

# Year 9 – POSTMODERNISM (Term 3)

## 1957 – Today

Postmodernism is known for its rebellious approach & willingness to test boundaries. We may take this for granted in literature today, but there was a time back in the 17th & 18th centuries (known as the Enlightenment) that was all about order, unity, and reason.... We're not saying that postmodernists were the first to go against the grain: Romanticism & then modernism had already questioned whether these ideals were possible. **BOUNCE BACK NEOCLASSICISM, ROMANTICIS & MODERNISM** The difference is that postmodernists are all about embracing disorder & taking a more playful approach.

<b>Why did American literature only emerge in Britain very recently?</b>	<input type="checkbox"/> American Literature spread through the new technology (telephone, mass printing, easier transport). <input type="checkbox"/> America's greater world influence following WW2. <input type="checkbox"/> Social protests from the United States spread world-wide, increasing the rest of the world's interest in them.
<b>What are the main differences between American &amp; British literature?</b>	<input type="checkbox"/> Spelling: British English (colour) vs. American English (color). <input type="checkbox"/> Dialect: British English (pavement) vs American English (sidewalk) <input type="checkbox"/> British culture (class & failing empire, conquering new frontiers) <input type="checkbox"/> American culture (American Dream & social unrest, "going West," Nature vs. Society, the individual & community). <input type="checkbox"/> British wit and characterisation vs American realism
<b>What links all of the texts that you have studied at Turton?</b>	<input type="checkbox"/> The authors all share a similar point of view, most of them are men, white & from Europe. <input type="checkbox"/> To Kill a Mockingbird is different – it's by a middle-aged American woman who is writing about black people in a positive way.
<b>What is the significance of texts written by black, poor or female writers?</b>	<input type="checkbox"/> You read about different experiences from a range of authorial points of view. <input type="checkbox"/> If we only hear 'dead white males' we don't hear the voices of oppressed minorities <input type="checkbox"/> You can consider political correctness and its role in modern life

### How has the internet changed our language?

<b>Neologisms</b> Brand new words that have been created such as "selfie," "lipstick" & "newsflash."
<b>New Ways of Communicating</b> <input type="checkbox"/> Blending – merging two words (e.g. breakfast + lunch = <i>brunch</i> ) <input type="checkbox"/> Compounding – two existing whole words together (e.g. hand + bag = <i>handbag</i> ) <input type="checkbox"/> Phonetic Spelling – where words are spelt how they sound (e.g. <i>shud</i> or <i>thang</i> ) <input type="checkbox"/> Initialism – take the first letters of each of a group of words but says the letters individually (e.g. <i>t.b.h.</i> (to be honest) or <i>b.t.w.</i> (by the way)) <input type="checkbox"/> Acronym – same as initialism but say the letters together as a new word (e.g. <i>LOL</i> (laugh out loud) or <i>ROFL</i> (rolling on the floor laughing))
<b>Descriptivist</b> A linguist who observes language changing without judgement
<b>Prescriptivist</b> A linguist who strictly follows grammatical rules & dislikes language change

## To Kill a Mockingbird

### Plot:

**To Kill a Mockingbird** is [novel](#) by [Harper Lee](#), published in 1960. The story takes place in a small Alabama town in the 1930s and is told predominately from the point of view of six-to-nine-year-old Jean Louise ("Scout") Finch. She is the daughter of [Atticus Finch](#), a white lawyer hired to defend Tom Robinson, a black man falsely accused of raping a white woman. A coming-of-age story or bildungsroman of an intelligent, unconventional girl, *To Kill a Mockingbird* portrays Scout's growing awareness of the hypocrisy and [prejudice](#) present in the adult world. The novel has been widely praised for its sensitive treatment of a child's awakening to [racism](#) and [prejudice](#) in the American South.

### Characters

**Scout Finch** - The narrator and protagonist of the story. Intelligent and, by the standards of her time and place, a tomboy. Scout eventually develops a more grown-up perspective that enables her to appreciate human goodness without ignoring human evil.

**Atticus Finch** - Scout and Jem's father, a lawyer in Maycomb descended from an old local family. Atticus has instilled in his children his strong sense of morality and justice. He is one of the few residents of Maycomb committed to racial equality. Atticus functions as the novel's moral backbone.

**Jem Finch** - something of a typical American boy, refusing to back down from dares and fantasising about playing football. Jem moves into adolescence during the story, and his ideals are shaken badly by the evil and injustice that he perceives during the trial of Tom Robinson.

**Arthur "Boo" Radley** - A recluse who never sets foot outside his house, Boo dominates the imaginations of Jem, Scout, and Dill.

**Charles Baker "Dill" Harris** - Jem and Scout's summer neighbour and friend. Dill is a diminutive, confident boy with an active imagination.

**Calpurnia** - The Finches' black cook. Calpurnia is a stern disciplinarian and the children's bridge between the white world and her own black community.

### Audience

#### An audience your age:

- Colloquial expressions & sayings & references to modern culture
- Frequent use of direct address
- Use of humour & sarcasm
- Fronted conjunctions (So...)

#### An older audience:

- Keep it formal. BUT remember they're not the Queen! (One is outraged my good sir)
- Avoid references to modern culture, humour & sarcasm
- Avoid using contractions (do not instead of don't)

## Grammar

<b>Past perfect tense</b> Emphasises that an action was completed before another took place. e.g. <u>I had saved</u> my work before the computer crashed.	<b>Present perfect tense</b> Makes a link between the present and the past. e.g. <u>I have lived in</u> Bolton since 1985.	<b>Future perfect tense</b> Shows that an action will have been completed at some point in the future. e.g. <u>We will have finished</u> by dinner time.
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### Comparative conjunctions

<b>AND</b> – also, additionally, similarly, as, both, too, comparably, as well as, likewise	<b>BUT</b> – however, meanwhile, yet, whilst, although, in contrast, differently, although, though, differ
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### Themes

- The coexistence of good and evil
- The importance of Moral Education
- Social Inequality
- Racism
- Justice
- Youth
- Fear
- Women and femininity
- Family
- Compassion and Forgiveness

### Writing to argue Writing an essay

<input type="checkbox"/> Both sides of the argument <input type="checkbox"/> Promote one side more than the other <input type="checkbox"/> Counter arguments <input type="checkbox"/> IAMAFORESTER	<input type="checkbox"/> An effective introduction and convincing conclusion <input type="checkbox"/> Effectively/fluent linked paragraphs to sequence a range of ideas
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### Looking back and forward

Next stop: GCSE!