

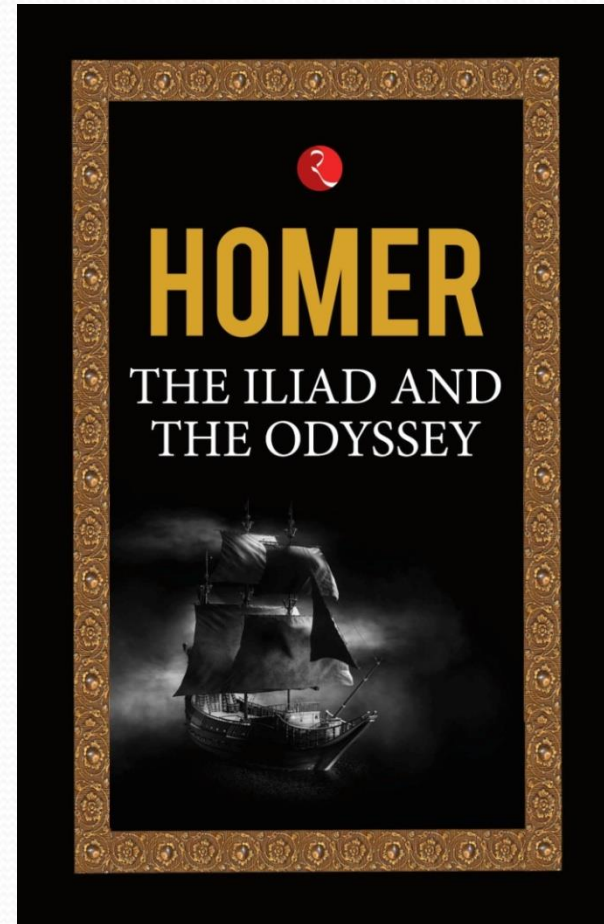
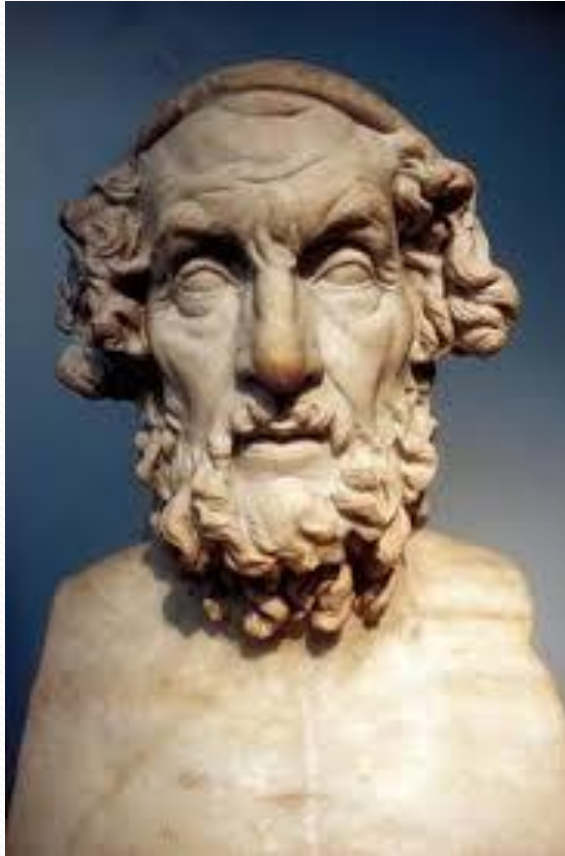
# *ENGLISH LITERATURE*

*FROM THE BEGINNING TO OUR TIME*

*-Sudheesh M. Vincent*



# Greco-Roman Period (8<sup>th</sup> c BCE– 5<sup>th</sup> c CE)





- *The Celts- Original inhabitants of Britain .*
- *Romans conquered Britain in 1<sup>st</sup> century AD.*
- *Romans left in the 5<sup>th</sup> century .*
- *Germanic tribes Angles, Saxons and Jutes invaded Britain in the 5<sup>th</sup> century.*

# Map of England





# Anglo-Saxon Period / Old English Period (5<sup>th</sup> – 10<sup>th</sup> centuries)

## *Major writers*

- Cædmon
- Ælfric
- King Alfred



Old English literature is mostly chronicle and poetry  
- lyric, descriptive but chiefly narrative or epic.

# Beowulf- Epic Poem

The story of a Scandinavian warrior who comes to help a neighboring tribe, the Danes, who are being attacked by a monster.







*What happened in 1066?*

## The Norman Conquest

William the Conqueror from Normandy,  
France invaded England.

England became bilingual during Middle  
English



# *Middle English Period (11<sup>th</sup> c-15<sup>th</sup> c)*

## Widely known writings:

- *The Canterbury Tales* by Geoffrey Chaucer.
- *Sir Gawain and the Green Knight* – unknown author.
- *Morte d'Arthur* by Thomas Malory
- *Piers Plowman* by William Langland



**The 14<sup>th</sup> century was a difficult time for England.**

- **Hundred Year's War with France**
- **The Great Famine**
- **Black Death caused by plague.**

**However, during this stormy period the English nation was being formed; English became the spoken language of the country; English literature was born.**



# Geoffrey Chaucer (c.1340 – 1400)

The greatest writer of the 14<sup>th</sup> century.

He was inspired by the works of Italian writers such as Dante, Petrarch and Boccaccio.

## Major Works

- ❖ *The Canterbury Tales*
- ❖ *The Legend of Good Women*
- ❖ *The Book of the Duchess*



# *THE RENAISSANCE PERIOD (16<sup>th</sup> -17<sup>th</sup> c)*

In the 15<sup>th</sup>-16<sup>th</sup> centuries

- Geographical explorations by Columbus, Magellan and others
- Astronomical discoveries by Copernicus and Galileo.
- There was a revival of interest in the ancient culture of Greece and Rome.
- The progressive ideology of the Renaissance was humanism. Human life, the happiness of people and belief in man's abilities became the main subjects in fine arts and literature.



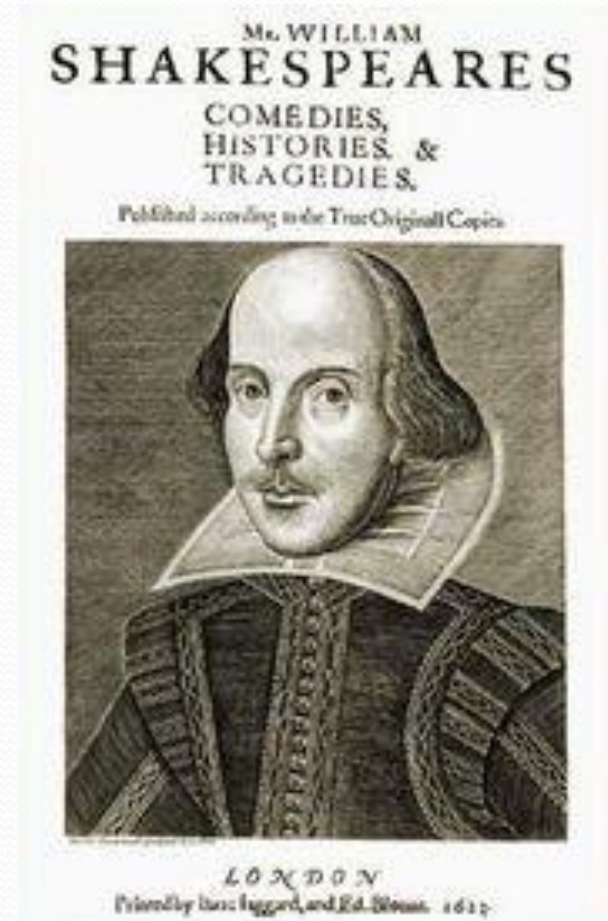


# *William Shakespeare (1564-1616)*

## *Major Works*

- Hamlet
- Macbeth
- King Lear
- Othello
- Julius Caesar
- Romeo and Juliet

37 plays and  
154 sonnets





# *Other notable writers of the Elizabethan Age (1558-1603)*

- **Sir Philip Sidney**
- **Edmund Spenser**
- **Christopher Marlowe**
- **Ben Jonson**



The Restoration Period (1660-1700)

John Dryden – *Mac Flecknoe*

The Augustan Age (or Age of Pope) (1700-1745)

The Age of Sensibility (or Age of Johnson) (1745-1785)



# *The Greatest poet of the 17<sup>th</sup> century*

John Milton (1608 – 1674):

**Paradise Lost (1667)**



# ***Prose fiction and the novel*** ***(The 18<sup>th</sup> century)***

The first English novel is generally accepted to be ***Pamela*** (1740), by **Samuel Richardson**.

Another important novelist is **Henry Fielding** who wrote ***Joseph Andrews*** and ***Tom Jones***.

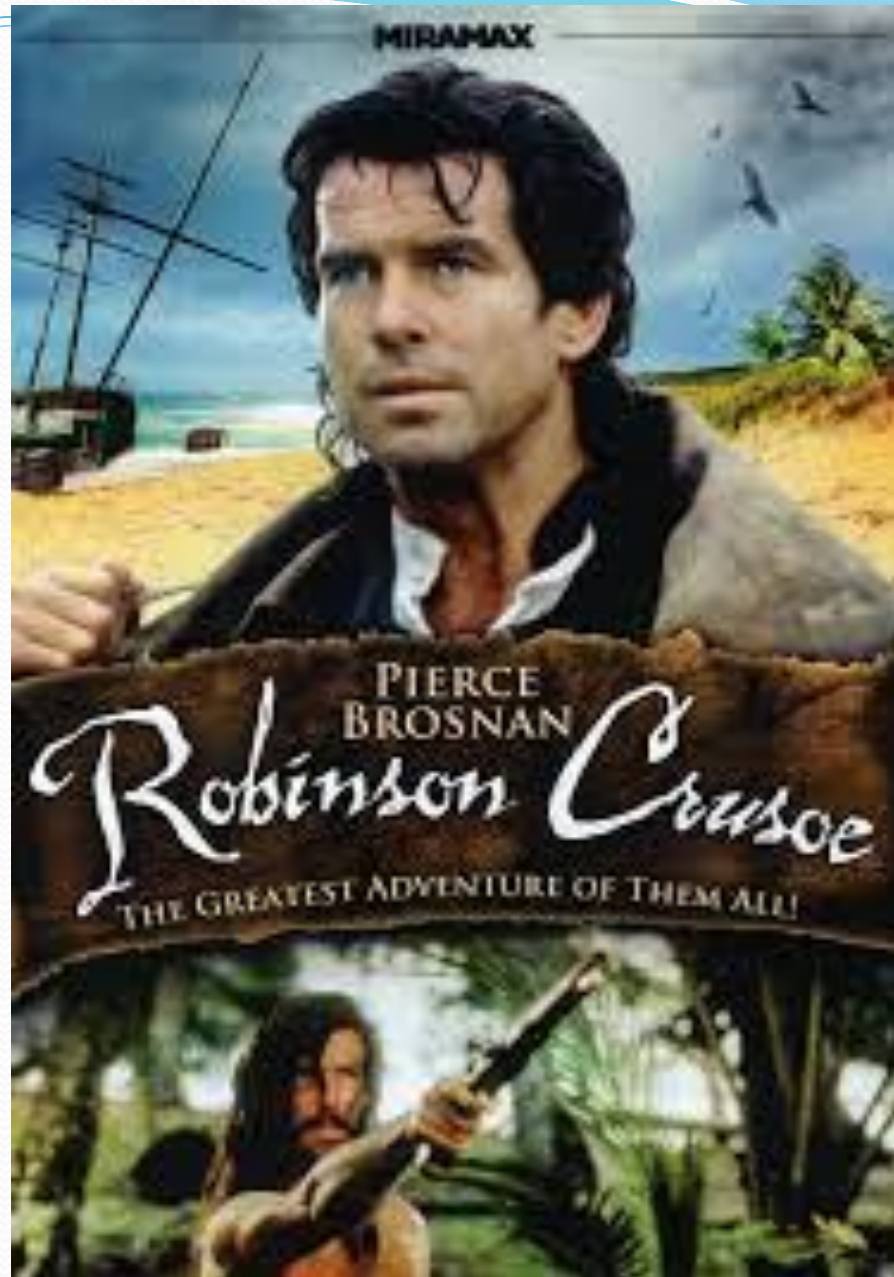


# *Daniel Defoe (1660-1731)*



**He is rightly considered  
the father of the  
English novel.**

- *The Life and the Strange  
Surprising Adventures  
of Robinson Crusoe  
(1719)*





# *Jonathan Swift (1667-1745)*

He was one of the greatest satirists in English literature.

The novel:

- *Gulliver's Travels* (1726)





**The  
Guardian**



## *THE ROMANTIC PERIOD (1798-1850)*

- Romantic literature can be characterized by its personal nature, its strong use of feeling and symbolism, and its exploration of nature and the supernatural.
- The Romantics believed that literature should be spontaneous, imaginative, personal, and free.
- Major writers: Samuel Taylor Coleridge, William Wordsworth, Jane Austen, and Lord Byron.

# *Percy Bysshe Shelley (1792-1822)*

## *Ode to the West Wind*





# *Jane Austen (1775-1817)*

*“Emma”*

*“Pride and Prejudice”*

*“Sense and Sensibility”*

*“Persuasion”*

*“Mansfield Park”*



# *THE VICTORIAN PERIOD (1837-1901)*





# Charles Dickens (1812-1870)

**"Oliver Twist"**

**Great Expectations**

**David Copperfield**

**"A Christmas Carol"**



# *The Bronte Sisters:*

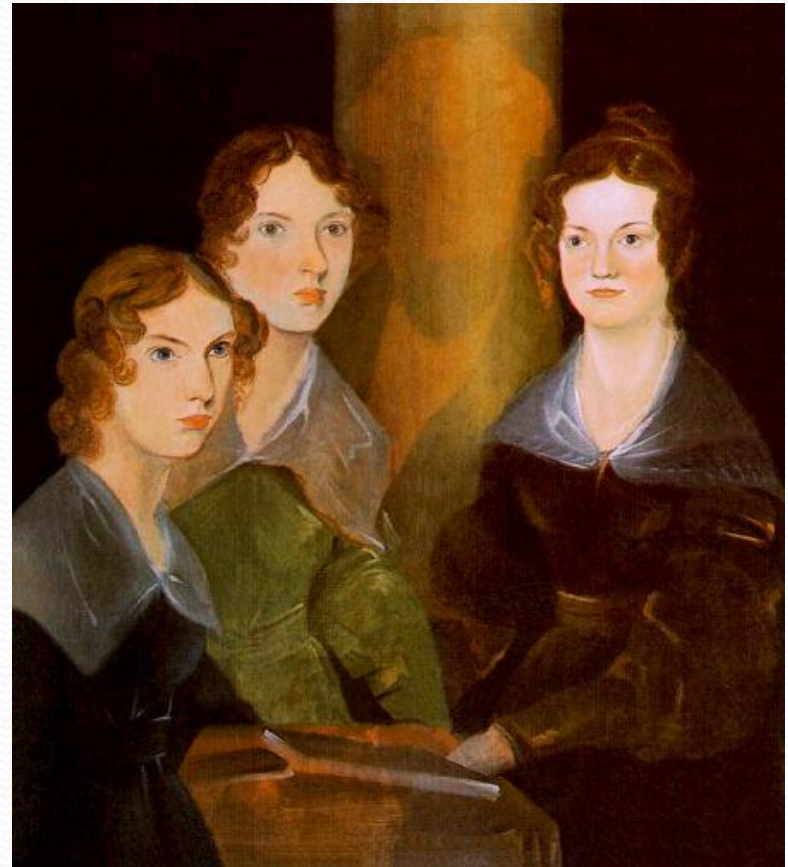
Charlotte Bronte:

"Jane Eyre",

Emily Bronte:

"Wuthering Heights", .

Anne Bronte





## *Poetry*

### **Alfred, Lord Tennyson (1801-1892):**

#### *“In Memorium”*

- Tennyson makes extensive use of classical myths.
- Other Victorian poets include **Robert Browning**, his wife, **Elizabeth Barrett Browning**, **Christina Rossetti** and **G M Hopkins**

## *Late Victorians*

**G. Eliot (Mary Ann Evans):**

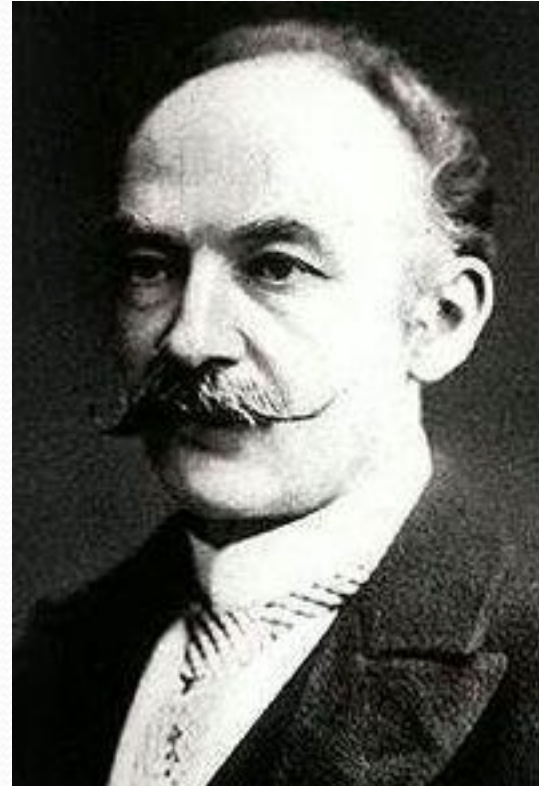


*“Middlemarch”*



# *Thomas Hardy (1814-1928)*

*“Tess of the D’Urbervilles”*



# *Robert Louis Stevenson (1850-1894)*

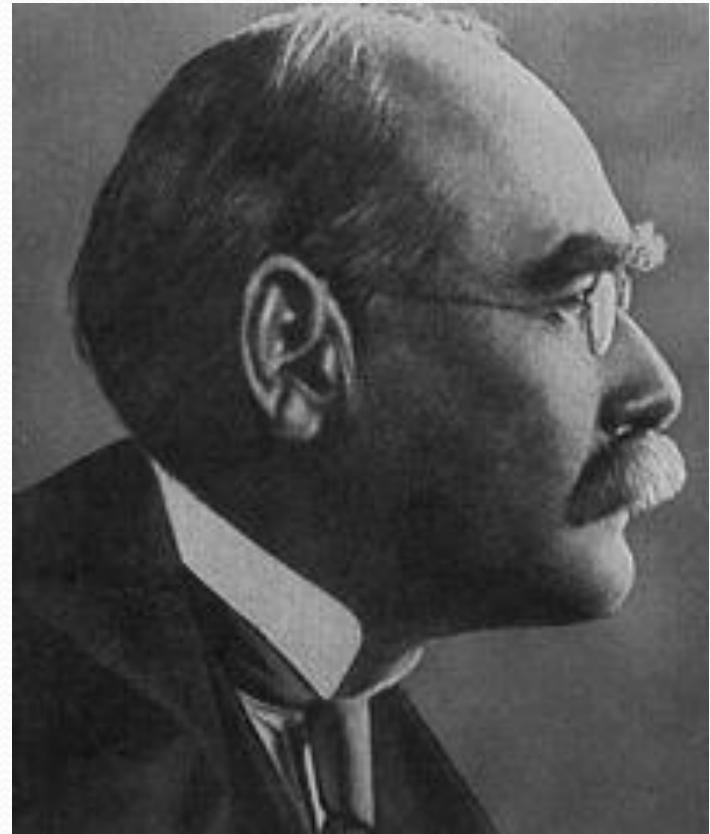


**“Treasure Island”**



# *Rudyard Kipling (1865-1936)*

***"The Jungle Book"***



# LITERATURE OF THE EARLY 20<sup>th</sup> CENTURY





# *Herbert George Wells (1866-1946)*

**“The Time Machine”**

**“The Invisible Man”**



# *George Bernard Shaw (1856-1950)*



- an essay-writer, language scholar and critic, but is best remembered as a playwright.

**Arms and the Man"**  
**(1894)**

**Pygmalion (1913)**



# *LITERATURE BETWEEN THE TWO WORLD WARS*



## **The Modern Era**

The Modern Period includes literature written since the beginning of World War I in 1914.

Poets of the period include Yeats, T.S. Eliot, Dylan Thomas, and Seamus Heaney.

Novelists include James Joyce, D.H. Lawrence, and Virginia Woolf.



*Virginia Woolf (1882–1941)*

**“Mrs. Dalloway” (1925)**

**“To the Lighthouse”  
(1927)**



# *D. H. Lawrence (1885-1930)*



## **Novels:**

**"Sons and Lovers"  
(1913)**

**"Women in Love"  
(1920)**

**"Lady Chatterley's  
Lover" (1928)**



# *Modernism in Poetry*

T S Eliot (1888-1965)



“The Waste Land”(1922)

# *LITERATURE OF THE LAST DECADES OF THE 20<sup>th</sup> CENTURY*

## *The Postmodern Period*

- Following World War II (1939-1945), the Postmodern Period developed. Postmodernism blends literary genres and styles and literary works frequently use intertextuality (referencing other literature within the work), metafiction (making readers aware of the fact that they are reading fiction) and magical realism (a realistic narrative with supernatural or magical element in it).



# A Few Key Figures

- **Doris Lessing**
- **John Fowles** (*The French Lieutenant's Woman* (1969))
- Kurt Vonnegut
- Thomas Pynchon



Thank you