

ELFAM

☰ Tags	
🕒 Created	@August 4, 2023 3:57 PM
🔗 URL	https://quantaaws.bits-go.a.ac.in/course/view.php?id=1619

DAY -1 (1st lect,14/08/23)

what happened in class?

debates on what is literature ?many people came up with their own views . one said science books shouldnt be considered as literature and other said we should . one said it should be grounded with human emotion or nature so we cant consider science textbook as literature.but i cant think clearly what literature is .one also said literature is something which defines life ,thinking ,practises of people from that particular time period.i wasnt able to find what is literature by the end of class :)

1)BEOWULF

Beowulf, an Old English epic poem, contains several elements that connect it to Christianity, despite being set in a pre-Christian, pagan era. The poem was likely composed by a Christian poet or scribe, and it reflects the blending of pagan and Christian themes in early medieval England. Here are some key ways in which Beowulf is connected to Christianity:

1. Moral and Ethical Values:

Beowulf exhibits many Christian values, such as courage, selflessness, and the

belief in the inherent goodness of humanity. These values align with Christian teachings on righteousness and virtuous living. Beowulf's character embodies the Christian ideal of a hero who fights evil and defends the weak.

2. References to God:

Throughout the poem, there are references to God, the Christian deity. Beowulf frequently attributes his successes to God's guidance and protection. This suggests a belief in divine providence and reinforces the idea that the Christian God plays a significant role in the lives of the characters.

3. Fate and Providence:

The poem explores the theme of fate, which was a significant concept in both pagan and Christian worldviews. Beowulf's acceptance of his fate and belief in divine providence align with Christian notions of God's plan for individuals.

4. Symbolism:

Grendel, the monster Beowulf battles, can be seen as a symbolic representation of evil and chaos. Some interpretations suggest that Grendel represents the forces of darkness and paganism, while Beowulf symbolizes the triumph of Christianity over these forces.

5. Burial Rituals:

The burial of Beowulf and the emphasis on a Christian-style funeral, complete with a burial mound and the singing of dirges, highlight the influence of Christianity in the poem's cultural context. The idea of an afterlife and the importance of proper burial are Christian concepts.

However, it's essential to remember that Beowulf is not a purely Christian text. It also retains elements of the earlier pagan Germanic culture from which it emerged. The poem incorporates both Christian and pagan elements, reflecting the transitional nature of the society in which it was composed.

In summary, while Beowulf is set in a pagan world and features pagan characters, it demonstrates a clear connection to Christianity through its moral values, references to God, and Christian symbolism. The poem reflects the complex interplay between Christianity and the pagan past in early medieval England, making it a rich source for the study of cultural and religious transformation during this period.

Beowulf, an Old English epic poem, predominantly exhibits Christian influences, but it also contains remnants of pagan elements from the pre-Christian Germanic culture. While the poem has been Christianized in many ways, some scholars have identified pagan references and elements within the text. Here are a few examples:

1. Pagan Gods and Ancestral References:

- The poem makes mention of pagan Germanic gods like Wyrd (fate) and mentions the "Allfather," a reference to the Norse god Odin.
- The concept of fate (Wyrd) is a recurring theme in Beowulf, reflecting the fatalistic worldview of the Germanic pagans.

2. Burial Customs:

- The burial of the deceased warriors with their treasures in burial mounds is a pagan practice and is depicted in Beowulf. While the poem describes Christian-like burial ceremonies for Beowulf himself, the practice of burying warriors with their treasures reflects pagan traditions.

3. Warrior Culture:

- The heroic code and warrior ethos that Beowulf and other characters adhere to are more in line with the values of the pagan warrior culture than with Christian ethics. The emphasis on valor, vengeance, and loyalty to one's lord is characteristic of Germanic paganism.

4. The Dragon and the Hoard:

- The dragon that Beowulf battles at the end of the poem, along with the hoard of treasure it guards, reflects themes found in pagan mythology and folklore. Dragons and the allure of hidden treasure were common elements in pagan stories.

5. Grendel's Origins:

- The poem is somewhat ambiguous about Grendel's origins, leaving room for interpretation. Some scholars suggest that Grendel might be seen as a representation of a pagan, monstrous force opposed to the Christian worldview. His descent from Cain, as mentioned in the poem, connects him to biblical and Christian themes, but his monstrous nature aligns with pagan beliefs in supernatural beings.

6. Supernatural Creatures:

- Beowulf encounters various supernatural beings and monsters in his adventures, such as Grendel, Grendel's mother, and the dragon. These creatures have more in common with the supernatural beings of pagan mythology than with Christian angels or demons.

It's important to note that the Christian elements in Beowulf, including references to God and Christian morality, have been added to the text over time, likely by Christian scribes and poets who adapted the story to fit their beliefs. As a result, Beowulf represents a complex interplay between pagan and Christian influences, making it a valuable source for understanding the cultural transition from paganism to Christianity in early medieval England.

analyse grendel character from beowulf

Grendel is a fascinating character in the Old English epic poem "Beowulf." He is a monstrous and malevolent creature who serves as one of the main antagonists in the story. Analyzing Grendel involves considering his physical characteristics, his role in the narrative, and the possible symbolic interpretations associated with his character:

1. Physical Description:

Grendel is described as a grotesque and terrifying creature. He is depicted as a descendant of Cain, the biblical figure who committed the first murder. This lineage adds to his monstrous nature. Grendel is often portrayed as a huge and powerful figure, with the ability to wreak havoc and terrorize the Danes in Heorot, the mead hall.

2. Role as an Antagonist:

Grendel plays a crucial role as the primary antagonist of the first part of the poem. He terrorizes King Hrothgar's kingdom, attacking Heorot at night and killing the Danish warriors. His attacks create a sense of fear and hopelessness among the Danes, and they are unable to stop him.

3. Symbolic Interpretations:

Grendel can be interpreted symbolically in several ways:

- **The Embodiment of Evil:** Grendel is often seen as a representation of evil and chaos. His relentless attacks on the mead hall and the Danes symbolize the destructive forces that threaten civilization and order.
- **Pagan vs. Christian Conflict:** Grendel's descent from Cain and his attacks on a Christian king's hall can be seen as a symbol of the clash between pagan and Christian worldviews. He represents the lingering pagan, pre-Christian forces that resist the spread of Christianity in the poem.
- **Existential Loneliness:** Grendel's isolation and loneliness are emphasized in the poem. He is described as living in exile and suffering from his separation from society. This aspect of his character can be seen as an exploration of the human condition, highlighting the pain of being an outsider.

4. **Sympathy for Grendel:**

Some modern interpretations of the character have sought to evoke sympathy for Grendel. They suggest that his attacks on Heorot may be driven by his feelings of isolation and exclusion from human society. This perspective adds a layer of complexity to his character, inviting readers to consider the motivations behind his actions.

5. **Beowulf's Confrontation:**

Beowulf, the hero of the poem, ultimately confronts Grendel. Their epic battle in Heorot is a central moment in the story. Beowulf's victory over Grendel symbolizes the triumph of good over evil and showcases the hero's exceptional strength and bravery.

In summary, Grendel is a multi-dimensional character in "Beowulf." He serves as a formidable antagonist, a symbol of evil and chaos, and a figure that can be interpreted in various ways, from a representation of pagan resistance to a symbol of existential loneliness. His role in the poem adds depth and complexity to the narrative and contributes to the exploration of key themes such as heroism, morality, and the clash of cultural and religious values

The SeaFarer

"The Seafarer" is an Old English poem, one of the most famous works in the Exeter Book, which dates back to the 10th century. The poem is an elegy and reflects the life

and spiritual struggles of a seafarer who spends his life on the open sea. It conveys several core ideas and themes:

1. **Life's Transience and the Harshness of the Sea:** The poem vividly portrays the hardships, loneliness, and dangers of a seafarer's life. It emphasizes the impermanence and unpredictability of existence, with the sea serving as a metaphor for the uncertain journey of life.
2. **Longing for Home:** The seafarer expresses a deep longing for his homeland. He yearns for the security and comforts of a settled life on land. This homesickness is a central theme and highlights the contrast between the perilous life at sea and the stability of home.
3. **Christian Themes:** The poem contains strong Christian elements, reflecting the Christianization of the Anglo-Saxons. The seafarer wrestles with the tension between his earthly suffering and the promise of heavenly rewards. He contemplates the fate of the soul after death and the importance of maintaining faith and trust in God even in the face of adversity.
4. **Spiritual Journey:** The seafarer's life is seen as a spiritual journey. His time at sea becomes a metaphor for the soul's journey through life, full of hardships and trials. The poem encourages readers to reflect on the eternal and divine aspects of existence.
5. **Resilience and Endurance:** Despite the hardships and challenges, the seafarer ultimately finds a sense of purpose and meaning in his suffering. He learns to endure and remain faithful to God, suggesting a message of perseverance and spiritual resilience.

In terms of the seafarer's longing for home, he does express a profound desire to return to the security of his homeland. However, the poem also suggests that this longing is tempered by a recognition of the greater spiritual journey and the importance of faith in God. The seafarer's yearning for home is both a source of suffering and a catalyst for his spiritual growth.

The poem doesn't necessarily provide a clear resolution to the seafarer's longing, but it emphasizes the importance of enduring the trials of life with faith and trust in God's providence. Overall, "The Seafarer" conveys a complex blend of themes related to the human condition, spirituality, and the challenges of life's journey.

how is Christianity conveyed in seafarer poem. explain in depth about the poets view of life and metaphors in the poem

"The Seafarer" conveys Christianity through various elements in the poem, reflecting the Christianization of the Anglo-Saxons during the time it was written. Here's an in-depth exploration of how Christianity is conveyed in the poem and how the poet's views on life are expressed through metaphors:

1. Christian Themes and Values:

- **Theological References:** The poem includes several references to Christian theological concepts, such as the idea of the soul's journey, the importance of faith, and the belief in a divine afterlife. The seafarer grapples with questions of sin, redemption, and salvation.
- **Salvation and Divine Providence:** The seafarer acknowledges the sovereignty of God and the belief that one's life is in God's hands. He emphasizes the need to trust in God's providence and submit to His will, even in the face of life's hardships.

2. Metaphors and Symbolism:

- **The Sea as a Metaphor for Life:** The sea is a central metaphor in the poem, symbolizing the challenges, uncertainties, and dangers of human existence. Just as a seafarer must navigate treacherous waters, humans must navigate the unpredictable journey of life.
- **The Ship as a Symbol of the Soul:** The seafarer's ship is often seen as a symbol of the human soul. The ship faces storms and rough seas, analogous to the trials and tribulations of life. The seafarer's relationship with the ship mirrors his relationship with his own soul.
- **Isolation and Loneliness:** The seafarer's isolation on the ship reflects the loneliness and spiritual isolation of a Christian's life in the world. It suggests that the true Christian path may be one of solitude and separation from worldly distractions.

3. Life's Impermanence and Eternity:

- The seafarer's contemplation of the fleeting nature of earthly pleasures and the transience of life aligns with Christian teachings about the impermanence of worldly pursuits. The poem encourages readers to focus on eternal matters and the salvation of the soul.
- The contrast between the ephemeral joys of the world and the promise of eternal rewards in heaven underscores the Christian notion of prioritizing the spiritual over the temporal.

4. **Desire for Heaven:**

- The seafarer expresses a longing for the heavenly realm, which he envisions as a place of eternal bliss and rest. This reflects the Christian belief in the ultimate goal of reaching heaven and finding eternal peace in the presence of God.
- His yearning for heaven also serves as a contrast to the hardships and dangers of life at sea, reinforcing the idea that the true reward lies in the afterlife.

In summary, "The Seafarer" conveys Christianity through its exploration of Christian themes, values, and metaphors. The seafarer's journey on the sea serves as a metaphor for the Christian journey through life, emphasizing the importance of faith, trust in God, and the pursuit of eternal salvation. The poem encourages readers to reflect on the impermanence of worldly pleasures and the ultimate value of a life dedicated to God.

WIFE'S LAMENT

The "Wife's Lament" is an Old English poem that is part of the Exeter Book, one of the most significant collections of Old English literature. This poem is considered a poignant and enigmatic work that conveys themes of exile, loneliness, and longing. While it's a relatively short poem, it carries a deep and complex emotional and ideological core.

The deep ideologies and themes behind the "Wife's Lament" include:

1. **Exile and Loneliness:** The poem's primary theme is exile. The speaker, presumably a wife, is separated from her husband, living in isolation, and lamenting her exile from her homeland. Her sense of loneliness and estrangement is a central aspect of the poem.

2. **Gender and Power Dynamics:** The poem raises questions about gender and power dynamics in Anglo-Saxon society. The wife's voice is one of sorrow and despair, and she seems to lack agency and control over her situation. Her separation from her husband might be due to external circumstances, suggesting a lack of autonomy for women in this society.
3. **Desire and Longing:** The wife's lament is filled with profound longing for her husband and her homeland. Her intense yearning for her lost life and loved one is a powerful emotional undercurrent of the poem. It reflects the universal human experience of longing for something or someone lost.
4. **Fate and Fatalism:** The poem touches on the idea of fate and fatalism, which were significant concepts in Anglo-Saxon culture. The wife's situation, whether due to her own choices or external forces, is portrayed as predestined and unchangeable. This reflects the belief that one's life was shaped by a combination of personal choices and supernatural forces.
5. **Metaphorical Language:** The poem employs metaphorical and symbolic language. For example, the wife describes herself as a "wanderer" and her husband as a "keeper of promises." These metaphors add depth to the poem's themes, emphasizing her sense of displacement and her husband's perceived betrayal.
6. **Survival and Resilience:** Despite her lamentation, the wife continues to speak, indicating her resilience and her determination to express her feelings. This suggests that even in the face of despair and powerlessness, the act of vocalizing one's suffering is a form of agency and survival.

Overall, the "Wife's Lament" is a rich and complex poem that raises questions about love, loss, gender roles, and the human experience of exile and longing. Its deep ideology reflects the emotional and social complexities of the time in which it was written, and it continues to resonate with readers today as a powerful exploration of human emotion and experience.



in the poem wife lament did her husband betray him ? is there anything mentioned about god in the poem

In the poem "The Wife's Lament," the nature of the husband's separation from the wife is not explicitly explained, and it has led to different interpretations among scholars. While the poem does not directly state whether the husband betrayed the wife, there are hints and suggestions that can be interpreted in different ways. The poem is intentionally ambiguous, and its meaning is open to interpretation.

The wife describes being forced to live in a distant forest and bemoans her separation from her husband. She speaks of the sorrow of being alone and suggests that she has been separated from her loved one against her will. This could imply that she feels betrayed or abandoned by her husband, but the poem does not provide explicit details about the reasons for their separation.

Regarding mentions of God or religious elements, the poem does not prominently feature references to God or religious themes as some other Old English poems do. Instead, it primarily focuses on the personal emotional turmoil of the wife and her sense of exile and longing. While Anglo-Saxon literature often incorporated Christian elements, "The Wife's Lament" is more centered on human emotions and experiences.

In summary, "The Wife's Lament" is a poem characterized by its ambiguity regarding the circumstances of the wife's separation from her husband. It does not explicitly state whether the husband betrayed her, leaving room for interpretation. The poem primarily explores themes of loneliness, longing, and exile, with less emphasis on religious elements compared to other works from the same period.

MORTE DARTHUR

Guinevere's actions in the Arthurian legend, particularly her affair with Lancelot, are a central theme in many Arthurian stories, including "Le Morte d'Arthur" by Sir Thomas Malory. Whether her actions are "correct" or not depends on one's perspective and interpretation of the legend.

From a moral standpoint within the context of the story, Guinevere's affair with Lancelot is often portrayed as a betrayal of King Arthur and a breach of her marriage vows. This infidelity is typically seen as a source of conflict and tragedy within the Arthurian legend. However, it's important to remember that Arthurian legends are a product of medieval literature and reflect the values and norms of their time. Different versions of the legend may interpret Guinevere's actions in various ways.

The deep meaning of "Le Morte d'Arthur" and the Arthurian legends, in general, can be interpreted in several ways, and it often depends on the perspective of the reader or scholar. Here are some possible interpretations:

1. **Chivalry and Honor:** The Arthurian legends often emphasize the code of chivalry, which includes ideals of bravery, loyalty, and honor. Guinevere's affair with Lancelot can be seen as a violation of these ideals, leading to the downfall of the Round Table.
2. **Human Frailty:** The legends explore the flaws and weaknesses of human nature, even in the noblest of characters. Guinevere's actions are a reflection of human frailty and the temptations that can lead individuals astray.
3. **The Fall of Camelot:** Guinevere's affair contributes to the eventual fall of Camelot and the disintegration of Arthur's kingdom. This can be interpreted as a commentary on the impermanence of power and the consequences of personal choices on a larger scale.
4. **Love and Passion:** The affair between Guinevere and Lancelot can also be seen as a representation of passionate, forbidden love, which is a recurring theme in literature. It raises questions about the conflict between duty and personal desire.
5. **Moral Complexity:** "Le Morte d'Arthur" and the Arthurian legends in general often depict characters and situations with moral complexity. They challenge readers to consider the gray areas of morality and the consequences of difficult choices.

Ultimately, the deep meaning of "Le Morte d'Arthur" is open to interpretation, and different readers may find different layers of significance in the text. It's a rich and complex work of literature that continues to inspire discussions and analysis

how is king arthur potrayed in morte darthur and how is lancelot potrayed

In "Le Morte d'Arthur" by Sir Thomas Malory, King Arthur and Sir Lancelot are two of the central characters, and they are portrayed in distinct ways:

King Arthur:

1. **Noble Leader:** King Arthur is depicted as a noble and just ruler. He is seen as the ideal king who establishes the Round Table and strives to bring order and unity to

his kingdom.

2. **Chivalric Ideal:** Arthur embodies the chivalric ideal of the Arthurian legend. He upholds the code of chivalry, which includes values like loyalty, honor, and courage.
3. **Conflict Resolution:** Arthur is often portrayed as a peacemaker who attempts to resolve conflicts among his knights and allies. He strives to maintain harmony within his kingdom.
4. **Tragic Figure:** As the story progresses, Arthur's character takes on tragic dimensions. His efforts to create a utopian kingdom are repeatedly thwarted by the flaws and betrayals of those around him, including his queen, Guinevere, and his best knight, Lancelot.
5. **Enduring Legend:** Arthur is also portrayed as a figure of enduring legend and prophecy. His story is not just a historical account but a mythic tale that continues to resonate through the ages.

Sir Lancelot:

1. **Brave and Skilled Knight:** Lancelot is portrayed as the most skilled and brave of all the knights at the Round Table. His prowess in battle and his dedication to chivalric ideals make him a central figure in Arthur's court.
2. **Flawed Hero:** Despite his remarkable abilities, Lancelot is a deeply flawed character due to his passionate love for Queen Guinevere. His illicit affair with the queen brings about significant conflict and tragedy in the story.
3. **Complex Character:** Lancelot's character is complex and multifaceted. On one hand, he embodies the chivalric virtues of courage and loyalty, but on the other, his adulterous relationship with Guinevere highlights his moral weaknesses.
4. **Conflict with Arthur:** Lancelot's affair with Guinevere leads to a bitter conflict between him and King Arthur. This conflict ultimately contributes to the downfall of the Round Table and the kingdom of Camelot.
5. **Tragic Figure:** Lancelot is also a tragic figure in the story, torn between his love for Guinevere and his loyalty to Arthur. His actions have far-reaching consequences, and he experiences personal tragedy as a result of his choices.

In "Le Morte d'Arthur," both King Arthur and Sir Lancelot are complex characters who embody the virtues and flaws of the chivalric code. Their interactions and conflicts play

a central role in the narrative, contributing to the overall tragic and moral complexity of the Arthurian legend

romantic period

aristocracy-people born noble

“MAN WAS BORN FREE AND EVERYWHERE HE IS IN CHAINS”—JEAN-JACQUES ROUSSEAU

*THOMAS PAINE’S *COMMON SENSE* (1776) FIRED THE IDEA OF AMERICAN INDEPENDENCE: REJECTED MONARCHY AND SAID IN AMERICA LAW WAS THE KING

?PRIMACY OF **EMOTION** AND **IMAGINATION**

?SPONTANEITY OVER INTELLECT & REASONING

?SUBLIMITY OF UNTAMED **NATURE**

LONDON - WILLIAM BLOKE

CHARTER’D-MAP

MIND FORG’D MANACLES- self limitation and denigration of human imagination

“London” Summary

The speaker takes a walk through the designated streets of London. This walk brings the speaker near the River Thames, which seems to have its course dictated for it as it flows throughout the city. The speaker sees signs of resignation and sadness in the faces of every person the speaker passes by.

The speaker hears this pain too, in the cries men as well as those of fearful newborn babies. In fact, in every voice in the city, in every law or restriction London places on its population, the speaker can sense people's feelings of being oppressed by city life.

The speaker hears the cry of young chimney-sweeps, whose misery brings shame on the Church authorities. Thinking of unfortunate British soldiers dying in vain, the speaker imagines their blood running down the walls of a palace.

Most of all, the speaker hears the midnight cries of young prostitutes, who swear and curse at their situation. In turn, this miserable sound brings misery to their tearful newborn children. The speaker also imagines this sound plaguing what the speaker calls "the Marriage hearse"—a surreal imagined vehicle that carries love and death together.

SOLITARY REAPER-WILLIAM WORDSWORTH

solitary -alone

reaper-one who harvest crop

"The Solitary Reaper" is a poem by the English poet William Wordsworth. The poem was inspired by the poet's trip to Scotland in 1803 with his sister Dorothy Wordsworth. It was first published in 1807. In the poem, the speaker tries—and fails—to describe the song he heard a young woman singing as she cuts grain in a Scottish field. The speaker does not understand the song, and he cannot tell what it was about. Nor can he find the language to describe its beauty. He finds that the traditional poetic metaphors for a beautiful song fail him. The poem thus calls, implicitly, for a new kind of poetry: one that is better able to approximate and describe the pure, unpretentious beauty of the reaper's song.


profound-intense

vale-valley

summary-

LitCharts

The Solitary Reaper Poem Summary and Analysis | LitCharts

 <https://www.litcharts.com/poetry/william-wordsworth/the-solitary-reaper>

itCharts

oasis - fertile spot in a desert


NEOCLASSICAL PERIOD

SONNET 19-JOHN MILTON

WHEN I CONSIDER HOW MY LIFE IS SPENT

LitCharts

Sonnet 19: When I consider how my light is spent (On his blindness) Poem Summary and Analysis | LitCharts

 <https://www.litcharts.com/poetry/john-milton/sonnet-19-when-i-consider-how-my-light-is-spent-on-his-blindness>

itCh

rebuke - criticism

PARADISE LOST -JOHN MILTON

LitCharts

Paradise Lost Book 1 Summary & Analysis | LitCharts

 <https://www.litcharts.com/lit/paradise-lost/book-1>

itCha

DAIRY OF SAMUEL PEPYS

1665-plague

1666-great fire

jane call,backside of mark lane,fish street london bridge

kings baker house in puddling lake

magnus church has been burnt,

duke of york

cannon street mayor

sir r viener

A JOURNAL OF THE PLAGUE YEAR-DANIEL DEFOE

father of english novel

sonnet 2 - william shakespeare

SUMMARY:

The speaker speaks to his aging friend, he says, when you become 40 years old as your eyebrows get wrinkles, your beautiful face gets deep holes (trenches) and your youth uniform fades away. People will look upon you as your youth has changed like an unwanted crop (weed) in the field. And when they ask you, where your beauty, youth, and all the precious lusty days have gone? You with sunken eyes say within yourself, how much more praises your beauty deserves. Even if you couldn't count those praises and answer to these people, ask your fair son to do the sum. He is the proof of your beauty; he is your youth's successor. He would be the new-made when you become old and you would see your own blood warm when you are cold.

Sonnet 2 by William Shakespeare - Poem Analysis

Shakespeare's second sonnet, 'When forty winters shall besiege thy brow,' is the first sonnet that addresses the unknown 'Fair Youth.'


 <https://poemanalysis.com/william-shakespeare/sonnet-2/>



SONNET -18

LitCharts

Sonnet 18: Shall I compare thee to a summer's day? Poem Summary and Analysis | LitCharts


 <https://www.litcharts.com/poetry/william-shakespeare/sonnet-18-shall-i-compare-thee-to-a-summer-s-day>

itCh

SONNET -130

LitCharts

Sonnet 130: My mistress' eyes are nothing like the sun Poem Summary and Analysis | LitCharts

 <https://www.litcharts.com/poetry/william-shakespeare/sonnet-130-my-mistress-eyes-are-nothing-like-the-sun>

itCh