

Modernism & Postmodernism
1965- Present

CONTEMPORARY BRITISH LITERATURE

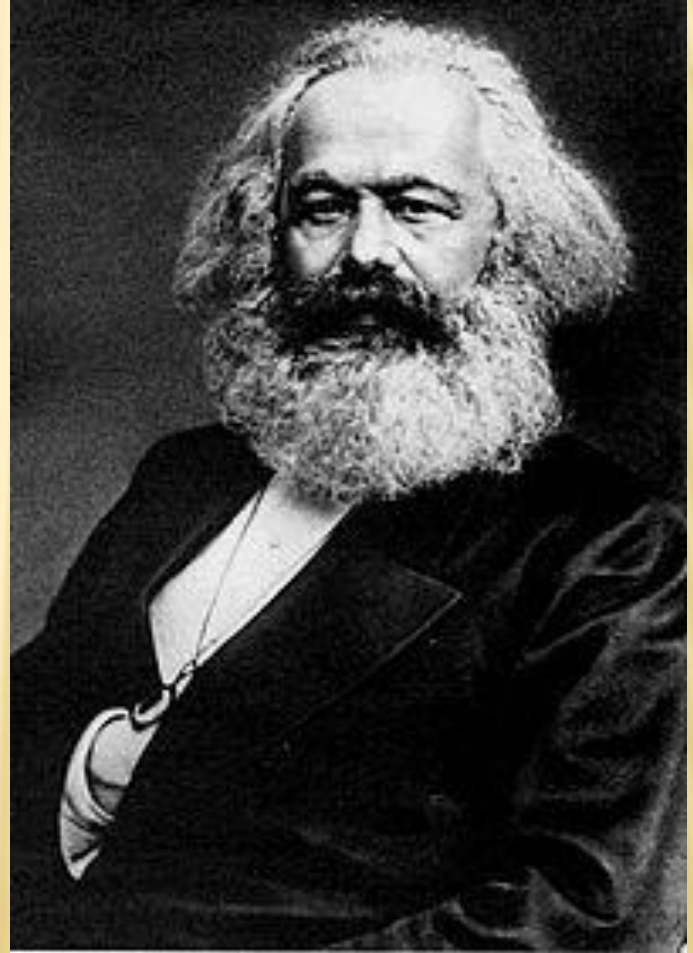
MODERNISM

1900-1945

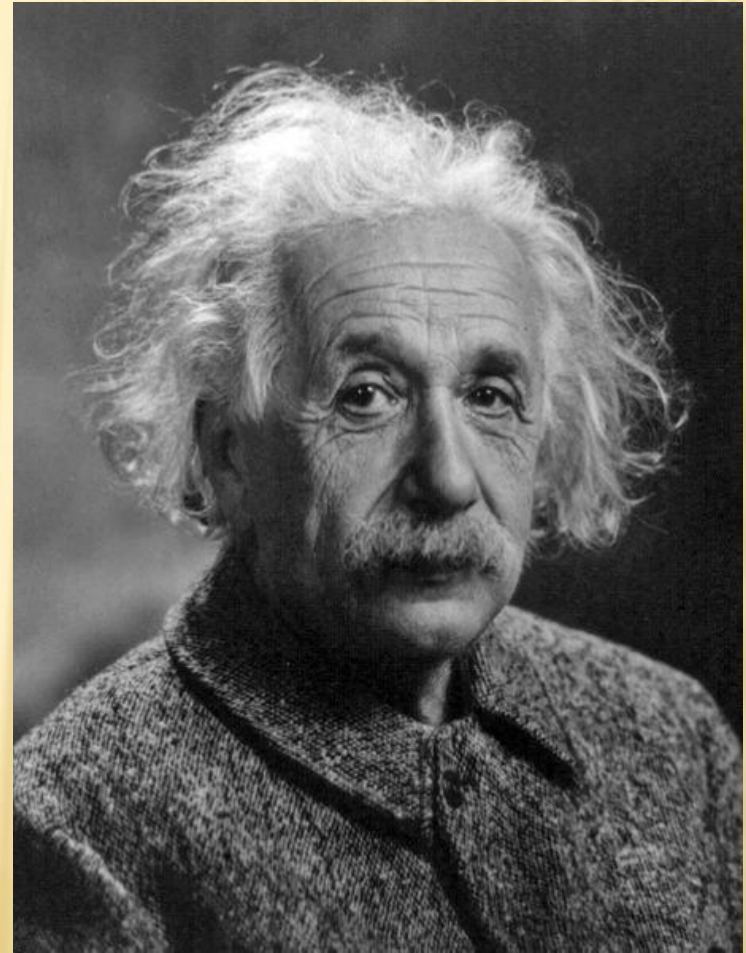
- ❑ Rejects Victorian standards of art
- ❑ Emphasizes impressionism and subjectivity
- ❑ Moves away from omniscient third-person narrators
- ❑ Blurs distinctions among genres



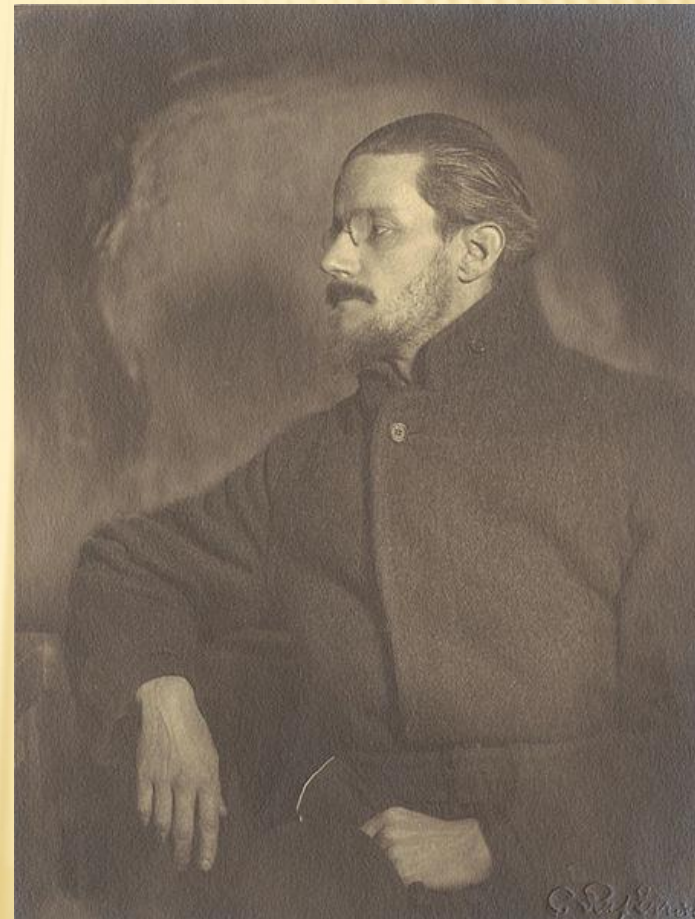
MODERNISM



MODERNISM



MODERNISM



MODERNISM



MODERNISM



THE MAIN CHARACTERISTICS OF MODERNISM INCLUDE:

- ❑ **Different perspectives**
- ❑ **Irony and satire**
- ❑ **Allusions**
- ❑ **unexpected plot or no plot at all**
- ❑ **Stream of consciousness**
- ❑ **Open endings**

POSTMODERNISM

- Postmodernism emerged after the Second World war as a reaction against “Modernism”.
- Like modernist literature, postmodern literature is part of socio-cultural and historical development and can be seen as a specific way of a depiction of the postmodern life and culture. It shows a crisis of identity of human being (ethnic, sexual, social and cultural).

“Life has no meaning a priori... It is up to you to give it a meaning, and value is nothing but the meaning that you choose.”

Jean-Paul Sartre

WHEN?

- The term gradually crept in during 1970s! Articles and books on postmodernism started to be published from the early 1970s.



Joseph Heller «Catch 22»

POSTMODERN LITERATURE

- There are a few similarities to modernist literature.
- both are usually told from an objective point of view.
- explore the external reality to examine the inner states of consciousness of the characters
- employ fragmentation in narrative and character construction
- reject boundaries between high and low forms of art, reject rigid genre distinctions, emphasize pastiche, parody, irony, and playfulness.

POSTMODERNISM

- It differs from modernism in its attitude toward a lot of these trends.
- Modernism, for example, tends to present a fragmented view of human subjectivity and history, but presents that fragmentation as something tragic, something to be lamented and mourned as a loss.

POSTMODERNISM

- ❑ Truth is an illusion, misused to gain power
- ❑ Truth and error are synonymous
- ❑ Logic relies on opinions rather than facts
- ❑ Scientific method unreliable
- ❑ Speaks out against religious and moral constraints
- ❑ Morality is personal, subject to personal opinion—private code of conduct



A LIST OF POSTMODERN CHARACTERISTICS.

▣ **Irony, playfulness, black humor**

Postmodern authors were certainly not the first to use irony and humor in their writing, but for many postmodern authors, these became the hallmarks of their style. Postmodern authors will often treat very serious subjects—World War II, the Cold War, conspiracy theories—from a position of distance and disconnect, and will choose to depict their histories ironically and humorously.

PASTICHE

- Many postmodern authors combined, or “pasted” elements of previous genres and styles of literature to create a new narrative voice, or to comment on the writing of their contemporaries (e.g. elements from detective fiction, science fiction, war fiction, songs, pop culture references, well-known, obscure, and fictional history).
- **The taking of various ideas from previous writings and literary styles and pasting them together to make new styles. (*Gaiman*)**

TEMPORAL DISTORTION

- Temporal distortion is a literary technique that uses a nonlinear timeline; the author may jump forwards or backwards in time, or there may be cultural and historical references that do not fit.

TECHNOCULTURE AND HYPERREALITY

- Frederic Jameson called postmodernism the “cultural logic of late capitalism.” According to his logic, society has moved beyond capitalism into the information age, in which we are constantly bombarded with advertisements, videos, and product placement. Many postmodern authors reflect this in their work by inventing products that mirror actual advertisements, or by placing their characters in situations in which they cannot escape technology.

METAFICTION

- Writing about writing, often used to undermine the authority of the author and to advance stories in unique ways.
- In Kurt Vonnegut's novel, *Slaughterhouse Five*, the first chapter is about the writing process of the novel.

OTHER FEATURES OF POSTMODERNISM

- Intertextuality
- Allusions
- Different perspectives
- Temporal Distortion

The use of non-linear timelines and narrative techniques in a story

POSTMODERN LITERATURE: **INFLUENTIAL WORKS**

- ▣ *Catch 22, Something Happened* – Joseph Heller
- ▣ *Slaughterhouse Five* – Kurt Vonnegut
- ▣ *Lost in the Funhouse* – John Barth
- ▣ *The Things They Carried* – Tim O'Brien
- ▣ *White Noise* – Don DeLillo
- ▣ *Gravity's Rainbow, The Crying of Lot 49* – Thomas Pynchon
- ▣ *Shōgun* – Джеймс Клавелл

JULIAN PATRICK BARNES



- He was born 19 January 1946. J. Barnes is a contemporary English writer, one of the most famous representatives of the postmodernistic literary movement. Barnes won the Man Booker Prize for his book The Sense of an Ending (2011), and three of his earlier books had been shortlisted for the Booker Prize: Flaubert's Parrot (2011), and three of his earlier books had been shortlisted for the Booker Prize: Flaubert's

MAGICAL REALISM

- Arguably the most important postmodern technique, magical realism is the introduction of fantastic or impossible elements into a narrative that is otherwise normal. Magical realist novels may include dreams taking place during normal life, the return of previously deceased characters, extremely complicated plots, wild shifts in time, and myths and fairy tales becoming part of the narrative.

MAGIC REALISM

- The term "magic realism" appeared in Europe. It was invented in 1925 by German art critic Franz Roh. It was applied in relation to the avant-garde painting.











MAGIC REALISM

- “Amaryllis Night and Day” by Russell Hoban
- “Blackberry wine” Joanne Harris
- “The Chemical Wedding” Lindsay Clarke
- “The Infernal Desire Machines of Doctor Hoffman”, “The Magic Toyshop”, “Nights at the Circus”, “Wise Children” by Angela Carter
- “Lolly Willowes; or The Loving Huntsman” by Sylvia Townsend Warner
- “Sexing the Cherry” by Jeanette Winterson

SALMAN RUSHDIE

“Novels are not to lay down rules
but to ask questions.”

- ▣ b. in Bombay, India to a prosperous family
- ▣ Moved to England
- ▣ Received M.A. from King's College, Cambridge
- ▣ Worked as an actor, free-lance advertising copy-writer
- ▣ 1989 - “FATWA” - Condemned by to death
- ▣ ***The Book of the Pir, 1971***
- ▣ ***Midnight Children, 1981***
- ▣ ***Shame, 1983***
- ▣ ***The Satanic Verses, 1989***



FATWA – SENTENCE TO DEATH

I inform all zealous Muslims of the world that the author of the book entitled *The Satanic Verses*— which has been compiled, printed and published in opposition to Islam, the Prophet, and the Qur'an— and all those involved in its publication who were aware of its content, are sentenced to death.

I call on all zealous Muslims to execute them quickly, wherever they may be found, so that no one else will dare to insult the Muslim sanctities. God Willing, whoever is killed on this path is a martyr.

INTELLECTUAL NOVEL

- The term “intellectual novel” was suggested by Thomas Mann in 1924, after the publication of his famous book “The Magic Mountain”.

He thought that the representatives of the twentieth century destroyed the boundaries between the science and art; they gave a new life to something that earlier had become dead and meaningless, that had lost its unique features.

- An intellectual novel is the genre that aims to interpret the actualities of any aspect of life, its problems and conflicts. It isn't connected with subjective prejudice, idealism or romantic colour.

THE MOST IMPORTANT FEATURES

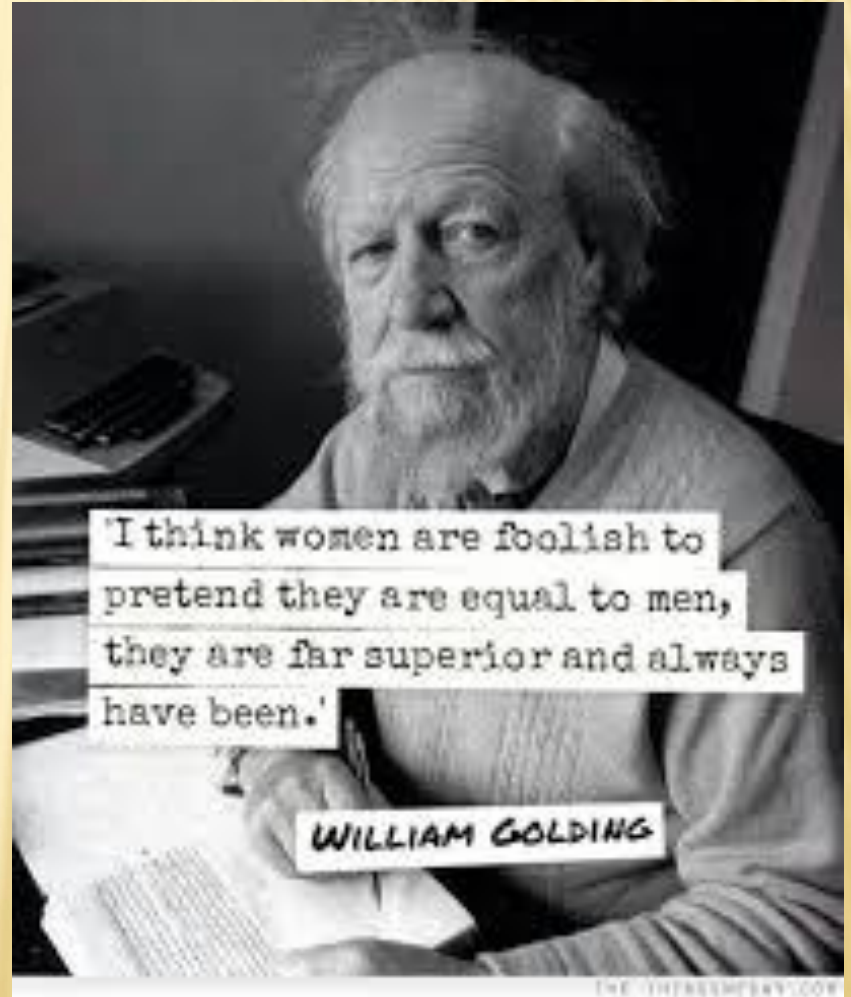
- tendency to literal experiments in terms of form and expressive means;
- intertextuality;
- the existence of new worlds;
- question – and- answer reading;
- the readers should be broad-minded and reasonable;
- sometimes nonlinear effect;
stylistic redundancy.

SIR WILLIAM GERALD GOLDING

(19 September, 1911 – 19 June, 1993)

British novelist, poet and Nobel Prize for Literature Laureate best known for his novel "Lord of the Flies".

He was also awarded the Booker Prize for literature in 1980, for his novel "Rites of Passage," the first book of the trilogy "To the Ends of the Earth".



THE LORD OF FLIES

- a response to Robert Michael Ballantyne's novel "Coral Island"(1858).
- Golding's war experience installed him in the idea that evil and cruelty are inherent in the man and cannot be explained only by the pressure of social mechanisms.
- He said that the basis of evil is to be found inside the country and its people.
- The cruelty of fascism and the war horrors made the writer think over the fate of mankind and nature of man.



***"The most beautiful thing we can experience is the mysterious.
It is the source of all true art and science."***

~Albert Einstein

WHAT IS DETECTIVE FICTION?

- a narrative in which a main character solves a crime, usually, but not always murder, by examining clues and considering a closed circle of suspects.
- The solving of the crime is the driving force for both plot and character; the reader tries to solve the crime along with the detective.

DETECTIVE FICTION BY DEFINITION CONTAINS...

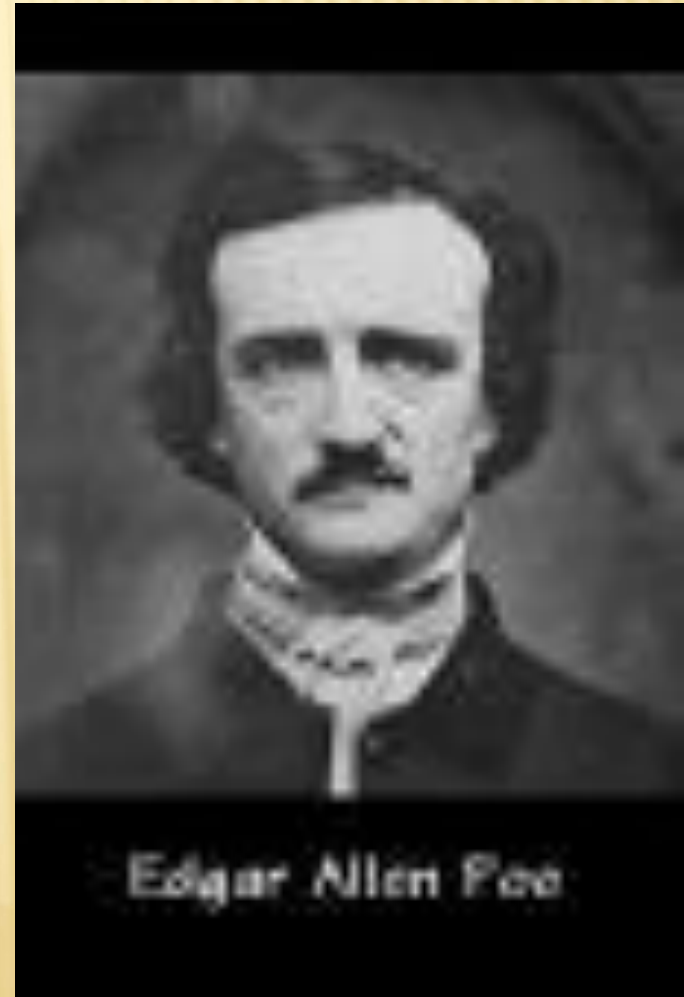


1. Sleuth: "private eye"/private investigator/detective investigating the case
2. Sidekick: "helper," person/animal who helps detective investigate the crime
3. Victim: person to whom the crime happened
4. Suspect: a person who may be involved in the crime
5. Witness: someone who saw what happened
6. Culprit: person who committed or assists in the crime / a villain
7. Fugitive: person running from the law

Origins of the genre are difficult to define

WHEN DETECTIVE FICTION APPEARS

- Poe: the founder of the genre
 - The Murders In The Rue Morgue (1841)
 - The Mystery Of Marie Roget (1842)
 - The Purloined Letter (1844)
- Five locked-room mysteries
- First great detective:
C. Auguste Dupin



LITERATURE SIGNIFICANCE AND RECEPTION

- "The Murders in the Rue Morgue": " changed the history of world literature." Often cited as the first detective fiction story, the character of Dupin became the prototype for many future fictional detectives
- "The Murders in the Rue Morgue" also established many tropes that would become common elements in mystery fiction: the eccentric but brilliant detective, the bumbling constabulary, the first-person narration by a close personal friend.
- Poe also initiates the storytelling device where the detective announces his solution and then explains the reasoning leading up to it.

THE FIRST DETECTIVE NOVEL?

- ❑ William Godwin (1756–1836), an English journalist, political philosopher, and writer: *Caleb Williams* (1794)
- ❑ Charles Dickens's *Bleak House* (installments, 1852–53), *The Mystery of Edwin Drood* (1870)
- ❑ Wilkie Collins *The Moonstone* (1868) - an example of Sensation fiction
- ❑ (HIBK) - Charlotte Brontë's *Jane Eyre*
Wilkie Collins's *The Woman in White*



CONCLUSION

- Modern detective fiction was born in part from related literary genres and in part from social changes such as the advent of real policemen and detectives, as well as changing demands in the public's reading habits and preferences.

TYPES & SUBTYPES

(USUALLY RANKED BY THE SLEUTH INVOLVED)

- The amateur sleuth
- The private investigator (or private eye) sleuth
- Police sleuth stories

- “cozy”, hard-boiled, espionage, techno-thriller, historical, medical, legal, ethnic, “whodunit,” “whydunit,” “how-catchem”

- “whodunit”
 - The plot opens with the discovery of a dead body. The middle outlines the discovery of the murderer. This always involves the reconstruction of the story that precedes and leads up to the murder.

- “cozy”
- soft-boiled
 - These novels generally shy away from violence and suspense and frequently feature female amateur detectives
- hard-boiled
 - The action can be high on the description of violence, sexual content and uses the language of the street
- Espionage
 - A story about a secret agent (spy) or military personnel member who is sent on a secret espionage mission
- techno-thriller
 - hybrid genre, drawing subject matter generally from spy thrillers, war novels, and political narratives, and including a disproportionate amount of technical detail on its subject matter
- Whodunnit
- whydunit”
- how-catche
- m

Arthur
Conan
Doyle

1859–1930



- born in Edinburgh, of Irish and Catholic background
- trained to be a doctor at Edinburgh University
- short stories, novels, historical fiction, science romances, and verse, most famous for the fifty-six short stories and four longer stories that make up the Holmes canon.

CONAN DOYLE'S Great New Serial
Begins This Month.

**FRY'S
Cocoa**

creates and
restores the
fragile
nerve
and the
fragile
body.

See Page 22.
LONDON
STREET

THE STRAND MAGAZINE

Conan Doyle

relates
another amazing
adventure of

**Professor G. E.
Challenger**

in his

NEW SERIAL

**"THE POISON
BELT."**

MARCH, 1913.



PUBLISHED MONTHLY BY STRAND PUBLISHING CO., LTD., 10, FLEET STREET, LONDON, E.C.4.

- The first story published was “A Scandal in Bohemia” (Strand, 1891, the first to be illustrated by Sidney Paget)
- He tried killing Holmes off in “The Adventure of the Final Problem” (Strand, December 1893)
- Doyle resurrected Holmes in a new series starting with “The Empty House” (Strand, 1903)
- Favorites of both critics and Doyle himself include “A Scandal in Bohemia,” “The Adventure of the Final Problem,” and “The Adventure of the Speckled Band.”



Sidney
Paget

1860–1908



- Pierre Bayard “plays the game” and has fun practicing a form of literary analysis he has dubbed “detective criticism,” reinvestigating cases in detective literature.
- In *Sherlock Holmes Was Wrong: Reopening the Case of the Hound of the Baskervilles* (2008), he uses evidence from the text to defend the hound and suggest that Sherlock Holmes was “incorrect” in his identification of the killer, which Bayard reveals to be another character entirely.

- ❑ Agatha Christie (1890–1976) is the most widely published author and arguably the most popular detective author of all time.
- ❑ She wrote 78 crime novels, over 150 short stories, and 20 plays.
- ❑ One of her plays, *The Mousetrap*, is the longest running play in history.



HERCULE POIROT

- One of the “Great Detectives” - retired Belgian police officer Hercule Poirot - solves crimes in thirty-three novels beginning with Christie’s first work, *The Mysterious Affair at Styles* (1920).

MISS MARPLE

- Elderly village spinster Miss Marple uses her understanding of human nature to solve murders. Marple features in 12 novels and numerous short stories.
- Debuted in the short story collection *Tuesday Club Murders* (1927) – one of Christie's best works.

TOMMY & TUPPENCE

- Tommy & Tuppence - Christie's romantic couple turned sleuths
- “Willing to do anything, go anywhere. Pay must be good. No unreasonable offer refused”



SCIENCE AND DETECTIVE FICTION

- The 1890s saw the emergence of other genres of popular writing, including science fiction, pioneered by H. G. Wells (1866–1946), who termed the genre “scientific romance.”

H. G.
Wells

1866–1946



- Wells's mother was a servant, and his father, a shopkeeper. Wells left school early and worked as a sales assistant in a draper's establishment
- attended a technological school in London
- began writing short stories for magazines at early stage of his life for young people who had some education and were curious about the world

-
- Wells wrote innumerable kinds of fiction, including political novels, comic novels, fables, utopias, realistic works, and romances, but it is his science fiction, conceived when he was still a relatively young writer, that has endured.

- ▣ *The Invisible Man* (1896), one of his most famous stories, is remarkable not just for its gimmick but for the extraordinary explanation
- ▣ *The First Men in the Moon* - Wells invents a kind of metal that can defy gravity.
- ▣ In *The Island of Doctor Moreau* Wells, anticipating stem-cell research, asks how evolution might be harnessed and controlled.
- ▣ *The Time Machine* was originally based on a short story by Wells called "*The Chronic Argonauts*." (two bipolar species - Eloi, pretty, little creatures, and the other is the Morlocks, who are subhuman and subterranean.)

- Wells's science fiction is a political parable, forecasting a grim future for mankind.



ALDOUS HUXLEY
26 JULY 1894 –
22 NOVEMBER 1963

- ▣ He entered the literary world while he was at Oxford, and published his first book, a collection of poems, in 1916.

Aldous Huxley was a humanist and pacifist, and he was

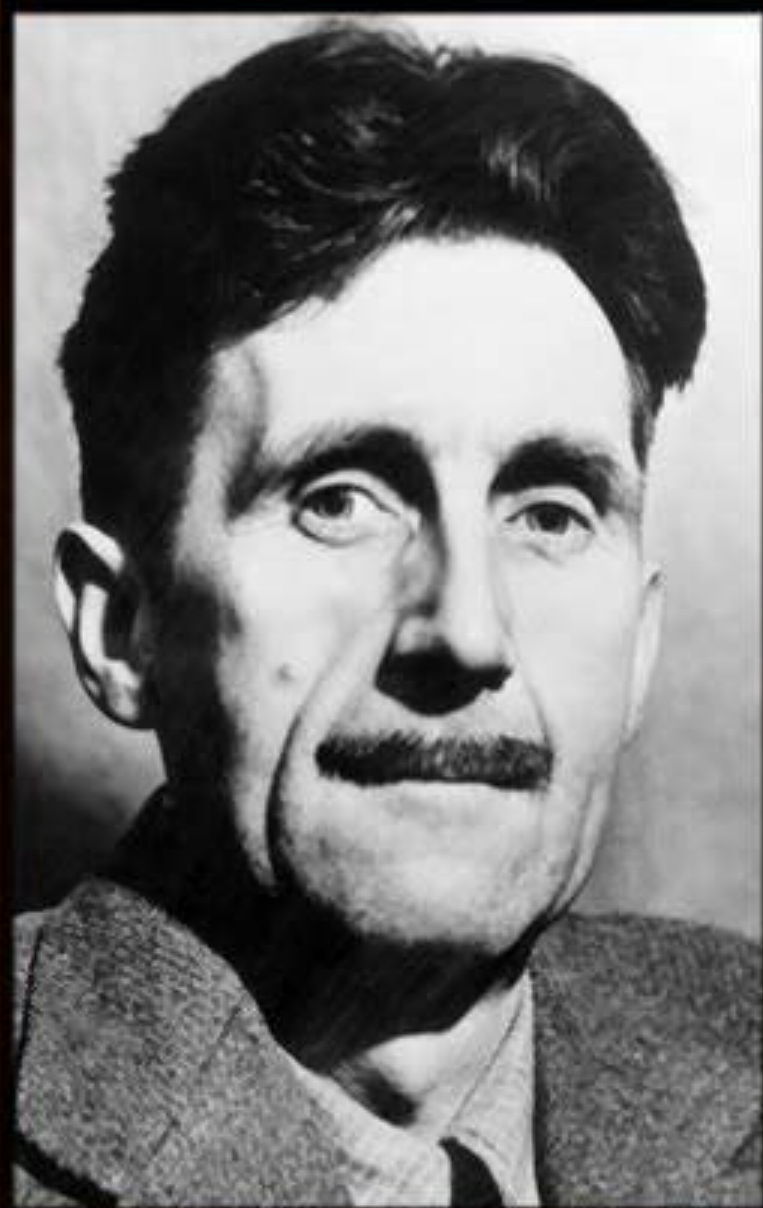
interested in spiritual subjects such as parapsychology and philosophical mysticism. He is also well known for advocating a controlled use of psychedelics

- ▣ Notable works:
Brave New World,
Island, Point Counter Point,
The Doors of Perception



DYSTOPIA VS. UTOPIA

- Dystopia: an imaginary place where people lead dehumanized and often fearful lives
- Utopia: a place of ideal perfection especially in laws, government, and social conditions



George
Orwell

1903–1950

- Eric Arthur Blair
- Orwell fought in the Spanish civil war, and wrote a very perceptive book about the details of the conflict.
- Orwell was also a journalist.
- He then produced a highly entertaining book, '*Down and out in London and Paris*'.
- Animal Farm (1945)
- Futuristic dystopia, **1984** (1948).
- Orwell (1903 - 1950) was dying of tuberculosis when he wrote this novel. He had seen the future, and it was more totalitarian than Nazi Germany or the USSR.

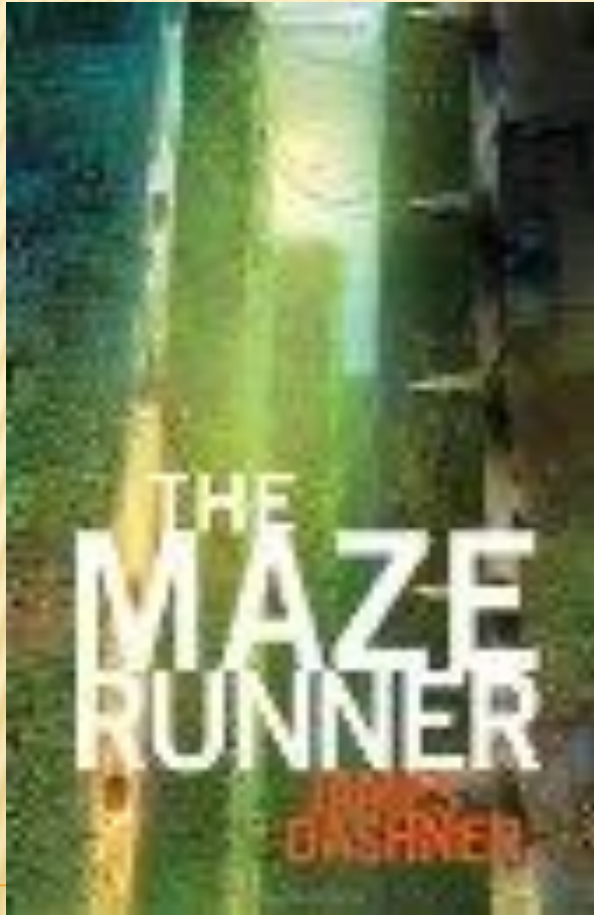
ANTHONY BURGESS

- John Anthony Burgess Wilson (25 February 1917 – 22 November 1993)
- an English writer
A Clockwork Orange
- published in 1962



Societal Critique of Violence

- Moral Ambiguity of Violence
 - Youth/Gang Culture
 - The State
 - Tentacles of the State
- Language & Divisions of Violence
- Cyclical Nature of Violence
- Narrator, Reliability, Point of View

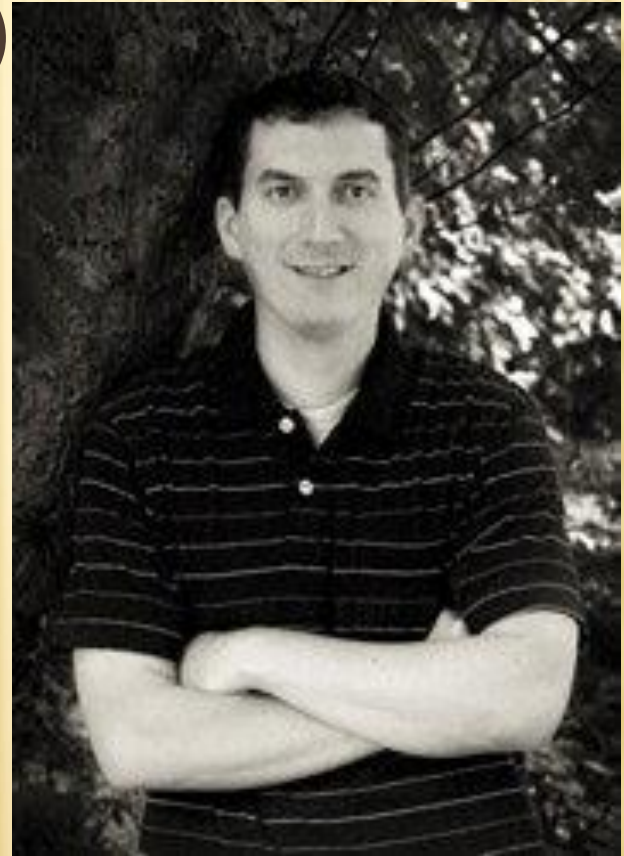


THE MAZE RUNNER

**By James
Dashner**

THE MAZE RUNNER SERIES

- ▣ *The Maze Runner* (2009)
- ▣ *The Scorch Trials* (2010)
- ▣ *The Death Cure* (2011)
- ▣ *The Kill Order* (2012)
- ▣ *The Fever Code* (2016)



THE HUNGER GAMES

BY SUZANNE COLLINS



WHAT IS CYBERPUNK?

DEFINITION:

- a cult genre of fiction characterized by “day-after-tomorrow” technological capabilities, and containing at least one of three factions: hackers, corporations, and artificial intelligences

TOPICAL THEMES

Dystopia

almost always takes place in a world where the majority are being or are about to be, exploited by a rich and powerful minority

Hard-boiled/Noir

stage is usually set for unusual crimes or novel situations created by the interactions of humans with new technology

the confluence of humanity and technology is represented in cyberpunk not just by plugging people into computers, but also by plugging computers into people

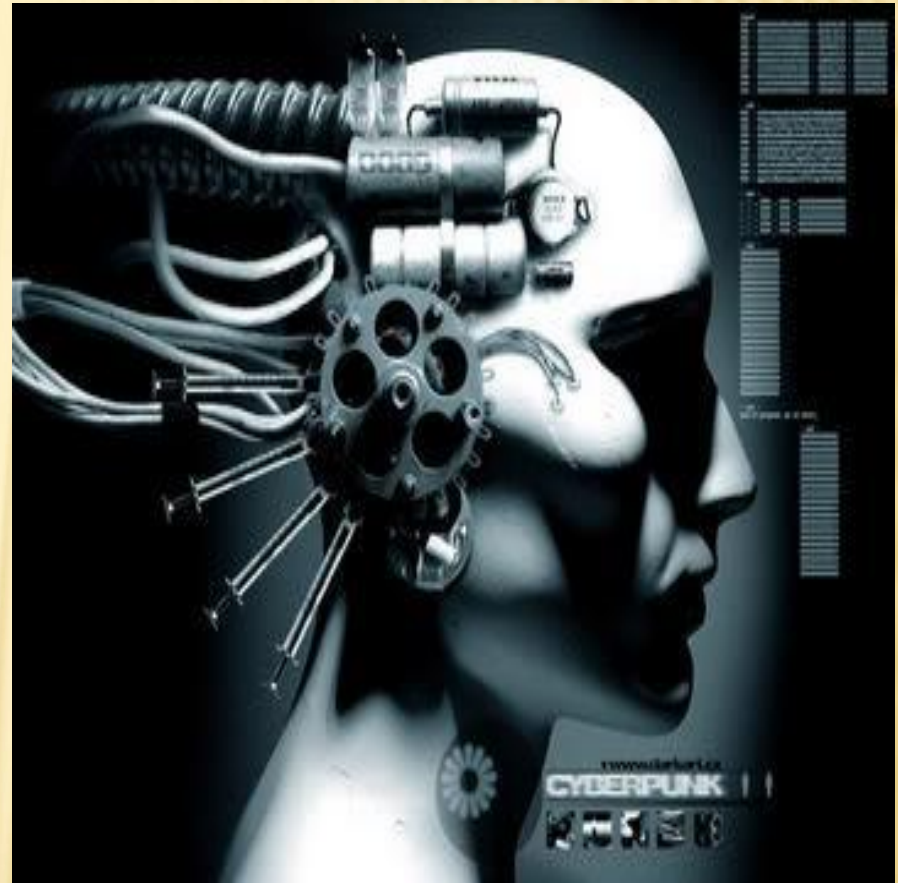
characters sport technological or vanity-driven modifications to their bodies such as jacked-up nerves, integrated optical displays, native connectivity, etc.

SETTING

- Writers tend to use elements from the hard-boiled detective novel, film noir, and postmodernist prose.
- Actions takes place online, in cyberspace.
- Direct connection between the human brain and computer system.
- Depicts the world as a dark, sinister place.

PROTAGONISTS

- ❑ Protagonists usually include computer hackers, who are often patterned on the idea of the lone hero fighting injustice, such as Robin Hood.
- ❑ A prototype character is ‘Case’ from Gibsons’s “Neuromancer”.
- ❑ A Case is a console cowboy, a brilliant hacker, who had betrayed his organized criminal partners.

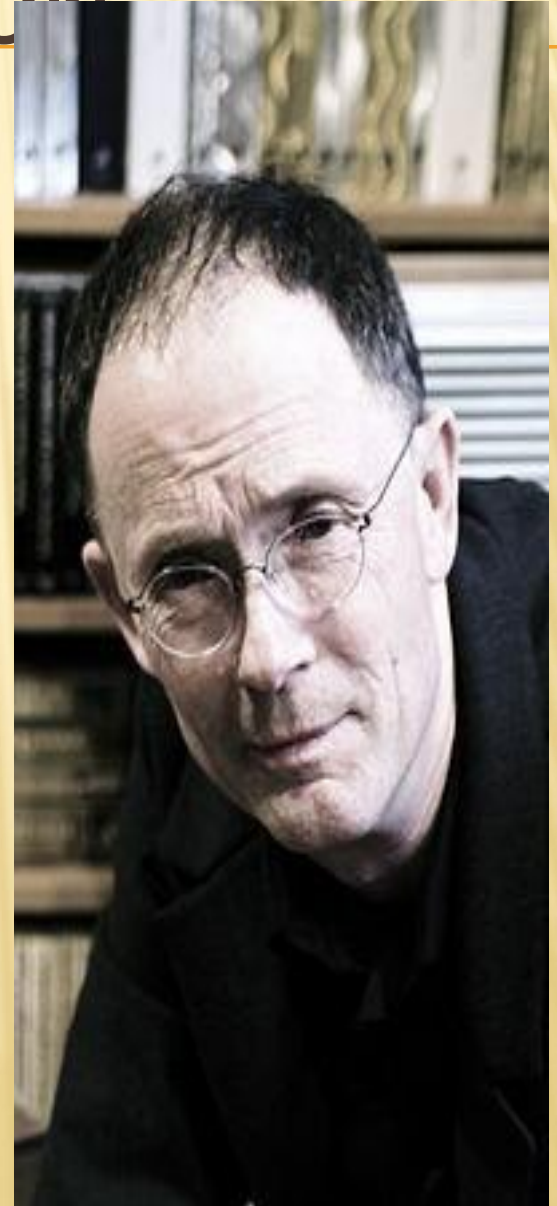


WILLIAM GIBSON

is an American-Canadian speculative fiction novelist who has been called the "noir prophet" of the cyberpunk subgenre.

Gibson coined the term "cyberspace" in his short story "Burning Chrome" (1982) and later popularized the concept in his debut novel, *Neuromancer* (1984). In envisaging cyberspace, Gibson created an iconography for the information age before the ubiquity of the Internet in the 1990s.

He is also credited with predicting the rise of reality television and with establishing the conceptual foundations for the rapid growth of virtual environments such as video games and the World Wide Web.



SOCIETY AND GOVERNMENT

- ❑ Cyberpunk literature is used as a metaphor for the present days worries.
- ❑ It can be intended to disquiet readers and call them to action.
- ❑ It often expresses a sense of rebellion.
- ❑ Cyberpunk stories have also been seen as fictional forecasts of the evolution of the Internet.

What is steampunk?

- is a sub-genre of science fiction
- a subset of cyberpunk
- typically features steam-powered machinery
- inspired by the Industrial Revolution of Victorian England and industrialization of American Western civilization during the 19th century.

The main point is to reinvent modern technology, gadgets, architecture, vehicles, and fashion as the people of the Victorian period might have envisioned them.



Origin of the term

The term “steampunk” originated in the late 1980s as a variant of cyberpunk.

It seems to have been coined by science fiction author K. W. Jeter, who was trying to find a general term for works by Tim Powers (*The Anubis Gates*, 1983); James Blaylock (*Homunculus*, 1986) and himself (*Morlock Night*, 1979, and *Infernal Devices*, 1987)—all of which took place in a 19th-century (usually Victorian) setting and imitated conventions of such actual Victorian speculative fiction as H. G. Wells' *The Time Machine*. In a letter to science fiction magazine “*Locus*”, printed in the April 1985, Jeter wrote:

Dear Locus,

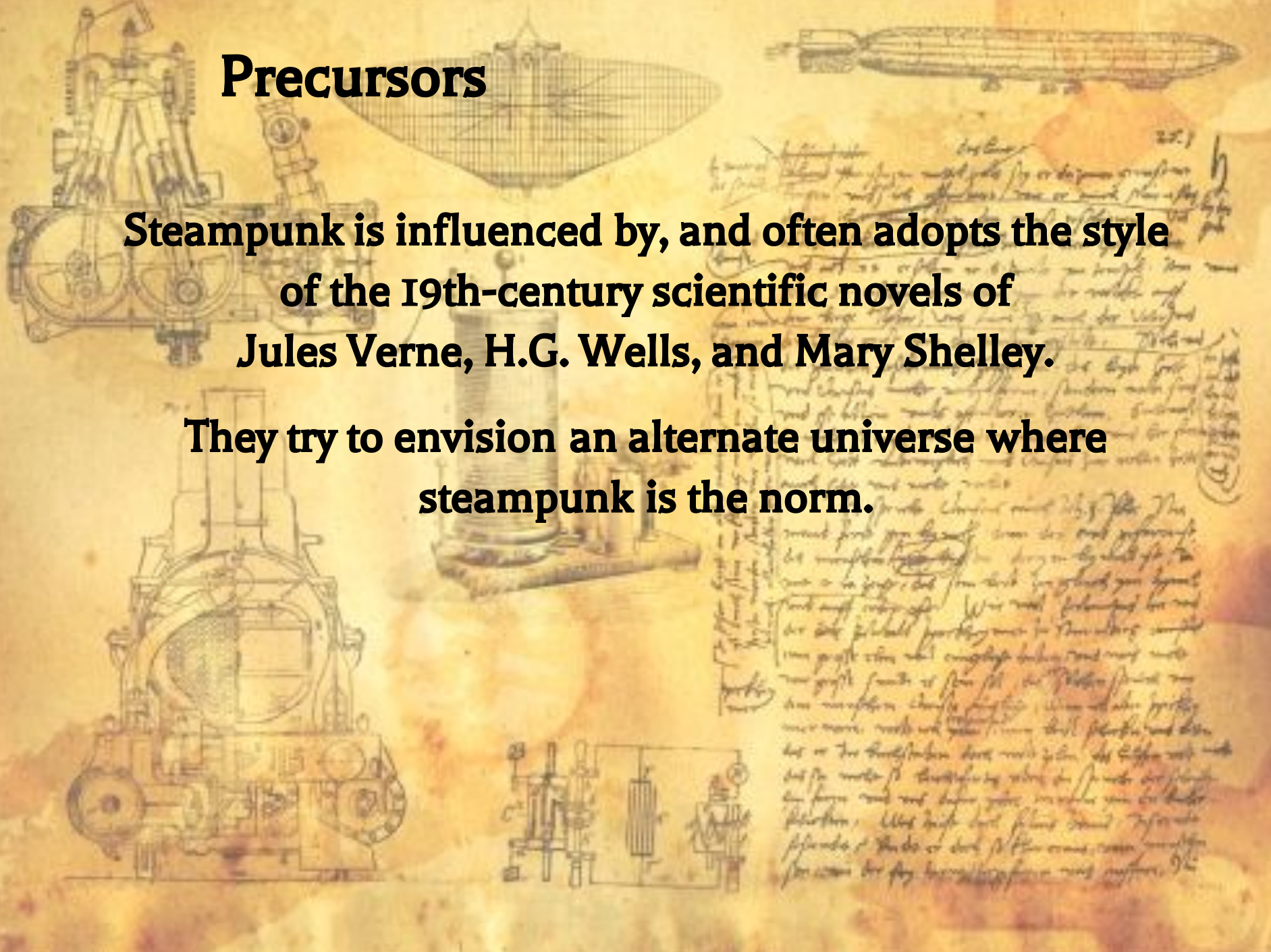
Personally, I think Victorian fantasies are going to be the next big thing, as long as we can come up with a fitting collective term for Powers, Blaylock and myself. Something based on the appropriate technology of the era; like 'steam-punks', perhaps.

K.W. Jeter

Precursors

Steampunk is influenced by, and often adopts the style of the 19th-century scientific novels of Jules Verne, H.G. Wells, and Mary Shelley.

They try to envision an alternate universe where steampunk is the norm.

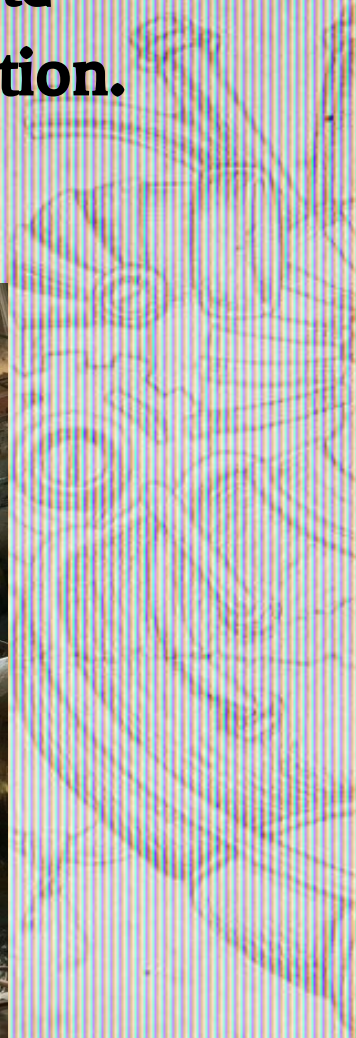


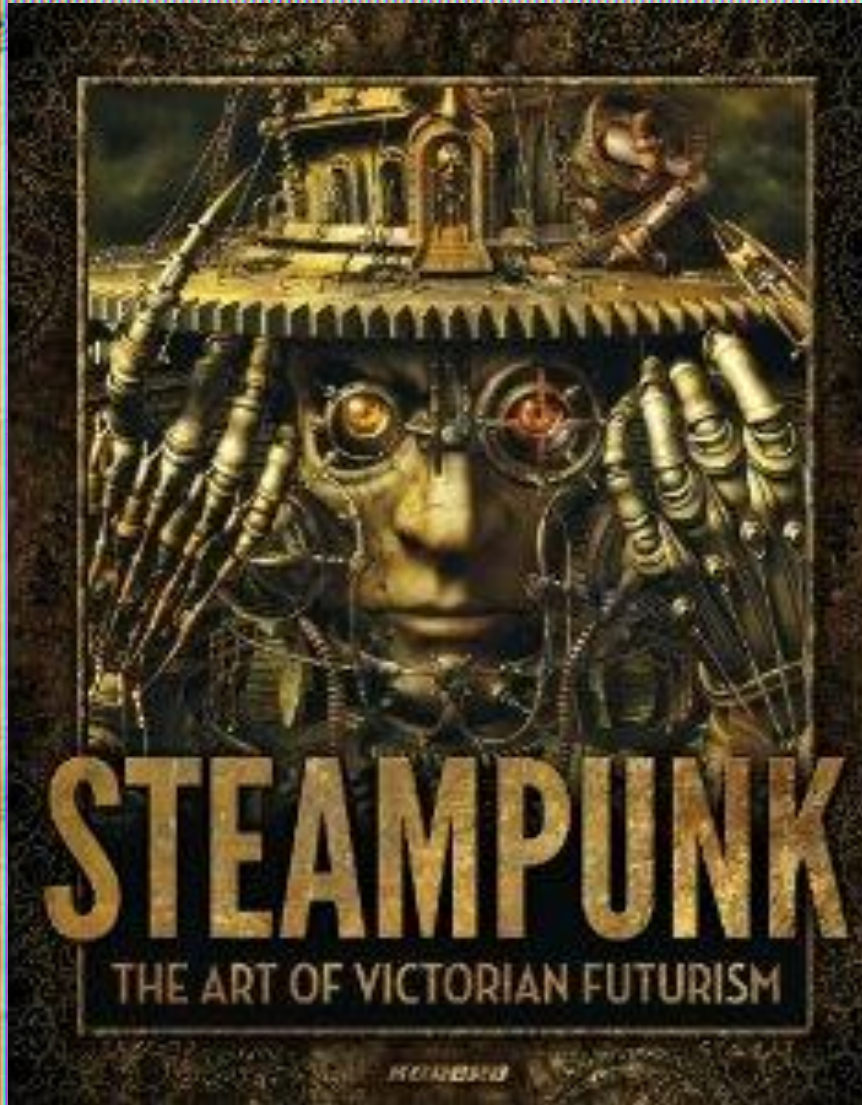
Main Features:

I. This retro-futuristic culture tends to be dark, grim, and features dystopian themes.



2. Elements from the genres of fantasy, horror, historical fiction, alternate history, or other branches of speculative fiction.





3. Great attention to details.



4. Includes alternative history-style presentations of such technology as lighter-than-air airships, analog computers, or some digital mechanical computers.





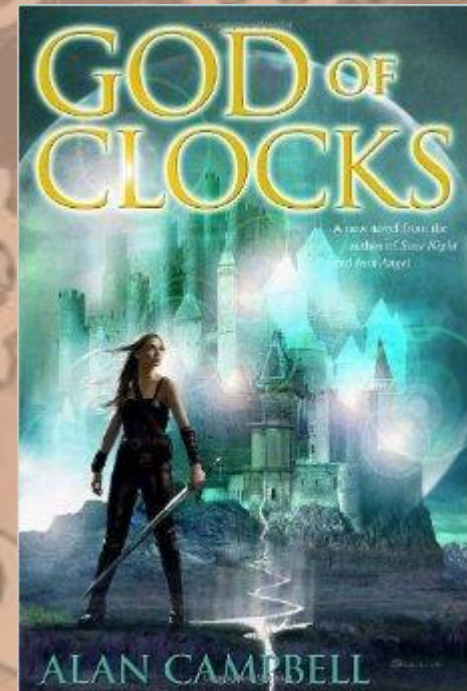
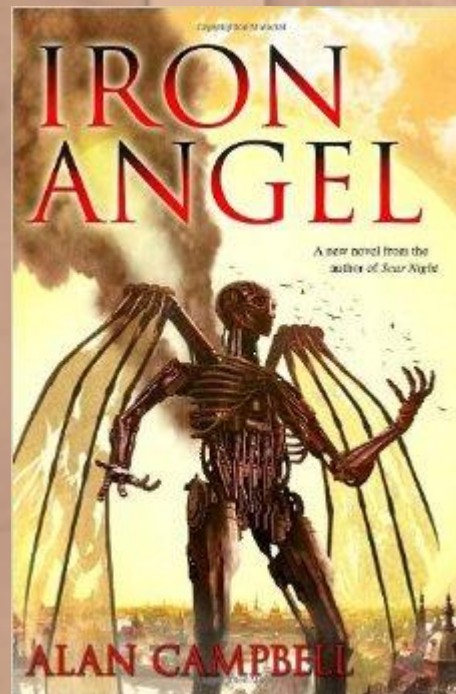
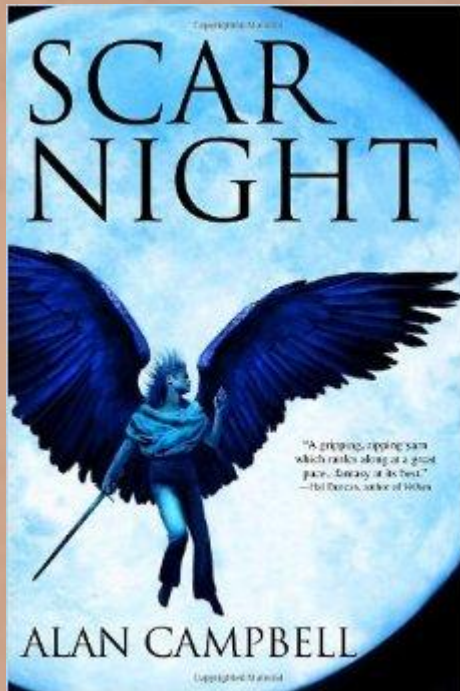
- **Scottish fantasy novelist**
- **"Fantasy-world steampunk"**
- **presents steampunk in a completely imaginary fantasy reality, often populated by legendary creatures coexisting with steam-era and other anachronistic technologies**

Alan Campbell

(7 July 1971)

Works

Campbell's debut novel was "Scar Night", the first of the Deepgate Codex trilogy, followed by "Iron Angel" (2008), and "God of Clocks" (2009). "Lye Street" (novella) is a prequel to the series.



- Chick lit is genre fiction which addresses issues of modern womanhood, often humorously and lightheartedly. "Chick" is American slang for a young woman, and "lit" is a shortened form of literature.



CHICK LIT

- ❑ was launched with the success of *Bridget Jones's Diary*, a novel about a woman in modern London who is dealing with the issues associated with being a single thirty-something: work, family and romance.
- ❑ The genre has included novels such as *Sex in the City*.
- ❑ became popular in the late 1990s, with chick lit titles topping bestseller lists and the creation of imprints devoted entirely to chick lit.

TOP CHICK LIT BOOKS

- “Bridget Jones's Diary” by Helen Fielding
- “Confessions of a Shopaholic” by Sophie Kinsella
- “The Devil Wears Prada” by Lauren Weisberger
- “Something Borrowed “ by Emily Giffin
- “I've Got Your Number” by Sophie Kinsella
- “Good in Bed” by Jennifer Weiner
- “Twenties Girl” by Sophie Kinsella
- “The Nanny Diaries” by Emma McLaughlin
- “The Edge of Reason” by Helen Fielding
- “In Her Shoes” by Jennifer Weiner
- “The Boy Next Door” by Meg Cabot
- “Chasing Harry Winston” by Lauren Weisberger
- “Fifty Shades of Grey” by E.L. James
- “Eat, Pray, Love” by Elizabeth Gilbert
- “My Sister's Keeper” by Jodi Picoult

NEW YORK TIMES BESTSELLER



NOW A MAJOR
MOTION PICTURE

STARRING
MERYL STREEP
AND
ANNE HATHAWAY

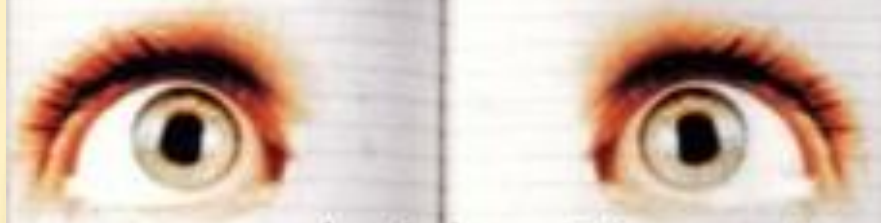
THE
DEVIL
WEARS
PRADA

LAUREN WEISBERGER

THE #1 NATIONAL BESTSELLER



(18+)



bridget jones's
diary
a novel by helen fielding



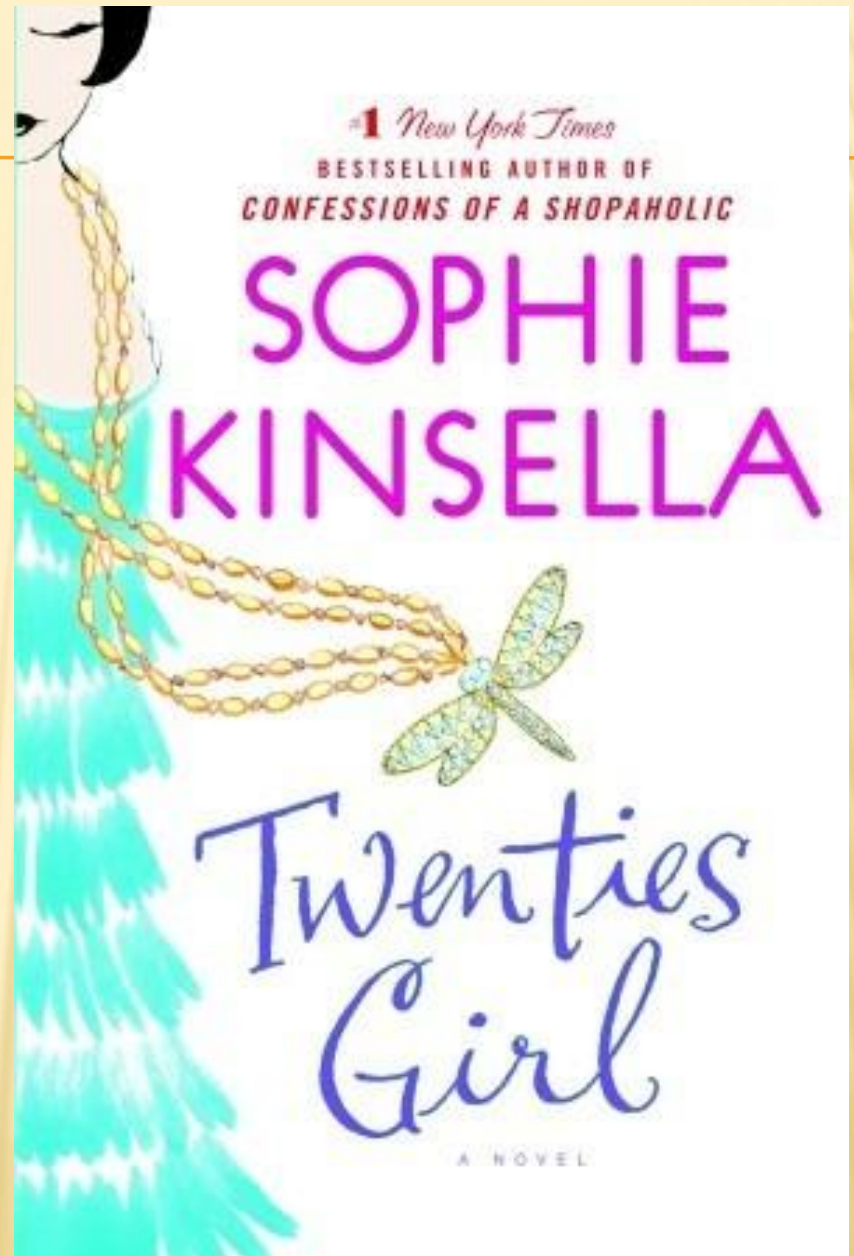
It's screechingly
funny!
—USA TODAY

"You don't have to lust after your best friend's boyfriend to worship this book (trust me on this)...Here's a heroine you'll root for and a book you won't want to put down. I loved it."
—Lauren Weisberger, author of *The Devil Wears Prada*

something
borrowed



emily giffin



THE MAIN FEATURES

- ❑ The pink books or covers with stylized female characters
- ❑ Written by women for women
- ❑ First person, e-mail, diary format-personal voice (confiding to reader)
- ❑ Realistic and humorous tone
- ❑ Discuss life issues (love, marriage, dating, relationships, friendships, jobs, weight)
- ❑ Circle of friends for support
- ❑ Dead end jobs they usually hate, often with bad bosses
- ❑ Unsuitable boyfriends or a lack of one

MORE MAIN FEATURES

- ❑ Outrageous situations
- ❑ Main character drifting through life
- ❑ Obsessed with fashion, weight, shopping
- ❑ Dating
- ❑ Relationships and situations as they appear in modern life
- ❑ This is a genre that makes us laugh and cry
- ❑ The personal growth of a woman or a small group of women
- ❑ Sex in chick lit is often incidental

OPINIONS

- “Girl in big city desperately searches for Mr. Right in between dieting and shopping for shoes. Girl gets dumped (sometimes repeatedly). Girl finds Prince Charming.”
- “It’s like having a best friend tell you about her life or watching various characters go through things you have gone through yourself, or witnessed others going through.”
- “These are stories about women that we know—in fact women that we are or were. The women in these stories are familiar to us. They are our next door neighbors, our sisters-in-law, our bosses, or our best friends.”