

English Literature

Part II

1. Romanticism

(the 2nd half of the 18th - the 19th century)

The end of the 18th century in England was marked by Industrial Revolution. Mechanization didn't improve the life of workers, it only meant a new form of slavery. It enriched the few at the expense of many. Thus, a movement against mechanization appeared. Workers started breaking machines and called themselves Luddites after their leader Ned Ludd who broke 2 textile frames in a fit of a fury. They naively believed that machines were the chief cause of their sufferings. As a result a new movement appeared – *Romanticism*. It was a movement against the progress of bourgeois civilization, which had driven the whole section of population to poverty and enslaved their personal freedom. It was an effort to do away with all the injustice in society, the exploitation of man by man.

In literature new themes arose, poetry was the main genre. The Romanticists made emotion but not reason the chief force of their works.

There were two trends of English Romanticism: *the Passive Trend and the Revolutionary trend*. The Passive Romantics were seized by panic and desire to get away from the present. They wished to call back to “the good old days”. Their motto was “Close to nature and from nature to god”, as they believed that religion puts man at piece with the world. The representatives were William Wordsworth, Samuel Taylor Coleridge and Robert Southey. They were also called “Lake Poets” after the Lake District in the north of England. For them it was an ideal place to live in because it was the only place not spoilt by civilization.

They were great humanists, they had a new approach to life and art. They urged a return to nature and criticized the existing social order. Lake Poets appreciated folklore and national art, they should be linked with the popular folk traditions of a nation, stimulated by these traditions and develop them.

The Revolutionary Romantics were called so for the revolutionary spirit which they brought into poetry. They tried to look ahead and see the future. They spoke for the new working class and believed in their right to active struggle for their liberty. The representatives of the trend were George Gordon Byron and Percy Bysshe Shelley.

Romantic genres in literature are: lyrical poem, lyro-epic poem, satirical poem, philosophical poem, novel in verse and a historical novel.

George Gordon Byron (1788-1824)

He who loves not his country can love nothing.
I will teach the stones to rise against Earth's tyrants.

G.G.Byron

Byron was born in London in an aristocratic family. His mother was a Scottish lady of honourable birth, his father was an army officer. When George was 3, his father died. In 1798 his granduncle died and George got the title of Lord. At the age of 17 he entered Cambridge University and graduated from the university with M.A. (Master of Arts) degree in 1808. His first collection of poetry was published while he was studying (in 1807). In 1809 he took his hereditary seat in the House of Lords. In the same year he left England on a long journey which took 2 years. He visited Portugal, Spain, Albania, Greece and Turkey. During the trip 2 cantoes of “Child Harold's Pilgrimage”

were written. In February 1812 he made his first speech in the House of Lords in defence of the English workers. He blamed the British government for the unbearable conditions of the life of the proletariat. In 1816 the poet again raised his voice in defence of the oppressed workers, encouraging them to fight for freedom in his "Song for the Luddites". As soon as 2 cantos of "Child Harold's Pilgrimage" were published, he became popular. "The Corsair" "Lara", "Oriental Tales" and many other poems were written in 1813-1816. These tales embody the poet's romantic individualism. The hero of every poem is a man of strong will and passion. Proud and independent, he rises against tyranny and injustice to gain his freedom and happiness. His revolt, however is too individualistic and therefore is doomed to failure. The term "Byronism" appeared, meaning a new way and mode of thinking.

In 1815 Byron Married Miss Isabella Milbank, a religious, cold and pedantic woman. It was an unlucky match. Though Byron loved their only daughter Augusta Ada and didn't want to break the family, separation was inevitable. Byron was accused of immorality by his opponents and enemies. It was only a pretext. The real cause of their utmost was Byron's speeches and his protest against oppression. "I felt that if what was whispered and muttered and murmured was true, I was unfit for England; if false, England was unfit for me". And he left England forever in 1816. He went to Switzerland, met Shelley there and they became close friends. There he finished writing the 3d and 4th cantos of "Child Harold's Pilgrimage". In 1817 he left for Italy and joined the secret organization which struggled against the Austrian oppression. Later he went to Greece in 1824 to take part in the struggle for

national independence. Soon after his arrival he was seized with fever and died at Missolonghion on the 18th of April, 1824 at the age of 36. His body was buried in his family estate in Newstead.

Twilight

It is the hour, when from the boughs
The nightingale's high note is heard,
It is the hour, when lovers' vows
Seem sweet in every single word.
And gentle winds, and waters near
Make music to the lonely ear.
Each flower the dews have lightly wet
And in the sky the stars are met,
And on the wave is deeper blue,
And on the leaf a browner hue,
And in the heaven that clear obscure
So softly dark and darkly pure,
Which follows the decline of day,
As twilight melts beneath the moon away.

Song for the Luddites

As the Liberty lads over the sea,
Brought their freedom and cheaply with blood.
So we, boys, we
Will die fighting, or live free,
And down with all kings but King Ludd.
When the web that we weave is complete,
And the shuttle exchanged for the sword
We will fling the winding sheet
Over the despot at our feet,
And die it deep in the gore he has poured.
Though black as his heart its hue,

Since his veins are corrupted to mud.
Yet, this is the due
Which the tree shall renew
Of Liberty, planted by Ludd!

Child Harold's Pilgrimage (1818)

It is a huge poem written in Spenserian stanza, a 9-line stanza with a rhyming scheme ABAB BCBC C. It was written in different periods of Byron's life, it makes it difficult to read. Its composition seems chaotic and there is no real story in it, Child Harold is often absent from the pages. The poem looks like a travelling diary of Byron himself, but it was done intentionally.

The main character is a young English aristocrat disappointed in life, tired of pleasures. He goes travelling and hopes to find happiness among people not spoilt by civilization. Childe is a title of an English nobleman who is going to be initiated into a knight.

Byron denies being the prototype for the main character. He considers himself to be an active fighter for freedom, while Harold was merely a passive onlooker. However, Byron's critical attitude towards English aristocratic society, his personal observations and love for his native land reflect his own feelings, views and experience.

The 1st Canto shows Portugal and Spain. Byron shows his surprise at the contrast between the splendor of the land and the poverty of the people. In the Spanish scenes the poet shows the struggle of the people against Napoleon's invasion. Haunted by loneliness Harold travels all over the world.

The 2nd Canto is devoted to Albania and Greece. Byron describes his own adventures in Albania. He admires the

Albanians for their kindness, generosity and hospitality. The motif of disappointment appears when he comes to Greece. The miserable state of Greek people, great love of Byron to its glorious past sound in this canto. From the sufferings of the people Byron comes to his personal sorrows.

In the 3rd Canto Harold visited Belgium, the field of Waterloo and meditates on the great battle that happened a year before. His attitude to Napoleon is complex. He admires his personality and calls him "A Man of Destiny". The beautiful scenery of Switzerland makes Byron recall the great French philosophers Rousseau and Voltare, who used to live in Geneva.

The 4th Canto which is connected with Italy is usually regarded as the finest. It describes events and people in ancient Italian history. Byron regrets the fall of its high culture and art and urges for its future prosperity. Byron calls Italy "The Mother of Arts". He recalls its famous people like Dante, Petrarch and Bocaccio. A great part of this canto is devoted to the theme of *genius and immortality*. Byron puts forth the idea that true glory is achieved by creative activity but not by noble birth and power.

The merit of the poem lies in its revolutionary spirit, criticism of contemporary life and vivid pictures of nature. The work is called "a political geography in verse". It gives a vast panorama of different countries and discourses on their social and political state. It contains philosophical ideas on problems of war, social orders and collisions. At the end of the poem we feel the rebirth of Child Harold's soul.

Sir Walter Scott (1771-1832)

Walter Scott was the 1st great writer of historical novel. He was born in Edinburgh on August, 15th, 1771. His father was a lawyer, Walter was the 9th of 12 children. When he was 2 years old he fell seriously ill with a disease that left him lame for life. He spent his childhood in the country with his grandparents. Soon he became a strong boy. His grandparents told him many adventurous stories, he got used to Scottish ballads and poems and loved Scottish history. At school he was fond of reading. At the age of 15 he met Robert Burns. Later he became a lawyer and practiced for 14 years. During his business trips he visited famous places of great battles and collected ballads. As all the Romanticists he thought that all good days were gone. He wished to record all historical facts he knew before they were forgotten. At the age of 26 he got married and bought a large estate. His castle became a sort of museum, he collected old armour and weapons, rare things and old books). Among his guests were many famous people. His 1st collection of ballads was published in 1802 and consisted of 3 volumes. Many historical poems made him famous. In 1814 he began writing novels anonymously. In 1818 Walter accepted baronetcy and was a partner of a publishing firm. Suddenly it went bankrupt. Scott found himself burdened with a great debt. He devoted the rest of his life to repaying his debt. He managed to pay half of it during 4 years. Many of his works of that time were written in a hurry. His health was broken down. In 1832 his doctors sent him to Italy and on his way he died.

He wrote 28 novels and they are divided into 3 groups:

1. Novels devoted to Scottish history (“Rob Roy”, “Waverly”)

2. Novels devoted to the history of Europe (“Quentin Durward”, “The Talisman”)

3. “St. Ronan’s Well” stands in a class by itself as it is the only novel written about his own time. It shows his attitude to contemporary bourgeois society. It is a preface of the critical realism of the 19th century.

Ivanhoe (1819)

The action of the novel is set in medieval England during the Crusades. The author has introduced characters from all classes of society and their struggle. The central conflict lies in the struggle of Anglo-Saxon land-owners against the Norman barons. They speak different languages and it makes more difficulties. W. Scott shows the problem of having no rights in the land of one’s birth. There is no piece among the Norman conquerors either. Prince John tries to usurp the throne of his brother Richard. Wilfred of Ivanhoe upsets his father’s plans by falling in love with Rowena. Cedric disinherits his son and Ivanhoe goes on a Crusade. He meets King Richard and they become friends. Richard, with the help of free archers of Robin Hood, fights for his crown against Prince John and wins. Scott penetrates into the character’s psychology and portrays them realistically. King Richard is depicted in a way common people dreamt about for centuries, though the King of that kind had never existed. It is an ideal of what a real king should be. He resembles the hero of a legend rather than a character of a novel.

The book is written with a great descriptive skill for which Scott is famous. We feel drawn into the atmosphere of the period and very soon become convinced that life in the 12th century was such as we see it on the pages of the

book. All the typical features of Scott's creative method are concentrated in "Ivanhoe". The detailed description of everyday life of that epoch (interiors, costumes, objects of material culture makes him close to realism.

The founders of historical novel in other countries were:

A.Duma in France, V.Gauf in Germany, R.Govaniolli in Italy, A.Tolstoy in Russia and J.F.Cooper in America.

2. Critical Realism (30ies of the 19th century)

It was a period of sharp contradictions: great scientific discoveries on the one hand and education became widespread. But it was an age of profound social unrest (too much poverty, ugliness, injustice and exploitation of man by man. It was the period of industrial revolution, but mechanization only enriched the few at the expense of many. Unemployment, child labour, low wages, long hours of work, exploitation were the main problems, though England became the richest country in the world. By the 30ies of the 19th century Britain became a capitalist country. Merchants, bankers and manufacturers were the leading force. The Chartist movement appeared (1837-1848). The Chartist Literature appeared: articles, short stories, songs, epigrams and poems. The Chartist writers called the toiling people to struggle for their rights. They showed the ruthless exploitation and the miserable fate of the poor.

Critical Realism in English literature is represented by Charles Dickens, William Makepeace Thackeray, Charlotte Bronte and Elizabeth Gaskell. They used the novel as a means to protest against the evils in contemporary life and to picture the world in realistic way. The critical realists introduced new characters into literature – the working class and expressed deep sympathy for it. They described

their persistent struggle for their rights and voiced a protest against exploitation. "Hard Times" and "Mary Barton" by Ch. Dickens are among the best works of this trend, in which the Chartist Movement is described. The greatness of these novels lies not only in their truthful description, but also in their profound humanism. They believed in the good qualities of the human heart and sympathized with the ordinary laboring people. They created a broad panorama of social life and attacked the vices of aristocratic and bourgeois society and expressed their hopes for the better future. They wanted to improve the existing social order, but could not show the correct way of abolishing social slavery. The readers understood that social changes are necessary due to their skillful writing. The leading feature of Critical Realism is *social determinism*. Its main principle is that a person is determined by the social environment.

Charles Dickens (1812-1870)

He looked into the darkest corners of big cities and there found the victims of capitalism.

Dickens's immortal works became accusation of the bourgeois system as a whole.

W.Hecker

Charles Dickens was born in 1812 near Portsmouth (southern coast of England). His father was a clerk at the naval station, his salary was small. The family belonged to lower class and there were always talks in the family about money, bills and debts. Charles was young when their family moved to naval port of Chatham near Rochester. There he and his elder sister went to school. After school he often went to docks and watched sailors at work. He had a nurse who gave him taste for reading. In 1822 his father

was moved to London and their family rented a house in one of the poorest parts of the city. He was not to school again.

Soon his father lost his job and was imprisoned for debts. All the property of the family was sold and the boy was put to work in a blacking factory. He worked hard washing bottles for shoe-polish while his mother, sisters and brothers all lived in debtors' prison. The poor food, the rough boys and their treatment of him were later described by Dickens in "David Copperfield". Every Sunday Charles visited his relatives, there he learned the stories of other prisoners. This prison is described in "Pickwick Club" and "Little Dorrit". In about a year the family received a small sum of money after the death of a relative, so all the debts were paid. Charles was sent to school again. The master was a rough ignorant man. He knew nothing about children or teaching except the art of beating them regularly with a cane. The class studied only Latin. To make their lessons more cheerful the boys kept small pets in their desks, white mice ran about everywhere. Charles left school when he was 12 and continued his education by himself. His father sent him to a lawyer's office but he did not stay long there. Instead of law he studied shorthand and found a job of a newspaper reporter. He often went to the British Museum reading room to continue his education. In 1832 he became a parliamentary reporter, he wrote sketches in the magazines under the pen-name Boz.

At the age of 24 he married Catherine Hogarth, the daughter of his editor. After "The Posthumous Papers of the Pickwick Club" Dickens discovered his ability as a novelist and devoted himself to literary work. His next novel was "Oliver Twist". It appeared in a magazine first. This novel

was a protest against the "Poor Law" which didn't allow homeless people to live in the streets, but in workhouses, which were a bit better than prisons.

Not yet 30, Dickens was the most popular writer in England. In 1842 he and his wife went to America. After staying for 5 months there he wrote "American Notes" and revealed his disappointment with American democracy. Later he travelled to France, Italy and Switzerland. There he worked at his novel "Dombey and Son" (1844-1848).

When back in England Dickens organized an amateur theatrical company and for 5 years they put on performances for charity. He also conducted a weekly magazine and continued writing novels. He created the theatre for one actor and gave dramatic readings from his own works. In 1867-68 he made a triumphant reading tour in America, but it undermined his health. He died in 1870 and was buried in Westminster Abbey.

His creative activity is divided into 4 periods: The first is characterized by humour and optimism. In the second period a sharp laugh takes place of mild humour. In the third period he becomes sarcastic and grows indignant at all the injustice. The works of the last period are written in a spirit of disillusionment.

The heroes show the moral strength and patience of the common people. Dickens was influenced by the Chartist Movement and portrayed the victory of capitalism. He was on the side of the poor and wanted to change their conditions of life. His most popular works are:

"Sketches by Boz", "The Posthumous Papers of the Pickwick Club", "Oliver Twist", "Nicholas Nickleby", "The Old Curiosity Shop", "American Notes", "The Christmas Books", "David Copperfield", "Bleak House",

“Hard Times”, “Little Dorrit”, “A Tale of Two Cities”, “Great Expectations”, “Our Mutual Friend”.

“Dombey and Son” (1844-1848)

In this novel Dickens unmasked bourgeois respectability and exposed the false morality of the rich. Ideas of the power of money are the main in the novel. Written in the second period the novel shows the role of bourgeois class in the society. It pictures the history of a great firm and its two masters from the day of its prosperity till their ruin.

It is a realistic critical social novel. The action takes place in London of the 19th century. It gives a broad panorama of all ranks of English society. Mr. Dombey and his son Paul are the main characters, they belong to the upper –middle-class. Petty bourgeoisie is represented by Walter Gay and Solomon Gills. The working class (the Toodles), aristocracy (Edith Granger), and the social pit (Kind Mrs. Brown) create the atmosphere of the period.

The main problems are the following:

- the relations of the people and the laws of the society
- children and parents (fathers and sons)
- the power of money (its corruptive role)

In Chapter V Dickens portrays Mr. Dombey and his house using key words: Black, cold, hard. He was a man of property and even his son was a part of property for him. In Florence we see Dickens’s ideal of a woman, but it is not true to life.

William Makepeace Thackeray (1811-1863)

Thackeray was the greatest critical realist of the 19th century, a satirist and a humourist, a journalist, a writer, and a historian. He was born in a prosperous middle-class

family in Calcutta, India. His father was a well-to-do official. At the age of 6 he was taken to England to be educated, after school he studied in Cambridge University. He left the University before graduating and went to Germany, Italy and France. He wanted to become an artist, so he started art there. He returned to London in 1833 and began a law course. The Indian bank, in which his father left money for him went bankrupt and he was left penniless. He had to earn his living and dropped his studies. William tried his hand as a journalist, writing humorous articles, reviews, essays and short stories with his own humorous illustrations. In 1836 he got married. They had three daughters. His wife became ill after giving birth to their 3^d daughter. William travelled with her from one health resort to another, but she was not better. Thackeray did all he could to make her life comfortable. He placed her with an old lady who took care of her. His wife outlived William by many years.

Thackeray’s creative activity began with his first book “The Book of Snobs”. The word *snob* was introduced by Thackeray, *it is a person who bows down to and flatters his social superior and despises his social inferior*.

“**Vanity Fair**” (1848) is the peak of his creative activity and of critical realism, a satirical social historical novel. It brought Thackeray a fame. In his novels Thackeray gives a vivid description of the upper classes of society of the 19th century, their mode of life, manners and tastes. He shows their pride and tyranny, hypocrisy and snobbishness wickedness. His criticism is strong, his satire is sharp and bitter. Most of his characters are negative. All of them are true to life. For Thackeray the English society is a fair where everything is on sail, where men and women are

greedy, mean, perfectly pompous, self-satisfied and feel their superior virtue.

The subtitle of the work is “A Novel without a Hero”, it shows the authors intention to describe English bourgeois-aristocratic society as a whole. For him there can't be a hero in the society ruled by the cult of money. His novels are a classical example of social satire up to the present day. He truthfully reproduced the political atmosphere of the century.

Thackeray gives a satirical picture of the upper-class bourgeoisie (the Osborns, the Sedleys) and aristocracy (the Crawleys, Lord Steyne). Money and titles are valuable in the society and they are the only aim of people. The novel centres on 2 types of characters: dapes (одураченные) and rogues (негодяи). But all of them are victims of society. Thackeray attacks the vanity, prejudices and corruption of the aristocracy, its merciless, money-worship. The interest of the novel centres on the characters more than on the plot. “Shallow people..., shallow lives..., shallow interests...”

Sir Pete Crawley is a typical snob. He is not educated, he can't read or spell. He is cunning, he has no taste, or emotion, or enjoyment. But he has rank, power and honours. He was a high sheriff and rode in a golden coach.

Amelia Sedley is a young girl of 17, the daughter of a rich city merchant, who represents “virtue without wit”. Honest, generous and kind, she is loved by all. She sings like a lark, embroiders beautifully, has a gentle tender heart. She is too intelligent, but naive and simple-hearted to understand Becky's machinations. She is blind to her selfish husband George Osborne. The best years of her life are ruined with this love. She understands it too late.

Rebecca Sharp is a poor adventuress representing “wit without virtue”. She forces her way into the world to which Amelia belongs and derives benefit from everything. Pleasant to look at, clever and gifted, she possesses a keen sense of humour and a deep understanding of human nature. She is a flatterer and a hypocrite, she misleads people, deceives them. She embodies the spirit of Vanity Fair. Her aim in life is at all costs to worm her way into high society and husband-hunting. Young in her years (21 years old) she was old in life and experience. She marries Captain Rawdon Crawley as she hoped he would inherit the money of his aunt Miss Crawley. But it didn't come true. She almost lost her presence of mind when she understood that her calculations were wrong. Becky's whole life is nothing but “Vanitas Vanitatum” (суетное тщеславие). No happiness is in store for her. She has neither real feelings nor honest aims in view.

Captain Dobbin is the most virtuous person in the novel. He worships Amelia and his only aim in life is to see her happy. He doesn't think of his own happiness. His sense of self-sacrifice is extreme. Being modest he is an exception in Vanity Fair. He is too simple-minded and one-sided to be admired by the author.

3. Decadence (the 2nd half of the 19th century)

The 2nd half of the 19th century is marked by the crisis in bourgeois culture caused by spiritual degradation and meanness. In literature 2 trends appeared.

Progressive decadents (George Eliot, George Meredith, Samuel Butler and Thomas Hardy) continued the realistic traditions. Their criticism is not sharp, the social panorama is narrowed. Their advantage lies in deep psychological

analysis of the characters, and detailed description of their inner world.

Regressive decadents (Rudyard Kipling, George Bernard Shaw, Oscar Wilde) tried to lead the readers away from life into the world of dreams and fantasy. They idealized patriarchal way of life.

Decadent art beautiful as it is, is reactionary in its very essence. It rejects realism and appreciates the outer form of art. They saw the vices of bourgeois world, but their inner world lacks depth. Their theory was: “Eat, drink and be merry for tomorrow we die”. They thought it impossible to better the world. They conveyed the idea that everybody must strive for his own happiness, avoid sufferings and enjoy life at all costs. They created their own cult of beauty and proclaimed the theory of “pure art”. Their motto was “art for art’s sake”.

Decadence – a general term denoting the decaying reactionary bourgeois art under imperialism. It includes numerous anti-realistic schools and trends, such as symbolism, futurism, cubism, expressionism, surrealism, impressionism and abstract art. Decadence rejected realism and appreciated the outer form of art. It was influenced by the theory of Hedonism– a Greek philosophy of the 4th century B.C., an ethical study, which proclaimed satisfaction, pleasure enjoyment, delight the highest values of life.

Oscar Wilde (1854-1900)

Oscar Wilde belongs to this trend. He was born in Dublin in 1854 in the family of an Irish surgeon. His mother was a writer of verse and poetry. At school and later at Oxford, Oscar displayed a considerable gift for art and the humanities. He joined Aesthetic Movement and later

became its leader. After graduating from the university he turned his attention to writing, travelling and lecturing.

He was accused of immorality and sentenced to 2 years imprisonment. When released from prison he he lived in Paris and died there in 1900.

Wilde wrote poems, essays, reviews, political tracts, letters, plays and tales.

His creative activity is contradictory in its nature. He was regarded as the leader of the English aesthetic movement, but some of his works are closer to Realism and Romanticism as they don’t follow the theory of “pure art”. He often contradicted his own principles:

1. Art is isolated from life
2. Life mirrors art
3. Beauty is the measure of all things
4. The book should not be realistic and teach morality
5. The principle of extreme individualism

O. Wilde proclaimed that “There are no moral or immoral books. There are books well written and badly-written”

In his tales he glorifies the beauty of nature, or artificial beauty and also the beauty of devoted life. He admires unselfishness, kindness and generosity and despises egoism and greed. He shows the contrast between wealth and poverty. He sympathizes with poor laboring people and hates rich who live who live at the expense of poor. His most outstanding fairy tales are: “The Happy Prince”, “The Nightingale and the Rose”, “The Selfish Giant”, “The devoted Friend”. The best plays are: “An Ideal Husband” and “The Importance of Being Ernest”. In his plays Wilde gives realistic pictures of contemporary society and exposes the vices of the bourgeois world.

“The Picture of Dorian Gray” (1891)

It is a novel – allegory, a novel – myth, a novel – symbol. There is an acting of a spirit, a devil in the fate of a hero. Reality exists together with fantastic. The work is written in a specific artistic manner, based on life experience, in the style of neoromanticism.

The novel deals with the life of a young man, his lifestyle, inner world and the life of the English society. Basil Hallward and Lord Henry Watton represent 2 contrasting attitudes to life and beauty.

The main problems in the novel are:

- Private life
- Love and friendship
- Art
- The fate of a talent
- Ethical or moral problems
- Psychological influence of one person to another

The novel is full of paradoxes and aphorisms, witty sayings, which adds to the stylistic value of the book. Wilde uses symbolism in his works.

Symbolism – the use of symbols, especially in literature, painting, films, etc.

Paradox – 1) a witty statement or situation, contradicting the real life

2) an improbable combination of opposing qualities, ideas.

3) statement that seems to say something opposite common sense or the truth, but which may contain a truth.

Aphorism – a deep unusual thought expressed in a laconic form.

The author shows the gradual degradation of *Dorian*. He brings misfortune to everyone he comes in touch with, and finally he becomes a real murderer. He kills Basil Hallward,

the only man who knows his secret. Finally he stabs his portrait with a knife. The end of the book is a contradiction to Wilde’s decadent theory. Dorian’s portrait is symbolic. It shows not only a handsome young man, but also the inner world of the artist who created it, and the spiritual life of the sitter. The novel conveys the idea that a real beauty cannot accompany an immoral life.

Lord Henry is handsome, pleasant to listen to. His speech is eloquent and witty, full of paradoxes. At the same time he is heartless, cynical and immoral. He loves no one, believes neither in real friendship, nor in love. His life is shallow.

Basil Hallward is not such a wit as Lord Henry, but he is kind, generous, honest and humane. To his mind art without beauty is shallow. He is artist to the core. He put too much of himself into Dorian’s portrait. The young man’s appearance is a kind of inspiration to the artist, an embodiment of beauty which is in full of harmony with the inner world of the youth.

Rudyard Kipling (1865-1936)

Rudyard Kipling was born in Bombay, India, though his parents were English. His father, John Lockwood Kipling was professor of architectural sculpture, curator of the Lahore Museum and a painter. Rudyard spent his childhood in Lahore. Hindoo was the first language he spoke. He learned the tales and songs of the Indians, Indian folklore from his servants and nurse. Its features were later revealed in his works.

At the age of 6 he was taken to England and was educated at an English college in North Devon. Later he was editor-in-chief of the school paper “The Chronicle”.

He again went to India and took with him the gold medal of the college for an essay on history. He admired people and was respected by them for his generosity, modesty and the sense of humour.

Back in England he devoted himself to journalism. At the age of 17 he became sub-editor of one of the newspapers. At the age of 21 he published his first volume of verse. 6 Small collections of stories came out before he was 24.

He travelled around the world, visited China, Japan and lived for a few years in America, where he married an American Caroline Starr Balestier. Kipling's stories for children became classics and gave him popularity: "The Jungle Book", "Captain's Courageous", "Just So Stories", "Rewards in Fairies". These works are fine examples of the modern treatment of history. His history is always human.

Kipling wrote a number of poems like "The Ballads of the East and West. Kipling's work as a whole is of a man who was aware of the real world he lived in During the South African War he understood that imperialism was doomed to destruction. He hated war. Kipling returned to England from America. He had lost his daughter, during the I World War he lost his son. His poem "If" is dedicated to his son. In 1907 Kipling received the Nobel Prize for literature. He died a few weeks after his 70th birthday in 1936. A year after his death a collection of autobiographical notes was published under the title "Something of Myself". The charm of his stories lies in the exciting plots, the variety of characters, unusual narration. Working class language is used extensively in his short stories, many of which are about the working people.

If

If you can keep your head when all about you
Are losing theirs and blaming it on you,
If you can trust yourself when all men doubt you,
But makes allowance for their doubting too;
If you can wait and not be tired by waiting,
Or being lied about, don't deal in lies,
Or being hated, don't give way to hating,
And yet, don't look too good, nor talk too wise;

If you can dream – and not make dream your master;
If you can think- and not make thoughts your aim;
If you can meet with Triumph and Disaster
And treat those two impostors just the same;
If you can hear the truth you've spoken
Twisted by knaves to make a trap for fools,
Or watch the things you gave your life to, broken,
And build them up with worn out tools;

If you can make your heap of all your winnings
And risk it on one turn of pitch-and-toss,
And lose, and start again at your beginnings
And never breathe a word about your loss;
If you can force your heart and nerve and sinew
To serve your turn long after they are gone,
And so hold on when there is nothing in you
Except the Will which says to them: "Hold on!"

If you can talk with crowds and keep your virtue,
Or walk with kings - nor lose the common touch,
If neither foes nor loving friends can hurt you,
If all men count with you, but none too much;

If you can fill the unforgiving minute
With sixty seconds' worth of distance run,
Yours is the Earth and everything that's in it,
And - which is more – you'll be a Man, my son!

The Jungle Book (1894-1895)

The book was written in America and intended for children. Kipling depicts the life of wild animals, their characters and behavior. Each chapter begins with the poem and ends with the song.

Mougli –is the child of an Indian wood-cutter, who got lost in the jungle. By instinct he seeks a home and creeps into a cave which is the lair of a wolf. Mother wolf lets him eat with the wolf cubs and gives him the name Mougli (frog). His friends were: Father wolf, Mother wolf, her cubs, Akela, the leader of the pack; Baloo, the bear who taught him the Law of the Jungle; Baghera, the black panther, who guarded him from nature; Kaa, the rock python, who saved him from the monkeys; Hathi, the wild elephant; Rama, the big buffalo, who later trampled the tiger to death.

Mougli's enemies are Sher Khan, the tiger; Tabaqui; the jackel, the mischief-maker, but worst of all are the Bandar-log, the grey monkeys, and the Red Dogs.

Kipling thought the most important condition to reach an understanding between living beings was reason. Therefore he admires those animals, who have definite rules of behavior and despises those, who have not. He characterizes Baghera as a noble beast.

Kipling wants to show that in an uncivilized society the powerful animals triumph. The weak animals submit to those who are stronger. This uncompromising law of life is

the Law of the Jungle. He regrets that the same law exists in the human society. For Kipling life is an endless struggle. The word “strong” is a synonym to “noble” or “good”. A man is the weakest and the strongest animal at the same time. It is his intellect that finally wins him power over nature.

George Bernard Shaw (1856-1950)

Shaw is the greatest realistic writer and satirist in the world literature, a publicist and dramatist, a social critic and humanist. He was born in 1856 in Dublin. He seldom saw his parents. His father was occupied in business, which was almost bankrupt as it couldn't compete with the similar firms. His mother devoted all her time to musical interests. He had a well-educated uncle, a clergyman with whom he read the classics. So, when he entered school at the age of 10, he was advanced and studied better than other pupils. Soon it seemed dull to him and he took refuge in idleness. His parents made him change the school several times. He didn't find interest in studies. Shaw educated himself by reading and by studying foreign languages. His mother taught him singing. Later his voice culture helped him in his speeches.

At the age of 15 he went to work as a clerk. He came in touch with common people and saw the poverty of Irish peasants. When the 1st socialist organizations appeared he joined the Socialists as he took a great interest in socialist movements and politics. In 1876 he moved to London where his mother lived.

Shaw's creative activity began in the 80ies of the 19th century and lasted till the middle of the 20th century. A great publicist and dramatist, he was moved by questions of war and peace. He held communistic ideas, satirized the

British governmental system, saw the drawbacks of the imperialist policy. He was called by the English people “a bad boy of the nation” and became very popular for his brilliant criticism and wisdom.

Shaw wrote pamphlets, political articles, plays and novels. He made a revolution in English theatre – he introduced the problematic play. He staged his own play “Widower’s Hoses”, which dealt with the slums of London. It was a shock for the society. All his plays were intellectual. He always dealt with the English problems of the day. His style of writing is optimistic. He touches upon the problems of morals, science, religion, education, economics and social inequality. After the I Imperialistic War he finished 2 plays: “Pygmalion” and “Heartbreak House”. “As a man he was as sensitive to human sufferings as Dickens, and he hated injustice as much as Swift. He was either greatly loved or bitterly hated.” The principal character of his works is society itself. His view on art is formulated in his principles:

1. Art should be in step with life
2. Art makes people think and feel
3. The dramatist must be portrayed in his work

His 75th birthday was celebrated in Moscow. He died in 1950 at the age of 94 at his country home in Herdfordshire.

“Pygmalion” (1919)

The action of the play takes place at the start of the 20th century in London, in the East and West End. Shaw presents 2 different ranks of society: the higher level – aristocracy and the lower level – the poor men. The main characters are Elisa Doolittle, a flower girl of 18; Henry Higgins, a professor of phonetics, he is 40 years old.

Colonel Pickering is a phonetician, studying Indian dialects. In the play we meet Mrs. Higgins, Henry’s mother: Mrs. Eynsford Hill, Freddy, Clara, Eliza’s father, a dustman – Mr. Doolittle.

Shaw stresses social difference and inequality in living standing, social standing and culture. Shaw comes to conclusion that poor people are doomed to poverty, have no chance to learn. They haven’t got outward culture, they speak uncultured language and can’t rise to a higher social level.

4. Critical Realism (the start of the XXth century)

Herbert George Wells (1866-1946)

Wells is called the greatest English writer, who looked into the future. In reality ha was the first to warn the bourgeois world of a great danger. He watched with anxiety the chaotic use of scientific achievements and said that future generations may face great sufferings. He devoted all his energy to showing the necessity of a new social system to save the future of mankind.

Herbert was born in a small town of Bromley, London. He was the 2nd son in a family of 3 boys. His mother was a lady’s maid, his father was a gardener. Later his father became a shopkeeper. Herbert was a professional player of the national English game of cricket. At the age of 8 he broke his leg while playing the game. He got used to reading while staying in bed for a long time. Later he was sent to be trained in a droppery- shop. His mother wanted him to become a shop assistant, but he longed for higher education, so he left the shop. His life was constant struggle for learning and for opportunity to make a living. Later he became a schoolmaster in natural sciences in grammar

school near London. He worked hard, got up at 5 o'clock and worked at books on science. His pupils entered the universities with excellent marks. Later he was offered a year's course in biology in London University.

It influenced his choice of becoming a writer of science fiction, which is combined with social problems. The sum of his stipend was so small that he couldn't afford dinner more than 3 times a week, as a result, his health was undermined, his heart failed, he got weaker and weaker. Leaving the University he continued his teaching career in another town in a little school. An accident in the playground forced him to give up his work. During the long illness Wells wrote articles for the newspapers. The end of the century made him popular as a writer on science.

In 1893 he married Catherine Robbins, also a student of biology. She became his assistant, critic, secretary, typist and best friend. The I World War brought the crisis in his outlook. The Great October Revolution in Russia shook him to the core. He even made a trip to Russia. He again visited Russia 14 years later and saw great changes. He protested against the war during the I World War. But he saw that nothing could teach this world of capitalism and imperialism, the human mind is unable to triumph over the power of technological destruction. He died in 1946.

His creative work lasted for 50 years, he wrote more than 40 novels and many short stories, articles and social tracts. There are 3 types of his novels: science fiction, realistic novels on contemporary problems and social tracts in the form of novels. Among his most notable works are "The Time Machine" (1895), "The War of the Worlds" (1904), "The Invisible Man" (1897), "The First Man on the Moon"

"The War of the Worlds" is really his best work. The subject of the novel is a man between the past and the future.

In his novels Wells blamed the bourgeois system because it used scientific achievements for evil ends. He was the first to warn the people of the danger coming from the usage of the results of technological progress in evil purposes. His works are rather satirical than utopian.

John Galsworthy (1867-1933)

John Galsworthy was one of the last representatives of Critical Realism in English literature. He was a novelist, dramatist, short story writer and essayist. His works give the most complete and critical picture of English bourgeois society of the 20th century. He is critical of injustice, tyranny and all the evils of life. His characters are mostly of the upper middle class and the aristocracy. Galsworthy tried to revive the realistic traditions of his predecessors.

John Galsworthy was born in 1867 at Coombe, Surrey. He came from a well-to-do bourgeois family. His father was a rich lawyer and John studied law at Oxford but he was more interested in literature. He travelled a lot, in 1891 he came to Crimea and stayed in Russia for some time. Much of his energy was devoted to the Pen-club, an association of writers of which he was president until his death in 1933.

His first notable work was "The Island Pharisees" (1904) "The Country House", "Flaterney", "The Patrician", "The Dark Flower" and "The Freeland" reveal a similar philosophy. The author shows his deep sympathy for strong passions, sincerity, true love.

Galsworthy's masterpiece is, however, the trilogy entitled "The Forsyte Saga". It consists of three novels and two interludes. : "The man of Property" (1906), "In Chancery" (1920), "To Let" (1921), "Awakening" (interlude), "Indian Summer of Forsyte" (interlude). It is a peak of Critical Realism.

The trilogy is followed by "Modern Comedy", "The White Monkey", "The Silver Spoon", "The Swan Song", "A Silent Wooing", "Made in Waiting", "Over the River", "The End of the Chapter". Galsworthy is also known as a playwright.

"The Forsyte Saga" is a history of three generations of the Forsyte family from the eighties of the 19th century up to the twenties of the 20th century. The author shows a typical family in typical social conditions of the time. Extreme individualism, egoism, ability never to give themselves away, contempt for everything foreign, a strong sense of property and money worship, tenacity, snobbery and practicality— these are the most characteristic features of the Forsyte clan.

5. General Characteristics of the XX-century literature

The 20ies of the 20th century revealed revolutionary ideas, used symbolic method. Critical realism is presented by classical novelists: Shaw, Wells, Galsworthy.; "The Stream of Consciousness" - by James Joyce (1882-1941), the author of "Ulysses". Katherine Mansfield and Somerset Maugham used realistic method in short story. Collaps of human values and retreat to one's private world are portrayed by a poet Thomas Sterne Eliot ("modernistic school") and Virginia Woolf ("psychological school").

The 30ies (pre-war literature) is called Critical Realism. The writer of the period are: Richard Aldington, J.B.Priestley, A.J.Cronin, Evelyn Waugh, a poet and critic Ralph Fox, a historian Sean O'Casey, George Orwell, the trio of Oxford poets Auden, Spender and Day Lewis. They conveyed anti-war and anti-fascist themes.

The 50-60ies (post-war literature) include the works of humanists and optimists James Aldrige, Graham Green; "The Angry young Men" John Wain, Kingsley Amis, a dramatist John Osborn; working –class novelists Allan Sillitoe and Frank Cauldwell. The main themes of their works are: poverty of working people, tyranny in the family, fate of young people, making their career. Philosophic and aesthetic swarchings under the influence of existentialism are shown in the novels of Iris Murdoch and Arthur Clarke. Agatha Christie (1890-1976) is the queen of English detective novel and story. She wrote about 70 novels and 100 short stories with the main characters Hercule Puaro and Miss Marple.

The 60-70ies include the works of William Golding, Somerset Maugham, Arthur Hailey, Charles Percy Snow and James Hadly Chase.

Modern Literature beginning with 80-90ies of the previous century is represented by Jack Lindsay, Anthony Powell, Murriel Spark, Doris Lessing, Sir Kingsley Amis, John Wain, Allan Sillitoe, John Osborne, Pinter Harold, Malcolm Bradbury, Weldon Fay, Tom Stoppard, Margaret Drabble, Susan Hill, John Fowelz, Joanne Kathleen Rowling, John Ronald Rowell Tolkien and others.

6. Rendering the Text

1. The story (extract, excerpt, episode) I'm dealing with/
I'm going to analyze/
I'm going to present is
entitled...
2. It is taken from...
3. It is written by...
4. It belongs to the genre of...
5. The scene is set
The action takes place in /is laid/ in...
The time of action
The main characters are:
6. I'm going to give back (to retell) the plot (content) in a
gist (in brief/ in a nutshell).
I'm going to expand on...
7. The plot boils down the following:
The matter stood like this:
The extract begins with...
After this..., Later on..., Then.
8. The author shows
portrays truthfully
depicts convincingly
reflects ... sincerely
reveals in details
describes vividly
exposes
stresses
condemns...
underlines the fact that...
conveys the idea of...
deals with...

- draws our attention to...
carries out the idea of...
displays interests in...
adheres (sticks) to...
throws light upon...
unmasks...
points out...
glorifies/ sympathizes with,..
expresses his attitude to...
sings out...
touches upon the problem of...
9. The story/novel, etc. reaches its culmination when...
 10. To prove this I'll quote the following...
 11. The story possesses an interesting plot.
It embraces...
It's in tune with...
The fundamental line is...
It arouses interest...
It appeals to my interest.
I'm keen on...
I get excited...
It evokes the feeling of...
It is teaching /touching, thought provoking, thrilling.
It has an intriguing plot.
It is a hair-raising/horrible story.
 12. Now I've all-round image of...
... is an embodiment/ personification/ symbol of...
 13. The story is imbued with... is full of...
It has an implication.
The author's digressions prove...
 14. I come to conclusion that...

7. Trends in English Literature

1. Anglo-Saxon period (7-11 cent.)
2. Norman period (11-13 cent.)
3. Pre-Renaissance (14 cent.) - G. Chaucer
4. Folk songs and Ballads (15 cent.)
5. Renaissance (16 cent.) - W. Shakespeare, Chr. Marlowe, Th. Moore
6. Literature of Bourgeois Revolution (17 cent.) - J. Milton
7. Enlightenment (17-18 cent.)
 - Classicism - A. Pope, D. Defoe, J. Swift, H. Fielding, R. Burns,
 - Sentimentalism - Oliver Goldsmith, Samuel Richardson, Stern, Sheridan, John Keats
8. Pre-Romanticism - W. Blake, Godwin, Chatterton, Redclif.
9. Romanticism - (2 half 18 cent. - 1 half 19 cent.) – W. Scott
G.G. Byron, P.B. Shelley
 - Lake poets - W. Wordsworth, R. Southy, S.T. Coleridge.
10. Critical Realism (30ies 19 cent.) - Ch. Dickens, W.M. Thackeray, E. Gaskell, Ch. Bronte, Th. Hardy, G. Eliot, S. Butler.
 - Naturalism
 - Impressionism
11. Decadence (2nd half 19 cent.) - G.B. Shaw, H.G. Wells, J. Galsworthy, A. Conan Doyle, J.K. Jerome, E.L. Voynich
 - Aesthetism - O. Wilde
 - Neo-Romanticism - R. Kipling, R.L. Stevenson, Lewis Carrol, Alan Milne
12. The 20-th century
 - The 20^{es}

- Realism - S. Maugham, K. Mansfield.
- Modernism – Virginia Woolf, Tomas Stearn Eliot
- Symbolism J. Orwell.
- Stream of consciousness—J. Joyce
 - The 30^{es}
- Progressive Literature (Socialist Realism) - R. Aldington, Sean O'Casey
A.J. Cronin, Ralf Fox, Evelyn Waugh

8. General Characteristics of the Text

1. Title
2. Author
3. Date when it was written
4. Genre
5. Setting (time and place of action)
6. Characters
7. Composition
8. Plot
9. Problems
10. Ideas
11. Your personal opinion

9. Literary Genres

Romance (Рыцарский Роман) - a medieval story in verse about heroes of chivalry

Poem - } verse = poetry

Song - }

Legend (lat. "legend" = must be read) - old story handed down from the past, especially one of doubted truth

Hymn - religious song

Chronicle - record of events

Ballad (Fr. "ballet"; Ital. "ballere") - song or poem that tells a story

Epic [epic] (эпос) - story in verse about historic events or historic people

Longer poem (поэма) - a long story in verse having a plot

Fable (басня) - a moral tale with animals for characters

Fairy-tale (сказка) - teaching story about imaginary characters or mysterious creatures with fantastic plot

Story - account of events; narration

Novel (роман) (social, psychological, historical, philosophical...) - a story in prose long enough to fill for more volumes about imaginary or historical people

Novelette - short novel (новелла)

Long/ short story (повесть)

Play (drama) (пьеса) - literary work intended to be acted out (performed)

Tract (трактат) - short printed essay, esp. on moral or religious topic

Essay (эссе, очерк) - piece of writing on any one subject

Article (Статья, заметка) - piece of writing complete in itself in a newspaper or periodical

Pamphlet - small paper - covered book esp. on a topic of current interest

Sonnet - lyrical story in verse consisting of 14 lines (2 stanzas & a final rhyming couplet)

10. Темы для докладов

- Чартистская литература
- Романтизм в русской литературе
- Пушкин и Байрон
- Диккенс и дети
- Шарлота Бронте «Джейн Эйр»
- Элизабет Гаскелл
- Декаденство Живопись, литература
- Парадоксы и афоризмы О. Уальда
- Технический прогресс глазами Г. Уэллса
- Джон Китс
- П. Б. Шелли Поэзия;
- Л. Кэрролл «Алиса в стране чудес»
- В. Водсворт - поэзия
- С. Т. Коулридж.
- Т. Гарди «Тэсс из города д'Эдбервиллей»
- К. Дойл, Дж. Б. Пристли, А. Кристи и английский детектив
- Э. Л. Войнич «Овод»
- Дж. Джойс «Уллис»
- Р. Р. Толкиен «Властелин колец», стиль «Фэнтэзи» в английской литературе
- Английские писатели – нобелевские лауреаты

**ДОКУМЕНТ ПОДПИСАН
ЭЛЕКТРОННОЙ ПОДПИСЬЮ**

СВЕДЕНИЯ О СЕРТИФИКАТЕ ЭП

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Владелец Расторгуева Светлана Владимировна

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