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Assistant Professor

UGC NET English Literature

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Nakul Grover, Founder, Limitless Literature

WHAT ARRIVES AT YOUR DOOR

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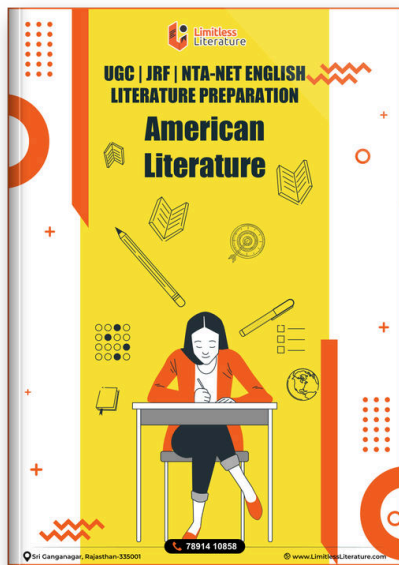


Free home delivery, with tracking. The printed set is couriered to you after you enrol, so you can start reading the day it arrives.

INSIDE THE BOOKLET SET

American Literature

American literature from colonial times to the 20th century, with the history behind it.



WHAT THIS BOOKLET COVERS

- History: the Stamp Act, the Boston Tea Party and the Civil War
- Movements: Transcendentalism, Dark Romanticism, Harlem Renaissance
- The Lost Generation, the Beat Generation and the Confessional poets
- Franklin, Bradford, Douglass, Irving and Cooper
- Emerson, Thoreau, Hawthorne, Melville and Poe
- Whitman and Emily Dickinson, with key poems
- Pound, Stein, Fitzgerald and Hemingway
- Kate Chopin, Gilman, Jack London and Edith Wharton

REAL PAGE

American Literature

2. Little Men (1871)
3. Jo's Boys

HENRY DAVID THOREAU

1. Walden, Life in the Woods
2. Civil Disobedience (essay that inspired Mahatma Gandhi)

Walden: The text is a reflection upon simple living in natural surroundings. The work is part personal declaration of independence, social experiment, voyage of spiritual discovery, satire, and—to some degree—a manual for self-reliance.

MARGARET FULLER

1. Summer on the Lakes (1843 (non-fiction, her stories about travelling)
2. Woman in the Nineteenth Century (1845)
3. At Home and Abroad (1856) - compilation of letters
4. Editor of the magazine Dial.

Little Women

Meg, Jo, Beth, and Amy March are raised in genteel poverty by their loving mother, Marmee, in a quiet Massachusetts town while their father serves as an army chaplain during the American Civil War. They befriend Theodore Lawrence (Laurie), the lonely grandson of a rich old man next door. The vital force of the family is Jo, a headstrong tomboy who is the emotional centre of the book. In the course of the novel, beautiful, vain Meg marries Laurie's tutor, John Brooke, and starts her own family; quiet, sickly Beth dies from scarlet fever; artistic Amy marries Laurie after he is turned down by Jo; and Jo marries Professor Bhaer, whom she meets while living in a boardinghouse, and together they set up a school for boys.

HERMAN MELVILLE

1. Typee: A Peep at Polynesian Life (first book)
2. Moby Dick, The Whale
3. Omoo, A Narrative of Adventure in the South Sea
4. Pierre; or, The Ambiguities (Gothic Fiction)
5. Billy Bud, A Sailor (Unfinished)

Woman in The Nineteenth Century

Here she argues that humanity will only become suited for the beauty of the world and heaven when "freedom for Woman as much as for Man shall be acknowledged as a right, not yielded as a concession".

OLAUDAH EQUIANO

1. Interesting narrative of the life of Olaudah equiano
- Equiano states that the main purpose of the book is to "excite in [the reader's] a sense of compassion of the miseries which the Slave-Trade has entailed on my unfortunate countrymen."

LOUISA MAY ALCOTT.

Famous for March Family Saga which consist of the novels

1. Little Women (1868)

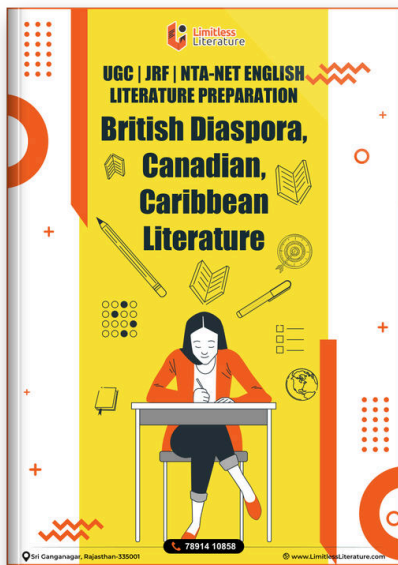
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INSIDE THE BOOKLET SET

British Diaspora, Canadian, Caribbean Literature

Diaspora, Canadian, African and Caribbean writers, gathered in one place.



WHAT THIS BOOKLET COVERS

- Jean Rhys, Kazuo Ishiguro, Hanif Kureishi and Timothy Mo
- Caryl Phillips, Sam Selvon, Edward Brathwaite and George Lamming
- Canada: Ondaatje, Margaret Atwood, Yann Martel and Alice Munro
- Rohinton Mistry and Shyam Selvadurai
- Africa: Chinua Achebe, Wole Soyinka, Buchi Emecheta and Bessie Head
- South Africa: Olive Schreiner, André Brink, Athol Fugard, Zakes Mda
- Zora Neale Hurston, Alice Walker and James Baldwin

REAL PAGE

British Diaspora, Canadian Literature, Caribbean Literature

British Diaspora

JEAN RHYNS

Wide Sargasso Sea

It is a feminist and anti-colonial response to Charlotte Brontë's *Jane Eyre*, describing the background to Mr. Rochester's marriage from the point-of-view of his mad wife Antoinette Cosway, a Creole heiress. Antoinette Cosway is Rhys's version of Brontë's devilish "madwoman in the attic". Antoinette's story is told from the time of her youth in Jamaica, to her unhappy marriage to a certain unnamed English gentleman, who renames her Bertha, declares her mad, and then takes her to England. Antoinette is caught in an oppressive patriarchal society in which she neither fully belongs to Europe nor Jamaica. *Wide Sargasso Sea* explores the power relationships between men and women and develops postcolonial themes, such as racism, displacement and assimilation.

Good Morning, Midnight

The novel's title is derived from a poem by the American poet Emily Dickinson:

Good Morning, Midnight!

I'm coming home.

Sasha Jansen, a middle-aged English woman, has returned to Paris after a long absence. Only able to make the trip because of some money lent to her by a friend, she is financially unstable and haunted by her past, which includes an unhappy marriage and her child's death. She has difficulty taking care of herself, drinking heavily, taking sleeping pills and obsessing over her appearance, she is adrift in the city that she feels connected to despite the great pain it has brought her.

KAZUO ISHIGURO (2017 NOBEL PRIZE)

An Artist of the Floating World

It is set in post-World War II Japan and is narrated by Masuji Ono, an ageing painter, who looks back on his life and how he has lived it. He notices how his once great reputation has faltered since the war and how attitudes towards him and his paintings have changed. The chief conflict deals with Ono's need to accept responsibility for his past actions. The novel also deals with the role of people in a rapidly changing environment.

The Remains of The Day

The story is told from a first-person point of view, as were Ishiguro's two previous novels. The narrator, Stevens, a butler, recalls his life in the form of a diary; the action progresses from the mid-1930s through to the 1970. Much of the novel is concerned with Stevens' professional and, above all, personal relationship with a former colleague, the housekeeper, Miss Kenton. He received the Man Booker Prize for fiction in 1989.

When We Were Orphans (detective novel)

Christopher Banks, an English boy born in early twentieth century Shanghai, is orphaned at age nine when his mother and father both vanish under suspicious circumstances. Sent to live in England, he grows up to become a renowned detective and, more than twenty years later, returns to Shanghai, where the Sino-Japanese War is raging, to solve the mystery of the disappearance.

Never Let Me Go (Dystopian science fiction)

Hailsham seems like a pleasant English boarding school, far from the influences of the city. Its students are well tendered and supported, trained in art and literature, and become just the sort of people the world wants them to be. But, curiously, they are taught nothing of the outside world and are allowed little contact with it. With the grounds of Hailsham, Kathy grows from schoolgirl to young woman, but it's only when she and her friends Ruth and Tommy leave the safe grounds of the

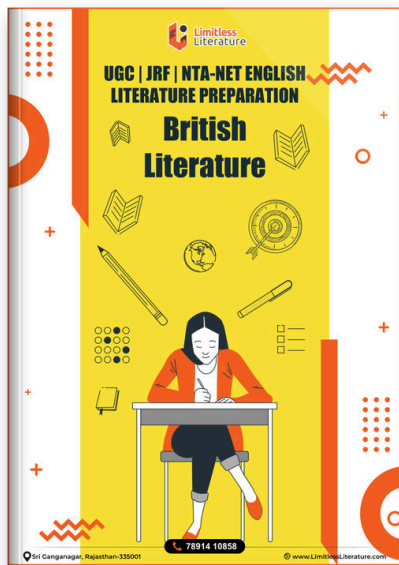
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INSIDE THE BOOKLET SET

British Literature

The full story of English literature, age by age, from the Anglo-Saxons to Postmodernism.



WHAT THIS BOOKLET COVERS

- Every literary age with its dates, from Anglo-Saxon (410) to Postmodernism
- Historical background and key events for each age
- Writers and their works listed age-wise, ready for revision
- Chaucer, Elizabethan and Jacobean drama, Milton and the Puritan Age
- Restoration, 18th-century prose and the rise of the novel
- Romantic, Victorian and Modernist writers
- History of the English language: Old, Middle and Modern English

REAL PAGE

HISTORY OF BRITISH LITERATURE

1. THE ANGLO-SAXON PERIOD (410 – 1066)

Historical Background and Key Events

The following dated events are the ones most often asked in UGC NET, SET and Assistant Professor papers. Learn the years along with the events.

410 AD – The Romans Leave Britain

The Romans had ruled Britain for about four hundred years. In 410 AD the legions were withdrawn to defend Rome itself, leaving the island open to invasion. Three Germanic tribes came across the North Sea: the Angles, the Saxons and the Jutes. The two largest give us the name Anglo-Saxon, and their language, Old English, is the foundation of modern English. The native Britons were pushed westward and northward into Wales, Cornwall, Scotland and Ireland.

449 AD – The Traditional Date of the Anglo-Saxon Invasion

Bede records that the brothers Hengist and Horsa landed in Kent at the invitation of the British king Vortigern. The date 449 AD is traditionally given as the beginning of the Anglo-Saxon settlement of England.

597 AD – St Augustine Brings Christianity

Sent by Pope Gregory I, St Augustine landed in Kent and converted King Ethelbert. Before Christianity, Anglo-Saxon stories were carried orally by the scop and the gleeman. After it, monasteries became the centres of reading and writing in Old English and Latin. The mingling of pagan heroic material with Christian belief produced works such as Beowulf, a warrior epic that also refers to God and to the Old Testament story of Cain.

793 AD – The Viking Invasions Begin

Vikings from Denmark and Norway sacked the monastery of Lindisfarne in 793 AD and later settled in the north and east of England, in the region known as the Danelaw. They enriched English with words such as sky, egg, they, take, law and window, and their heroic legends influenced Anglo-Saxon storytelling.

871-899 AD – The Reign of King Alfred the Great

Alfred, King of Wessex, is the only English king ever called the Great. He made peace with the Danes after the Battle of Edington (878), created the burhs and the beginnings of the English navy, promoted learning, had Latin books translated into Old English, and caused the Anglo-Saxon Chronicle to be begun. He is regarded as the father of English prose.

937 AD – The Battle of Brunanburh

Athelstan defeated a combined force of Scots, Norse and Britons. The victory is celebrated in the Old English poem "The Battle of Brunanburh", preserved in the Anglo-Saxon Chronicle and later translated by Alfred Lord Tennyson.

991 AD – The Battle of Maldon

Earl Byrhtnoth of Essex was defeated and killed by a Viking force. The fragmentary Old English poem "The Battle of Maldon" records the fight and contains the most famous statement of the Germanic heroic code.

1066 AD – The Norman Conquest

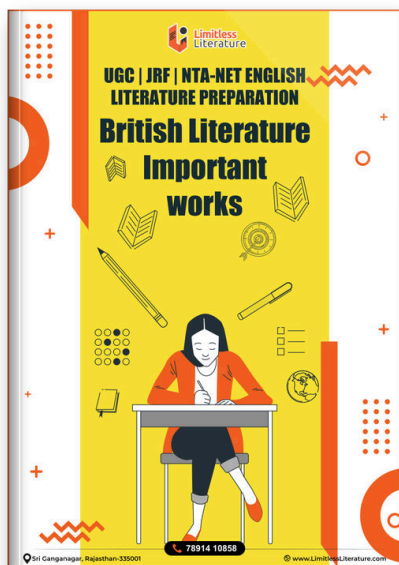
Edward the Confessor died without an heir. Harold Godwinson was crowned, but William of Normandy defeated and killed him at the Battle of Hastings in October 1066. The Norman ruling class spoke French while the common people spoke English, which is why we still say beef (French, from the table of the nobles) and cow (English, from the field of the farmer). The gradual mixing of the two languages produced Middle English. The year 1066 marks the close of the Anglo-Saxon period.

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INSIDE THE BOOKLET SET

British Literature Summaries

Clear plot summaries of the British texts the exam asks about again and again.



WHAT THIS BOOKLET COVERS

- Beowulf and Sir Gawain and the Green Knight
- The Canterbury Tales, tale by tale
- Shakespeare: Hamlet, Macbeth, Othello, The Tempest and more
- Marlowe, Ben Jonson, Webster and Kyd
- Restoration comedy: Congreve and Aphra Behn
- Defoe, Swift, Fielding, Richardson and Sterne
- Austen, Scott, Mary Shelley and the Brontës
- Dickens, George Eliot, Thackeray and Hardy

REAL PAGE

Important British Literature Works

CANTERBURY TALES

General Prologue

At the Tabard Inn, a tavern in Southwark, near London, the narrator joins a company of twenty-nine pilgrims. The pilgrims, like the narrator, are traveling to the shrine of the martyr Saint Thomas Becket in Canterbury. The narrator gives a descriptive account of twenty-seven of these pilgrims, including a Knight, Squire, Yeoman, Prioress, Monk, Friar, Merchant, Clerk, Man of Law, Franklin, Haberdasher, Carpenter, Weaver, Dyer, Tapestry-Weaver, Cook, Shipman, Physician, Wife, Parson, Plowman, Miller, Manciple, Reeve, Summoner, Pardoner, and Host. (He does not describe the Second Nun or the Nun's Priest, although both characters appear later in the book.) The Host, whose name, we find out in the Prologue to the Cook's Tale, is Harry Bailey, suggests that the group ride together and entertain one another with stories. He decides that each pilgrim will tell two stories on the way to Canterbury and two on the way back. Whomever he judges to be the best storyteller will receive a meal at Bailey's tavern, courtesy of the other pilgrims. The pilgrims draw lots and determine that the Knight will tell the first tale.

The Knight's Tale

Theseus, duke of Athens, imprisons Arcite and Palamon, two knights from Thebes (another city in ancient Greece). From their prison, the knights see and fall in love with Theseus's sister-in-law, Emelye. Through the intervention of a friend, Arcite is freed, but he is banished from Athens. He returns in disguise and becomes a page in Emelye's chamber. Palamon escapes from prison, and the two meet and fight over Emelye. Theseus apprehends them and arranges a tournament between the two knights and their allies, with Emelye as the prize. Arcite wins, but he is accidentally thrown from his horse and dies. Palamon then marries Emelye.

The Miller's Prologue and Tale

The Host asks the Monk to tell the next tale, but the drunken Miller interrupts and insists that his tale should be the next. He tells the story of an impoverished student named Nicholas, who persuades his landlord's sexy young wife, Alisoun, to spend the night with him. He convinces his landlord, a carpenter named John, that the second flood is coming, and tricks him into spending the night in a tub hanging from the ceiling of his barn. Absolon, a young parish

clerk who is also in love with Alisoun, appears outside the window of the room where Nicholas and Alisoun lie together. When Absolon begs Alisoun for a kiss, she sticks her rear end out the window in the dark and lets him kiss it. Absolon runs and gets a red-hot poker, returns to the window, and asks for another kiss; when Nicholas sticks his bottom out the window and farts, Absolon brands him on the buttocks. Nicholas's cries for water make the carpenter think that the flood has come, so the carpenter cuts the rope connecting his tub to the ceiling, falls down, and breaks his arm.

The Reeve's Prologue and Tale

Because he also does carpentry, the Reeve takes offense at the Miller's tale of a stupid carpenter, and counters with his own tale of a dishonest miller. The Reeve tells the story of two students, John and Alayn, who go to the mill to watch the miller grind their corn, so that he won't have a chance to steal any. But the miller unties their horse, and while they chase it, he steals some of the flour he has just ground for them. By the time the students catch the horse, it is dark, so they spend the night in the miller's house. That night, Alayn seduces the miller's daughter, and John seduces his wife. When the miller wakes up and finds out what has happened, he tries to beat the students. His wife, thinking that her husband is actually one of the students, hits the miller over the head with a staff. The students take back their stolen goods and leave.

The Cook's Prologue and Tale

The Cook particularly enjoys the Reeve's Tale, and offers to tell another funny tale. The tale concerns an apprentice named Perkyn who drinks and dances so much that he is called "Perkyn Reveler." Finally, Perkyn's master decides that he would rather his apprentice leave to revel than stay home and corrupt the other servants. Perkyn arranges to stay with a friend who loves drinking and gambling, and who has a wife who is a prostitute. The tale breaks off, unfinished, after fifty-eight lines.

The Wife of Bath's Prologue and Tale

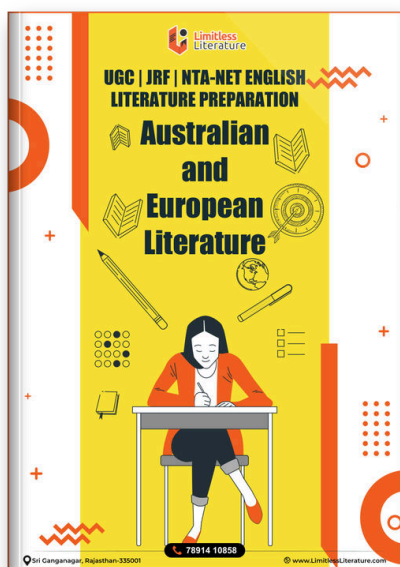
The Wife of Bath gives a lengthy account of her feelings about marriage. Quoting from the Bible, the Wife argues against those who believe it is wrong to marry more than once, and she explains how she dominated and controlled each of her five husbands. She married her fifth husband, Jankyn, for love instead of money. After the Wife has rambled on for a while, the Friar butts in

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INSIDE THE BOOKLET SET

Australian and European Literature

The European and Australian writers UGC NET keeps coming back to.



WHAT THIS BOOKLET COVERS

- Italy: Dante, Boccaccio, Petrarch, Pirandello, Calvino and Eco
- France: Montaigne, Voltaire, Flaubert, Balzac, Zola and Proust
- Camus (The Stranger, The Plague, The Myth of Sisyphus) and Ionesco
- Russia: Dostoevsky, Tolstoy, Pushkin, Gogol and Gorky
- Germany: Goethe, Brecht, Kafka, Hesse and Günter Grass
- Cervantes, García Márquez, Rousseau and Nietzsche
- Australia: Henry Lawson, Banjo Paterson, Christina Stead, Patrick White

REAL PAGE

Australian And European (Italian, French, Russian And German Literature)

ITALIAN LITERATURE

DANTE ALIGHIERI

Dante Alighieri was an Italian poet, writer and philosopher. His *Divine Comedy*, originally called *Comedia* is widely considered the most important poem of the Middle Ages and the greatest literary work in the Italian language.

His *On Eloquence in the Vernacular* was one of the first scholarly defenses of the vernacular. His use of the Tuscan dialect for works such as *The New Life* (1295) and *Divine Comedy* helped establish the modern-day standardized Italian language, and set a precedent that important later Italian writers such as Petrarch and Boccaccio would follow.

Dante was instrumental in establishing the literature of Italy. In addition, the first use of the interlocking three-line rhyme scheme, or the *terza rima*, is attributed to him. He is described as the "father" of the Italian language.

Avarice is the papal court. Virgil represents reason and the empire. Beatrice is the symbol of the supernatural aid mankind must have to attain the supreme end, which is God.

BOCCACCIO

Giovanni Boccaccio was an Italian poet and scholar, best remembered as the author of the earthy tales in the *Decameron*. With Petrarch he laid the foundations for the humanism of the Renaissance and raised vernacular literature to the level and status of the classics of antiquity.

He was sent to Naples to study business and law in 1327. His growing interest in literature drifted him away from studying these subjects. He eventually gave up on studying and entirely dedicated himself to literature. He fell in love with a lady and named her Fiammetta in his writings.

The Filostrato relates the loves of Troilo and Criseida (Troilus and Cressida).

Boccaccio became famous principally for the Italian work, *Decamerone*, a collection of a hundred novels, related by a party of men and women who retired to a villa near Florence to escape the plague in 1348

PETRARCH

Petrarch's rediscovery of Cicero's letters is often credited with initiating the 14th-century Italian Renaissance and the founding of Renaissance humanism. Petrarch's sonnets were admired and imitated throughout Europe during the Renaissance and became a model for lyrical poetry.

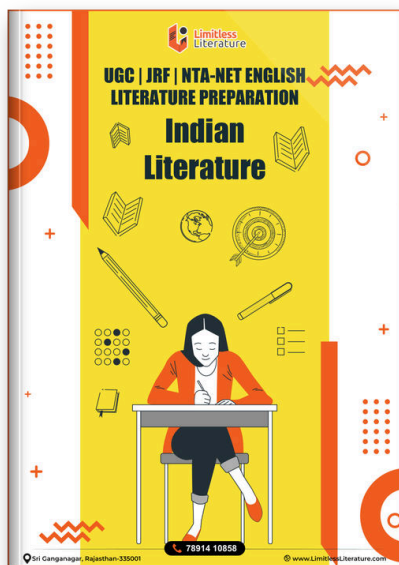
His *Canzoniere* is divided into three parts: the first containing the poems written during Laura's lifetime, the second the poems written after her death, the third the *Trionfi*. The one and only subject of these poems is love; but the

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INSIDE THE BOOKLET SET

Indian Literature

Indian Writing in English, Dalit literature and modern Indian theatre, writer by writer.



WHAT THIS BOOKLET COVERS

- Novelists from Mulk Raj Anand, R.K. Narayan and Raja Rao onwards
- Anita Desai, Kamala Markandaya, Khushwant Singh and Arun Joshi
- Salman Rushdie, Amitav Ghosh, Vikram Seth and Arundhati Roy
- Jhumpa Lahiri, Kiran Desai, Aravind Adiga and Manju Kapur
- Dalit literature: Bama, Omprakash Valmiki and more
- Modern Indian theatre: Vijay Tendulkar, Badal Sircar, Mahesh Dattani
- Amrita Pritam, Mahasweta Devi and Gayatri Chakravorty Spivak

REAL PAGE

INDIAN WRITING, DALIT LITERATURE, INDIAN MODERN THEATRE

India has produced several great writers who have influenced a whole generation and continue to inspire the coming generations by their writings. Their works vividly portray the picture of Indian society. Indian writers have played a progressive part in the reform of Indian society. Rabindranath Tagore is the first Indian to receive Nobel Prize in 1913 for his collection of poems called Gitanjali (1912). Some of the prominent writers are:

AMRITA PRITAM

Amrita Pritam was a popular Indian writer and a leading Punjabi language poet. Amrita Pritam, born on 31st August 1919, is considered as the first renowned poet, essayist and novelist of Punjabi literature.

Awards:

- She is the first woman in Punjabi literature to win the esteemed Sahitya Akademi Award for her composition 'Sunehray'.
- In the year 1982, she also received the Jnanpith Award for 'Kagaz Te Canvas' (The Paper and the Canvas).
- In the year 1969, she was awarded the Padma Shri Award.
- In the year 2004, she received the second highest civilian award of India that is the Padma Vibhushan Award.

Works: Novels

1. Pinjar
2. Kore Kagaz, Uchas Din
3. Doctor Dev
4. Rang ka Patta
5. Sagar aur Seepian
6. Terahwan Suraj
7. Dilli ki Galiyan
8. Yaatri

Amrita Pritam began her career as a romantic poet. She is widely remembered for her emotional poem 'Aj Aakhaan

Waris Shah Nu' (Today I invoke Waris Shah – 'Ode to Waris Shah'). It was an expression of her agony over the violent massacres that took place during the partition of former British India. One of the most noted works of Amrita Pritam was 'Pinjar' (The Skeleton). This novel portrays the violence against women and loss of humanity.

Her various works including her autobiography '**Black Rose and Revenue Stamp**' have been translated into other languages like English, Japanese, Danish, French, Urdu and many more. Amrita Pritam also published several autobiographies namely '**Kala Gulab**' (Black Rose), '**Rasidi Ticket**' (The Revenue Stamp) and '**Aksharon kay Saayee**' (Shadows of Words). Feminism and humanism are the main themes used by Amrita Pritam in her write-ups. Through her work she always tried to portray the realism of society. The most popular short stories written by Amrita Pritam are '**Kahaniyan jo Kahaniyan Nahi**', '**Stench of Kerosene**' and '**Kahaniyon ke Angan mein**'.

AMITAV GHOSH

Amitav Ghosh was born in 1956. He is a Bengali author as well as a literary critic in the field of English language. Ghosh was born in Kolkata and was educated at The Doon School, St. Stephen's College, Delhi Delhi University; and the University of Oxford as well. He has acknowledged the lasting influence of Rabindranath TAGORE and the Bengali literary tradition in his own writing.

His first novel, '**The Circle of Reason**' (1986). This and his next novel, '**Shadow Lines**' (1988), are about the seamlessness of geographical boundaries, and much of the plot of Shadow Lines hinges on the question of national identity. The main character suffers from a sudden identity crisis after he is thrown into a situation where he must decide which country (India or Bangladesh) is his, which culture defines him, and which place he can ultimately call his own. This novel won Ghosh India's prestigious Sahitya Akademi Award

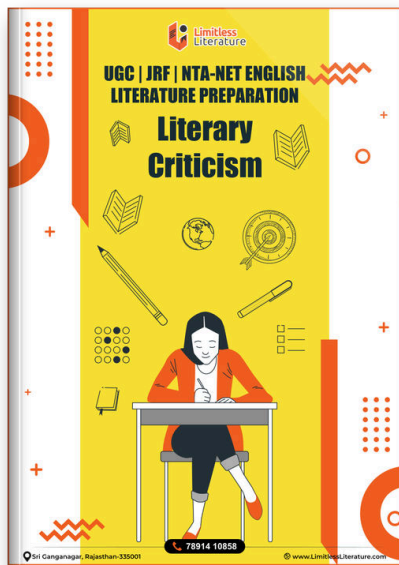
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INSIDE THE BOOKLET SET

Literary Criticism

Literary criticism from Plato to T.S. Eliot, explained the way the exam asks it.



WHAT THIS BOOKLET COVERS

- Plato: mimesis and the Allegory of the Cave
- Aristotle's Poetics: catharsis, hamartia, peripeteia, anagnorisis
- Longinus, Horace and Quintilian
- Sidney, Dryden, Pope and Dr Johnson
- Wordsworth's Preface, Coleridge's fancy and imagination, Keats's negative capability
- Matthew Arnold: the touchstone method and Culture and Anarchy
- T.S. Eliot: impersonality, objective correlative, dissociation of sensibility

REAL PAGE

Literary Criticism

PLATO'S ALLEGORY OF CAVE



The allegory states that there exists prisoners chained together in a cave. Behind the prisoners is a fire, and between the fire and the prisoners are people carrying puppets or other objects. This casts a shadow on the other side of the wall. The prisoners watch these shadows, believing them to be real.

Plato posits that one prisoner could become free. He finally sees the fire and realizes the shadows are fake. This prisoner could escape from the cave and discover there is a whole new world outside that they were previously unaware of.

This prisoner would believe the outside world is so much more real than that in the cave. He would try to return to free the other prisoners. Upon his return, he is blinded because his eyes are not accustomed to actual sunlight. The chained prisoners would see this blindness and believe they will be harmed if they try to leave the cave.

Such prisoners would mistake appearance for reality. They would think the things they see on the wall (the shadows) were real.

Plato's aim in the Republic is to describe what is necessary for us to achieve this reflective understanding. But even without it, it remains true that our very ability to think and to speak depends on the Forms.

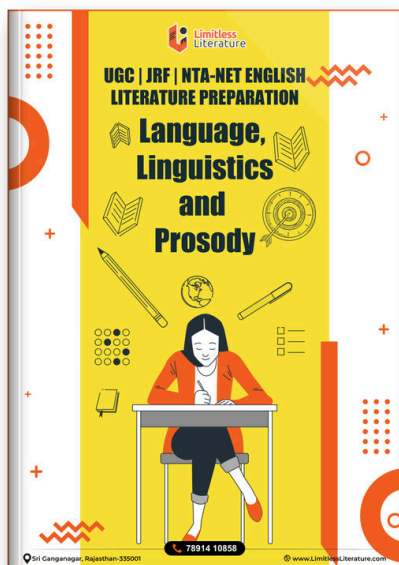
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INSIDE THE BOOKLET SET

Language and Linguistics

Linguistics, language teaching, prosody and figures of speech in plain English.



WHAT THIS BOOKLET COVERS

- Origin and characteristics of human language
- Grice's Cooperative Principle and its four maxims
- Chomsky, Saussure's langue and parole, Bloomfield
- Pidgins and creoles, register, dialect, code-mixing, Sapir-Whorf
- Language teaching methods, from Grammar-Translation to TPR
- Krashen's five hypotheses of second-language acquisition
- Figures of speech, with the differences the exam tests
- Prosody: metre, feet and stanza forms

REAL PAGE

Linguistics, Language, Prosody

BEST WAY TO UNDERSTAND HUMAN

LANGUAGE

The best ways to understand what human language is, is to compare it with other Systems of animal communication and try to understand the similarities and differences between the two. This is precisely what we will do in this section.

Use of sound signals

The use of sound signals is perhaps the most obvious characteristic of human language. But this feature is neither unique to human beings nor all-important. It is not unique to humans as a lot of other animals also use sounds for communication.

And it is not all-important because human beings can transfer language to visual symbols (as in the case of sign language, or writing) and to tactile symbols (as in the case of Braille). So, this characteristic is of little use in distinguishing human communication from animal communication.

Arbitrariness

In the case of animals there is generally an apparent relation between the signal and the message the animal wishes to convey. For example, an animal who wishes to warn off an opponent will generally simulate an attacking attitude. A cat, for example, will arch its back, spit and appear ready to pounce.

On the other hand, if we look at human language-carefully, we see that except in the case of onomatopoeic words or expressions, there is no logical relationship between the signal and the message. The symbols used by human beings are arbitrary. For example, there is no logical relationship between the word and the thing it symbolises. Had there been an intrinsic or logical relationship between the two, then why would the same thing be called 'pani' in Hindi? It is all the more interesting to note that in Hindi itself there is another word for water,

The need for learning

It appears that the role played by 'learning' in animal communication is very little. Their language is more or less genetically. For example, bee-dancing, which is used by the bees to convey information about the source of nectar, is quite same in bee colonies all over the world. And since, we do not expect the bees over the world to be holding international conferences, we have to agree with hypothesis that they are 'born with this language'.

Another interesting thing to notice is that if a human child is brought up in isolation, does not acquire language, whereas birds reared in isolation sing songs that are Human beings require a long exposure to language in order to acquire it. This does not mean that human language is totally conditioned by the environment. According to Chomsky, human beings are born with an innate 'language acquisition device' (LAD), but environment plays an important role triggering this innate ability. We should note that every normal learns an extremely complex grammatical system before he 3 years old.

Language is one of the greatest wonders of human societies, it cannot be accomplished unless we endowed with an innate language faculty.

So we can say that although both humans and other animals seem to be genetically predisposed to acquire language, it seems in humans, this latent potentiality can only be activated by long exposure to language, which requires careful learning.

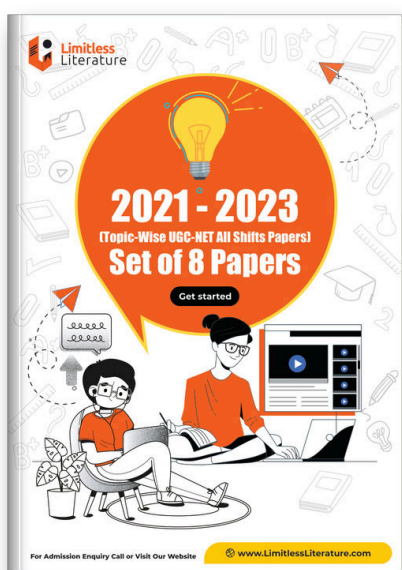
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INSIDE THE BOOKLET SET

Topic-Wise Both Shifts PYQs (2021–2023)

Every question from the 2021–2023 papers, both shifts, sorted topic by topic and solved.



WHAT THIS BOOKLET COVERS

- Questions from 8 papers, both shifts, 2021 to 2023
- Sorted by topic, so you revise a writer and test yourself straight away
- British novels, drama and poetry, author by author
- Literary theory, criticism and world literature
- Indian and American literature
- Language and linguistics, research methodology, awards and magazines
- The answer with a short explanation for every question

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PART I - BRITISH NOVELS

Jonathan Swift

1. Which of the following are true in the context of Jonathan Swift?

- (A) He was born in Dublin and studied at Kilkenny Grammar School and Trinity College, Dublin
- (B) He co-authored a book with Samuel Johnson
- (C) He was ordained in the Church of Ireland in 1695
- (D) He was a member of Kit-Cat Club
- (E) He wrote the sensational novel Lady Audley's Secret

Choose the correct answer from the options given below:

- (1) A and D
- (2) B and C
- (3) C and D
- (4) A and C

Ans: (4) Swift was born in Dublin, schooled at Kilkenny and Trinity College, and ordained in the Church of Ireland (1694-95). He never co-wrote with Johnson, was a Tory (not Kit-Cat), and Lady Audley's Secret is by M.E. Braddon.

2. Match List I with List II

LIST I

- (A) When I found myself on my feet, I looked about me, and must confess I never beheld a more entertaining prospect. The country round appeared like a continued garden, and the inclosed fields, which were generally forty-foot square, resembled so many beds of flowers.
- (B) There is likewise another great advantage in my scheme, that it will prevent those voluntary abortions, and that horrid practice of women murdering their bastard children, alas, too frequent among us, sacrificing the poor innocent babes, I doubt, more to avoid the expense than the shame, which would move tears and pity in the most savage and inhuman breast.
- (C) Having to no purpose used all peaceable endeavors, the collected part of the semen, raised and inflamed, became adult, converted to choler, turned head upon the spinal duct, and ascended to the brain.
- (D) Sweeping from butchers' stalls, dung, guts, and blood, Drowned puppies, stinking sprats, all drenched in mud, Dead cats, and turnip tops, come tumbling down the flood.

List II

- (I) A Description of a City Shower
- (II) Gulliver's Travels
- (III) A Modest Proposal
- (IV) A Tale of Tub

Choose the correct answer from the options given below:

- (1) A-IV, B-III, C-II, D-I
- (2) A-II, B-III, C-IV, D-I
- (3) A I, B-II, C-III, D-IV

Ans: (2) A: Lilliput in Gulliver's Travels; B: A Modest Proposal; C: the mock-physiology of A Tale of a Tub; D: the closing lines of "A Description of a City Shower".

Thomas Hardy

3. Which of the following novels of Thomas Hardy was first published in an abridged form as Hearts Insurgent?

- (1) The Mayor of Casterbridge
- (2) Jude the Obscure
- (3) Far From the Madding Crowd
- (4) The Return of the Native

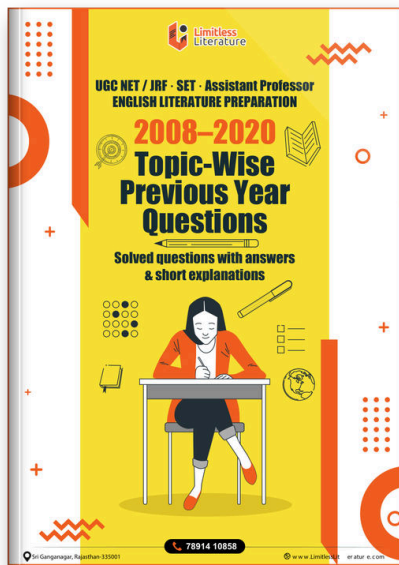
Ans: (2) Jude the Obscure Jude the Obscure was first serialised in Harper's in bowdlerised form as "Hearts Insurgent" (1894-95).

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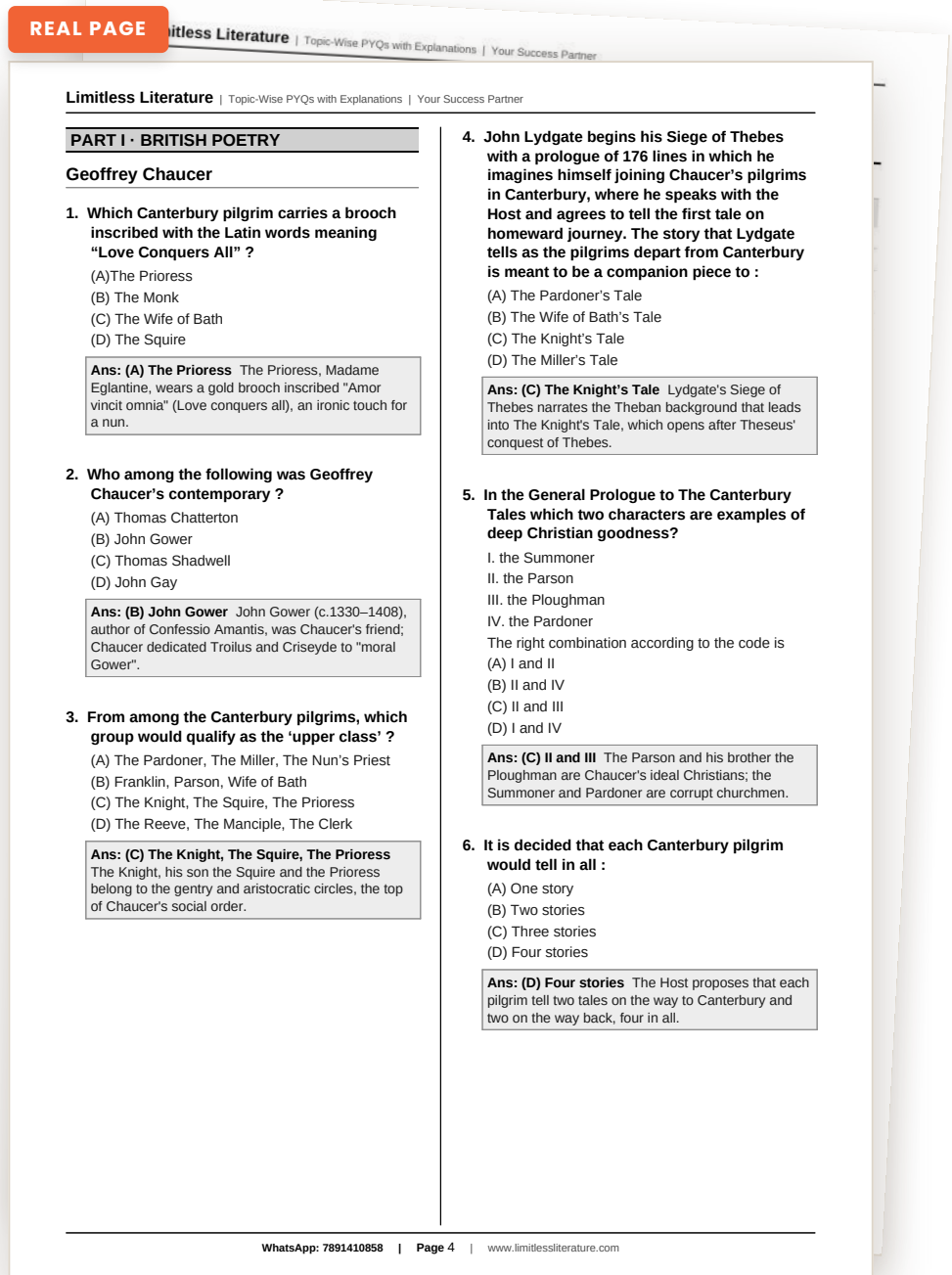
2008–2020 Topic-Wise Questions

3000+ UGC NET English questions from 2008 to 2020, sorted topic by topic, with answers.



WHAT THIS BOOKLET COVERS

- 3000+ previous year questions from 2008 to 2020
- Author-wise: Chaucer, Spenser, Milton, Shakespeare, Dickens, Hardy and more
- British poetry, drama, novel and prose, writer by writer
- Literary theory school by school, and literary criticism
- American, Indian, world and Afro-Caribbean literature
- Language, Bible, dictionaries, magazines and literary movements
- The answer with a short explanation for every question

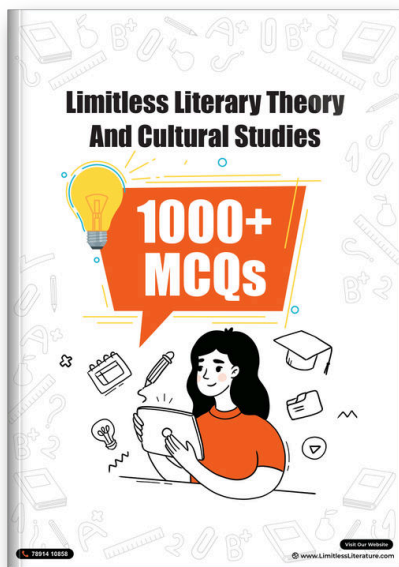


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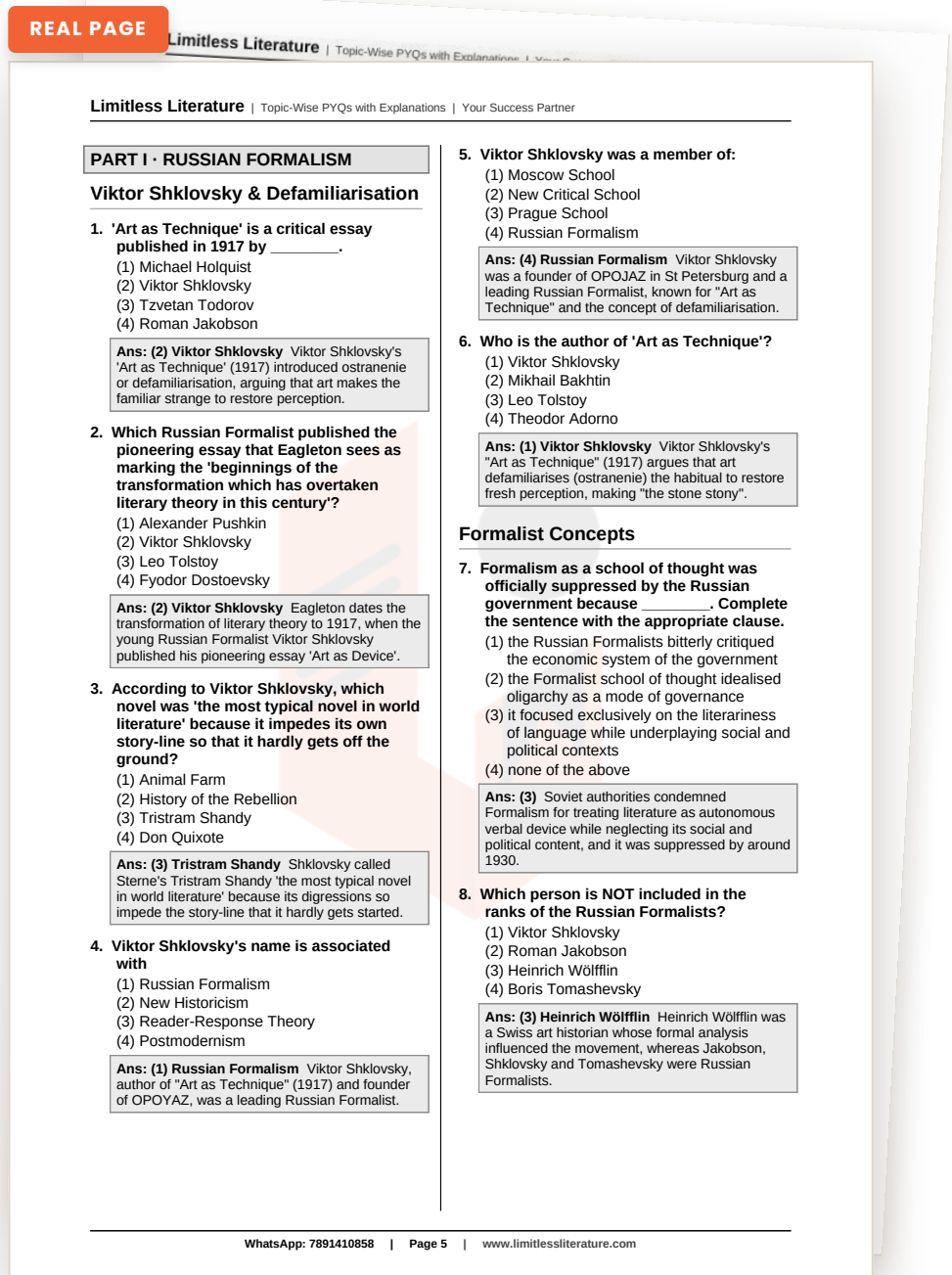
1000+ MCQs on Literary Theory

Topic-wise theory MCQs from NET, SET and PhD papers, from Russian Formalism to Ecocriticism.



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- Russian Formalism, Structuralism and semiotics
- Narratology: Propp, Todorov and Genette
- Bakhtin, New Criticism and Practical Criticism
- Barthes, Kristeva, Derrida, de Man and Foucault
- Psychoanalysis: Freud, Jung, Lacan and Bloom
- Marxism, Feminism, Gender and Queer theory
- Postcolonial theory: Said, Spivak, Bhabha and Fanon
- New Historicism, Cultural Studies and Ecocriticism

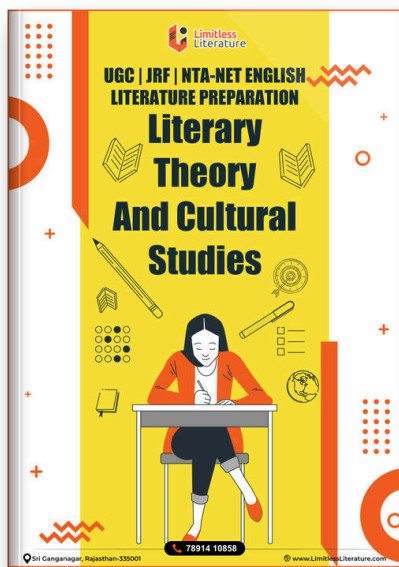


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INSIDE THE BOOKLET SET

Literary Theory and Cultural Studies

Every major school of literary theory, with its thinkers, key terms and texts.



WHAT THIS BOOKLET COVERS

- An overview of every school, from Russian Formalism to Ecocriticism
- Structuralism: Saussure, Lévi-Strauss, Propp, Genette, Barthes
- Bakhtin: dialogism, heteroglossia and the carnivalesque
- New Criticism: Richards, Empson, Brooks, Ransom and Tate
- Derrida, de Man, Foucault, Baudrillard, Deleuze and Kristeva
- Psychoanalysis: Freud, Jung, Lacan and Northrop Frye
- Feminism, Marxism and postcolonialism: Showalter, Said, Spivak, Bhabha
- Reader-response theory: Holland, Ingarden and Iser

REAL PAGE

Literary Theory And Cultural Studies

Literary theory and literary criticism are interpretive tools that help us think more deeply and insightfully about the literature that we read. Over time, different schools of literary criticism have developed, each with its own approaches to the act of reading.

Theory is political also because it unsettles and upsets established meanings of texts. It is political because it looks the structures—institutions—such as law, the university, the family in which representations are interpreted and meanings produced. It makes use of reviews, criticism, commentaries, responses, social events, awards, prefaces, legislation, market production as structures that inform, regulate and disseminate meanings.

SCHOOLS OF INTERPRETATION (OVERVIEW)

Cambridge School (1920s–1930s)

A group of scholars at Cambridge University who rejected historical and biographical analysis of texts in favor of close readings of the texts themselves.

Chicago School (1950s)

A group, formed at the University of Chicago in the 1950s, that drew on Aristotle's distinctions between the various elements within a narrative to analyze the relation between form and structure. *Critics and Criticisms: Ancient and Modern* (1952) is the major work of the Chicago School. Important writers include: R.S. Crane; Richard Mckeon; Elden Olson; Norman Maclean

Deconstruction (1967–present)

A philosophical approach to reading, first advanced by Jacques Derrida that attacks the assumption that a text has a single, stable meaning.

Derrida suggests that all interpretation of a text simply constitutes further texts, which means there is no “outside the text” at all. Therefore, it is impossible for a text to have stable meaning.

The practice of deconstruction involves identifying the contradictions within a text's claim to have a single, stable meaning, and showing that a text can be taken to mean a variety of things that differ significantly from what it purports to mean.

Feminist criticism (1960s–present)

An umbrella term for a number of different critical approaches that seek to distinguish the human experience from the male experience.

Feminist critics draw attention to the ways in which patriarchal social structures have marginalized women and male authors have exploited women in their portrayal of them. Although feminist criticism dates as far back as Mary Wollstonecraft's *A Vindication of the Rights of Woman* (1792) and had some significant advocates in the early 20th century, such as Virginia Woolf and Simone de Beauvoir, it did not gain widespread recognition as a theoretical and political movement until the 1960s and 1970s.

Psychoanalytic criticism

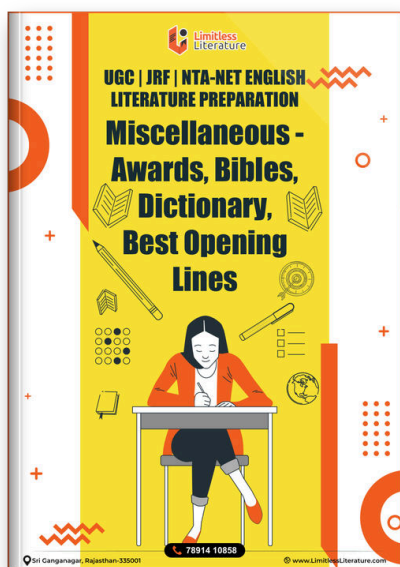
Any form of criticism that draws on psychoanalysis, the practice of analyzing the role of unconscious psychological drives and impulses in shaping human behavior or artistic production. The three main schools of psychoanalysis are named for the three leading figures in developing psychoanalytic theory: Sigmund Freud, Carl Jung, and Jacques Lacan.

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INSIDE THE BOOKLET SET

Miscellaneous

Awards, Bibles, dictionaries and famous opening lines: quick-scoring facts that turn up in almost every paper.



WHAT THIS BOOKLET COVERS

- 100 best first lines from novels
- 100 best last lines from novels
- Nobel Prize in Literature winners
- Booker and Pulitzer Prize winners
- The English Bibles, from Wycliffe to the King James Bible
- Dictionaries, from Johnson's to the American Dictionary

REAL PAGE

Miscellaneous

100 BEST FIRST LINES FROM NOVELS

1. Call me Ishmael. —Herman Melville, *Moby-Dick* (1851)
2. It is a truth universally acknowledged, that a single man in possession of a good fortune, must be in want of a wife. —Jane Austen, *Pride and Prejudice* (1813)
3. A screaming comes across the sky. —Thomas Pynchon, *Gravity's Rainbow* (1973)
4. Many years later, as he faced the firing squad, Colonel Aureliano Buendía was to remember that distant afternoon when his father took him to discover ice. —Gabriel García Márquez, *One Hundred Years of Solitude*
5. Lolita, light of my life, fire of my loins. —Vladimir Nabokov, *Lolita* (1955)
6. Happy families are all alike; every unhappy family is unhappy in its own way. —Leo Tolstoy, *Anna Karenina*
7. riverrun, past Eve and Adam's, from swerve of shore to bend of bay, brings us by a commodious vicus of recirculation back to Howth Castle and Environs. —James Joyce, *Finnegans Wake* (1939)
8. It was a bright cold day in April, and the clocks were striking thirteen. —George Orwell, *1984* (1949)
9. It was the best of times, it was the worst of times, it was the age of wisdom, it was the age of foolishness, it was the epoch of belief, it was the epoch of incredulity, it was the season of Light, it was the season of Darkness, it was the spring of hope, it was the winter of despair. —Charles Dickens, *A Tale of Two Cities* (1859)
10. I am an invisible man. —Ralph Ellison, *Invisible Man* (1952)
11. The Miss Lonelyhearts of the New York Post-Dispatch (Are you in trouble?—Do you need advice?—Write to Miss Lonelyhearts—and she will help you) sat at his desk and stared at a piece of white cardboard. —Nathanael West, *Miss Lonelyhearts* (1933)
12. You don't know about me without you have read a book by the name of *The Adventures of Tom Sawyer*; but that ain't no matter. —Mark Twain, *Adventures of Huckleberry Finn* (1885)
13. Someone must have slandered Josef K., for one morning, without having done anything truly wrong, he was arrested. —Franz Kafka, *The Trial* (1925)
14. You are about to begin reading Italo Calvino's new novel, *If on a winter's night a traveler*. —Italo Calvino, *If on a winter's night a traveler*
15. The sun shone, having no alternative, on the nothing new. —Samuel Beckett, *Murphy* (1938)
16. If you really want to hear about it, the first thing you'll probably want to know is where I was born, and what my lousy childhood was like, and how my parents were occupied and all before they had me, and all that David Copperfield kind of crap, but I don't feel like going into it, if you want to know the truth. —J. D. Salinger, *The Catcher in the Rye* (1951)
17. Once upon a time and a very good time it was there was a moocow coming down along the road and this moocow that was coming down along the road met a nicens little boy named baby tuckoo. —James Joyce, *Portrait of the Artist as a Young Man* (1916)
18. This is the saddest story I have ever heard. —Ford Madox Ford, *The Good Soldier* (1915)
19. I wish either my father or my mother, or indeed both of them, as they were in duty both equally bound to it, had minded what they were about when they begot me; had they duly considered how much depended upon what they were then doing;—that not only the production of a rational being was concerned in it, but that possibly the happy formation and temperature of his body, perhaps his genius and the very cast of his mind;—and, for aught they knew to the contrary, even the fortunes of his whole house might take their turn from the humours and dispositions which were then uppermost:—Had they duly weighed and considered all this, and proceeded accordingly,—I am verily persuaded I should have made a quite different figure in the world, from that, in which the reader is likely to see me. —Laurence Sterne, *Tristram Shandy* (1759–1767)
20. Whether I shall turn out to be the hero of my own life, or whether that station will be held by anybody else, these pages must show. —Charles Dickens, *David Copperfield* (1850)
21. Stately, plump Buck Mulligan came from the stairhead, bearing a bowl of lather on which a mirror and a razor lay crossed. —James Joyce, *Ulysses* (1922)
22. It was a dark and stormy night; the rain fell in torrents, except at occasional intervals, when it was checked by a violent gust of wind which swept up the streets (for it is in London that our scene lies), rattling along the house-tops, and fiercely agitating the scanty flame of the lamps that struggled against the darkness. —Edward George Bulwer-Lytton, *Paul Clifford* (1830)

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HOW YOU WILL USE THE BOOKLETS

The 8-week roadmap

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Week 1	Language & Linguistics Language and Linguistics
Week 2	British Literature British Literature · British Literature Summaries
Week 3	Literary Theory & Criticism Literary Theory and Cultural Studies · 1000+ MCQs on Literary Theory · Literary Criticism
Week 4	American & Commonwealth American Literature · British Diaspora, Canadian, Caribbean · Australian and European
Week 5	Indian Writing in English Indian Literature
Week 6	Drama & Poetry British Literature Summaries · British Literature, revised for plays and poets
Week 7	PYQs & Practice Topic-Wise Both Shifts PYQs (2021–2023) · 2008–2020 Topic-Wise Questions
Week 8	Revision & Mocks Miscellaneous · full revision of every booklet



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