

The Restoration

Restoration of Monarchy

- The Puritan Interregnum ended and monarchy was restored under Charles II (r. 1660-1685), the exiled son of Charles I
- For his luxuriant hedonistic life, he came to be called the “Merry Monarch”
- Accompanied by reopening of the theatres
- Church of England was restored as the national church
- Whigs (liberals) and the Tories (conservatives)
- Exclusion Crisis
- After Charles II, his brother James II came to power
- James lost power in the Glorious Revolution of 1688, and William of Orange and Mary came to power

Samuel Butler (1612-1680)

- Royalist who became Secretary to the Duke of Buckingham
- Hudibras (1663, 1664, 1678)
- First great verse satire in English in octosyllabic couplets
- Its distinctive style has given rise to the name “Hudibrastics”
- A biting satire on the Puritans and the tyranny of the Commonwealth

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John Dryden (1631-1700)

- Dryden was the most influential writer of the Restoration
- Studied at Cambridge
- Wrote in every form important to the period—occasional verse, comedy, tragedy, heroic plays, odes, satires, translations of classical works
- Was a liberal neo-classicist
- As a critic he depended more on his native sensibility than rules
- First comparative critic
- First historical critic

Early Works

- “Heroic Stanzas on the Death of Oliver Cromwell” (1659)
- First major poem
- Astrea Redux (1660)
- Royalist panegyric (eulogy) for Charles II
- Annus Mirabilis (1667)
- Heroic Plays

- The Wild Gallant (1663)
- The Indian Emperor (1665)
- The Conquest of Granada (1670)
- Aureng-zebe (1675)
- All for Love (1678)

Satires

- Absalom and Achitophel (1681)
- Satirical allegory; Juvenalian satire
- Heroic couplets; epic theme
- The biblical story of the rebellion of Absalom (helped by his advisor Achitophel) against his father King David is applied to the contemporary situation
- Second part of Absalom and Achitophel is mostly by Nahum Tate
- The Medal (1682)
- Sub-title: A Satire against Sedition
- It opens with the preface “Epistle to the Whigs”
- Dryden attacks Shaftesbury’s political inconsistency and hypocrisy

Satires

- Mac Flecknoe (c.1676, pub. 1682)
- Sub-title “A Satyr upon the True-Blew-Protestant Poet, T.S.”
- The name means “Son of Flecknoe”
- Dryden represented Shadwell as having inherited the stupidity of an Irish priest named Flecknoe who thought of himself as a poet, and who had recently died.
- A “mock heroic poem” (mock epic)
- Shadwell’s coronation scene is important
- Religio Laici, or a Layman’s Faith (1682) in support of Anglicanism
- The Hind and the Panther (1687) in support of Catholicism

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After the Glorious Revolution

- Lost the offices of Poet Laureate and Historiographer Royal
- Free (and uneven) translations published as Fables, Ancient and Modern
- Published in March, 1700
- His last work
- Preface to the Fables is a critical work
- Lyrics
- “Song for St Cecilia’s Day” (1687)

- “Alexander’s Feast, or The Power of Music” (written 1693; pub. 1697)
- “To the Pious Memory of Mrs. Anne Killigrew”

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After the Glorious Revolution

- Operas
- The State of Innocence
- A 5-Act play; the rhetorical rewriting of Paradise Lost
- Troilus and Cressida (published in Quarto 1 in 1609 as well as in the first folio of 1623)
- Cressida presented as loyal to Troilus
- Tempest or The Enchanted Island
- King Arthur or The British Worthy

Other Writers

- Sir William D’Avenant (1606-68)
- Thomas Killigrew (1612-1683)
- Mrs. Aphra Behn (1640-1689)
- Eliza Haywood (1693-1756)

Drama

- Development of Restoration drama illustrated the rise and decline of an artificial pseudo-courtly ideal in England
- Did not represent any wide or deep current in English life
- Two predominant genres
- Heroic drama
- Comedy of Manners (Restoration Comedy)
- The “history play” disappeared along with the disappearance of the “national consciousness” in drama

Comedy of Manners

- A theatrical genre satirizing social norms, manners, and morals of the upper class.
- Developed from
- New Comedy of Menander
- Plautus and Terence
- Restoration Comedy (1660-1710) is the highpoint of Comedy of Manners.
- Features
- Satire—Mocking social conventions and morals.
- Irony—Characters’ words and actions contradicting their true intentions.
- Wit—Quick-witted dialogue and clever repartee.
- Social commentary—Critiquing class, status, and gender roles.

- Farce—Physical humour, mistaken identities, and comedic misunderstandings.

Comedy of Manners

- Major Playwrights of the Restoration
- William Wycherley
- William Congreve
- George Etherege
- John Vanbrugh
- George Farquhar
- John Dryden
- Aphra Behn
- Stock Characters
- The Rake: A charismatic, immoral seducer
- The Ingenue: Innocent, naive, young
- The Fop: A foolish, self-important dandy
- The Wit: A clever, witty, and charming character

William Congreve (1670-1729)

- Born into a military family as the son of a cavalier
- Led a fashionable life
- Was a member of the Kit-Kat club, & enjoyed the friendship of Swift, Richard Steele & Alexander Pope
- Wrote all his plays before the age of 30, then lead the life of a society gentleman
- First work is a “novel”, Incognita (1692)
- First play, The Old Bachelor (1693)
- Shaped for performance with the help of Dryden
- Jeremy Collier focused his attack on Congreve and Vanbrugh

Works

- The Double Dealer (pub. 1694)
- Mellefont, nephew and prospective heir of Lord Touchwood, is about to marry Cynthia, daughter of Sir Paul Plyant. Lady Touchwood is in love with Mellefont, but as he rejects her advances, determines to prevent the match and ruin him.
- Love for Love (1695)
- Protagonist is Valentine, a young libertine who is attempting to avoid his creditors
- Jeremy is his clever servant
- Features of comedies
- Wit and elegance of dialogue
- Skilful plotting

- Crafty deployment of contrasting characters and themes
- Wrote only one tragedy: The Mourning Bride (perf. 1697)

The Way of the World (1700)

- Centres around Mirabell, a charming, cunning rake
- Mirabell loves Millamant, a beautiful, witty, and independent young woman
- Millamant's guardian, Lady Wishfort, disapproves of Mirabell
- Mirabell's friend, Witwoud, and his wife, Mrs. Marwood, conspire against Mirabell
- Mirabell wins at the end

William Wycherley (1640-1716)

- Born into a prosperous family
- Sent to France for education
- In France, converted to Roman Catholicism
- Absorbed French literary culture
- Returned to England shortly before the Restoration
- Led a fashionable life

Works

- Love in a Wood, or St James' Park (perf. 1671)
- First play
- A biting satire of a sexually and greedy society
- The Gentleman Dancing Master (1672)
- Derived from a play by Spanish playwright Calderon
- The Country Wife (1675)
- Horner spreads the rumour that he is impotent so as to get access to many married women like Lady Fidget, Mrs. Dainty and Mrs. Squeamish
- The innocent country girl Margery Pinchwife comes to London with her jealous husband and is seduced by Horner
- Horner teaches her to write letters
- There is the famous china scene
- A complicated and hilarious web of deceit unfolds, and Horner is saved at the end because everyone continues to pretend that he is impotent
- The play explores the complexities of human desires and emotions even in a morally bankrupt society
- The Plain Dealer (probably perf. 1676)
- Loosely based on Moliere's Le Misanthrope
- Manly, the protagonist, got Wycherley the title "Manly Wycherley"
- The most mordant (biting) of Wycherley's four plays

Other Writers

- George Etherege (1635-91)
- The Comical Revenge, or Love in a Tub (perf. 1664)
- She Would If She Could (perf. 1668)
- The Man of Mode, or Sir Fopling Flutter (1676)
- Sir John Vanbrugh (1664-1726)
- Colley Cibber (1671-1757)
- George Farquhar (1678-1707)
- Jeremy Collier's attack in A Short View of the immorality and Profaneness of the English Stage (1698)
- Licensing Act of 1737

Neoclassical age

Socio-political background

- Period from Dryden to Johnson; the age of prose and reason
- A period of literary excellence, like that of the period of Augustus Caesar (1st century AD), and the poets Virgil, Horace and Ovid
- The roots of Neoclassicism lie in the Enlightenment.
- Hanoverian succession
- Towns and cities grew significantly in size and number
- Population doubled
- Transport and communication between urban centres increased
- The middle class was coming into being
- Agricultural Revolution
- The Stage Licensing Act (1737)

The Business of Writing

- The eighteenth century was the first to sustain a large number of professional authors. Genteel writers as well as "Grub Street" hacks.
- Circulating libraries began in the 1740s.
- Many literary groups emerged in the Augustan period, primarily based on shared political ideologies. They met in the clubs, coffeehouses and chocolate houses, which were centres of literary debates

Age of Sensibility

- This period of later Enlightenment in which romantic sentiments appeared in art and literature is called the Age of sensibility
- Around 1750, the word "sentiment" evolved to describe social behavior based on instinctual feeling. Sentiment, and the related notions of sensibility and sympathy, all contributed to a growing sense of the desirability of public philanthropy and social reforms (such as charities for orphans)
- Birth of modern science during the Enlightenment
- Newton, Descartes, Pascal, Leibniz, Benjamin Franklin

Heroic Drama

Anti-Sentimental Comedy

- Emerged as a reaction to Sentimental Comedy (1760s-1770s)
- Influenced by Restoration Comedy's satire and wit
- Developed in the late 18th century, particularly in England
- Revived comedy of manners (Restoration comedy was also comedy of manners) but without immorality and excesses
- But anti-sentimental comedy employs neither licentious plots based on sexual intrigues and dialogues loaded with innuendos nor moralistic, tearful plots with idealized characters and dialogues
- Major Writers
- Richard Brinsley Sheridan
- The School for Scandal
- The Rivals
- Oliver Goldsmith
- She Stoops to Conquer

Anti-Sentimental Comedy

- Key Characteristics
- Wit and satire
- Realistic characters
- Critique of social conventions
- Emphasis on reason and intellect
- Subversion of sentimental tropes

Richard Brinsley Sheridan (1751-1816)

- Irish playwright; both parents were writers of some repute
- Was sent to Harrow to study law; but instead got involved with, and scandalously married, a singer
- The lovers had met in Bath, the setting of his first play, The Rivals (1775)
- Captain Jack Absolute arrives in Bath, humbly disguised as Ensign Beverley to suit the love of poverty of his sweetheart Lydia Languish
- Mrs Malaprop is a character
- Became a success after some rewriting
- Wrote other works, and bought a share in Drury Lane, where all his later works were performed

Other Works

- The best of his work appeared at the end of 1770s
- A Trip to Scarborough (1777)
- The School for Scandal (1777)
- Probably the finest of all 18th century comedies
- The Critic (1779)
- Modelled on the Duke of Buckingham's The Rehearsal

- Only one later work, Pizarro (1779), based on a German play, matched the success of his earlier works

The School for Scandal (perf. 1777)

- The play opens with Lady Sneerwell and her accomplice Snake plotting to break up Charles Surface and Maria. Lady Sneerwell wants Charles for herself.
- The characters, known for spreading rumors, indulge in scandal-mongering, led by Lady Sneerwell's circle, including the hypocritical Joseph Surface.
- Sir Oliver Surface, the rich uncle, returns from abroad to test the character of his two nephews, Charles and Joseph, with disguises.
- Sir Oliver uses two disguises - "Mr. Premium" to test Charles's financial integrity, and "Mr. Stanley" to test Joseph's charity and moral strength.
- Despite his financial recklessness, Charles refuses to sell a family portrait, showing his affection and loyalty, impressing Sir Oliver.
- Joseph, pretending to be virtuous, attempts to seduce Lady Teazle and fails to help the disguised Sir Oliver. His duplicity is eventually revealed in the Screen Scene.
- The truth about the schemes and real characters emerges, Sir Oliver appreciates Charles's true worth, Charles and Maria are united, and Joseph's duplicity is exposed.
- Sir Peter and Lady Teazle reconcile after she realizes her mistakes, deciding not to indulge in scandal anymore.

Oliver Goldsmith (1728?-1774)

- Irish playwright, novelist and essayist
- Protestant clerical family
- Beaten as a dunce in grammar school and persecuted by his fellows
- Entered Trinity College, Dublin as a sizar (poor scholar) and did menial jobs to support his education
- Unsuccessful at getting jobs
- Left Ireland at the age of 22 and never returned
- Travelled in France, Switzerland and Italy playing Irish tunes and eating food distributed at convents
- Started writing the poem "The Traveller" (pub. 1764) at this time

Oliver Goldsmith (1728?-1774)

- Back in England, scraped a living doing small-time jobs and as hack writer
- "Chinese Letters", written for Newbery's The Public Ledger was republished as The Citizen of the World (1762)
- Gave a satirical view of contemporary English life and manners through the eyes of an imaginary foreigner Lien Chi Altangi
- Contributed to at least eight journals between 1759 and 1773
- In 1761, met Dr Johnson, and became a member of Johnson's Club
- The Vicar of Wakefield (written 1761 or 1762; pub. 1766), only novel

Goldsmith's Plays

- Goldsmith's first comedy, The Good Natur'd Man was produced at Covent Garden in 1768 after being rejected by Garrick
- She Stoops to Conquer was staged in 1773
- His most famous poem, "The Deserted Village" appeared in 1770
- Draws in part on his childhood memories of Ireland

- A book of comic verse, *The Haunch of Venison*, was published posthumously

She Stoops to Conquer (perf. 1773)

- Subtitle: “The Mistakes of a Night”
- Mrs and Mr Hardcastle have a daughter, Kate
- Mrs Hardcastle has a son by a previous marriage, the oafish Tony Lumpkin
- Sir Charles Marlow has proposed a match between his son and Kate
- Young Marlow and his friend Hastings make the journey to the Hardcastles’ home in the country, which, due to Tony’s misdirections, they mistake to be an inn
- Young Marlow takes Kate to be a servant and falls in love, and his mistake rids him of the inhibitions he normally has in the company of ladies
- Kate’s friend Constance is in love with Hastings, displeasing Mrs Hardcastle, who wants her to marry Tony
- Sir Charles arrives, and puts everything right

Popular Prose Writing

Diaries

- John Evelyn (1620-1706)
- Diary records the period 1641-97
- Led a more respectable life and was less amusing than Pepys
- Simple and lucid style
- Doesn’t have Pepys’s freshness
- First-hand accounts of the deaths of Charles I and Oliver Cromwell; the last Great Plague of London (1665-66) and the Great Fire of London (1666)
- Samuel Pepys (1633-1703)
- Diary records the period 1660-1669
- Man of the world, interest in material advancement, music and theatre... Coffee Houses and Clubs
- The Kit-Kat Club (1690s onward)
- Whig members including Robert Walpole, William Congreve, John Vanbrugh, Joseph Addison, Richard Steele, Jacob Tonson
- The Scriblerus Club (established in 1713)
- A group of writers and politicians who satirized “false taste” and modern learning
- Members were Alexander Pope, Jonathan Swift, John Gay, Thomas Parnell, Dr John Arbuthnot, etc

Coffee Houses and Clubs

- Bluestockings (from the 1750s)
- A group of intellectual, literary minded women
- Samuel Richardson’s Circle (after 1740)
- Sarah Fielding, Charlotte Lennox, Frances Brooke, Frances Sheridan
- Johnson’s Circle and “The Club” (from 1764)

- Members include Joshua Reynolds (the portraitist who became the first President of the Royal Academy of Arts), Oliver Goldsmith, the actor David Garrick, Richard Brinsley Sheridan, Adam Smith (the economist who wrote *The Wealth of Nations*), the philosopher Edmund Burke, and Johnson's biographer James Boswell

Periodical Essay

- All the major writers of the period wrote periodical essays
- Short, witty, sometimes satirical observations of the contemporary scene
- Features
- The fictitious nominal proprietor
- A group of fictitious contributors who offer advice and observations from their special viewpoints
- Miscellaneous and constantly changing subjects
- Use of exemplary character sketches
- Letters to the editor from fictitious correspondents
- Themes and Concerns
- Moral instruction
- Judgement of good taste
- Ideals expected of gentlemen
- Virtues of women
- Fashion, art, social events, contemporary history and politics, business

Joseph Addison (1672-1719)

- Notable classical scholar
- Legitimate fame as essayist
- Little merit in poetry, drama, pamphlet
- Whig supporter; became Member of Parliament in 1708, and remained so till his death, even after the Whigs lost the general election in 1710
- Member of the Kit-Kat Club of Whig writers, where his close associates were Swift and Steele
- Pope attacked him as "Atticus" in *Epistle to Dr Arbuthnot*
- Pope presents Atticus as blessed with great talents, but as vainglorious, besieged by flatterers (attentive to his own applause), as wanting to attack his enemies (as Pope has done), but fearful (willing to wound, but afraid to strike)

Joseph Addison (1672-1719)

- Contributed anonymously to Steele's *Tatler* (1709-11, thrice a week)
- Together with Steele, founded *The Spectator* (1711-12, daily. Revived in 1714 without Steele's involvement, appearing thrice weekly for six months)
- Collaborated in Steele's *The Guardian*, which ran only for a few months in 1713
- At the same time, he wrote blank verse tragedy *Cato* (1713)
- In "Life of Addison", Dr. Johnson admired him as the "model of the middle style"

Addison's Poems

- "The Spacious Firmament on High"

- “A Letter From Italy”
- “When Rising From The Bed Of Death”
- "The Campaign, A Poem, To His Grace The Duke Of Marlborough”
- In heroic couplets
- Celebrating the English victory at Blenheim

Addison's Essays

- “On the Pleasures of Imagination”
- “Tory Fox Hunter”
- “Sir Roger and Will Wimble”
- “The Exercise of the Fan”
- “Sunday in the Country”
- “The Tombs in Westminster Abbey”
- “Wisdom and Riches”
- "On the Essay Form”
- “Friendship”

Features of Essays

- Wrote about 400 essays
- Faithful, objective observation of life
- Mild censor of morals
- Declared the aim of The Spectator to be “to enliven morality with wit, and to temper wit with morality”
- Aimed to recover his readers “out of that desperate state of vice and folly into which the age is fallen.”
- “I shall be ambitious to have it said of me, that I have brought philosophy out of closets and libraries, schools and colleges, to dwell in clubs and assemblies, at tea-tables and coffee-houses.”
- Themes
- Lighter themes: fashion, head-dress, practical jokes
- Serious themes: immorality, jealousy, prayer, death

Spectator Club

- Introduced in the second number of The Spectator
- A fictitious London club with imaginary members
- “Mr Spectator”, one of the fictional characters, an observer of London society, allegedly wrote the papers
- Their imaginary conversations provided opinions in manners, morals, art and literature
- Mild, witty portraits of members
- Approach to culture and taste as values that transcended political differences

- Addison remarked “there are none to whom this Paper will be more useful, than to the Female World. I have often thought there has not been sufficient pains taken in finding out proper employments and diversions for the Fair ones.”

Members of the Spectator Club

- Sir Roger de Coverley
- Imaginary, eccentric old country knight who frequented the Spectator Club in London
- Mr Spectator (shy, reticent; probably Addison; first number dedicated to his lifestory)
- Sir Andrew Freeport (city merchant with noble notions of trade)
- Captain Sentry (soldier)
- Will Honeycomb (a rake who entertains women; marries at the end)
- Together, forerunner of novel
- Characters show the authors’ attempt to educate the society

Richard Steele (1672-1729)

- Essayist and playwright born in Dublin
- Left college without a degree to join the Life Guards
- In 1700, he successfully fought a duel, seriously wounding his adversary, and led a lifelong campaign against dueling
- In 1701, his comedy, *The Funeral*, was performed, followed by some unsuccessful pieces derived from Corneille and Moliere
- In these plays, he attempted to put into practice the moral advice given by Jeremy Collier in his *Short View* to redeem English drama from the indecency which had marked much of it since the Restoration
- At this time, he had some pseudo-academic interests like the discovery of the philosopher’s stone

Richard Steele (1672-1729)

- In 1707, he was appointed by Robert Harley, Earl of Oxford, to write the government-sponsored *Gazette*
- Founding of Periodicals
- In 1709, he founded *The Tatler*
- Edited under the pseudonym of Isaac Bickerstaff
- It came to a sudden and unexplained end in January 1711
- Two months later, he founded *The Spectator* along with Joseph Addison
- This was followed by *The Guardian* (March-October 1713)
- The more political *Englishman* (1713-14) also appeared
- Did polemical pamphleteering in this period
- Steele produced the play *The Conscious Lovers* in 1722

The Tatler

- Steele’s approach was emotional and sentimental, and not very intellectual
- The professed aim in *The Tatler*:
- For the use of the politically inclined people

- To teach his readers “what to think”
- To entertain the fair sex (in whose honour he chose the title; “tattle” means “gossip”)
- The Tatler has the imaginary Trumpet Club
- Sir Jeffrey Notch
- Major Matchlock
- Dick Reptile
- The Bencher (tells stories of Jack Ogle)
- Isaac Bickerstaff himself

Major Neoclassicists

Mock heroic and Mock epic

- Mock epic poetry is also sometimes referred to as mock-heroic.
- Epic poetry: Long narrative poems chronicling the adventures and deeds of extraordinary heroic characters.
- Mock epics fall under the genre of satire, as they make use of sarcasm, irony and exaggeration to make fun of an original piece of work.

Attention to detail

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Mac Flecknoe (c.1676, pub. 1682)

- Sub-title “A Satyr upon the True-Blew-Protestant Poet, T.S.”
- The name means “Son of Flecknoe”
- Dryden represented Shadwell as having inherited the stupidity of an Irish priest named Flecknoe who thought of himself as a poet, and who had recently died.
- Andrew Marvell had written a mocking poem about Flecknoe, and his name had become synonymous with bad poetry.
- Dryden’s deadly weapon is the tone of ironic politeness (as in Horatian satire)
- Model for Pope’s Dunciad (1728)... Note these points!

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As a “mock heroic poem” (mock epic)

- The epic glorified aristocratic values; the mock-epic thus heralds the rise of the middle class who eschewed aristocratic values
- Dryden considered Mac Flecknoe primarily a satire, rather than an epic (Dryden called both poems Mac Flecknoe and The Medal Varronian satire)
- Varronian satire or Menippean satire is usually long like a novel, and attacks mental attitudes rather than individuals
- Typical neoclassical style; reaction against the overuse & stereotyping of the epic style
- Tradition of mock heroic poetry
- Began in the pseudo-Homeric “Battle of Frogs and Mice”
- Continued in Pope; “mock heroic novel” was written by Fielding

Note these points!

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Shadwell’s coronation scene

- Pomp & gaudiness

- The setting is the ancient watchtower Barbican in Augusta (London), the site for brothels and inferior entertainment
- Instead of 'Persian carpets a stock of dull books were spread over the way, along which poetasters lead a procession to the throne.
- Instead of the ball and sceptre, Shadwell holds a mug of ale in his left hand and a copy of Flecknoe's play Love's Kingdom in his right
- A wreath featuring sleep-inducing opium poppies crowns his head, and at the conclusion of the ceremony, twelve owls, symbols of stupidity, are released to fly aloft

Note these points!

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Flecknoe's speech

- Gives advice on writing
- Urges Shadwell to trust his own gifts, not labour to be dull
- In his plays, both wits and fops (dandies) should be modelled on himself, for there won't be any difference between the two
- Instead of imitating great playwrights like Jonson or successful ones like Etherege, he should make poetasters his models.
- Like himself, Shadwell's characters are dull.
- Unlike Jonson or Charles Sedley, he indulges too much in farce, physical humour and obscene language.
- Indeed, Shadwell should give up drama and satire and turn to cheap genres like anagrams, pattern poems, acrostics or songs

Note these points!

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Conclusion

- When Flecknoe's speech is over, a trapdoor opens beneath him and he sinks down
- A wind bears his mantle aloft
- Like the prophet Eliza's mantle descending upon Elisha, Flecknoe's mantle rises upward and then lands upon Shadwell.

The Rape of the Lock (1714)

- In 2 cantos in 1712, revised in 5 cantos in 1714, added Clarissa's speech in 1717
- Established Pope's reputation in the London society
- "Rape" means "theft"
- Inspired by Tassoni's Rape of the Bucket, Vida's Game of Chess, Boileau's Le Lutrin
- Witty feminized epic
- Mock-heroic poem (mock-epic)
- Delicate imagination, verbal music, gentle satire on the vanity of the fair sex, faint underlying melancholy

Note these points!

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The Rape of the Lock: Summary

- Arabella Fermor (Belinda of the poem) was a member of Pope's circle of prominent Roman Catholics. Robert, Lord Petre (the Baron in the poem) had snipped off a lock of her hair, which led to a rift between the two families.
- This poem was written at John Caryl's request to laugh the two families out of their quarrel
- Canto I: Belinda wakes, gets ready for a social gathering.
- Canto II: Belinda's journey to Hampton Court Palace

- Canto III: The game of ombre. The lock is cut.
- Canto IV: Umbriel travels to the cave of Spleen.
- Canto V: The combat of wits. The lock is lost.

Note these points!

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The Rape of the Lock as Mock-Epic

- Elevated language and poetic style, mimicking classical epics.
- Inflation of trivial events to epic proportions.
- Use of irony, sarcasm, and ridicule.
- Satire targeting aristocratic excesses and social conventions.
- Critique of aristocratic vanity and pride.
- Exposure of hypocrisy and superficiality.
- Mock Epic Devices
- Invocation of the muse
- Epic similes and metaphors
- Use of classical allusions
- Hyperbole and exaggeration

Dr. Johnson

Dr. Johnson (1709-1784)

- Only few poems, none of 1st class
- Used the heroic couplet for moralizing purposes
- With grim effectiveness rather than empty flourish
- Two Juvenalian satires
- London
- Vanity of Human Wishes

Attention to detail

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London (1738)

- 1st poem that raised him from hack to poet
- Imitation of the 3rd satire of Juvenal
- Speaker is Thales, who travels to Wales in order to escape the crime, corruption and poverty of London
- This is a Tory attack on the ruling Whigs under Robert Walpole
- Sombre, pessimistic power

Attention to detail

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The Vanity of Human Wishes (1749)

- Suggested by the 10th satire of Juvenal
- Unlike Juvenal, Johnson sympathizes with subjects
- Like Juvenal, focuses on human futility but concludes that Christian values are important
- While London is political, this poem is more philosophical
- Pessimism transferred to human activities in general

Attention to detail

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Irene (1749)

- Johnson's only play
- Blank verse tragedy
- Turkish theme
- Johnson employed Oriental themes in other works also:
- Rasselas
- Short tales published in Rambler and Idler
- Johnson considered it his greatest failure

Attention to detail

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Johnson's Dictionary (1755)

- In 1746 or so, Johnson started working on a dictionary
- His Dictionary remained the pre-eminent English dictionary until the Oxford English Dictionary appeared in 1928.
- Johnson's Dictionary
- was an academic tool
- examined how words were used, especially in literary works
- To achieve this, quotations were included
- from Bacon, Hooker, Milton, Shakespeare, Spenser
- from fields like natural science, philosophy, poetry, and theology

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Johnson's Periodicals

- Johnson published a series of essays in his periodical called The Rambler, which appeared twice a week—on Tuesdays and Saturdays—from 1750 to 1752
- While other periodicals of the time were written in common, colloquial prose, Johnson's essays stood out
- They were written in elevated neo-classical prose
- They addressed the newly rising middle-class who sought social fluency within aristocratic circles
- Themes: morality, literature, society, politics, religion
- Later, he contributed to two other series of essays:
- The Idler and The Adventurer

Attention to detail

Dec 2024 Batch

Rasselas: The Prince of Abyssinia (1759)

- An oriental tale modelled on The Arabian Nights
- The Arabian Nights was known to the western world through early 18th century translations
- An oriental tale is usually a short work of fiction that provides the vision of an exotic eastern world contrasting with Europe.
- Egs: Vathek, Citizen of the World
- Rasselas is an allegory of life
- As a journey on a road with many choices of direction
- As a struggle, with few lasting rewards
- Written to settle the costs of his mother's funeral
- Critics think that it is merely a collection of Rambler essays

Dec 2024 Batch

Johnson and Boswell

- James Boswell, a Scotsman, met Johnson in May 1763
- From then until Johnson's death in 1784, the two spent only around 240 days together.
- Boswell collected the material for his Life of Samuel Johnson in this period
- Boswell is now a synonym for a constant companion
- In 1773, Johnson accompanied Boswell on a tour of Scotland
- Boswell's travelogue on this tour: A Journal of a Tour to the Hebrides with Samuel Johnson, LL.D. (1785)
- Boswell's Life was published in 1791... Attention to detail

Dec 2024 Batch

Lives of the Poets (1781)

- Between 1779 and 1781 Johnson wrote a series of 52 prefaces to a large edition of The Works of the English Poets from Chaucer to Cowper edited by Alexander Chalmers in 21 volumes, published later in 1810.
- These prefaces were published separately as The Lives of the Poets in 1781
- Of the 52 Lives, 6 have been classified and edited by Matthew Arnold as the most important: those of John Milton, John Dryden, Alexander Pope, Joseph Addison, Jonathan Swift, and Thomas Gray.
- The oldest of these 52 poets is Milton and the first Life is that of Abraham Cowley

Attention to detail

Dec 2024 Batch

Johnson as Biographer

- The Lives of the Poets raised biography to an art.
- These biographies
- Appeal to the intellect, and to emotions and moral sensibilities
- The notion of "nature," as encompassing reason, truth and moral propriety, is highlighted in these writers
- Johnson places the work of a poet within these contexts:

- Political context
- Personal circumstances
- The poet's learning and character and
- The poet's relationship with his contemporaries and the public
- Discusses why a poet was praised and blamed
- Does a close analysis of select verses
- Attempts a comparative judgement of the poet's greatness, and his place in the English literary tradition

Attention to detail

Dec 2024 Batch

Edition of Shakespeare: Context

- Nicholas Rowe's edition of Shakespeare's plays appeared in 1709, the year in which Johnson was born. The Rowe edition had the current biography of Shakespeare
- By the mid-18th century, Alexander Pope, Lewis Theobald, Thomas Hanmer and William Warburton had all produced editions
- At the beginning of the century, the theatre-going public had already been familiar with Shakespeare's plays, though often in a greatly altered form
- Johnson's pupil, David Garrick
- Successful Shakespearean actor
- Made radical new portrayals of the main Shakespearean characters
- Did new adaptations of popular plays
- Organized in 1769 the great Stratford Shakespeare Jubilee

Attention to detail

Dec 2024 Batch

Johnson's Edition

- Johnson used Warburton's and Theobald's editions as his model
- Johnson's edition was brought out in eight volumes in October 1765
- Only the plays were included, and not the poems
- The order of plays in the First Folio was followed, with the omission of Pericles
- In 1803, George Steevens, a Shakespearean commentator, brought out the first variorum edition of Shakespeare, in which Johnson's comments were added. This was edited by Isaac Reed.
- A variorum edition is a work that collates all known variants of a text.

Attention to detail

Dec 2024 Batch

Preface to Shakespeare (1765)

- The glory of Johnson's edition of Shakespeare is in its Preface
- Lays down a historical understanding of Shakespeare
- Weighs Shakespeare's achievements against his faults
- Praises him for a "just representation of general nature"
- Justifies his violation of unities and use of tragicomedy

- Shakespeare's major faults are
- Lack of moral purpose (sacrifices virtue to convenience)
- The fondness for puns and gross jokes
- Tendency to use ornate and pompous diction
- Carelessness in creating plots
- Anachronisms

Dec 2024 Batch

Johnson's Prose Style

- Ridiculed as 'Johnsonese'—pompous, artificial, verbose
- Notably in Rambler and Rasselas, prose heavy, Latinized, rhetorical, affected
- Later style (Lives of Poets) has ease, lucidity, force, vigorous directness
- Style best with serious themes—sentences packed with meaning, even dogmatic tone

Jonathan Swift (1667-1745)

- Dryden told Swift, "Cousin Swift, you shall never be a poet."
- Poems like "A Description of the Morning" and "A Description of the City Shower" show a calm precision of detail
- Poems on Stella's birthday show him as humorous and intimate
- Swift is at his best in his strong, ironic, octosyllabic couplets
- "The Lady's Dressing Room"
- "The Grand Question Debated"
- "On Poetry: A Rhapsody"
- "The Beasts's Confession" (Complete title: "The Beasts's Confession to the priest, On observing how most men mistake their own talents")
- "Verses on the Death of Dr Swift" (1739)
- Combines an ironic self-portrait with a criticism of the society

Attention to detail

Dec 2024 Batch

The Battle of the Books (1704)

- An allegorical, mock-heroic story set in the Royal Library of St James, in London
- A debate ensues between the "Ancient" books and the "Moderns" about which of them should rightfully occupy the highest peak of Parnassus
- Meanwhile, a dispute arises between a spider and a bee entangled in its web
- The quarrel between the books is summarized by Aesop who identifies the Moderns with the spider (who spins out empty pedantry) and the Ancients with the bee (who goes directly to nature and produces honey and wax, which give sweetness and light)

Attention to detail

Dec 2024 Batch

The Battle

- Aesop's verdict provokes the Moderns to attack their enemies, and a battle commences
- Under the protection of Pallas, Homer leads the Ancients against the Moderns, led by Milton and patronized by Goddess Criticism

- Individual duels are brilliantly matched, as when
- Virgil attacks his translator Dryden, whose helmet is nine times too big for him
- Aristotle shoots Descartes while aiming at Bacon

Back in Ireland

- When his patron William Temple died in 1699, returned to Dublin as chaplain to Lord Berkeley
- Stella and her companion Rebecca joined him
- Swift's intimate and playful letters to Stella were published posthumously
- Visited London with Lord Berkeley in 1701, and published Discourse of the Contests and Dissensions in Athens and Rome, a political pamphlet about the impeachment of certain Whigs
- In 1702-04, during other trips to London, he met Addison and Pope
- In 1704, anonymously published A Tale of a Tub, a vehement and comprehensive satire on contemporary intellectual abuses, especially in religion

Attention to detail

Dec 2024 Batch

A Tale of a Tub (1704)

- Religious allegory; considered his best
- Three sons left by their father the legacy of a coat with special instructions to wear it and care for it
- By describing how each son (mis)uses the coat, the history of Christianity is unveiled
- Peter (Roman Catholic church)
- Jack (Protestant Dissenters)
- Martin (Anglican and Lutheran churches)
- Brilliant digressions against pride, emptiness of scholars, folly of religious enthusiasm, etc interspersed with the tale
- Intended as attack on first two; but Swift is sceptical about all religion and human nature

Dec 2024 Batch

The Whig Years

- With A Tale of a Tub, he began to gain notoriety for his abrasive pen, and popularity in Whig circles
- From 1707, a period of religious writing began. Published many works including
- Argument Against Abolishing Christianity
- Sentiments of a Church of England Man (both pub. 1711)
- These religious works identified him as a staunch Anglican
- In 1708, invented the character Isaac Bickerstaff
- This character appeared in his work Predictions for the Ensuing Year
- This work was written to mock the astrologer Partridge
- The name Isaac Bickerstaff was later adopted by Steele as his pseudonym in editing The Tatler

Dec 2024 Batch

As a Tory

- By 1710, however, Swift moved away from his Whig associates towards the Tory circle of wits

- His allegiance to the Tory ministry led to Swift's editorship of the Tory journal, *The Examiner*, in 1710, a post he relinquished the following year
- *The Conduct of the Allies*, an outstanding political pamphlet, appeared in 1711
- Swift developed a close friendship with Robert Harley, Earl of Oxford, as well as Pope, Arbuthnot and Gay
- With Pope, Arbuthnot and Gay, he formed the Scriblerus Club
- In 1713, Swift was made the Dean of St Patrick's Cathedral
- Until the collapse of the Tory ministry with the death of Queen Anne in 1714, his literary stature continued to grow... Love Relationships
- Meanwhile, he started seeing Esther Vanhomrigh (whom he nicknamed Vanessa), a London lady whose love he first encouraged, then rebuffed
- His poem *Cadenus and Vanessa* (pub. 1726) represents the equivocal (ambiguous) nature of this relationship
- His relationship with Stella was also complicated; speculations are that either they were secretly married, or illegitimately related
- Swift has the reputation of being a misogynist, which is proved to be a false allegation by the "Birthday Poems" to Stella

Dec 2024 Batch

The Irish Patriot

- When the Whigs came to power with the Hanoverian succession, Swift prudently imposed a self-exile in Ireland, where, despite his criticism of the country, he involved himself in championing the rights of the Irish
- Of this period are
- *A Proposal for the Universal Use of Irish Manufacture* (1720)
- *Drapier's Letters* (1724), which effectively prevented the exploitation of Ireland through the introduction of a new coinage
- Seven pamphlets that aimed at arousing public opinion against the imposition of "Wood's halfpence", a new copper coinage in Ireland
- Argued that "government without the consent of the governed is the very definition of slavery"
- Swift has been hailed as one of the leading Irish patriots of the century

Attention to detail

Dec 2024 Batch

Gulliver's Travels (1726)

- His best-known book
- Satirical novel
- Published anonymously in 1726
- This was the only piece of writing for which he was ever paid
- Satire on human nature, allegorical
- Romance blended with satire
- Minute realism
- Lemuel Gulliver's travels to Lilliput, Brobdingnag, Laputa, country of Houyhnhnms

Dec 2024 Batch

Note these points!

Dec 2024 Batch

The Four Parts

- Book I

- Deflates human pride
- Parodies English politics in the quarrels between the High-Heels & the Low-Heels and between the Big-Enders & the Little-Enders
- Book II
- Relentless attack on human pride and pretension: shows how contemptible human grandeur is
- Gulliver becomes pet of the royal family
- The King of Brobdingnag describes Europeans as “the most pernicious race of little odious vermin that nature ever suffered to crawl upon the surface of the earth.”

Note these points!

Dec 2024 Batch

The Four Parts

- Book III
- Satire more particular to Swift's age
- Exaltation of reason leads to anti-intellectualism
- Attacks impractical scholarship and vain philosophy
- From Laputa, he goes to Balnibarbi and its capital Lagado, where he satirizes the professors at the Academy of Projectors
- Book IV
- Shattering satire
- Houyhnhnms (/ˈhuːɪnəms/) are a race of noble horses who live according to the laws of “reason and nature”
- Serving them and despised by them are the yahoos, a degenerate species of man
- Disgust for human species
- Gulliver becomes a humble admirer and servant of the Houyhnhnms

Dec 2024 Batch

More on the Irish Cause

- A Short View of the Present State of Ireland (1727)
- Criticized the practice of absentee landlordism and pointed out that half the net revenues of Ireland was spent in England
- He declared that the ever-increasing taxes are “squeezed out of the very blood, and vitals, and clothes, and dwellings of the tenants, who live worse than English beggars.”
- A Modest Proposal (1729)

Attention to detail

Dec 2024 Batch

A Modest Proposal (1729)

- Rest of the title: for preventing the children of poor people from being a burden to their parents
- Notoriously powerful
- Juvenalian
- Young Irish children must be fattened and sold for food: “A young healthy child well nursed, is, at a year old, a most delicious nourishing and wholesome food, whether stewed, roasted, baked, or boiled; and I make no doubt that it will equally serve in a fricassee, or a ragout.”
- Gives a list of how to prepare the children as food

- Gives calculations on the financial benefits of his idea
- Curious combination of bitterness & compassion

Dec 2024 Batch

Other Works

- "A Meditation upon a Broom-stick"
- "Essay upon the Faculties of the Mind"
- The Bickerstaff papers
- "A Proposal for Correcting, Improving and Ascertaining the English Tongue"
- "On the Conduct of the Allies"
- "Hints Toward an Essay on Conversation"
- "An Essay on the Fates of Clergymen"
- "A Treatise on Good Manners and Good Breeding"

Dec 2024 Batch

Swift's Satire

- Considered the best satirist of the age
- Satire not personal, but of a general nature
- Unlike Pope, keeps to general, not personal attacks
- Underlying emphasis on common sense and reason in ordering human affairs
- Swift to Pope: "I heartily hate and detest that animal called man, although I heartily love John, Peter, Thomas, and so forth"
- Sometimes stooped to repulsive coarseness as in A Modest Proposal

Edmund Burke (1729-97)

- Member of Parliament
- Joined the Whig Party but upheld Conservatism
- Supported
- American colonies' rights
- Limiting monarch's power
- India's rights during the British Raj (voiced this idea in the House of Commons during the impeachment of Warren Hastings)
- Opposed American and French Revolutions
- Works
- A Vindication of Natural Society (1756) is a critique of rationalism.
- A Philosophical Enquiry into the Origin of Our Ideas of the Sublime and Beautiful (1757) discusses aesthetic theory
- Reflections on the Revolution in France (1790) critiqued French Revolution

John Locke (1632-1704)

- Enlightenment philosopher who studied medicine, and was interested in the new experimental science of Newton, Boyle and Harvey

- Was associated with the Earl of Shaftesbury and the Whigs during the Exclusion Crisis
- Supported liberalism and empiricism, laissez-faire trade, education and religious tolerance
- Major Works
- Two Treatises on Government, 1690
- An Essay Concerning Human Understanding, 1690
- Begun as a reply on a single sheet of paper

Attention to detail

Dec 2024 Batch

Essay Concerning Human Understanding (1690)

- Pioneering work on empiricism in philosophy
- An enquiry into the origin and extent of man's knowledge
- What man can hope to know and what he cannot
- Rejected the doctrine of inborn ideas or knowledge, maintaining that the source of knowledge is experience
- Describes the newborn human's mind as a blank slate (tabula rasa)
- Book III is concerned with language
- Influenced generations of poets and novelists
- Written in lucid and unadorned prose