

Yr 8 – NEO CLASSICAL PERIOD (Term 2)

1660- 1798

Neoclassical literature was written between 1660 and 1798. This time period is broken down into three parts: **the Restoration period, the Augustan period, and the Age of Johnson.**

Writers of the Neoclassical period tried to imitate the style of the Romans and Greeks. Thus the combination of the terms 'neo,' which means 'new,' and 'classical,' as in the day of the Roman and Greek classics. This was also the **era of The Enlightenment**, which emphasized **logic and reason.**

What is a novel?

- ❑ A novel is a very long piece of fiction with a narrative structure. Because a novel is, first & foremost, a story, you'll (usually) find lots of characters & a plot.

Why was the world's first novel so important?

- ❑ **The Tale of Genji** is a classic work of Japanese literature written by the noblewoman & lady-in-waiting Murasaki Shikibu. Written at the start of the 11th century, it is generally considered the world's first novel.
- ❑ The first novel written in English is widely considered to be **'Robinson Crusoe' by Daniel Defoe.** The book is presented as an autobiography of the title character who spends 28 years on a remote tropical desert island.

What literature has Robinson Crusoe inspired?

- ❑ *Gulliver's Travels*
- ❑ *Lord of the Flies*
- ❑ *Life of Pi*
- ❑ *The Swiss Family Robinson*

Context of LOTF

- Golding's experience in World War II had a profound effect on his view of humanity and the evils of which it was capable.
- Writing in an era following WWII known as the 'atomic age,' Golding tapped into a widespread cultural panic over nuclear destruction and man's capacity for warfare.
- Although *Lord of the Flies* is an allegorical novel, it draws a great deal from adventure literature, a genre that pits humans against nature to explore the personality traits necessary for the survival of the species. However Golding was more interested in subverting traditional adventure tales and reversing their moral message.

Characters in Lord of The Flies

Ralph - The novel's protagonist, the twelve-year-old English boy who is elected leader of the group of boys marooned on the island. Ralph attempts to coordinate the boys' efforts to build a miniature civilization on the island until they can be rescued.

Jack - The novel's antagonist, one of the older boys stranded on the island. Jack becomes the leader of the hunters but longs for total power and becomes increasingly wild, barbaric, and cruel as the novel progresses.

Simon - A shy, sensitive boy in the group. Simon, in some ways the only naturally "good" character on the island, behaves kindly toward the younger boys and is willing to work for the good of their community.

Piggy - Ralph's "lieutenant." A whiny, intellectual boy, Piggy's inventiveness frequently leads to innovation, such as the makeshift sundial that the boys use to tell time.

Roger - Jack's "lieutenant." A sadistic, cruel older boy.

Dystopian Fiction

Because *Lord of the Flies* presents the characters as living in a nightmarish, oppressive society **as a result of their flawed natures**, it is also an example of dystopian fiction. In direct contrast to utopian fiction, which suggests that human beings are perfectible and a society free of suffering is possible, dystopian fiction suggests that societal injustice is inevitable.

Language techniques

Foreshadowing

Onomatopoeia

Juxtaposition

Flashback/flashforward

ALLEGORY

Motifs and Symbols

Motifs · Biblical parallels; natural beauty; the bullying of the weak by the strong; the outward symbols of savagery (face paint, spears, totems, chants)

Symbols · The conch shell; Piggy's glasses; the signal fire; the beast; the Lord of the Flies

Themes in LOTF

- ❑ Civilization vs. savagery
- ❑ Loss of innocence
- ❑ Struggle to build civilization
- ❑ Danger of mob mentality
- ❑ War and future of mankind

Neoclassical Features

Neoclassical literature is characterized by **order, accuracy, and structure.** In direct opposition to Renaissance attitudes, where man was seen as basically good, the **Neoclassical writers portrayed man as inherently flawed.** They emphasized **restraint, self-control, and common sense.** This was a time when **conservatism** flourished in both politics and literature.

Neoclassicism and Colonialism

In the neoclassical era Britain was in the process of **colonising many parts of the world.** Racist ideas abounded, the slave trade was in full swing, and much of **Britain's newfound wealth came from exploiting international resources.** For example, **writers like Daniel Defoe, particularly in his novel, Robinson Crusoe, embodied these racist and colonial ideas.**

Writing an article

- ❑ Broadsheet = formal/Local or tabloid = informal
- ❑ a clear/apt/original title
- ❑ a strapline & subheadings
- ❑ an introductory (overview) paragraph
- ❑ effectively/fluently sequenced paragraphs.

Writing to explain/inform

- ❑ Be factual
- ❑ Give a balanced view (but not contradictory)
- ❑ Use evidence to support your view
- ❑ Write in 3rd or 1st person

Grammar

Asyndetic listing

A list separated by commas that doesn't include 'and' e.g. "*Scrooge!*
A squeezing, wrenching, grasping, scraping, clutching, covetous, old sinner!"

Polysyndetic listing

A conjunction (and, or) after every term in the list e.g. "*I wore a sweater, and a hat, and a scarf, and a pair of boots, and mittens,*"

Bounce-back grammar from Y7:

Noun types, verb types, adjective types, articles, phrases, clause types, sentence types, simple tenses.

Writing to advise

- ❑ Use gentle modal verbs
- ❑ Soft rhetorical questions
- ❑ Write in 2nd person
- ❑ Direct address

Writing a leaflet

- ❑ A clear/ apt/ original title
- ❑ Organisational techniques such as subheadings or boxes
- ❑ Bullet points
- ❑ Effectively/ fluently sequenced paragraphs.

KEYSTONE VOCABULARY

Novel
Civilization/savagery
Utopian/dystopian
Democracy
Allegory