

KUNTHAVAI NAACHIYAR GOVT, ARTS COLLEGE FOR WOMAN (A), THANJAVUR

II BA

HISTORY OF ENGLISH LITERATURE-II

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UNIT – III

AGE OF TENNYSON

INTRODUCTION:

Victoria ascended the Throne in 1837. During the decade between 1830 and 1840 many distinguished writers began their work. There was enormous input of literature. Alfred Tennyson was the greatest poet of the day, Robert Browning who was famous for his dramatic monologue was his nearest rival. There was romantic progress in physical, political and social spheres. There was political unrest the repeal of the Corn Laws is ushered in the era. In spite of isolated disturbances there was peace and *prosperity* in the country as a whole.

The later half of Queen Victoria's reign was noted for many reforms in the field of both politics and education. The Reform Act 1861 and 1884 extended the right of vote to larger and larger sections of society. The progress of science kept pace with the progress of democracy. There was romantic spirit combined with the spirit of social reform against materialism.

ALFRED TENNYSON:

Tennyson was born in 1809. He won the chancellor's medal at Cambridge in 1829 for a poem *Timbuctoo*. He became poet laureate in 1850. His poetry appealed to his contemporaries because he had successfully combined romantic idealism and love of nature with the new temper of scientific materialism. He is a great master of poetic craft. He could make sound and sense move in perfect harmony in his verse. Tennyson's poetic activity extended over more than 60 years. His first important work appeared in 1833. He continued to write poetry till he died. But last few years of his life were not very productive. He was appointed Poet Laureate to succeed Wordsworth. He died in 1884.

Tennyson's poems are thoroughly enjoyable. In *The Princess* Tennyson undertakes to grapple with one of the major questions of the day-the education of women and place of women in the fast changing society. His other work *Maud*, a monodrama deals with the story of a lover who passes from horror to ecstasy and then anger and murder. *In Memoriam* is his famous work in which he expresses universal doubt- as soul's instinct for immortality. The death of his close friend Arthur Hallam, inspired him to write this poem.

Idylls of the king deal with the Celtic Legend of King Arthur and the Knights of the Round Table. Tennyson's immediate source is Malory's *Morte De Author*. King Arthur is the central figure. His unsuccessful attempts to found an ideal Empire or nicely brought out. Tennyson's genius lies in the lyrics and a short poems best among the more *Dora, Ulysses, Galahad, Oenone* etc.. . For drama His principal protections are three Historical Plays, *Queen Mary, Harold and Bucket*.

ROBERT BROWNING:

Robert browning was born in 1812 and he began to write poetry early but he was recognized as a great poet only after thirty years of writing. Like Tennyson he is also a teacher, but he is not an entertaining poet like him. He is always remembered by the students of literature for having popularized a new kind of poetry called "dramatic monologue" in this field. He achieved tremendous success. The best-known dramatic monologues of Browning are "*Abt Volger*" And "*Andre Del Sarto*" "*Death In The Desert*" "*Childe Ronald*" "*Saul*" "*Rabbi Ben Ezra*" "*Fra Lippo Lippi*" And "*Grammarian's Funeral*" .in these work Browning describes the hero's own thought and feeling they also reveal Browning's versatility in the creation of characters. For example, "*Abt Volger*" is Musician and "*Andre Del Sarto*" and "*Fra Lippo Lippi*" are about painters "*Death In The Desert*" deals with an early Christian; "*Child Ronald*" a medieval Knight and "*Rabbi Ben Ezra*" an old Jew.

Through his dramatic monologue Browning teaches a philosophy of Life. His philosophy is that of robust optimism. Browning accepts the supremacy of God as a Creator and the governor of the universe. He also believes in the immortality of the soul. Death is not the end of life. In "*Rabbi Ben Ezra*". He says; "earth changes but thy soul and God stand sure" .another aspect of Browning Philosophy of life is that everyone should aim at Excellence. Even though one is unable to achieve his aim in his life, He will certainly achieve it in the next world. He says "on the earth broken arc, in the heaven perfect round" One need not to be disheartened by failure, because failure is the stepping stone to success. A man should have a lofty aim. According to browning a man who aims at a million and misses by a unit is far better than the one who aims at a hundred and achieves it. Browning's poetry is intellectual poetry. His poetry according to him is not substitute for a cigar. His poetry is bold rugged and unconventional in matter and style.

Browning is difficult because the topic chosen by him are strange. His Association of ideas is beyond the reach of his readers, his allusions or far-fetched. His titles are very strange and Browning was never in habit of revising his poem. His poetry reveals His psychological insight into people. He will be always remembered for his dramatic monologues.

OTHER POETS OF THE PERIOD:

Mathew Arnold: he stands in the third place among many poets of Victorian age. He was the son of the famous at monster of rugby school. He became an inspector of schools. Arnold was torn between classicism and Romanticism. by training He was a classicist and by the temperament he was a romantic. as a lover of Greek literature, Arnold held that poetry must be objective; and the poet must not express his own personality, but he broke his Norm and wrote subjective poetry and expressed in it, his own feelings.

In accordance with this theory.he wrote the poems *Tristram And Iseult Baldu Dead And Empedocles On Etna*.they impress us as rather academic,initiative and unreal.

For his subject matter Arnold was fond of classical themes to which he gives a meditative and even a Melancholy cast.”*Dover Beach*” “*Sohrab And Rustom*” “*The Scholar Gypsy*” And “*Thyrsis*” are some of his best poems in all these poems. His main concern is with life and all of them are melancholic in tone and pessimist in Outlook. “the scholar Gypsy” deals with the Life of an Oxford scholar who is disappointed with the modern changes. in his poem He excels in the description of typical English scenery. “Dover Beach” mourns the loss of faith in religion in his day. But all his work is careful Scholarly and Workman like.

most of Arnold's personal poetry is steeped in The Melancholy Spirit of an era of transition its keynote is struck in the stanzas from “*Grande Chartreuse*”

“Wandering between two worlds, one dead.

The other powerless to be born”.

Arnold's ethical temper was so Noble and his hold upon the great ideals of conduct and Duty So steady. That his sadness is never enervating. In style Arnold is cold and clear. It's fine restraint. And Purity are worth of high praise.

ARTHUR HUGH CLOUGH:

It is natural to associate Hugh Clough with Arnold because these two men were friends. Arnold's elegy “Thyrsis” is to mourn the death of Hugh Clough. Clough’s personal poetry resembles Arnold's in its skeptical quality, sincerity, moral Earnestness and courage. His longer poem “Bothie Of Tober-Na-Voulich” Is well-known.

ELIZABETH BARRETT BROWNING

She holds her position as the most vigorous of all women writers of verse She wrote too much and too fast; her faults were also many and glaring. Her poetry is marked by over-wrought emotionalism. She is often spasmodic. Her diction and Rhyme or not regular with all these faults, she exhibits Noble sincerity, genuine passion and Powerful language. Her romantic poem show the influence of the age, her love of Liberty and Italy. Her poems, like “cry of the children” show

humanitarian enthusiasm. "Aurora Leigh" is a long narrative poem in blank verse. "Sonnets From the Portuguese" are fine love poems which express a woman's passion.

SIR HENRY TAYLOR

Sir Henry Taylor wrote a verse in the dramatic form. He wrote tragedies in Elizabethan manner. "Philip van Artevelde" is his Masterpiece. He also wrote One romantic comedy the Virgin widow or a Sicilian summer.

Robert Steven Hawker:

Hawker was a priest and a man of medieval cast of mind. He shared many superstitions of the village folk. The quest of Sangraal is his medieval poem.

EDWARD FITZGERALD:

Fitzgerald was one of Tennyson's closest friends. He was very well known for his free translation of the Rubaiyat of Omar. Khayyam, the Persian poet. It tells about kind of Epicurean philosophy- to eat, drink and to be merry.

PRE-RAPHAELITES:

In 1810 two German painters Cornehins and Overbeck founded as a society called Pre-Raphaelite Brotherhood. These two felt that the paintings before Renaissance painter Raphael, had sweetness depth and sincerity adherence to truth and a love of nature. In 1848 in England DG Rossetti and two other started the Pre-Raphaelite movement. Their poetry is called Pre-Raphaelite poetry later on AC Swinburne and William Morris joined Rossetti. Rossetti's Sister Christina Rossetti also wrote poetry under the influence of Pre-Raphaelitism.

The main features of a Pre-Raphaelitism were the love of the Middle Ages, Romance. Chivalry and Superstition. They believed in "Art for Art's Sake" their poetry was characterized by Vivid visualization visual presentation almost like word painting. They had strong sense of Music also.

Dante Gabriel Rossetti was their leader. He was influenced by the Italian writers. "*The Blessed The Damozel*" "*The White Ship*" "*Sister Helen*" "*The House Of Life*" are his popular poems. His technique was very remarkable. He had a curious Felicity in diction and rhyming. But his poetry as a whole is not very wholesome.

Christina's work is characterized by Deep religious feeling, pronounced the strain of mysticism and Metrical charm. The main line of Rossetti's influence may be traced in William Morris. "*His Life and the Death Of Jason*" And "*The Earthly Paradise*" are purely romantic in method and style. It was in this time. The protest of Romanticism against materialism assumed importance.

Algeron Charles Swinburne belong to the Romantic stock. He wrote Greek tragedies (Atlanta in Claydon) long narrative poems of beauty like “Tristram of Lyonesse” and many other writings, he showed great Mastery over the resource of language and meter. His power of expression was astonishing. Swinburne was capable of producing miracles of word music.

PHILIP JAMES BAILEY

His famous work “Festus”, it created a sensation as Paradise Lost and Faust

SYDNEY DOBELL

Wrote the “Roman and Balder”

JAMES THOMPSON

His “*City Of Dreadful Night*” is a poem of pessimism and Blank despair. The following Victorian poets may be remembered here though they gained their principal laurels in other fields.

Lord Macaulay won fame with his Steering “*Lays Of Ancient Rome*” and Lord Lytton with the Romantic Epic “King Author” Kinsley’s verse leaves us a sense of regret. His “Saints Tragedy” and “Andromeda” are both things of Note. His songs and ballads are admirable.

GEORGE ELIOT:

Her poetry is considerable in quality. Her “*Spanish Gypsy*” “*Agata*” the legend of Jubal and how Lisa loved the king have many of great intellectual and moral qualities of prose fiction, but they are wanting in Poetic inspiration.

THE AGE OF TENNYSON

GENERAL PROSE

Prose is a very important form of Victorian literature. writers like Macaulay, Carlyle Ruskin, Arnold and The others have produced excellent prose. Through their prose writings These writers have condemned the materialistic attitude of the period.

THOMAS CARLYLE

Carlyle was the greatest figure in the general prose literature and one of the greatest moral forces of the world. He was born in 1795. He exercised a tremendous influence on the Contemporary people. Carlyle was a Puritan and a moralist. Coming from Scotland Carlyle

began this literary career with articles contributor to the Edinburgh encyclopedia and entered enthusiastically on German literature. He was born with an original creative mind. He called Goethe, his master.

His essays are a landmark in English prose. The most astonishing book written by Carlyle under the German literature is *Sartor Resartus* (The Tailor Reclothed). It is built on the metaphor of clothes. The second part of the book is autobiographical. This book contains most of the ideas to be found in his later writings.

In *The French Revolution*, Carlyle brings his model view to bear on one of the most astounding periods of human history. He describes the person and the events of French Revolution with dramatic vividness.

In his most popular book *Heroes And Hero Worship* Carlyle gives some illustration of his theory that human Affairs are determined by great leaders- Muhamed, Luther, Dante and others.

Carlyle's 3 longest works are Biographies, *the Life Of John Sterling*, *Life And Letters Of Cromwell* And *The History Of Frederick II*.

Carlyle wrote past and present in 1843. For the past, He turned to the records of Abbot Sampson in the 12th century. With that he contrasted the misery and the confusion of the present. The book made a tremendous influence on the readers of the period.

Carlyle Prose style is unique. It is characterized by an enormous wealth of vocabulary, Strangely constructed sentence, breaks abrupt turns, apostrophes and exclamation, etc. He spoke contemptuously of art as art, and had no patience with their mere bookish side of literature. Yet He was one of the greatest literary artists. He employed irony, sarcasm and invective with a tremendous effort. He was fundamentally a Puritan of puritans.

He was intolerant of moral weakness. The keynote of all his teaching was sincerity. He hated convictions and unrealities. History for him was the larger Bible, the revelation of God's righteous dealings with the men.

He had no faith in democracy, which was for him the last word for political unwisdom. He denounced the scientific materialism and the Utilitarianism as "*Pig Philosophy*". Though Carlyle could not turn back the currents of his age, his influence on the age was tremendous.

JHON RUSKIN

John Ruskin is entitled to be called the second important prose writer of the Victorian period, next to Carlyle by virtue of the variety of his style, his originality, his influence on the art and the beauty of his style. Ruskin was born in 1819 in London. His father was a rich wine

merchant as a young boy He enjoyed all the advantages wealth could give him. His early training was puritan. He studied at Oxford and later published his first volume of "Painters" the main purpose of writing that book was to vindicate The Genius of Turner and to expound the general principles of landscape painting. It went on to six volumes. In the meantime, he became occupied with architecture and produced "*Seven Lamps Of Architecture*" And "*The Stones Of Venice*".

From study of art, he passed on to social propaganda. He wrote "Unto His Lost" "Munera Pulveris" , Time On The Tide By Wear And Tyne and series of letters to the Working Men of England. His more General ethical teachings may be found in "Sesame Lilies" under the "Crown of Wild Olive".

Ruskin's work fall into two division his writings on art(before 1860)and his writings on social economic and ethical questions(after 1860). These latter teachings were The Logical outcome of his teachings on art.his Aesthetics rested ultimately on moral foundations. According to Ruskin, true art can be produced by a nation which is inspired by a noble nature National aims and lives a pure righteous and happy life. The artist must abandon The Stereo typed formalism of various schools and try to reproduce what he finds there. It was this part of philosophy that inspired the Pre-Raphaelites.

In regard to his social and economic teaching, it was an attempted to apply the principles of Christianity directly to the Practical business of life, as national and individual hence his violent attack upon the accepted political economy of the time. Some faults may be found in Ruskin as a writer. He is Whimsical and capricious; his temper is dogmatic. His manner is aggressive to stir the reader to revolt. He is often fantastic in thought and phrase. His inconsistency is are numerous and glaring. But his Spirit was always pure and noble.

His style is praiseworthy. Ruskin had written a fide ornate prose. He is known for his word painting. He is truly in front of ranks of the Masters of English prose.

MACAULAY:

Macaulay is very popular writer of the Victorian period. Macaulay was born in 1800. After a brilliant academic record at Cambridge, He went to the bar, entered the House of Commons and became an orator and Statesman. He was in India as a legal advisor. After his return to England, He re-entered Public life .Throughout his career, He continued to publish article in the Edinburgh Review.

Macaulay a chief literary work was *History Of England from the Accession of James-II* in five volumes. The last volume was published after his death. He was very popular with the public even those who did not have any interest in the literature read his essay. He had a marvelous faculty for making every subject he touched interesting. He never wrote a dull page.

He was clever, energetic, vivacious and picturesque. In spite of his great genius Macaulay was a typical average English man of the period and expressed the average man's point of views about everything. He was practical and positive in Temper. That is why the British readers found in Macaulay after their own Hearts.

Macaulay was not a great thinker. He was not a great literary critique and as a biographer and historian, he was a very great. But more than any other writer, He is said to have popularized a taste for literature. Therefore his history remains the most generally attractive piece of historical narrative in English. He is one of the great masters of English prose.

MATTHEW ARNOLD:

Matthew Arnold, who was a professor of poetry at oxford, was also a famous prose writer. He was also a famous prose writer. He was the son of the famous headmaster of rugby school, Dr. Thomas Arnold. He also worked as inspector of schools.

Arnold's Prose falls into two divisions- the one deal with the literature and the other deals with the life. his writings on literature are to be found cheaply Chiefly in two volumes of essays in criticism, mixed essays and Oxford lectures on translating Homer. They are marketed by the same qualities of insight, acumen, delicacy of precision perception and fineness of taste.. His view was literature as "criticism of life". He was mainly concerned with the moral values of the writers. He was not a great scholar. He was neither profound or nor systematic. His literary criticism is wonderfully full, suggestive and Illuminating.

As a critique of Life, Arnold wanted to devote his time to enlarging the mental and moral horizon of the English public. *Culture And Anarchy, Friendship's Garland, Literature And Dogma And A God And The Bible* are his books dealing with the life. in these works He undertook to reconstruct essential Christianity on a basis of pure naturalism.

Arnold's prose is famous for its Lucidity, Grace and charm. He occasionally irritates the readers by his mannerisms and trick of repetition. He also had an extraordinary gift of crystallizing his ideas in telling and memorable phrases. He was one of the most stimulating writers of his time.

OTHER NOVELIST OF THE PERIOD

Other prose writers of the Victorian period can be classified into various subgroups, like the historians, literary critics and others.

Henry Thomas Buckle(1821-1862) wrote History of Civilization in England. He has made an attempt to eliminate personal factor from human affairs and to explain human progress by reference only to natural cause and general laws.

Many writers of history of the period were in the habit of writing in great detail about short periods. Examples may be found in *The History of the Norman Conquest* by **Edward Augustus Freeman (1823-92)**. A brilliant but inaccurate History of England from the Fall of Wolsey to the Defeat of the Spanish Armada was written by **James Anthony Froude (1818-1892)**.

Samuel Rawdon Gardiner wrote volumes on the period of Stuarts and Civil War.

William Edward Hartpole wrote substantial History of England in the 18th century. The best among the histories is Short History of the English People by **Richard Green(1837-83)**. It is history not of kings but of the people.

John Addington Symonds(1840-93) published *The Renaissance in Italy*, a work of great merit. It is a connecting link between history and aesthetic criticism.

Walter Pater(1839-94) is the most important writer in this field. His volumes *The Renaissance and Greek Studies* contain the best of his aesthetic criticism. Imaginary Portraits and Marius, the Epicurean are his philosophical romances. He has written in a highly elaborated, singularly beautiful, but rather too artificial style.

Many other writers also tried literary criticism. Froude wrote Short Studies on Great Subjects. **Leslie Stephen** wrote Hours in a Library.

Swinburne also wrote criticism but his enthusiasm and prejudices mar his works.

Stevenson's critical and general essays, Familiar Studies of Men and Books and Memories and Portraits are the most important works.

John Tyndall and **Thomas Henry Huxley** wrote beautiful scientific essays. Grant Allen also made a distinct mark in the same line.

Theology also passed into literature. John Henry Newman's lectures and essays belong to this category. His Idea of University exercised a tremendous influence on the academicians of the time.

Jhon Richard Jefferies wrote of nature with rare powers of observation and description. Gamekeeper at home and the amateur poacher are good examples. The story of my heart is the most fascinating of his works, which gives a account of his inner experiences and development

Age of Tennyson

THE NOVEL

General characteristics:

In the age of Tennyson different writers employed novel to embody their General criticism of Life. The novel became a vehicle of ideas as a means of amusement. the spread of science made it realistic and analytical. The spread of democracy made it social and humanitarian. The spirit of religious and moral unrest was criticized often. Again in its variety of matter and treatment the Victorian novel is the index of many-sided interest and conflicts elements of the Victorian age.

Some novelist aimed to give a fairly comprehensive picture of Contemporary Society. But as a rule aspects of Life were picked out four separate treatments. So we have novels of Life, criminal life, industrial life, political life, artistic life, Clerical life and so on. Novel form extended to all side. There were novels on Irish life, Scottish life, English life. The chief novelist of the time where Dickens, Thackeray and George Eliot.

Charles Dickens (1812-70)

Among the Victorian novelists, Charles Dickens occupies a unique place He sprang suddenly into fame with the *Pickwick Papers* and at twenty five he found himself most popular of English novelist.

He has written many novels. *David Copperfield*, *Oliver Twist*, *Great Expectations*, *Nicholas Nickleby* , *Bleak House*, *Little Dorrit* Some of his novels.

The Novel *Pickwick Papers* established him as humorist. The immortal Pickwickians created by Dickens are admired by everyone. But in the later novels the sky changes. From humour, he passes on to serious reflections and points out the evils of the society.

Dickens's *Oliver Twist* pictures the sufferings of the poor, especially the orphans in the workhouse. *Nicholas Nickleby* criticizes the charity schools; *Bleak House* points out the dangers of the law's delays. In *Little Dorrit* he condemns the Injustice, which persecutes the poor debtors. In *Great Expectations*, he points out that even a criminal has a kind heart.

Like Shakespeare, Dickens has also created a world of characters, His characters can be classified into four types. There are innocent characters like Oliver, Joe, Paul and David. They appeal to the child love in every human heart. There are horrible characters like Fagin or Uriah Heep. The humorous characters, Mr. Pickwick and company have no equals. Dickens has also a few powerful draw characters like Sydney Carton in *A Tale of Two Cities*.

William Makepeace Thackeray(1811-63)

Dickens world was that of the lower and lower middle classes. Thackeray's world on the other hand was that of 'society' of the class drawing rooms and the well-to-do. He is a moralist and a realist. He gives a true picture of the society of the day. Thackeray established his name as a writer with the publication of *The Book of Snobs*. He became popular only after the publication of *Vanity Fair*. *Pendennis*, *Henry Esmond*, and *The Newcomes* are some of his best novels.

Henry Esmond is the most perfect novel of Thackeray. It is a historical novel with literary flavour. It is an accurate history of the Queen Anne's reign. *Vanity Fair* is a "novel without a hero". It revolves round two women, Amelia, a meek creature and Becky Sharp, an unprincipled intriguer. The novel deals with all sorts of vanities. *Pendennis* is a continuation of his satire on society. *The Newcomes* and *The Virginians* are his last great works, which are the studies of human frailty.

Thackeray has an excessive sensibility for fine emotions. That is why he is offered by the follies of the society. In his novels, he criticizes snobbery, affectation and the humbugs of the society. His satires are always tempered with fine humour.

Thackeray is a moralist. The beauty of virtue and the ugliness of vice are evident on every page. Poetic justice is always done.

His interest is centered in characters rather than in plot construction. Also he is the master of a simple delightful prose.

Thackeray was greatly influenced by Swift and Fielding; but at the same time he is free from the bitterness of Swift and the coarseness of Fielding.

GEORGE ELIOT(1819-1880)

In the Victorian England, the novel was humanitarian in the hands of Dickens and satiric in the hands of Thackeray but novel became moral and philosophical in the hands of George Eliot. Dickens wrote about the London streets; Thackeray about the clubs and drawing rooms. George Eliot chose to write about the old-fashioned provincial life.

George Eliot is the penname of Mary Ann Evans. She has successfully authored fine novels like *Adam Bede*, *Silas Marner*, *The Mill on the Floss*, *Middlemarch*, *Romola*, *Felix Holt*. etc. In a novel like *Romola*, George Eliot makes an excursion into the past. In most of the other famous novels, she deals with the characters and/scenes she had known. She is always Independent in thinking and action. She has fondness for arguing and in all her novels she selects themes carefully and arranges the plot to bring out the main theme.

The themes chosen by George Eliot are always important and interesting. *Adam Bede* explores the philosophical possibility that we can, by our own action, work out our moral and religious destiny. *The Mill on the Floss* examines various aspects of domestic love and also studies how a character is influenced by circumstances. *Silas Marner* treats of the hidden forces, which shape man's personality through the contact of his fellows. George Eliot also deals with themes like interdependence of human beings; the need for love in family relationships and the pathetic quality of human emotions.

The present action determines future course. This is her philosophy. With this in view she studies the progressive improvement or deterioration of a character. She also makes a subtle psychological analysis of her characters and their motives. This psychological analysis is the strength of George Eliot as a novelist.

Another important feature of the novels of George Eliot is her message to the readers. Each of her novels insists on the need for love and the need for all people living together as a society. Her novels, *The Mill on the Floss* and *Adam Bede* are very good examples.

She had however faults of the qualities. Her tendency from the first was towards the excessive use of analysis and commentary.

OTHER NOVELIST OF THE PERIOD:

Captain Frederick Marryat :

Marryat followed the tradition of Smollett in writing sea stories. He was a naval officer and saw some real fighting during the Napoleonic wars. He is the most amusing novelist of the sea. *Jacob Faithful*, *Peter Simple*, *Mr. Midshipman Easy*, and *Masterman Ready* are some of his popular novels. He has a gift for plain narrative and his humour is entertaining. His characters are types to suit his tales.

Lord Lytton :

Lord Lytton caused a sensation with the publication of *Pelham*. He was a man of infinite cleverness and versatility. He was a master of many different styles. He has written melodramatic tales of *society and crime* (eg. *Paul Clifford*), *historical romance* (like *The Last Days of Pompeii*); *tales of the supernatural* (*Zanoni*); *stories of social purpose* (*The Caxtons*). etc. In spite of his brilliance, his writing is marred by extravagance and unreality.

Benjamin Disraeli:

Disraeli was a popular statesman, who studied law and became the Prime Minister of England. He began his literary career as a novelist. His *Vivian Grey* deals with the fashionable society. His *Voyage of Captain Popanilla* is a modern *Gulliver's Travels*. *Sybil* needs a special

mention as it is a powerful exposure of abuses connected with the relations of capital and labour. It belongs to the humanitarian movement in the contemporary fiction

George Borrow :

Borrow was an eccentric man of talent. He learnt much from his wanderings and in his novels uses his experiences thus gathered. His principal books are *The Bible in Spain*, *The Gypsies in Spain* and two autobiographical novels, *Lavengro* and *Romany Rye*. His novels are remarkable in the fact that they pretend to tell the actual facts of the author's life. These novels by Borrow stand apart as a blend of art and fiction,

Charles Lever :

Lever was an Irish physician who contributed to *The Dublin University Magazine* and when he became successful as a writer, he abandoned his profession. He is chiefly remembered for two books of rollicking Irish fun and military adventure, *Harry Lorrequer* and *Charles O'Malley*. These novels are set in Ireland and deal with Irish characters. His heroes are amiable fellows.

Charles Reade :

Reade was a lawyer by profession but was fond of the theatre and travelling. He wrote plays and novels. Social purpose is generally dominant in his works like *Foul Play*, *Put Yourself in His Place*, *Hard Cash*, etc. His masterpiece is *The Cloister and the Hearth*, which is a story of the Later Middle Ages.

Mrs. Gaskell :

Gaskell is often known as a humanitarian novelist. Her novels could be considered in two groups. (i) Her first novel is a sociological study dealing with the labouring classes; *Mary Barton* is a pathetic story of factory life. Her last novel, *Wives and Daughters* is considered her best. (ii) She also writes about simple domesticity and everyday folk. *Cranford* is a charming village idyll. Her writings combine something of the delicate humour of Jane Austen with the moralistic intention of George Eliot

Antony Trollope:

Trollope is a voluminous writer and a realist. He is the novelist of the middle and upper classes, He presents an accurate, detailed picture of the real life of the people, but his character lacks depth. Some of his best novels are *Barchester Towers*, *Dr. Thome*, *The Warden* and *Framley Parsonage* deal with clerical life. His style is simple and lucid.

The Bronte Sisters:

Charlotte, Emily and Anne were Bronte sisters. All died young. All the three produced novels. *Jane Eyre* is the masterpiece of Charlotte She is largely restricted to her own experiences. Emily Bronte is the greatest of the three. Her *Wuthering Heights* is a unique novel in English, It breathes the spirit of the wild and desolate moors. Its characters are conceived in gigantic proportions. Anne Bronte is the least important figure of the three. Her novels are much inferior to those of her sisters.

Charles Kingsley :

Kingsley was an enthusiastic disciple of Carlyle and a social reformer He was one of the most vigorous of the humanitarian novelists of the mid-Victorian age. His novels, *Alton Locke* and *Yeast* deal with the social problems of the day. His finest novels are *Westward Ho!* and *Hypatia*.

Henry Kingsley:

Henry Kingsley is the brother of Charles. Though he was not a popular novelist, his one novel, *Geoffrey Hamlyn* is pronounced the best one dealing with the Australian life.

Wilkie Collins :

Collins is considered to be the most successful follower of Dickens. He is considered to be the greatest master of sensation and plot. Collins specialised in the mystery novel. He also experimented with the new types of narrative techniques. *The Woman in White*, *The Moonstone* and *After Dark* are his most popular works.

Walter Besant :

Besant belongs to the school of Dickens in virtue of the strong humanitarianism and direct social purpose. *All Sorts and Conditions of Men*, *Children of Gibeon*, and *The Chaplain of the Fleet* are his popular novels.

George Meredith :

Meredith is the most noteworthy novelist among the later Victorian novelists. He wrote poetry and novels, in both of which he shares common themes. Meredith's first novel of importance was *The Ordeal of Richard Feverel*, which made him popular. *Evan Harrington* is an autobiographical novel. *The Egoist* is his most popular novel.

Robert Louis Stevenson :

Stevenson is one of the most delightful of personalities and stylists. He led the way from realism to Romance. *Treasure Island, a story about pirates*, is very popular. *Dr. Jekyll and Mr.*

Hyde, Kidnapped. The Black Arrow are some of the most popular novels. He is an expert storyteller. He has a power of rapid narrative. His novels are very much readable.

Answer Short questions

- 1) Which work of Tennyson deals with the education & women and their place in society?
- 2) Why is Tennyson called the most representative poet of the Victorian period?
- 3) What kind of Poetry is Browning famous for?
- 4) Mention two poems of Arnolds which show his pessimistic outlook.
- 5) Who wrote the poem “Bothrie of Tober-na-vaiolich” ?
- 6) Who founded the society called Pre-Raphaelite Brotherhood?
- 7) Who started to Re-Raphaelite Movement?
- 8) Name two biographies which Carlyle wrote.
- 9) Mention any two innocent characters of Charles Dickens.
- 10) Whose pen name is Mary Ann Evans?
- 11) Who wrote the Last says Pompeii?
- 12) What are the names Bronte sisters?
- 13) Who is Arnolds friend and with and what work did Arnold write to mourn his death
- 14) To What type of category are the essays of John Henry Newman belong ?
- 15) Who is The Victorian Novelist who describes the life found in the clubs and drawing room?

UNIT-4

AGE OF HARDY

(1887-1928)

LITERATURE OF THE EIGHTEEN-NINETIES:

From the beginning to end the Victorians devoted themselves to a literature of purpose. During the 1890's a new group of writers began to demonstrate that all art is useless". They wanted to be free from following ideas of morality and standards of conduct. These writers are generally called the Decadents.

Oscar Wilde, the foremost of the group, was attracted by the theories of Walter Pater, who advocated a philosophy of life arising from the cultivation of passion. With the young 'decadents', this philosophy developed into the pursuit of pure sensation, divorced from moral control. Oscar Wilde lived a life of sensation. He was arrested and put in prison.

Wilde was a poet, novelist and a dramatist. As a dramatist, he wrote a series of comedies on manners. The best among his plays is *The Importance of Being Earnest*, which shows his brilliant wit and sparkling dialogue. His style is an elaborated and decorated one.

Intention is the prose-work of Oscar Wilde. It is a series of dialogues on literature and the arts with dissertations on lying, poison and masks. His poems are not very popular. There is something of Byron in his poetry. He is incapable of absolute sincerity and simplicity.

Aubrey Beardsley and Charles Conder are the two others who brought out the characteristics of the period through their portraits, Arthur Symonds used the symbolistic style of the modern drawings and paintings French Poetry. Ernest Dowson was another hectic poet. Lionel Johnson was the true poet on the fringe of the decadent movement, but free from its extravagances. John Davidson was the author of four long poems ending with 'The Testament of John Davidson'. However his 'testaments' display less deep thought.

Life and Works of Thomas Hardy:

The forty years between 1887 and 1928 are called the Age of Hardy. Though Hardy was not a great spiritual leader or intellectual director, he was admired by the juniors as a man of outstanding genius. At the death of Tennyson in 1892, there was no dominant writer to represent the sentiments of the Victorians to the nation. The minor writers either imitated slavishly or revolted arrogantly.

Hardy was born in the country of Dorset in 1840. His father was a builder. Much of his youth was spent in the countryside where he began to study with an architect. With the publication of his sensational novel *Desperate Remedies*, he became popular as a writer. Soon he abandoned architecture for literature as a profession. In 1910 he was awarded the Order of Merit. He died in 1928.

Hardy's Novels:

Hardy was a novelist and a poet. *Under the Greenwood Tree*, one of the lightest of his novels, was set in the rural area. He was to make famous as Wessex. The first of his great novels, *Far from the Madding Crowd* was a tragicomedy set in Wessex. *The Return of the Native* was a study of man's helplessness before the all-powerful fate. *The Trumpet Major*, *The Mayor of Casterbridge*, *The Woodlanders*, *Tess of the D'Urbervilles*, *Jude the Obscure* were Hardy's

famous novels. In the last two novels we have the most moving of Hardy's studies of human nature.

Hardy's Poetry:

Hardy began as a poet and continued to write poems. *The Dynasts* is an epic drama. But, much of Hardy's verse consists of short lyrics. He shows great technical care and love of experimentation. *Wessex Poems* includes collections of his poems. *The Dynasts* is a masterly example of Hardy's genius in the organization and control of literary material, Hardy holds that there is no active intelligence, no just and living God behind human destiny.

Features of Hardy's Novels :

In all his works Hardy presents human beings facing up to the onslaughts of a mysterious power. His mood is one of pessimism. Very often in his novels happiness becomes "the occasional episode in a general drama of pain".

Hardy's characters are mostly ordinary men and women, representing his philosophy of life. Many of his characters are created with the fullness, vigour and assurance of a Shakespeare.

He has also created some of the unforgettable places in his novels. *Egdon Heath* in *The Return of the Native*, *Blackmoor Vale* in *Tess* or *the tree-girt solitude of The Woodlanders* are unique. They are as memorable as his characters.

In the use of tragedy, Hardy can be compared with the great figures in world literature. He falls short of their stature chiefly because he pursued his afflicted characters past the limits at which both art and nature are satisfied to halt. In the use of pathos, he is unsurpassed.

Finally, Thomas Hardy's novels and poems are the work of a writer painfully dissatisfied with the age in which he lived. Hardy again, distrusted modern civilization because he suspected that its effect was frequently to decivilize and weaken people.

Poets of Transition (1892-1913).

The twenty years from 1892 to 1913 are generally treated as a transition period. People began to read poetry again. Alfred Austin became the poet laureate of England. He was a political journalist who wanted to become a philosophical poet.

Among the Transitional poets, there were poets who wrote on patriotism and imperialism. W.E. Henley was a poet editor and critic. His patriotic poems are included in an anthology called *Lyra Heroica* and another volume called *For England's Sake*. He wrote free-verse stanzas.

William Watson is a little too good to be included with minor poets. His best poetry echoes the tradition of the past. His patriotic lyrics as well as his ceremonial and occasional poems show a sense of order and proportion.

Rudyard Kipling is an impressive writer. His soldier tales and poems succeed in giving the modestly heroic impression of the British soldier. His other poems, which express a quite love of England, have the marks of good poetry. They have restraint, imagery and varied music.

Alfred Noyes's poetry has the music and pictorial quality that give immediate pleasure. But according to general critic opinion, Noyes failed to provide the 'permanent' satisfaction which is a major function of poetry.

Three poets stand apart from the rest of the transition poets **A.E. Housman, Francis Thompson and Robert Bridges**. The life of Francis Thompson was a kind of a comic-tragedy of drugs poverty and suffering. He was not able to adjust himself to even the demands of everyday life. He was rescued by **Wilfrid and Alice Meynel**. He published three collections of poems, which include "*The Hound of Heaven*", "*Ode to the Setting Sun*" and "*Poems on Children*". "*The Hound of Heaven*" is a unique poetic creation, which deals with the endlessly pursuing love of God.

A.E. Houseman published only two small books of verse — "*A Shropshire Lad*" and "*Last Poems*". The predominant mood in his poems is cultured, ironical disillusionment with life. They are tragic in tone, concise, epigrammatic in expression; yet it is always easy to understand.

Robert Bridges was a surgeon until he was forty; he cultivated his love for poetry and learning in seclusion. He wrote a series of verse dramas and masques and slowly became popular by his lyrics like "*the Growth of Love*" and "*Eros and Psyche*". His lengthy philosophical poem, "*The Testament of Beauty*" was received with admiration. It is felt that he would have become famous if he had left a message for the people. (He was appointed Poet Laureate in 1913).

THE REVIVAL OF POETRY

When Robert Bridges became the Poet Laureate several young poets tried to popularise poetry, through the enterprise of Rupert Brooke, and under the editorship of Edward Marsh. An Anthology of Poetry was published in 1913 with the title *Georgian Poetry*. This became an immediate success. The First World War gave a new inspiration and new War Poetry began and lasted until peace came. The war poetry was interesting and exciting, during the war period.

Rupert Brooke himself was a real poet. He died in war as a soldier. His *Collected Poems* include some remarkable and memorable poems, the 1914 sonnets, "*The Great Lover*", "*The Old Vicarage, Grandchester*". Among the other war poets, Julian Grenfell and Siegfried Sassoon may be singled out. In Grenfell we find the most sincere expression to courageous idealism and in Sassoon, there is a "war of pen against the machine gun".

Among a host of other Georgian poets, we have to mention only a few who stand above the general level. Ralph Hodgson's "*The Bull*", "*The Song of Honour*", "*Eve*" and "*The Gipsy Girl*" are remarkable for strength, imaginative force, music and masterly concentration. John Masefield passed from sea songs and ballad, to narrative poems combining vigour of diction with religious favour and an austere conception of the native of beauty but, however, Masefield is not a very good craftsman. His most satisfying poems are "*Saltwater Ballads*", "*Reynard, The Fox*", "*Biography*" and "*August 1914*". In both narrative and lyric poems his vitality and simple style have a definite appeal, but he rarely touches the deeper level of human experience.

GEORGE BERNARD SHAW

Bernard Shaw brought about a revolution in the drama. His earliest plays are not very interesting. Through local politics and journalism, he imposed himself upon the theatre. His main aim was the establishment of righteousness in social relationships. Therefore, life problems like housing conditions, religion, finance, prostitution etc. came to be discussed in his plays. The stage became a tool in the hands of Shaw to criticize the contemporary civilization. He learnt how to organize the living materials for the stage.

Gradually Shaw developed from a propagandist to a playwright with real problems and nearly real people. In *Man and Superman* he presented his philosophic idea of the life force. Woman is selected as the willing instrument in the means for evolving the superman. In *Back to Methuselah*, the life force merges into his larger theory of creative evolution, signifying the idea of man, made perfect through the will to be made perfect. Shaw's fundamental aim in his drama was the bettering of the lot of humanity.

Wit is the very essence of Shavian comedy. His sense of fun is undying but at the same time, there is a serious purpose underlying his fun.

Again Shaw has created a great variety of his characters. His characters are largely seen as products of social forces or representatives of ideas. Some are mere mouthpieces for his theories; some others are projection of his own personality.

Shaw's dialogues are of the highest order. Shaw was a brilliant talker and he used this gift to a great advantage in his plays. His dramatic technique is superb. He has become a legend in the literary world.

Irish drama and poetry

For nearly ten years W.B. Yeats, the son of an Irish painter tried to create the Irish National Theatre. A new brilliant period of Irish Drama began. Yeats himself contributed many poetic plays like *The Land of Heart's Desire* and *The Countess Cathleen*. His genius was more poetic than dramatic.

George William Russell was another outstanding personality in modern Irish literature. He wrote under a penname 'AE' and became famous as poet, dramatist, essayist and editor. He also performed valuable services in agricultural reform and was famous throughout Ireland.

The Irish National Theatre attracted capable new dramatists. J.M. Synge authored *The Playboy of the Western World* and *Riders to the Sea*. *Sean O'Casey* became well known for two plays — *Juno and the Paycock* and *The Plough and the Stars*. Lady Gregory was drawn to the theatre by W.B. Yeats. She contributed well-observed little plays of modern Irish life and character—*Seven Short Plays*. She also wrote the history of the modern Irish drama called, *Our Irish Theatre*.

V.M. Barrie deals with fantasy. He is a pessimist, who refuge from the ugliness of modern life in a world of delicate sentiment and make-believe. *The Admirable Crichton* is his most popular play. His other popular work is *Peter Pan*. Lewis Carroll's creation of *Alice* in 1865 is a work of genius, which can be considered a companion of *Peter Pan*.

John Galsworthy wrote excellent plays like *Strife*, *The Silver Box* and *The Skin Game*. Harley Granville-Barker wrote one superlatively good social comedy, *The Voysey Inheritance*. It was actually the best naturalistic play of the period. *Milestones* by Arnold Bennett and Edward Knoblock is a fascinating study in the dynamics of progress. John Masefield wrote *Pompey the Great*, *The Tragedy of Nan* and *Good Friday*, which are considered good examples of modern tragic drama.

Novelists of Transition :

The English novel during the 19th century was predominantly romantic in tone. From 1885 onwards, there came some novelists whose aim was to treat 'realistic' themes 'realistically' - in a dispassionate, non-sentimental manner. The new realists mistook mere ugliness for frankness. *Esther Waters* by George Moore was a landmark in this movement towards aesthetic realism.

George Gissing wrote a number of grim novels representing life as he had observed. His novels are disgruntled. But for the weak self-pity, he would have been considered one of the major 19th century novelists. His *Private Papers of Henry Ryecroft* is a fine book of reflections

in fine prose. Later Gissing moved from realism to historical. *His The Brook Kerith* is a masterpiece dealing with the legend that Jesus lived among the Essene Community.

20TH CENTURY NOVELISTS:

After the death of Charles Dickens, Meredith and Hardy were the custodians of the English novelistic tradition. The transitional novelists were not within the tradition directly. During the early part of the 20th century, young novelists began to produce good novels.

H.G. Wells produced fantastic romances like *The Time Machine* through which he criticised institutions and constitutions. *Love and Mr. Lewisham*, *Kipps* and *The History of Mr. Polly* established him as a novelist of good quality with a special genius for comedy and humanitarian zeal. *Tono-Bungay* is ranked as Wells's best novel, in which characterization, narration, description and adventure are beautifully interwoven. According to Wells, the novel should not merely entertain the readers, but should serve as a platform for the propagation of ideas and to criticise the contemporary society and politics.

Joseph Conrad came as a youth from Poland to serve on France and later on British Ships, learned English language and then settled in England to write the best sea stories in English *The Nigger of the Narcissus*, *Typhoon* etc. His novels are not merely sea-stories but good psychological studies. He was the first novelist in English to make the novel a work of art. The intensity and the spiritual depth make the novels unique. His narrative method is involved and peculiar which helps him to convey the intimate aspects of character and theme. *Lord Jim* is a poetic tragedy. He sets a very high value on the exactitude of observation and reproduction. A unifying idea - the imperative need for loyalty to a human principle — runs through all his novels and tales. Men are united on the sea by the threat of a common peril the treachery of the ocean. Human solidarity must be maintained against this enemy. The idea of human solidarity is insistent in all his works.

Arnold Bennett wrote *The Old Wive's Tale*, *Clayhanger*, and *Riceyman Steps*. Galsworthy wrote *The Forsyte Saga*. With these two the major traditional novels come to an end. These two novelists gave large-scale pictures of different social types in the contemporary England. Bennett described the middle-class People in trade and industry. Galsworthy described the Professional and aristocratic classes. They chose corresponding literary styles. Arnold wrote the first rate humorous novel, *Buried Alive*, which was successfully dramatised with the new title *The Great Adventure*

William de Morgan took to novel writing, much late in life. He produced nine novels. The first *Alice-for-short*, *Somehow Good* are the best three - *Joseph Vance*, he was more original and excelled in both humour and controlled pathos.

MISCELLANEOUS PROSE:

Revolutionary changes came in journalism during the closing years of the 19th century. Newspapers assumed some of the functions of the magazines to provide a new medium for the periodical essay.

Robert Lynd and A.G. Gardiner did admirable work under the conditions of limited length imposed by the press. *E.V. Lucas* made a definite mark, combining qualities of a familiar essay and of a fine novel. *Over Bemerton's* is a characteristic example of this entertainment. Max Beerbohm was a prodigy of the nineties. His small book of essays, *The Works of Max Beerbohm* was popular. He was not only the most brilliant caricaturist of his generation but also a parodist of genius.

Kenneth Graham's *The Golden Age*, *Dream Days* and *The Wind in the Willows* have become classics for both children and grown-ups. A.A. Milne added *When we were Very Young* to the list of books.

G.M. Doughty stands at the head of the travel writers of the period. *Arabia Deserta* is his popular work. W.H. Hudson produced nature books, written in a cool, clear style.

Lytton Strachey made a genuine advance in biography, with his epoch-making books, *Eminent Victorians* and *Queen Victoria*. Strachey found biography a depressed industry and transformed it into a fine art.

Age of Hardy

Short answer Questions

- 1) Mention the year of the decadents.
- 2) Mention the period of transition.
- 3) Give two names of Transitional poets.
- 4) When was *An Anthology of Poetry* published?

- 5) Who tried to create the Irish National theatre?
- 6) Name two tragic dramas written by John Galsworthy.
- 7) Who wrote "*The Time Machine*" ?
- 8) Who created the detective Sherlock Holmes ?
9. What are the two books of verse by A.E. Houseman?
10. Who wrote the play. "*The Importance of Being Earnest*"

THE PRESENT AGE (1930-1955)

UNIT-V

STUDY OF POETS

INTRODUCTION

The literature of the twentieth century has been greatly influenced by economic and social changes. The twentieth century is called the Age of Interrogation and Anxiety because the scientific revolution and changing social, moral political and economic conditions have shaken men's faith in the authority of religion and church and the established order. The World Wars resulted in frustration anxiety and cynicism. In the new century emphasis was put on urbanization which completely changed the pattern of social relationship. Materialism and competitive spirit began to encroach upon the placid tenor of village life. New psychological researches influenced literature of the twentieth century. The growing interest in psychology exercised considerable influence on literature

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The first World War was an era of depression and of want and unemployment. The second world war broke out and it was far more catastrophic than the first World War. Sir Winston Churchill described the great War and its effects on England in six volumes of The Second World War. The poems of Wilfred Owen Sassoon and many others expose the futility and hollowness of war.

LIFE AND WORKS OF HOPKINS

G.M Hopkins was born in 1844. He served as Professor of Greek at the University College, Dublin. He was a profound scholar and deeply religious. He is recognized as the forerunner of modern English poetry. After his death, Robert Bridges collected Hopkins' poems and published them .

Hopkins' *THE WRECK OF THE DEUTCHLAND* contains the religious experience of his seven years' poetic silence and it has considerable auto-biographical significance. The typical Hopkins techniques sprung-rhythm, alliteration, assonance internal rhyme give to the poem a revolutionary appearance. He continued to write poetry until the end of his life though his output was very small. His poems were extremely religious and his early sonnets show his maturity a sacramental experience. For the poet Nature is a manifestation of the beauty of God.

FEATURES OF HOPKINS' POETRY

Hopkins is a lover of nature. His love for the beauty of nature is revealed in many of his poems. In the usage of language in the poems, he drew vocabulary from many sources, archaic, colloquial and dialect words all being used. "One of Hopkins' most obvious idiosyncrasies is in his choice and use of language", says Albert. Nearly all Hopkins' poetry is devotional. He writes with enthusiastic intensity of the Catholic convert. His poetic gifts were aesthetic and sensuous." All the same Hopkins was a great poet, what Arnold said of Gray can be said of him; he is the scantiest and frailest of our classics, but he is a classic", says Robson.

Hopkins most important experiment is with Sprung rhythm which appeared first in *THE WRECK OF THE DEUTCHLAND*. The basic principle of this attempt to break away from strictly conventional patterns is that each foot contains one stress, possibly but not necessarily followed by any number of unstressed syllables. The sprung rhythm is nearer to natural speech.

ACHIEVEMENTS OF T.S. ELIOT AS POET

T.S. Eliot is one of the greatest Englishmen of letters and poets of the modern age. He devoted himself to the study of language and literature. He studied Dante and Donne who exercised great influence on his poetry. He pursued a course in philosophy and also read Indian and Sanskrit literature. He was awarded Nobel Prize for Literature and Order of Merit in 1948. No other poet of the twentieth century has exercised such a wide and continuing influence as Eliot.

The first volume of Eliot's poetry 'Prufrock and Other Observations' was published in 1917. It portrays the boredom, emptiness and pessimism of the modern age in bitter, ironical, and satirical verse. His famous poem THE WASTE LAND is considered to be one of the most important poetic documents of the age.

Eliot had his age in his blood and bones; he was a spokesman of his age. One of his greatest achievements consists in his having given expression to the dominant anxieties and feelings of his age. His poetry is a mixture of tradition and individual talent. He was one of the architects of the English language who tried to restore to it life and vitality by bringing it into contact not only with current speech but also with European literary tradition. He developed new and effective techniques of communication and in this way increased the expressive power of poetry. The use of conversational rhythms and imagery drawn from urban life the use of symbols the juxtaposing of the past and the present in his poetry are some of the ways in which he communicates his sense of modern predicament.

Eliot was a great experimenter with verse forms and in his long career he experimented with over forty metres. He forged new measures to express the complexity and intricacy of modern life.

THE WASTE LAND set the tone for a number of contemporary and succeeding poets a new thrill in the use of urban imagery and rhythms. Louis macneice, C. day Lewis, Stephen Spender, Auden, etc are only a few of the poets who reveal the influence of the style and imagery of THE WASTE LAND

W.H.AUDEN AS MODERN POET

As the leader of Oxford poets, Auden is one of considerable importance. He studied the life of the common man and the social problems confronting him in the post-war world. His early poetry is expressive of his faith in a violent social revolution. It shows that he is all for the "proletariat" and his

Sympathies are with the "unloved" and the "unlucky". Later he was influenced by Freud. According to him, mere pity can lead us nowhere; real change of heart is needed for the betterment of human life.

Auden's poetry shows a wide range of references to science, philosophy, psychology, politics and contemporary issues and ideas. As an artist and experimenter he showed considerable intellectual curiosity and receptiveness to new ideas and suggestions. He was influenced in many ways by Eliot, Owen, Hopkins, and French symbolists. He showed great interest in the use of language and metaphors and experimented with various forms like the ballad, the sonnet and the elegy. He can write effective light verse like 'The Unknown Citizen'.

Thus the poems in the twentieth century are simple, effective and informative. It reached the minds of the people and reformed the society. The people were delighted to read those poems.

THE PRESENT AGE (1930-1955)

STUDY OF NOVELISTS

INTRODUCTION

The literature of the twentieth century has been greatly influenced by economic and social changes. The twentieth century is called the Age of Interrogation and

Anxiety because the scientific revolution and changing social, moral political and economic conditions have shaken men's faith in the authority of religion and church and the established order. The World Wars resulted in frustration anxiety and cynicism. In the new century emphasis was put on urbanization which completely changed the pattern of social relationship. Materialism and competitive spirit began to encroach upon the placid tenor of village life. New psychological researches influenced literature of the twentieth century. The growing interest in psychology exercised considerable influence on literature

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LIFE AND WORKS OF VIRGINIA WOLF

Virginia Wolf is one of those great English novelists of the twentieth century. She belongs to the school of "Stream of Consciences" novelists. She broke free from tradition give a new way, a new form and a new spiritual awareness to the English novel. She handled the Stream of conscience technique in her novels like TO THE LIGHTHOUSE THE VOYAGE OUTAND DAY AND NIGHT AND MRS.DALLOWAY. The range of her characters are small. they tend to think and feel and express their thoughts and feelings. They are distinguished by a discriminating intelligence and an acute self-consciousness. The technique was handled with greater firmness in 'Mrs.Dalloway'. Like Joyce's Ulysses the novel is confined to twenty-four hour time and to one city. In Ulysses it is Dublin in Mrs.Dalloway it is London. To The Lighthouse shows a greater mastery of the Stream of Conscience technique. The Waves is a significant development in the stream of conscience technique, It is a highly symbolic and poetic work in which the consciences of the six characters is studied in a series of internal monologues.

Virginia Wolf was a great lover of beauty and her novels exhibit her aesthetic delight in the lovely aspects of life. She presents real life in her work but her conception of reality was different from that of Arnold Bennett and John Galsworthy. Reality she construed as a complex of sensations feelings sensations and emotions in her pictures of life to create the sense

of being alive. She is a prose writer of high order and her prose sparkles with flashes of poetic beauty and charm.

E.M.FORSTER

E.M.Forster is one of the prominent novelists and short story writers of the modern age. He produced his first novel *Where Angels Fear to Tread* in 1905. This novel is satirical in character. The plots of Forster are intricate and difficult to follow. He disregards conventional plot construction and frequently introduces startling unexpected incidents. The characters of Forster are types rather than individuals. They are the embodiment of certain values of life. As a moralist Forster is opposed to convention, money, worship, hypocrisy, snobbery and prim affected manners. He is against all shams, cant and falsehood. He pleads fervently for the adoption of sincerity and truthfulness in human relations. D.H.Lawrence and E.M.Forster are critics, modern civilization reared on material values of life. E.M.forster is a symbolist.

JAMES JOYCE

James Joyce is one of the greatest novelists of the twentieth century. He is one of the chief exponents of the stream of consciousness technique in English novel. As a novelist he is mainly concerned with human relationship—man in relation to himself to society and to the whole race. His knowledge of the seamy side of life was exceptional and he presents it with remarkable frankness and straightforwardness. His style is marked with directness and simplicity.

D.H.LAWRENCE

D.H.Lawrence was one of the most remarkable and striking figures in the literary world between the two world wars. He was a novelist of sex life, physical passions and animalism. He has been excessively praised as well as excessively abused. His novels like “*The White Peacock* and *The Rainbow*” deal with man and woman relationship. His novels had no plot and character in the conventional sense.

ALDOUS HUXLEY

Huxley was a great intellect and thinker. His novels present satirically the disillusionment and frustration with contemporary social life. He is a novelist with a mission and message. His first novel *Chrome Yellow* is a fine study of contemporary study. The novels of Huxley mirror the empty lives of the people. The humans mostly of the high cultured classes chasing illusions and masked pretensions as they have lost their hold on the old cultural values. He studies the victims of the modern order of ideas. His novels are novels of ideas and characterization follows suit. He utilizes dialogues diaries and reflections in great quantities. In the novels of Huxley, well developed and well sustained plots cannot be found.

Huxley's novels are often heavily weighed with science. The impact of science on the modern mind and society is a common place. As a novelist he reflects the feelings of his age. His novels provide an opportunity for conversation and discussion. Huxley will live as a thought provoking and stirring writer of our times.

GEORGE ORWELL

George Orwell was born in Bengal. His experiences in Burma convinced him that imperialism was a tyranny and he felt ashamed of his native country. He lived in Paris in utter poverty and doing odd jobs. His first work *Down and Out in Paris and London* is based on his experience during his horrible stay in Paris. With the publication of *Animal Farm* in 1946, his popularity rose to great heights.

The autobiographical element dominates his novels. All his novels are an expression of the bitter experiences of his life. There is a politics nature in his novels. He established a relationship between literature and politics. He did not produce strong plot-construction in his novels. His characters are aware of the problem of identification and existence. The novels of Orwell are ironic parables about the anxiety and agony of modern man destined to live in a system of depression, deception and hostility. Thus the novels of the twentieth century were simple to read. They delighted the people through the simplicity in its style.

THE PRESENT AGE (1930-1955)

STUDY OF ESSAYISTS

INTRODUCTION

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The twentieth century is a great age of fiction writing. But the form essay continues to exist and thrive. All subjects under the sun are dealt with by the modern essayists. The essayists whose style is usually informal even conversational but at the same time dignified. Their language is made up of a judicious selection from the language in daily use. Some of the essayists of the twentieth century are mentioned here.

E.V. LUCAS

Among the twentieth century essayists E.V.Lucas is generally regarded as the true inheritor of the manner of Lamb.He is one of the most prolific essayists. He writes a pure,chaste lucid and clear prose which has effortless ease,spontaneity,consciousness and compactness.

G.K.CHESTERTON

G.K.Chesterton is a writer of versatile genius and his essays reveal an extraordinary range of mind.He is eloquent,provocative,splendidly graphic and admirably humorous.Often he makes use of witty paradox which delights and surprises as well as provokes thought.His style is brilliant,self-conscious and idio-syncratic,replete with alliteration,balance,antithesis and paradox.The Uses of Diversity,Tremendous Trifles are the more popular of his collections of essays.

HILLIARE BELLOC

His reputation as an essayist rests securely on several volumes.He is another versatile and prolific essayist of the twentieth century.His range of mood,theme,and subject is very wide.He is a master at once of the simple,chaste direct and homely manner.His rapidity of movement from one mood to another in his essays are remarkable.

A.G.GARDINER

Gardiner was a journalist and essayist of the school of Montaigne and Lamb.He is better known to his readers by his pen name of Alpha of the Plough. He was a prolific writer of essays and his best collection of essays are entitled Pebbles on the Shore and Leaves in the Wind. His style is easy,clear,lucid and flexible.He modulates his prose to his changing moods,chatty,reflective,enthusiastic observant.His vocabulary is drawn from common everyday speech and his language is dignified. He is one of the greatest stylists in English Language.

ROBERT LYND

Like Chesterton Robert Lynd brooded over his articles consisting of a large range and variety of moods and emotions. He may be light hearted ,humorous,whimsical and amusingly philosophical, reflective,retrospective and frankly personal and autobiographical.His style has all the ease,range and liveliness of conversation.An effortless ease and a natural flow of words are distinguishing features of his style.

MAX BEERBOHM

Max Beerbohm was a prose writer and cartoonist. He was a delightful essayist and a witty parodist.He won wide popularity for his ZULEIKA DOBSON.He was never tired of exposing the follies and foibles of his great contemporaries.He dealt with great tenderness for all that he has enjoyed and with unfailing humour. Brevity,simplicity,lucidity,clarity and flexibility are some other characteristics features of the style of the modern essayists.

SHORT QUESTIONS:-

- 1.Give short notes on Hopkins poetry.
- 2.Write briefly about the rhythms of Hopkins.
- 3.Write a note on T.S.Eliot.
- 4.Give an account of T.S.Eliot's poems.
- 5.Write about the 'The Waste Land' by T.S.Eliot
- 6.Write a brief note on Auden's poetical work.
- 7.What are the salient features of Walter de la Mare's poems?
- 8.Write a short account of Stephen Spender's poetry.
- 9.Name some of the novels of Somerset Maugham.
- 10.Justify E.M.Forster as a symbolist.
- 11.Write about Stream of conscience novel?
- 12.Name the works of James Joyce.
- 13.Give an account of Katherine Mansfield.

14. Mention the novels of D.H. Lawrence.
15. Write a short note on Aldous Huxley.
16. Write about 'The Brave New World'
17. State briefly about Virginia Woolf and her fiction.
18. Why is 'Animal Farm' called an allegory?
19. Give a brief estimate of Arnold Bennett.
20. Write a short note on Hillary Belloc.