

An Introduction
to British Literature
The 17th Century
(week 7)

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The 17th Century English Literature

- King James Bible
- Francis Bacon
- John Milton

King James Bible

- The authorized version of English Bible was finished under the supervision of King James, so it is called King James Bible.
- The authorized version has had a great influence on English language and literature.
- About 93% of the words used in it are the main words of native English. So with the widespread influence of the English Bible, the standard modern English has been fixed and confirmed.
- A great number of Bible phrases have passed into daily English speech as household words.

Francis Bacon

- He is the founder of English materialist philosophy, founder of modern science in England and the first English essayist.

His works:

- *Essays* (*Of Study*, *Of Truth*)
- *New Instrument*
- *Advancement of Learning*



Of Study

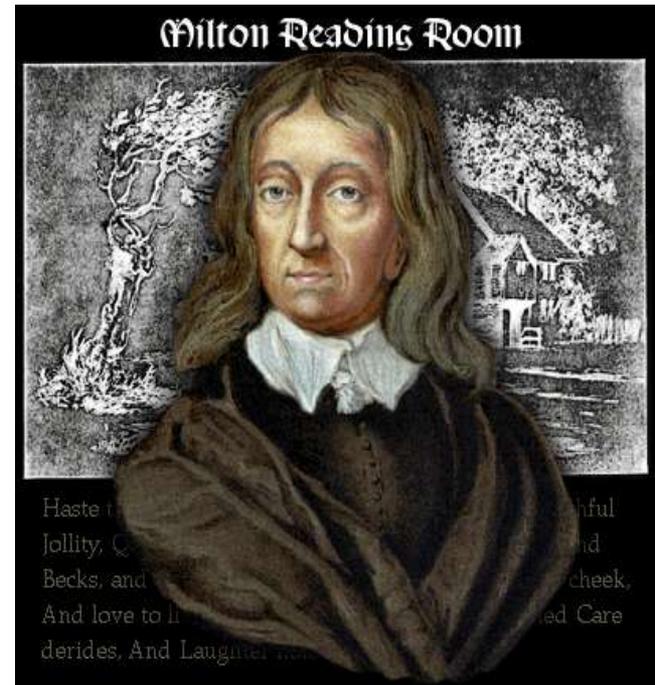
- Studies serve for delight, for ornament, and for ability.
- Reading makes a full man; conference a ready man; and writing an exact man.
- Histories make men wise; poets witty; the mathematics subtle; natural philosophy deep; moral grave; logic and rhetoric able to contend.

John Milton

- About the author

- About *Paradise Lost*

- Major works



John Milton

- With the Restoration of Charles II, Milton was arrested and imprisoned. His books were burnt. But he was saved, he probably owed his escape from death to his blindness. A fire in London destroyed his house. He moved from place to place until he settled down on the outskirts of London.
- His blindness forced him to depend on his daughters for assistance with his reading and writing. Everyday he dictated his epic *Paradise Lost* 10 or 20 lines at a time.

Paradise Lost

- It is a long epic of 12 books. The story was taken from the Bible.
- The Old Testament
- The New Testament
- The story was taken from the Old Testament, the Creation.

Paradise Lost

- Content:
- 1. the rebellion of Satan and his fellow-angels in Heaven.
- 2. the Creation of the earth and of Adam and Eve by God.
- 3. Satan's temptation of Eve and the departure of Adam and Eve from the Garden of Eden.

Paradise Lost

- Satan and his followers are banished from Heaven and driven into the hell.
- Satan fearlessly withstands all pains and passionately strives for victory. He choose for his battlefield the most perfect spot ever created by God--the Garden of Eden, where live the first man and woman--Adam and Eve. They were not permit to eat the fruit that grows on the Tree of Knowledge.

Paradise Lost

• Satan persuade her to break God's command, Eve eats an apple from the forbidden tree and pick for Adam. Adam and Eve were expelled from the Garden of Eden and doomed to an earthly life full of hardships and sufferings.

John Milton

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His masterpiece:

- *Paradise Lost*
- *Paradise Regained*
- *Samson Agonist*

The 18th Century English Literature

- **Historical and social Background**
- The 18th century is a period of comparatively peaceful development in England. After the Glorious Revolution, England entered the Golden Age. The state power passed from the king gradually to the Parliament and the cabinet ministers; therefore, capitalist system was established in England. A vast expansion abroad of British colonies in Asia, Africa and North America and Acts of Enclosure at home caused the Industrial Revolution.

The 18th Century English Literature

- **Cultural Background**
- **The Enlightenment Movement**
- The 18th-century England is known as the Age of Enlightenment or the Age of Reason. The Enlightenment Movement was a progressive intellectual movement which flourished in France & swept through the whole Western Europe at the time. The movement was a furtherance of the Renaissance of the 15th & 16th centuries.

The 18th Century English Literature

- The development of the literature in this period can be summarized as: the predominance of **neoclassical poetry and prose** in the early decades of the 18th century; the rise and flourish of modern **realistic novel** in the middle years of the 18th century; and the appearance of **gothic novel** and the **sentimental** and **pre-romantic poetry and fiction** in the last few decades of the 18th century.

The 18th Century English Literature

- Jonathan Swift

- Daniel Defoe

- Pre-Romanticism

Robert Burns & William Blake

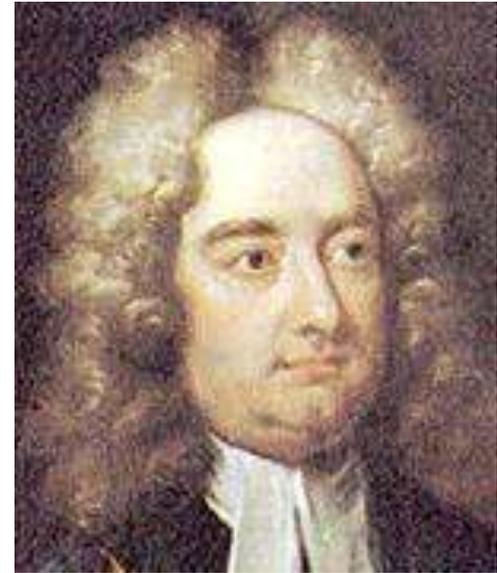
Jonathan Swift

- Jonathan Swift (1667–1745) was an Anglo-Irish satirist, essayist, political pamphleteer (first for Whigs then for the Tories) and poet.
- Swift is probably the foremost prose satirist in the English language, and is less well known for his poetry. Swift originally published all of his works under pseudonyms or anonymously.
- He is also known for being a master of satire.

Jonathan Swift

His major works:

- *A Tale of a Tub*
- *Gulliver's Travels*
- *A Modest Proposal*



A Tale of a Tub

- This book is written in the form of a parable, an old man died and left a coat, i.e. the Christian doctrine, to each of his three sons, Peter, Martin and Jack. The three sons stand for Roman Catholics, Protestants and Puritans. They evade their father's will, interpret it each in his own way, and change the fashion of their garment. This is a satire upon all religious sects.
- Swifts satire becomes an attack on Christianity itself.

Gulliver's Travels

- The First Voyage
- In the first part Gulliver describes his shipwreck in Lilliput where the tallest people were 6 inches high. The two parties in this country were distinguished by the use of high and low heels, Swift satirizes the Tories and the Whigs in England.
- Religious disputes were laughed at in account of a problem which divided the people: “Should eggs be broken at the big end or the little end?”

Gulliver's Travels

- The Second Voyage
- The voyage to Brobdingnag is described in this part. Gulliver now found himself a dwarf among men 60 feet in height. The King regarded Europe as if it were an anthill.
- The Third Voyage
- The third part is a satire on philosophers and projectors who were given to dwelling in the air, like the inhabitants of the Flying Island.

Gulliver's Travels

- The Fourth Voyage
- In the last part, Gulliver's satire is of the bitterest. Gulliver was now in a country where horses were possessed of reason, and were the governing class, while the Yahoos, though in the shape of men, were brute beasts with such vices as stealing and lying.
- This work gives an satirical depiction of the vices of his age.

Daniel Defoe

- Daniel Defoe (1659/1661 [?]¹—1731[?]) was an English writer, journalist, and pamphleteer, who gained enduring fame for his novel *Robinson Crusoe*.
- Defoe is notable for being a prolific and versatile writer, he wrote more than five hundred books, pamphlets, and journals on various topics (including politics, crime, religion, marriage, psychology and the supernatural).

Daniel Defoe

His works:

- *Moll Flanders*
- *Captain Singleton*
- *Robinson Crusoe*



Robinson Crusoe

- When Robinson is 19, he runs away from home and sets out to sea. After many adventures on the sea, he settles down in Brazil. But the call of the sea is so strong that he embarks on another voyage to Africa.
- A frightful storm changes the course of the ship and it is wrecked off the coast of an uninhabited island. Of all the ship's crew Robinson alone escapes to the shore.

Robinson Crusoe

- He spends the night on a tree for fear of wild animals. He set up a tent, he plants barley and corn, and harvests crops in time. He spend many months of hard toil in shaping a stone-mortar. It takes Robinson over five months to fell a big tree and fashion it into a boat. But great is his disappointment when he is unable to shift the heavy boat to the sea.
- Robinson's will-power in bettering his living conditions is amazing, strong winds, rains and earthquakes do not stop him from attaining his once set resolutions.

Robinson Crusoe

- Many years go by. One day Robinson discovers the imprint of a man's foot on the sand. Then he learns that the island is occasionally visited by some cannibals who come to celebrate their victories over their enemies and to eat their captives. Robinson happens to see one such celebration and manages to save one of the victims, this man, named Friday by Robinson, proves to be a clever young Negro.
- An English ship drops anchor off the island, the captain takes Robinson and Friday to England.

Robert Burns

- Robert Burns (1759–1796) was a poet and a lyricist. He is widely regarded as the national poet of Scotland, and is celebrated worldwide.
- He is the best known of the poets who have written in the Scots language, although much of his writing is also in English and a 'light' Scots dialect, accessible to an audience beyond Scotland.