

James Joyce -

(*) His studies in European literature had interested him in both the Symbolists & the realists of the second half of the 19th Century.

Symbolists → express individual emotional experience through subtle and suggestive use of highly symbolized language.

(*) Novels by Joyce :-

(1) A Portrait of the Artist as a Young Man (1916).

(2) Ulysses (1922)

(3) Finnegans Wake (1939).

(*) ULYSSES - Published on February 2, (1922).

99th year (2024)

(1) widely considered as the most important book of the 20th Century.

(2) Constructed as a modern parallel to Homer's Odyssey — the characters — Stephen Dedalus, Leopold Bloom and Molly Bloom. (based on ancient characters — Telemachus, Ulysses and Penelope).

(3) The action of the novel takes place in Dublin on a single day — June 16, 1904.

(4) Reveals the innermost thoughts and feelings of the characters as they live the day hour by hour — from public bath to a funeral, library, maternity hospital, brothel.

(5) Main strength lies in the character portrayal and its breadth of humour.

- ⑥ Stream of Consciousness technique —
- mass flow of impressions.
 - half thoughts.
 - associations.
 - lapses and hesitations.
 - incidental worries.
 - sudden impulses.

- ⑦ Novel is divided into three parts, containing a total of 18 episodes —
- Part - I — Telemachia (3 episodes)
- Part - II — Odyssey (12 episodes)
- Part - III — Nostos (3 episodes)

⑧ FINNEGANS WAKE — (17 chapters / 4 Parts).

① Joyce worked on this book in Paris. Written over a period of 17 years. — and Joyce's final work.

② It is a complex novel that blends the reality of life with a dream world.

③ 18th Century Italian philosopher Giambattista Vico provides the basic theory on which the novel is based — history is cyclical.

✓ The book ends with the first half of the first sentence of the novel.

Cyclical History → repetition or ~~re~~ recurrence of social processes.

④ Characters —

- Humphrey Chimpden Earwicker.
- Anna Livia Plurabelle.
- Shem, Shaun, Issy.

→ Other — The City of Dublin and River Liffey — and.

Throughout the book, Joyce himself is present — joking, mocking his critics, defending his theories, remembering his father and enjoying himself.

* THE PORTRAIT OF THE ARTIST AS A YOUNG MAN —

① First novel by Joyce.

② Modernist style Kunstlerroman — narrative about an artist's growth to maturity.

→ novel traces the religious and intellectual awakening of the protagonist Stephen Dedalus.

③ 5 chapter novel — autobiographical.

④ Deals with themes of identity, Religion, Irish freedom & Myth of Dedalus.

↓
Greek Mythology — symbol of wisdom, knowledge and power.

* CONCLUSION —

① Frank portrayal of human nature — mastery of language — brilliant development of new literary forms.

② Regarded as hallmark of the modern and the postmodern period.

③ The work and life of Joyce is celebrated annually on 16th June, known as Bloomsday.

↓
The day on which Ulysses takes place

↓
Named after the protagonist Leopold Bloom.

Virginia Woolf — (1882-1941)

- ① Woolf exerted major influence on the genre of novel — through the non-linear approaches to narrative.
- ② Along with fiction, Woolf also wrote pioneering essays on artistic theory, literary history, women's writing and the politics of power.
- ③ Once outraged over the attention that paintings garnered and → intrigued by the ^{possibility of} borrowings from the likes of artists like Paul Cezanne and Pablo Picasso.
- ④ Novels —
 - ① The Voyage Out — first novel — published in 1915.
 - ② Mrs. Dalloway — 1925 — single day in June 1923.
 - ③ To The Lighthouse — 1927.
 - ④ Orlando — 1928.
 - ⑤ Jacob's Room — 1922 — anti-war novel
 - ⑥ Night and Day — 1919.
 - ⑦ The Waves — 1941.
 - ⑧ The Waves — 1931
 - ⑨ Between the Acts — 1941.
- ⑤ Woolf experimented with —
 - a) Stream of consciousness technique.
 - b) Underlying psychological or emotional motives of characters.
 - c) Fractured narrative and chronology.
- ⑥ Through Mrs. Dalloway, To The Lighthouse and The Waves, Woolf became one of the 3 major Modernist experimenters in the English language.

* In 1917, Virginia and her husband Leonard Woolf bought a printing press and founded the Hogarth Press.

* Virginia Woolf also became an active member of the BLOOMSBURY GROUP which was founded in the year 1907 by English writers, philosophers and artists.

→ The Bloomsbury Group's role was central to the development of art during the early 20th Century.

→ The Group included members like Leonard Woolf, Lytton Strachey, John Maynard Keynes, E.M. Forster, Vanessa Bell, etc.

* Virginia Woolf was always vocal about the horrors of war, the threat of fascism and the oppression of women (class & politics, societal reforms).

* DEATH — 1941 — committed suicide by drowning herself near her home in Rodmell.

↓
She filled her pockets with stones.

↓
Jumped into the River Ouse.

Suicide Note → reveals her inner thoughts.

* Perception → in her novels is fluid — so as the world she was representing.

* Far more fictional and non-fiction than Joyce/Faulkner. 6 vols. of diaries, 6 vols. of letters, and numerous collected essays.

Joseph Conrad - (1857-1924)

- ① Important writer of the late-18th and early-19th Century.
- ② Conrad's works emerge out of these literary movements in Europe during Conrad's time:-
 - a) Romanticism - particularly in the works of Polish novelists, especially Henryk Sienkiewicz.
 - b) Realism - flowered in Russia with the works of Leo Tolstoy and Fyodor Dostoevsky.
 - c) Modernism - dominant literary aesthetic of the 20th Century.
- ③ Conrad saw Western Colonialism as the failure of the "civilized world" to fulfill its moral responsibilities.
- ④ He presents through his fiction how the 'white man's burden' or the West's responsibility to the rest of the world, became overshadowed by self ambition through the quest for colonial domination.
- ⑤ Began his writing career in the English language his ~~first~~ third language - the first being Polish & the second being French.
- ⑥ During his early years, Conrad learned English by reading the London Times and the works of William Shakespeare & Thomas Carlyle.
- ⑦ Began his career as a seaman at the age of 17. The references and incidents of sea journeys find prominent place in almost all his novels.

* Conrad's specialities -

- elemental nature impressed him.
- his experience of loneliness at sea.
- intimate human relations of ship life.
- bleak vision of the world.
- his fiction explores the relentless progress of character flaws within the matrix of social relationships.

* According to Conrad — "What makes mankind tragic is not that they are victims of nature, it is that they are conscious of it. To be a part of the animal kingdom under the conditions of this earth is very well - but soon as you know of your slavery, the pain, the anger, the strife. The tragedy begins."
(Written in 1897. Conrad's deterministic view of the world)

* Works - (NOVELS) -

- ① Almayer's Folly - (1895) - First Novel - an adventure tale set in the Borneo jungles.
- ② The Outcast of the Islands - (1896)
- ③ The Nigger of the 'Narcissus' - (1897)
- ④ Heart of Darkness - (1899) - most famous and enduring novel. The novel deals with a British man's journey deep into the Congo of Africa, where he encounters the cruel & mysterious European trader named Kurtz.
- ⑤ Lord Jim - (1900)
- ⑥ The Inheritors - (1901) - with Ford Madox Ford.
- ⑦ Typhoon - (1902)
- ⑧ Romance - (1903) - with Ford Madox Ford.

- ⑨ Nostromo - (1904).
- ⑩ The Secret Agent - (1907).
- ⑪ Under Western Eyes - (1911).
- ⑫ Chance - (1913)
- ⑬ Victory - (1915).
- ⑭ The Shadow Line (1917)
- ⑮ The Arrow of Gold - (1919).
- ⑯ The Rescue - (1920).
- ⑰ The Nature of Crime - (1923) - with Ford Madox Ford.
- ⑱ The Rover - (1923).

* Conrad's narrative style and anti-heroic characters have influenced many other authors.

* Characteristics of Conrad's writing -

- ① Faraway setting
- ② Dramatic conflicts b/w human characters and brutal forces of nature.
- ③ Themes of individualism.
- ④ Violent side of human nature.
- ⑤ Racial prejudice.
- ⑥ Layers of meanings that go beyond the level of the plot.