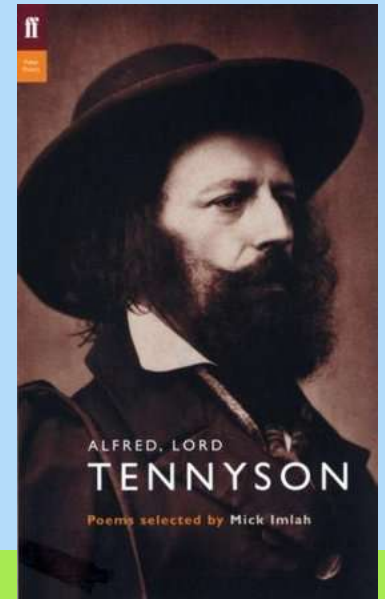
Victorian era

- Notable Victorian novelists include the Brontë sisters, **Charles Dickens**, George Eliot, William Makepeace Thackeray, Anthony Trollope, and Thomas Hardy



Victorian era

- Prominent poets include **Matthew Arnold; Robert Browning; Elizabeth Barrett Browning; Gerard Manley Hopkins; Alfred, Lord Tennyson; and Christina Rossetti.**



Modernism

- **Modernism (1890s–1940s):** A literary and artistic movement that provided **a radical breaks** with traditional modes of Western art, thought, religion, social conventions, and morality.



Modernism

- **Major themes** of this period include:
 1. the attack on notions of hierarchy;
 2. experimentation in new forms of narrative, such as **stream of consciousness**;



Modernism

- **Major themes** of this period include:
 3. doubt about the existence of knowable, objective reality;
 4. attention to alternative viewpoints and modes of thinking;
 5. self-referentiality as a means of drawing attention to the relationships between artist and audience, and form and content.



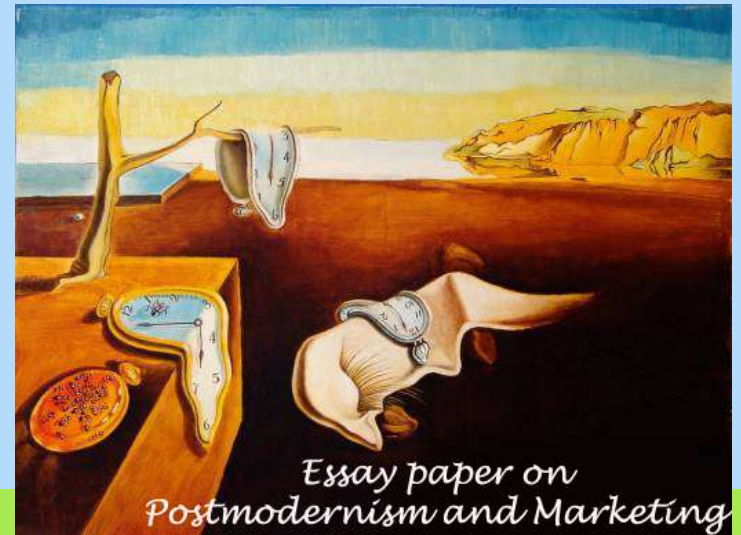
Postmodernism

- **Postmodernism (c. 1945–present):** A notoriously ambiguous term, especially as it refers to literature, postmodernism can be seen **as a response to the elitism of high modernism as well as to the horrors of World War II.**



Postmodernism

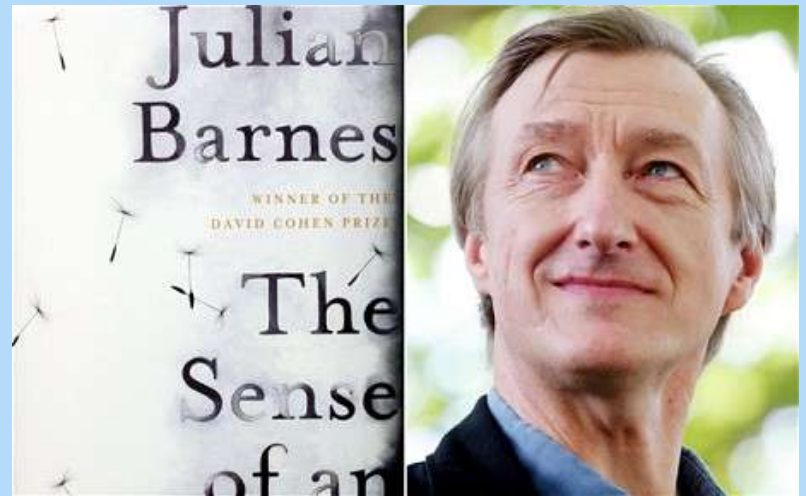
- Postmodern literature is characterized by a disjointed, fragmented **pastiche** of high and low culture that reflects the absence of tradition and structure in a world driven by technology and consumerism.



*Essay paper on
Postmodernism and Marketing*

Postmodernism

- **Julian Barnes, Don DeLillo, Toni Morrison, Vladimir Nabokov, Thomas Pynchon, Salman Rushdie, and Kurt Vonnegut** are among many who are considered postmodern authors.



Postcolonial literature

- **Postcolonial literature (c. 1950s–present):** Literature by and about people from **former European** colonies, primarily in Africa, Asia, South America, and the Caribbean.



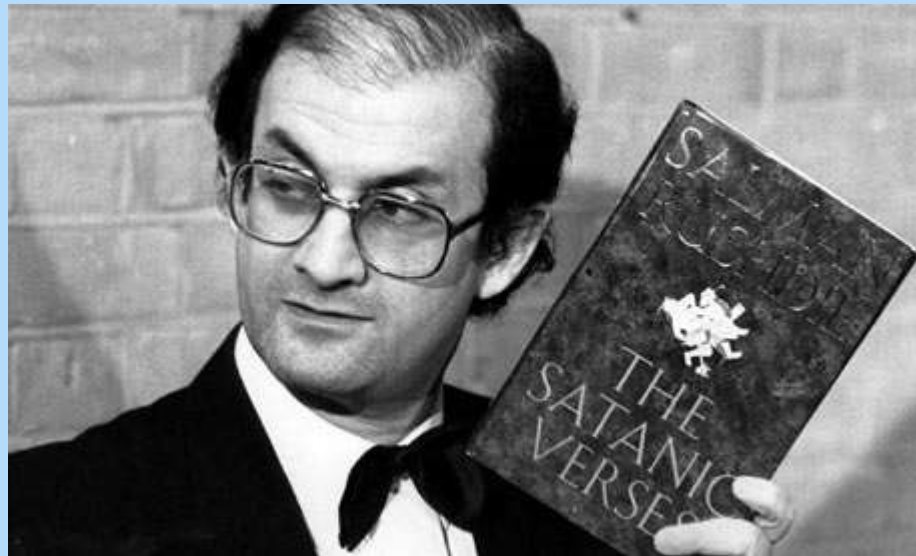
Postcolonial literature

- This literature aims both to expand the traditional canon of Western literature and to challenge Eurocentric assumptions about literature, especially through examination of questions of otherness, identity, and race.



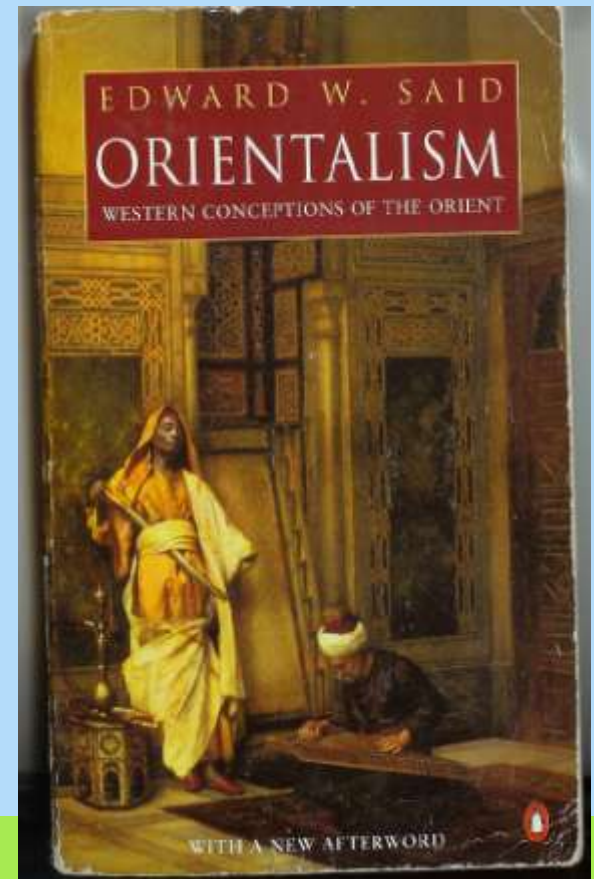
Postcolonial literature

- Prominent postcolonial works include **Chinua Achebe**'s *Things Fall Apart*, **V. S. Naipaul**'s *A House for Mr. Biswas*, and **Salman Rushdie**'s *Midnight's Children*.



Postcolonial literature

- **Edward Said's** *Orientalism* (1978) provided an important theoretical basis for understanding postcolonial literature.



Main Literary Periods

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