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ENGLISH LITERATURE FOR CHILDREN

in inclusive learning environment



АНГЛІЙСЬКА ЛІТЕРАТУРА

В ІНКЛЮЗИВНОМУ ОСВІТНЬОМУ
СЕРЕДОВИЩІ

для дошкільників і молодших школярів

курс лекцій

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Присвячую Максиму. Читай, навчайся, дій і досягай радісно!

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Навчально-методичний посібник для підготовки майбутніх педагогів початкової та дошкільної освіти висвітлює ключові аспекти англійської дитячої літератури, її використання у навчальному процесі, особливості сприйняття художнього слова дітьми, а також методи адаптації та інтерпретації літературних текстів для організації інклюзивного освітнього середовища. Він є актуальним та необхідним навчальним ресурсом, що інтегрує літературознавчі, методичні та психолого-педагогічні аспекти навчання у різних освітніх умовах, зокрема в інклюзивному середовищі.

Матеріал курсу поєднує теоретичні знання з практичними рекомендаціями, спрямованими на ефективне навчання через літературні твори. Окремий акцент зроблено на інтерактивних підходах, використанні мультимедійних ресурсів, казок, ілюстрацій та драматизації як засобів розвитку комунікативної діяльності та соціалізації дітей. Курс сприяє формуванню у студентів необхідних професійних компетентностей для роботи з дітьми з різними освітніми потребами.

Рекомендується для використання у закладах вищої освіти, що готують фахівців у галузі початкової та дошкільної педагогіки, педагогів інклюзивних закладів і учасників інклюзивної освітньої спільноти.

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Contents

Literature and inclusion	4
Introduction to english children’s literature	8
Genres. Screen adaptations. Historical timeline	16
English folklore	26
From Renaissance till the Victorian age	44
Early victorian period. Dickens, Carroll, Lear, Stevenson	57
Victorian period. Wilde, Kipling, Potter, Barrie	65
English children’s literature in the late 19 – early 20 th century	72
The birth of timeless classics	82
20th century. Dahl, Lewis, Tolkien, Bisset	89
Literature in the 21 st century – an inclusive perspective	96
Disability representation in children’s literature	102
Postcolonial and gender discourses. Ukrainian diaspora	107
Literature in the USA, Canada, Australia, New Zealand	137
Further development and trends	141

LITERATURE AND INCLUSION

Inclusive education challenges the traditional education system by advocating for diversity, equity, and the rights of marginalized groups. The role of literature in inclusive education is not to replace alternatives but to enhance comprehensive teaching approaches. Emphasis on inclusive classrooms should not mean the removal of specialized support but rather a complementary approach focusing on both cognitive and social development for all students. This approach accommodates students' diverse skills and interests, providing a unified environment where every student can learn according to their unique strengths.

Inclusive education leverages literature to enhance pedagogical strategies and enrich curriculum planning, with crucial roles played by teachers, parents, and society. Implementing an inclusive curriculum in ESL classrooms is a key responsibility of educators, who must develop teaching approaches that ensure all students experience meaningful and enriching learning outcomes. This involves understanding inclusive education, addressing behavioral challenges, fostering gifted and talented learners, and engaging with parents' perspectives.

The curriculum and classroom practices should be tailored to meet the needs of all students, including those with special educational needs and disabilities, through quality education and supportive professional development for teachers. A well-rounded approach is required to manage students with diverse needs effectively. The primary goals in an elementary classroom are to foster enjoyment and achievement.

What is Inclusive Education? Inclusive education refers to including all students into a structured curriculum, making them an integral part of the learning process. Effective inclusive education eliminates barriers that prevent equal learning opportunities, creating an environment where students of varying needs and abilities can thrive. Teachers' professional development is essential to meet the requirements of inclusive education, enhancing teaching methods to improve the learning experience. General education settings should accommodate students of all abilities in a single classroom environment, offering a curriculum that is both practical and beneficial.

An examination of inclusive education reveals several key aspects:

1. The goal is to include all students, particularly those who may be marginalized or excluded.
2. Inclusive education requires an innovative learning environment that supports teachers and students in developing skills like adaptability and flexibility.
3. It needs specialized planning, infrastructure, and trained staff.
4. Curriculum and instructional settings should be adaptable to accommodate diverse needs.
5. Inclusive settings cater to children with various needs.
6. From a policy perspective, inclusive education ensures that students with disabilities learn alongside non-disabled peers without discrimination.
7. Inclusive education integrates students with special educational needs as equal participants in mainstream schooling.
8. It provides equitable educational opportunities for students with disabilities alongside their non-disabled peers.

Teachers must continually develop professionally to support diverse skills in young learners and foster inclusive participation in everyday classroom activities for students with exceptional needs. Effective teaching requires teachers to keep their methods up-to-date and innovative, enhancing the learning experience for all. A well-managed evaluation and assessment process ensures meaningful learning for each student. The goal of inclusive education is for all students, including those with special needs, to have equal access to quality education. This involves motivating both typically developing and children with SEND within the regular classroom setting, as active participation benefits all learners and is a cornerstone of inclusive pedagogy.

Inclusive classrooms also provide gifted and talented students with rich learning experiences, empowering them to explore their potential through both vertical and horizontal extensions of their knowledge. In this supportive environment, students can display their abilities through diverse opportunities, benefiting from differentiated instruction. Professionally trained teachers play a crucial role in adapting curriculum

and fostering group work, which is especially beneficial for academically advanced students.

Children use their senses and develop their understanding of the world around them. They observe and imitate, listen and analyse, touch and play. Children are open to everything that we, adults expose them to. There may be theories and conceptions too complex for them, however children can embrace ideas and values while do what they enjoy doing. Children are very imaginative, they love stories. It is our task, as educators to teach them the fun and art of reading books. First for enjoyment, then for experiencing the life, and ultimately for being a good person and making the world a great place for all and everyone. Literature is a form of cooperation, it offers tools to develop creativity, dignity, empathy, resilience, critical thinking, leadership and many other qualities and skills that are needed to respect and support, to be inclusive.

Teachers play a vital role in the inclusion process. Their perspectives and instructional strategies are central to creating a successful learning environment. Thus pre-service teachers should learn how to integrate them. While inclusion literature serves as a valuable resource for educators, its effective use involves several key tasks. To maximize student benefits, teachers should focus on the following responsibilities:

- Assessing the quality of books,
- Encouraging meaningful discussions,
- Designing and implementing related activities, and
- Incorporating the material into the curriculum.

So let us develop inclusive learning environment through reading.

Discussion Topics:

What does inclusive education entail, and why is it important in today's educational landscape?

What are the key obstacles to achieving inclusive education, and how can they be addressed?

How can literature foster an appreciation of diversity and support marginalized groups in the classroom?

How can teachers use literature to address diverse cultural, cognitive, and emotional needs in ESL classrooms?

What types of professional development are essential for teachers to support inclusive classrooms?

How can teachers adapt their methods to create meaningful learning experiences for students of all abilities?

How can teachers effectively manage the needs of both students with disabilities and gifted learners in the same classroom?

What role does differentiated instruction play in creating an inclusive learning environment?

How do educational policies impact the implementation of inclusive practices in schools?

What steps should educators take to ensure that curricula accommodate the diverse needs of all students?

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Lecture INTRODUCTION TO ENGLISH CHILDREN'S LITERATURE

The introduction to English children's literature sets the foundation for understanding a distinct and impactful genre. Children's literature reflects societal values, promotes language development, and fosters creativity and empathy in young readers. It provides a platform for discussing significant themes like identity, diversity, and culture, making it a cornerstone for shaping young minds and preparing them for the complexities of life. Understanding its historical development and major works is crucial for appreciating its educational and imaginative potential.

Learning Objectives

By the end of the lecture, students should be able to:

Know:

- The historical evolution of children's literature and its significance in English literary history.
- Key characteristics of children's literature, including its didactic and imaginative dimensions.
- Major milestones and classic works in the development of children's literature.

Be able to:

- Analyze the role of children's literature in reflecting and shaping societal values.
- Identify different genres within children's literature and their distinguishing features.
- Evaluate the importance of inclusivity and diversity in children's books.

Lecture Plan

1. Introduction to Literature as Entertainment and Education

- Early purposes and functions of literature.
- The connection between literature, society, and historical context.

2. Defining English Literature and Its Development

- Characteristics of English literature as a reflection of national spirit.

3. Understanding Children's Literature

- Misconceptions about children's literature.
- The focus on children's imagination and real-world experiences.

- The role of language acquisition and identity formation.

4. Historical Development of Children's Literature

- Early stages and key influences in the 18th century.
- Contributions of significant authors like Lewis Carroll, Hans Christian Andersen, and Louisa May Alcott.

5. Genres and Classifications in Children's Literature

- Overview of major genres: early childhood books, fiction, traditional literature, etc.
- Benefits of reading and listening to books for children.

6. The Role of Representation and Inclusivity in Children's Literature

- Importance of diversity in children's books.
- The impact of inclusive literature on young readers.

7. Conclusion

- The significance of children's literature in fostering lifelong learning and empathy.

Initially, literature was a form of entertainment. Over time, literature also served as a tool for education, reform and change. Writers began addressing social issues in their works, using literature to draw attention to important matters and encourage reflection on change. From ancient civilizations to modern times, literature has consistently provided insights into the issues and trends of its era. It also offers an escape from the harsh realities of life, with many reading to find relief from daily monotony. Higher forms of literature, however, elevate readers from trivial concerns to deeper, more meaningful realities.

English literature, in particular, developed alongside the history of the nation. It encompasses all literary works written in English, including novels, short stories, poems, plays, and more. The earliest works reflect the lives and experiences of people in their time, with each societal change leaving its mark on English literature throughout history.

Being the literature of a nation characterized by the spirit of determination, adventure, and diligence, English literature is rich in vitality, diversity, and essence.

Sometimes children's literature can be undervalued, mistakenly viewed as texts written by those who can't write better for readers who can't read better. Beyond demonstrating that much of children's literature is high-quality literature that can withstand critical analysis, we can prove that, regardless of its literary worth, children's literature holds significance for several reasons.

Children's literature is self-aware because it focuses on its main subject – children. It includes not just informational works, but everything related to a child's world – both their imagination and their everyday life. This world is filled with not only children but also talking objects, animals, plants, and even ideas like math and grammar. It includes toys, dolls, spirits, magical creatures, and people – both real and imagined – seen from a child's point of view. Children are a rich source for literature by themselves.

Reading is closely linked to language and language learning and acquisition; through language we shape our understanding of the world. As they read, children explore new languages, try on different identities, and engage with various perspectives on life.

Children's literature is also significant because reading is valued in society, especially in schools where the majority of children's books are designed to educate. This means that the content young readers engage with shapes their values and ideas about life and society. Children's literature plays a strong role in developing readers' attitudes. Therefore, examining what young people read provides insights into how they form views on topics such as identity and diversity, nationalism and internationalism, (dis)ability and special needs, cooperation and resilience, and more.

The term "children's literature" refers to books written for children and young readers, published by children's publishers, and placed in the children's or young adult sections of libraries and bookstores. Occasionally, concerns arise about whether certain content is appropriate for young readers, focusing on issues like explicit sexual themes, fear-inducing material, or moral ambiguity. Questions about style also come up – could the use of non-standard grammar, colloquial expressions, swearing, or experimental writing undermine school-taught language

skills or set bad examples? More recently, with a significant number of adults reading books originally marketed for children (such as *Harry Potter*, *His Dark Materials*, *The Curious Incident of the Dog in the Night-time*, *The Book Thief*, and *Persepolis*), there's been some discussion about whether these books are "suitable" for adult readers, or if this trend reflects a cultural decline. Despite such debates, though, the definition of children's literature remains largely unquestioned.

We can generally refer the modern term "Children's literature" to a collection of written works and illustrations created to entertain or educate young audiences. This genre covers a diverse array of materials, from classic works of world literature to picture books and simple stories specifically written for children, as well as fairy tales, lullabies, fables, nursery rhymes, folk songs, poverbs, sayings, tongue twisters and other content traditionally shared through oral storytelling.

Children's literature began to take shape as a distinct genre in the second half of the 18th century, before which it was still in its embrionic stage. Several factors contributed to this development, including the rise of Enlightenment ideas (such as those of Jean-Jacque Rousseau and John Locke), the growth of the middle class, the beginnings of women's emancipation, Romanticism, and genres like folktales, fairy tales, myths, and ballads that appealed to young audiences. Key figures such as William Blake, Edward Lear, Lewis Carroll, George MacDonald, Louisa May Alcott, Mark Twain, Carlo Collodi, and Hans Christian Andersen played a crucial role in shaping the genre. By the 20th century, children's literature had grown so rapidly that it became recognized as a fully established branch of literature.

In children's literature, there is often a tension between the didactic and the imaginative. Didactic literature aims to teach values, guiding children in moral, social, or educational directions. It often includes lessons on behaviour, ethics, and knowledge, presenting information in a straightforward manner intended to instruct. The earliest books written for children were religious or instructional, aimed at the improvement of morals and manners.

On the other hand, imaginative literature (which developed later) prioritizes creativity, fantasy, and wonder. This type of literature invites

children to explore fictional worlds, exercise their creativity, and develop their sense of curiosity. Imaginative stories may not contain direct lessons, but instead offer freedom of thought, playfulness, and emotional depth, helping young readers develop empathy and creativity. The book *Alice's Adventures in Wonderland* is the prototype of modern children's literature. Imagine the delight of children when they first read it.

Children's Classics from Robinson Crusoe to the Nineteenth Century

1719 Robinson Crusoe by Daniel Defoe

1843 A Christmas Carol by Charles Dickens

1865 Alice's Adventures in Wonderland by Lewis Carroll

1865 Hans Brinker or the Silver Skates by Mary Mapes Dodge

1868 Little Women by Louisa May Alcott

1871 Through the Looking-Glass by Lewis Carroll (Charles Dodgson)

1876 The Adventures of Tom Sawyer by Mark Twain

1877 Black Beauty by Anna Sewell

1883 Treasure Island by Robert Louis Stevenson

1886 Kidnapped by Robert Louis Stevenson

1886 Little Lord Fauntleroy by Frances H. Burnett

1894 The Jungle Book by Rudyard Kipling

1900 The Wonderful Wizard of Oz by L. Frank Baum

One effective approach to study literature is by organizing it into genres – groups of books that share similar style, form, or content. The concept of genres extends beyond books to include other media like music, movies, plays, TV shows, and art.

While genres can help categorize and analyze literature, not all books fit neatly into a single category; some fall into multiple genres, while others may not fit any traditional category. For instance, *The Very Hungry Caterpillar* by Eric Carle could be placed with animal fantasy or counting books, while *Miss Nelson Is Missing* by Harry Allard has elements of both realistic fiction and fantasy, making its placement tricky.

Although there is no universal system, children's literature can be organized into six major genres: early childhood books, traditional

literature, fiction, biography and autobiography, informational books, and poetry and verse. Some genres include subcategories, particularly fiction.

Here are some simple benefits children get from reading and listening to books:

- Spending quality time with the adult reading to them
- Enjoying exciting adventures or imaginary worlds
- Learning to love books and see them as fun and helpful
- Growing their thinking skills
- Learning new words and how sentences work
- Understanding how stories are told
- Using and growing their imagination
- Learning to focus for longer periods
- Understanding other people's feelings and problems
- Finding ways to handle their own emotions and challenges
- Discovering new places and ideas about the world
- Becoming curious about new hobbies or interests
- Learning about their own culture and others' traditions
- Gaining knowledge about nature and the world around them
- Making history feel real and exciting
- Enjoying beautiful pictures in books
- Exploring how illustrations are made with different art styles

Why Study Literature?

The study of literature, including children's works, enhances critical thinking and problem-solving skills. It fosters empathy, cultural appreciation, and the ability to navigate complex ideas – all foundational for young learners growing into thoughtful individuals. Literature, in all its forms, is a bridge connecting readers to imagination, culture, and humanity. Children's literature, in particular, is the cornerstone of this journey, igniting a lifelong love of learning and storytelling.

Eric Smith, the author and literary agent once said: "*When kids grow up not seeing themselves in books, they grow up feeling like they don't matter.*" This powerful statement highlights the importance of representation in literature. When children don't see characters, stories, or experiences that reflect their own lives, they may feel excluded,

invisible, or undervalued. Books have the potential to validate identities, foster self-worth, and celebrate diversity.

Inclusive literature helps children feel seen, while also teaching empathy and understanding to others. For educators and parents, choosing books that reflect a wide range of cultures, abilities, and experiences is essential in creating a world where every child knows their story matters. For children, that pleasure often begins with their first storybook, opening doors to a lifetime of literary exploration.

Discussion Topics:

- The difficulty in defining children’s literature; it is the only literature defined by its audience, and it includes all major genres of literature (fiction, poetry, nonfiction, drama etc.)
- The shifts in the view of what childhood is as a state of being throughout history, and therefore in our sense of what constitutes children’s literature – and of what literature is “appropriate” or desirable for children
- How children’s literature is distinct from literature intended for adults—or is it? The derivation of literature for children from adult literature—from the epic, the folk tale, mythology, poetry, and romance. The idea that the difference between the two often lies in the subject matter—not in the depth of feeling or pleasure created by the reading
- The earliest books for children or read by children
- The syllabus—including reading and writing assignments

Questions for Self-Assessment

1. What distinguishes children’s literature from general literature?
2. How did societal changes in the 18th century influence the development of children’s literature?
3. Discuss the tension between didactic and imaginative elements in children’s literature. Provide examples.
4. Why is inclusivity and representation important in children’s books?
5. List and describe the benefits children gain from reading and listening to books.
6. How do genres in children’s literature help in categorizing and analyzing works?

7. What role does children's literature play in language acquisition and cultural understanding?

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Lecture GENRES OF LITERATURE. CONVENTIONAL, MODERN AND SYNTHETIC GENRES. SCREEN ADAPTATIONS. HISTORICAL TIMELINE

Understanding genres in literature, including conventional, modern, and synthetic forms, provides a framework for analyzing and appreciating children's literature. Exploring screen adaptations and the historical timeline of English literature offers students insights into how stories evolve to remain relevant across mediums and generations. This knowledge is crucial for understanding literature's role in cultural, moral, and emotional development for young readers.

Learning Objectives

By the end of the lecture, students should be able to:

- **Know:**
 - The key genres of literature, including prose, poetry, and drama, and their adaptations for children.
 - Modern and synthetic genres, such as picture books and graphic novels, and their impact on young readers.
 - The significance of screen adaptations in introducing literature to broader audiences.
 - A condensed historical timeline of English literature and its major periods.
- **Be able to:**
 - Classify works of children's literature by genre and analyze their characteristics.
 - Evaluate the cultural and moral values presented in children's literature.
 - Discuss the educational and emotional benefits of children's literature for young readers.
 - Identify the influence of literature on language development and cultural understanding.

Lecture Plan

1. **Introduction to Literature and Its Purpose**
 - Definition and significance of literature for children.

- How literature fosters imagination, language development, and moral understanding.

2. **Traditional Genres of Literature**

- Prose: Fiction and nonfiction adapted for children, with examples.
- Poetry: Characteristics of children's poetry and notable examples.
- Drama: Features and benefits of drama for children.

3. **Modern and Synthetic Genres in Children's Literature**

- Emergence of picture books, graphic novels, and interactive stories.
- Their role in engaging contemporary young readers.

4. **Screen Adaptations of Children's Literature**

- Analysis of notable adaptations (e.g., *Alice in Wonderland*, *Frozen*).
- How adaptations make literature accessible and entertaining.

5. **The Importance of Literature for Children**

- Cognitive and emotional development.
- Promoting cultural understanding and building moral frameworks.
- Literature as a source of emotional comfort and connection.

6. **Condensed History of English Literature**

- Overview of major periods and their defining characteristics.
- The influence of literary movements and key figures on children's literature.

7. **Conclusion**

- The enduring significance of genres and adaptations in enriching children's literary experiences.

We classify literature according to language, origin, historical period, genre, and subject matter. Literature refers to written and sometimes spoken material, rooted in the Latin word *littera*, meaning "letters." It encompasses creative expressions like poetry, drama, fiction, nonfiction, and more. Literature represents the cultural and emotional essence of humanity, reflecting traditions, values, and emotions. For children, literature becomes a powerful tool to nurture imagination, language development, and moral understanding. Stories and poems tailored for young readers serve as their first encounter with the magic of words and ideas.

Literature can be categorized into several traditional genres, all of which have unique adaptations for children:

Prose

- **Fiction.** Includes novels and short stories with imaginative narratives. For children, fiction often uses relatable characters, magical adventures, or animal protagonists, such as *Charlotte's Web* by E.B. White or *Harry Potter* by J.K. Rowling.
- **Nonfiction.** Factual works that educate young readers on topics like nature, science, and history. Examples include *The Magic School Bus* series by Joanna Cole.

Poetry

Children's poetry is characterized by rhythm, rhyme, and playful language. From the whimsical verses of Shel Silverstein to nursery rhymes, poetry introduces children to the beauty of sound and meaning.

Drama

Drama for children often takes the form of simple plays or scripts with accessible language and relatable themes. These are frequently performed in schools or adapted for puppet theater, helping children engage with storytelling actively.

Modern and Synthetic Genres in Children's Literature

Children's literature has embraced modern and synthetic genres, making stories more interactive and appealing.

Picture Books. Combine visual art and narrative, such as *The Very Hungry Caterpillar* by Eric Carle.

Graphic Novels for Kids. Books like *Smile* by Raina Telgemeier blend comic-style illustrations with storytelling.

Interactive Stories. Digital stories or apps that let children choose the narrative path.

These innovations engage children in diverse ways, catering to their evolving interests and learning styles.

Screen Adaptations of Children's Literature

Screen adaptations of children's literature have played a crucial role in bringing classic and modern stories to new audiences. Some notable examples include:

- *Alice in Wonderland* by Lewis Carroll, adapted into films by Tim Burton, Disney and others.
- Roald Dahl's *Charlie and the Chocolate Factory*, brought to life through vibrant cinematic retellings.
- *Frozen*, inspired by Hans Christian Andersen's *The Snow Queen*, which combines storytelling with music and animation.

These adaptations not only entertain but also introduce children to literature in an engaging visual format.

The Importance of Literature for Children

Cognitive and Emotional Development. Children's literature fosters language acquisition, comprehension, and communication skills. It also nurtures creativity, critical thinking, and empathy, helping children understand diverse perspectives and emotions.

Cultural Understanding. Through stories, children explore different cultures, traditions, and values. Books like *The Rainbow Fish* by Marcus Pfister teach the importance of sharing, while folk tales from around the world introduce young readers to global narratives.

Building Moral Frameworks. Many children's books address themes of kindness, courage, and resilience. Stories like *The Giving Tree* by Shel Silverstein instill life lessons in a subtle yet impactful manner.

Emotional Comfort and Connection. Literature offers a safe space for children to process emotions and experiences. Characters facing challenges similar to their own can provide solace and encouragement.

Condensed History of English Literature Timeline (mostly British)

When we analyze the history of English literature, we discover that it consists of major periods and several ages. Each period or age of English literature is named after the central literary figure, or the important rulers of England, or certain literary movements. Each period or phase of English literature has its distinct characteristics.

Period	Time frame	Key Features, Notable Writers, and Inclusive Touch
Old English (Anglo-Saxon)	450–1066	Oral tradition and translations. Many of the poems of the period are pagan: " <i>Widsith</i> ", " <i>Beowulf</i> " (c.800). The Venerable Bede completes his history of the English church and people (731). Known poets – Caedmon and Cynewulf. Stories were accessible orally, catering to both literate and non-literate audiences.
Middle English (The Anglo-Norman period)	1066 – 1500	Intellectual curiosity and a cosmopolitan vision of the world. Social, cultural and political upheaval in Britain. Transition to modern English; Mainly three subjects in literature: religion, courtly love, and King Arthur. " <i>Piers Plowman</i> " (c.1367), " <i>Sir Gawain and the Green Knight</i> " (c.1375). Thomas Malory compiles <i>Morte d'Arthur</i> – an English account of the French tales of King Arthur. Geoffrey Chaucer and <i>The Canterbury Tales</i> (c.1387-1400). Inclusive Touch: The rise of secular themes introduced more relatable narratives for diverse audiences.
Renaissance <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Elizabethan Age (1558-1603); • Jacobean Age (1603-25) • Caroline Age (1625-49) 	1500 – 1660	Erasmus and Thomas More take the northern Renaissance in the direction of Christian humanism. The Book of Common Prayer is published (1549). Golden age of drama; Shakespeare, Christopher Marlowe, Ben Jonson, Francis Bacon, Edmund Spenser, John Donne, John Milton. Puritanism, pragmatism, ideas of reformation, regeneration, unity, free choice and order. The concept of struggle between the World and spirituality was also explored. Inclusive Touch: Themes of universal human emotions in drama allowed individuals from various backgrounds to connect with literature. The King

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Common wealth (1649–60) 		<p>James Bible (1611) was made accessible to wider audiences.</p>
<p>The Neoclassical Period</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Restoration (1660–1700); • Augustan (1700–1745); • Sensibility (1745–1785). 	<p>1600 – 1785</p>	<p>Increased literacy and prosperity. Poetry became the vehicle of argument, controversy, personal and political satire. John Locke wrote <i>Some Thoughts Concerning Education</i> (1693). Daniel Defoe's <i>Robinson Crusoe</i> (1719) can be seen as the first English novel. Jonathan Swift sends his hero on a series of satirical travels in <i>Gulliver's Travels</i> (1726). Satire and prose; John Dryden, Alexander Pope. Samuel Johnson publishes the <i>Dictionary of the English Language</i> (1755). The poems <i>The Tenth Muse Lately Sprung Up in America</i> of Anne Bradstreet (considered to be the first American poet) published. Inclusive Touch: Rise of the novel as a form made literature more accessible to women and middle-class readers. Writers like Aphra Behn broke barriers for female authors. Moderation and common sense became intellectual values as well as standards of behavior. Middle-class tastes were reflected in the growth of periodicals and newspapers.</p>
<p>The Romantic Period</p>	<p>1785 – 1832</p>	<p>Emotion and nature; William Blake publishes <i>Songs of Innocence</i> (1789), a volume of his poems with every page etched and illustrated by himself. Wordsworth and Coleridge jointly publish <i>Lyrical Ballads</i>, a milestone in the Romantic movement; Lord Byron wrote a poem titled <i>Mazeppa</i> (1819). John Keats, Robert Burns, Walter Scott. Mary Wollstonecraft publishes a feminist work, <i>A Vindication of the Rights of Woman</i> (1792). Gothic subgenre with Matthew Lewis and Anne Radcliffe. Mary Shelley publishes <i>Frankenstein, or the Modern</i></p>

		<i>Prometheus</i> (1818). Jane Austen publishes <i>Sense and Sensibility</i> (1811) at her own expense. Inclusive Touch: Emphasis on the individual and their inner experiences resonated with marginalized groups, fostering empathy and inclusivity through storytelling.
The Victorian Period <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Earlier Victorian Period (1832-1870) • Later Victorian Period (1870-1901) 	1832 – 1901	Industrialization and reform; Charles Dickens, the Brontë sisters, George Eliot, Tennyson, Lewis Carroll, Stevenson, Oscar Wilde, Conan Doyle, Christina Rossetti. Edward Lear publishes his <i>Book of Nonsense</i> , consisting of limericks illustrated with his own cartoons (1846). In <i>On Liberty</i> John Stuart Mill makes the classic liberal case for the priority of the freedom of the individual (1859). E. Nesbit publishes <i>The Story of the Treasure Seekers</i> , introducing the Bastable family who feature in several of her books for children (1899). Inclusive Touch: Literature often addressed social inequalities, giving voice to the underprivileged and sparking reforms. Dickens highlighted the plight of the poor, and the Brontës addressed women's challenges.
The Edwardian Period	1901 – 1914	Transition period; Joseph Conrad, H.G. Wells, Rudyard Kipling, W.B. Yeats, Bernard Shaw. Beatrix Potter publishes at her own expense <i>The Tale of Peter Rabbit</i> (1901). J.M Barrie's play <i>Peter Pan, or the Boy Who Wouldn't Grow Up</i> has its premiere in London (1904). Inclusive Touch: Discussions of colonialism and class allowed new perspectives to emerge, challenging dominant narratives.
The Georgian Period	1910 – 1936	Rural themes and tradition; Georgian poets like Rupert Brooke and W.H. Davies. Pooh, Piglet, Eeyore and the others make their first appearance in A.A. Milne's <i>Winnie-the-Pooh</i> (1926). Inclusive

		Touch: The pastoral themes provided solace and connection to nature, resonating with readers across different socio-economic backgrounds.
The Modern Period	1914 –?	Experimentation and fragmentation; James Joyce, Virginia Woolf, T.S. Eliot, D.H. Lawrence, Samuel Beckett. Rebecca West publishes her first novel, <i>The Return of the Soldier</i> (1918). Children's author Enid Blyton introduces the Famous Five in <i>Five on a Treasure Island</i> (1942). Inclusive Touch: Modernist works explored mental health, identity, and the human condition, paving the way for diverse voices and experiences in literature.
The Postmodern Period	1945 –?	Response to modernism; Joseph Heller, Samuel Beckett, George Orwell, Doris Lessing, John Fowles, Iain Banks, Anthony Burgess. C.S. Lewis gives the first glimpse of Narnia in <i>The Lion, the Witch and the Wardrobe</i> (1950). Scottish author Irvine Welsh publishes his first novel, <i>Trainspotting</i> (1993). A schoolboy wizard performs his first tricks in J.K. Rowling's <i>Harry Potter and the Philosopher's Stone</i> (1997). <i>The Amber Spyglass</i> completes Philip Pullman's trilogy, <i>His Dark Materials</i> (2000). Inclusive Touch: Postmodern literature embraced multiplicity of perspectives, including marginalized voices, celebrating diversity and questioning traditional power structures.

Discussion Topics:

- How literary genres like prose, poetry, and drama have evolved over centuries, from oral traditions to modern multimedia adaptations.
- How do these changes reflect shifts in society and culture?
- Examine the difference between fiction and nonfiction in children's prose.
- Why are characters like those in *Charlotte's Web* or *The Magic School Bus* so effective in engaging young readers?

- Explore how rhythm, rhyme, and playful language make poetry memorable for children.
 - What impact does this have on early language development?
 - Discuss the educational benefits of performing plays or puppet theater for young audiences.
 - How does interactive drama foster creativity and empathy in children?
 - Analyze the significance of modern genres like picture books, graphic novels, and interactive digital stories.
 - How do these formats cater to diverse learning styles and keep literature relevant?
 - Debate the impact of screen adaptations of classic children's literature, such as Alice in Wonderland or Frozen.
 - Do these adaptations enhance or dilute the original literary experience?
 - Reflect on how literature across historical periods (e.g., Victorian, Romantic) has addressed societal issues like inequality, identity, or reform.
 - Can contemporary children's literature play a similar role?
 - Identify the most influential periods in English literary history and their contributions to the genres of prose, poetry, and drama.
 - How did these periods shape children's literature as we know it today?
 - Discuss how literature has progressively embraced inclusivity, reflecting diverse voices and perspectives.
 - Which works or genres stand out for their impact on marginalized groups?
 - Predict how emerging technologies (like augmented reality or AI storytelling) might shape the next generation of children's literature.
 - What challenges and opportunities do these advancements present for authors and educators?

Questions for Self-Assessment

1. What are the main differences between conventional, modern, and synthetic genres of children's literature?

2. How do picture books and graphic novels engage young readers differently than traditional prose or poetry?
3. Why are screen adaptations of children's literature important, and what impact do they have on young audiences?
4. Describe the cognitive, emotional, and moral benefits of children's literature.
5. How can literature promote cultural understanding and empathy in children?
6. What are the major periods of English literature, and how do they influence the themes in children's literature?
7. Provide examples of literary works that have been successfully adapted for the screen. What makes these adaptations effective?

Further readings:

1. Burgess, A. (2024, May 15). A Brief History of English Literature. Retrieved from <https://www.thoughtco.com/british-literary-periods-739034>
2. Drabble, M. (2000). The Oxford companion to English literature. 6th ed. New York, Oxford University Press.
3. Nagy-Kolozsvári, E., Lizák, K., Huszti, I. (2022). A guide to English literary genres and literary periods. Ferenc Rákóczi II Transcarpathian Hungarian College of Higher Education
4. Team Leverage Edu (2013, Dec. 1). History of English Literature. Retrieved from <https://leverageedu.com/blog/history-of-english-literature/>
5. Timeline: English literature (2012). English literature. Oxford Reference. Retrieved 24 Nov. 2024, from <https://www.oxfordreference.com/view/10.1093/acref/9780191737053.timeline.0001>
6. Timeline of Children's Literature. Retrieved January 21, 2025 from <https://www.sutori.com/en/story/timeline-of-children-s-literature--RDJByAB52uiUVSZpLj6mt8j9>
7. Гордєєва Н. М. Англійська література : навч. посібник для шкіл з поглибл. вивч. англ. мови. Київ : Форум, 2000. 286 с.

Lecture ENGLISH FOLKLORE

Understanding the roots of early children's literature provides insight into its evolution and its role in shaping cultural and moral values. By examining instructive and entertaining traditions, such as folk tales, ballads, legends, folk tales, lullabies, nursery rhymes, tongue twisters, riddles, carols, and limerics educators can better connect historical material to modern classroom practices. This foundation also highlights the inclusivity potential in adapting these stories for diverse and contemporary audiences.

Learning Objectives

By the end of the lecture, students should be able to:

- **Know:**
 - The origins and characteristics of early children's literature, including moralistic texts and folk traditions.
 - Key literary forms, such as ballads and legends, and their cultural significance.
 - The transition from Puritanical views to Enlightenment ideals in children's literature.
 - The role of legends and myths, including figures like Robin Hood and King Arthur, in teaching values.
- **Be able to:**
 - Analyze early texts and folklore genres for their moral, cultural, and entertainment value.
 - Compare British legends with similar traditions from other cultures.
 - Suggest inclusive methods to adapt historical literature for modern classrooms.
 - Identify how folklore reflects societal values and historical events.
 - Identify the key characteristics and types of English folk tales, lullabies, nursery rhymes, tongue twisters, riddles, carols and limerics.
 - Apply these forms in teaching English to children, promoting language development and cultural appreciation.

Lecture Plan

1. Introduction to Early Children's Literature

- Overview of instructive and moralistic traditions.
- Folk tales and ballads as precursors to printed literature.
- Examples: *Mother Goose* nursery rhymes, *New England Primer* (1687-1690), and chapbooks.

2. Puritan Influence and Enlightenment Shift

- Puritanical emphasis on morality and religion in early texts.
- Criticism of chapbooks for lacking strict moral content.
- Enlightenment ideals: Children as "blank pages" and the emergence of lighter, playful texts.

3. Folklore Genres in Early Children's Literature

○ **Ballads:**

- Definition and themes (e.g., wars, Robin Hood, King Arthur).
- Key examples: *Robin Hood and the Monk*, *Robin Hood and Little John*.
- Cultural connections: Parallels between Robin Hood and Ukrainian folk heroes like Oleksa Dovbush.

○ **Legends:**

- Origins and significance of King Arthur tales.
- Themes of equality (Round Table) and values (fairness, cooperation).

4. Halloween and Scary Stories

- Historical roots of Halloween in the Celtic festival of Samhain.
- Traditions like jack-o'-lanterns and storytelling adaptations for modern audiences.
- Popular scary stories for children (e.g., *The Bony Hand*, *Room for One More*).

5. Folk Tales

- Types: Animal Tales, Moral Tales, Adventure-Family Tales.
- Key examples: Henny-Penny, Dick Whittington and His Cat.
- Cultural and educational values.

6. Lullabies

- Historical origins and universal appeal.
- Notable examples: Rock-a-Bye Baby, Twinkle, Twinkle, Little Star.
- Psychological and emotional benefits for children and parents.

7. Nursery Rhymes

- Characteristics and historical background.
- Symbolism and hidden meanings in rhymes like Humpty Dumpty and Jack and Jill.

8. Tongue Twisters

- Linguistic play and its role in language learning.
- Examples and classroom applications for pronunciation and fluency.

9. Riddles

- Historical significance and examples from Old English and modern contexts.
- Role in developing creative thinking and language skills.

10. Carols

- Evolution of Christmas carols and their cultural significance.
- Ukrainian contribution: Shchedryk (Carol of the Bells).

11. Limerics

- Definition and characteristics of limericks.
- Edward Lear's role in popularizing limericks with Book of Nonsense.
- Discussion of cultural nuances and humor in limericks.

12. Inclusive Adaptations of Historical Materials

- Using visual aids, simplified texts, and bilingual resources for diverse classrooms.
- Adapting chapbooks and ballads as interactive e-books with accessibility features.
- Incorporating multicultural perspectives and underrepresented groups into traditional tales.
- Importance of adapting historical stories for modern classrooms while maintaining their core values and charm.

Early Children's Literature

British children's literature stems from two powerful traditions: instructive and moralistic literature and folk tales and ballads. Poems, songs and stories aimed at children have a very long tradition, rooting back to the beginnings of the British nation. Children's poetry and nursery rhymes collected in the famous "Mother Goose" date back to before the Norman conquest. Yet, before the 18th century there was no printed children's literature as we see it in the traditional sense. At that time, the

content of school books was influenced by Puritan beliefs that children were inclined to evil and needed to be taught morals, thus only school books to teach the alphabet and spelling, as well as morals, manners, and religion were published for children (*New England Primer* (1687-1690), *The Childe's New Plaything* (1742)). Applying inclusive optics, we can say that children were rather excluded from the fun and excitement of reading as the target audience with their unique needs and preferences. However, during this time, cheaply published books called chapbooks containing popular stories and tales also began to be produced and sold. Since these books did not contain strictly moral stories, they were often criticized for departing from Puritan beliefs. They were intended for entertaining reading by adults, but children also read them. For example, *Winter-Evenings Entertainments* (1687) by Nathaniel Crouch included riddles and pictures, hinting it might be for children, though it claimed to appeal to all ages.

Puritanical thinking eventually gave way to the Enlightenment ideals characterized by the philosophy of John Locke, which marked a shift in the view of children to that of a "blank page" that could be written upon. During this time, moral tales and fables were still published, but more light-hearted books featuring word play, riddles, rhymes, and games began to appear in children's books as well. Children's books also borrowed stories originally written for adults, such as John Bunyan's *The Pilgrim's Progress* (1678), *The Adventures of Robinson Crusoe* (1719) by Daniel Defoe, *Gulliver's Travels* (1726) by Jonathan Swift, *Tales from Shakespeare* (1807) by Charles and Mary Lamb, and folk tales and ballads,

Inclusive hint for Ukrainian educators. To make such historical materials accessible and engaging for today's diverse classrooms, educators can use visual aids, simplified texts, and bilingual resources. For example, chapbooks could be reimagined as interactive e-books, featuring text-to-speech functions for students with visual impairments or learning disabilities.

Let us learn about the earliest form of folklore genres, an oral tradition available to children.

Ballads

The term "ballad" evolved over time, but it generally refers to a short poem that tells a story, often set to music. The Child Ballads is the colloquial name given to a collection of 305 ballads collected in the 19th century by Francis James Child and originally published in ten volumes between 1882 and 1898 under the title *The English and Scottish Popular Ballads*. English ballads are typically grouped into three categories: those about English-Scottish wars, the Robin Hood cycle, and romantic ballads. Fairy-like elements, such as elves and fairy kings, are common in these stories.

Some of the most popular ballads for young readers focus on historical figures, like Robin Hood and King Arthur. Robin Hood, a legendary hero in English folklore, known for his archery skills and for stealing from the rich to give to the poor. The earliest references to Robin Hood date back to 1377 in the poem *Piers Plowman*. By the late medieval period, his story was told through ballads like *Robin Hood and the Monk* and *Robin Hood and Little John*, *Robin Hood and Guy of Gisborne* and others.

Robin Hood became a beloved character because of his generosity and his fight against the Sheriff of Nottingham and his oppressive laws. The adventures of Robin Hood and his companions Little John and Maid Marian, made him a popular figure in British folklore.

Students can explore parallels between Robin Hood and Ukrainian folk heroes, such as Oleksa Dovbush or Pyntya the Brave, to celebrate cultural connections. By including adaptations featuring characters with disabilities or from underrepresented groups, teachers can help students see themselves in these legendary tales.

Similarly, ballads about King Arthur, another legendary Celtic figure, tell of his leadership in defending Britain against Saxon invaders in the 5th century. Both Robin Hood and King Arthur's stories have had a lasting impact on British literature, inspiring countless adaptations in books, films, and television over the centuries.

Legends like King Arthur's emphasize cooperation and fairness, themes that resonate in inclusive education. For instance, the Round Table symbolizes equality, making it a powerful metaphor for classroom

inclusion. Students can collaboratively create their own "Round Table" of values, promoting respect and empathy.

Legends

Teachers should introduce children to myths and legends, because these stories offer "models for a way of life" and teach essential values. England, Scotland, and Wales are renowned for their ancient legends and myths, some of which are so old that their origins are lost in history. These legends cover a range of topics, including historical figures like Robin Hood and King Arthur, Christian stories based on biblical events, and educational tales. Though the origins of many of these stories are unknown, they have been passed on orally for centuries.

Children in British schools are first introduced to these legends through stories like Robin Hood, who is portrayed as a heroic figure standing up to noble robbers. In the early 5th century, as the Roman Empire weakened and left Britain, the island was invaded by Germanic tribes called Angles, Saxons, and Jutes. These groups greatly influenced British traditions and cultural heritage. It was during this turbulent period that the legendary King Arthur emerged. Arthur was the son of King Uther Pendragon, but due to the troubled times, the magician Merlin advised that he be raised in secret. After Uther's death, a conflict arose over the throne, and Merlin magically set a sword in a stone, declaring that only the rightful king could pull it out. By chance, Arthur succeeded in drawing the sword, thus becoming king.

Arthur gathered knights and led them in battles against the invading Saxons, establishing his base at Camelot, where he built a strong castle and convened his knights at the famous Round Table. Merlin also helped Arthur acquire the magical sword Excalibur from the Lady of the Lake, which he used to defeat his enemies. The romance in these legends is brought by Queen Guinevere, Arthur's beautiful wife. Children are often captivated by stories like *The Sword of Avalon*, *The Lady of Avalon*, and *The Knights of the Round Table*. The most famous version of the King Arthur legends is Sir Thomas Malory's *Le Morte D'Arthur*, first published in 1485. In his work Malory fused the many previous versions of the Arthurian legends into a complex and sprawling narrative.

Scary Stories for Halloween

On October, 31 carved pumpkins with faces illuminated by candles appear on porches and doorsteps in Britain, the U.S., and other parts of the world, signaling the arrival of Halloween. These "jack-o'-lanterns" come from an Irish folktale about a man named Stingy Jack. The tradition was brought to America by Irish immigrants, where pumpkins became a key part of Halloween celebrations. Halloween itself has ancient roots in the Celtic festival of Samhain marking the end of the harvest season and beginning of winter or the "darker half" of the year. The Celts believed that on this night ghosts, demons, and witches roamed the earth. People offered them sweets, nuts, and berries in an attempt to please them.

Nowadays whether kids are going out trick or treating or spooking friends at home, there's nothing like a spot of storytelling on Halloween. Part of the fun is adapting the stories to make them seem to have happened in the neighbourhood – or close to the home of yours or a member of your audience. The examples of scary stories are *The Head hunter*, *The madman under the bed*, *The graveyard challenge*, *The bony hand*, *Come play with me*, *Room for one more* and others.

Today, a large collection of children's ghost stories offers a fun way for young readers to enjoy being scared. These stories often feature friendly rather than frightening ghosts, allowing kids to explore the spirit world through the eyes of young characters.

Folk tales

Ukrainian young readers are already familiar with some English tales. English short stories for beginners come from a variety of sources and include Animal Tales, Witty Tales, Moral Tales, Humorous Tales, and others. Animal Tales explore relationships between humans and animals, featuring characters like dogs, cats, Brother Rabbit, and other creatures. Some stories are funny, others sad, but all resonate with readers of all ages, touching the heart and soul. These stories emphasize values like truth, love, mutual respect, and righteousness. Popular tales include *Henny-Penny*, *A Town Mouse and A Country Mouse*, *Elephant and Friends*, *Hungry Wolf*, *The Oak Tree and the Reeds*, *The Little Red Hen* and *the Grain of Wheat*.

Moral tales highlight the spirit of British culture, emphasizing values such as truth, love, mutual respect, and rectitude. Through simple stories, these tales teach children important life lessons. Examples include *The Christmass-Box*, published in 1746, *The Boy who cried wolf*, *A Wise Old Owl*, *Jack and the Beanstalk*, *The Ugly Duckling*, *The Three Little Pigs*, *Jack and his Friends*.

English tales are known for their diverse plots, ranging from ballads and legends to fairy tales and adventure stories. Adventure tales, in particular, feature heroes who demonstrate courage and wit. Family tales often intertwine with adventure stories, and the characters are usually ordinary people. These stories often contain humor or satire and teach children about human and social relations, conflicts and their resolutions (the poor and the rich, generations, ethnicity).

An example of an adventure-family tale is *Dick Whittington and His Cat*, a story retold by Niz Smith and Avril Lethbridge. It tells of a poor boy named Dick Whittington, who, having no parents, is often hungry and lives in a small village. He dreams of going to London, where he believes the streets are paved with gold. This tale, like many others, reflects the national lifestyle of the British and how it differs from other cultures. In the story, Dick meets a nobleman named Merchant Fitzwarren, who offers him a job. Though grateful, Dick suffers under the cruel cook who secretly beats him. However, the tale shows how good triumphs over evil, as Dick eventually becomes famous and marries Merchant's daughter, Alice.

Lullabies

The oldest recorded children's songs are lullabies, which have been used across all cultures to soothe children to sleep. The most common type of lullaby is one that has a slow and gentle rhythm. The term lullaby derived from the calming sounds "lu, lu" or "la la" made by mothers or caregivers, combined with "by by" or "bye bye," either as further soothing sounds or a term for bidding goodnight. Lullabies are often used to teach children about cultural values, beliefs, and traditions. Lullabies can take many forms, from nursery rhymes to folk tunes. Some of the most popular lullabies include *Rock-a-Bye Baby*, *Hush Little Baby*, *Twinkle, Twinkle, Little Star*, *All the Pretty Little Horses*, *Frère Jacques* (or *Brother John*),

Lavenders Blue Dilly Dilly, Welsh *Gille Beag O (Little Boy O)*. In fact, every nursery rhyme that shows a calming effect on a particular child is technically a lullaby: *Sing a Song of Sixpence*, *Little Bo Peep*, *Oranges and Lemons*, etc.

Lullabies are great educational tool, they also teach emotional intelligence. When parents or carers sing a lullaby, babies feel that you pay attention to them and respond to their emotions in real time. Singing help older kids relax, too. The fact that babies respond especially well to lullabies brings up lots of ideas for long-term research. Parents who actually increase the amount of time that they spend singing can expect positive follow-on effects, where the baby's easier to soothe, so the parents are more chilled out and not as stressed about being a parent, which is already a pretty stressful thing. There is some evidence that singing to infants can help boost a parent's confidence. A study of nearly 400 mothers in England found that singing to babies daily was associated with less postpartum depression and higher wellbeing and self-esteem. Mothers that sang to their children for 90 minutes in a group felt more closeness to their infants than mothers that talked and played but did not sing.

Rock-a-bye Baby. The rhyme is believed to have first appeared in print in *Mother Goose's Melody* (London c.1765), possibly published by John Newbery, and which was reprinted in Boston in 1785. No copies of the first edition are extant, but a 1791 edition has the following words:

Hush-a-by baby on the tree top,
When the wind blows the cradle will rock;
When the bough breaks the cradle will fall,
Down tumbles baby, cradle and all.

The rhyme is followed by a note: "This may serve as a warning to the proud and ambitious, who climb so high that they generally fall at last."

Nursery Rhymes

Children's songs had existed long ago before they were printed. The earliest mentions are in the form of quotations and allusions, such as the half-dozen or so that appear in Henry Carey's 1725 satire *Namby Pamby*.

A nursery rhyme is a short rhyming song or poem that conveys a lesson or tells an amusing story. They are aimed at children. Often, the origins of a specific nursery rhyme are unknown. The lyrics also usually go through a period of transformation before they reach the well-known contemporary version. Some of the best-known, and even simplest, nursery rhymes have alternative meanings. Some are more scandalous than others. Some, sounding illogical, can have the hidden meanings. Their origins can reflect historic events, old traditions and beliefs (even quite sombre) that are lost over the time. <https://www.ludwig-van.com/main/2023/01/16/5-nursery-rhymes-surprisingly-dark-origins/>. For example, some believe that *Humpty Dumpty* is about Cardinal Wolsey or Richard III of England. Another good example is *Jack and Jill*, which some believe is about Charles I of England, King John of England, or even King Louis XVI and Marie Antoinette. Some other interesting examples are *Baa, Baa, Black Sheep*, which might be about the slave trade or medieval wool tax, and *Ring a Ring o' Roses*, thought to be about the Black Death.

The collection of songs and nursery rhymes *Tommy Thumb's Song Book* was published in 1744 by Mary Cooper. No original copy has survived, but its content has been recovered from later reprints. The 1788 edition begins with a letter to Nurse Lovechild, thanking her for bringing up the author's children and for the 'laudable design' of compiling a collection of songs 'fit for the capacities of infants ... by which they are often lull'd to Rest, when cross, and in great pain.' It also asks her not to frighten the children by singing too loud or by telling the names of various Bogies, nor to injure them by swinging them by the arms.

There are illustrations of animals, with the representative sounds they make with instructions for the reader to show the child the pictures and to make the sounds. The book contains a series of nursery rhymes with the titles:

- The Features
- Baby on the Tree Top
- Patty Cake
- Penny a day
- London Bells

- London Bridge
- Tom Thumb and Nurse
- Robin and Bobbin

A few weeks after the first publication, Cooper produced a sequel, *Tommy Thumb's Pretty Song Book*. The book contains forty nursery rhymes, many of which are still popular, including;

- Baa Baa Black Sheep
- Girls and Boys Come Out To Play
- Hickory Dickory Dock
- Ladybird Ladybird
- Little Robin Redbreast
- Little Tommy Tucker
- London Bridge is Falling Down
- Mary Mary Quite Contrary
- Oranges and Lemons
- Ride a Cock Horse to Banbury Cross
- Sing a Song of Sixpence
- There Was an Old Woman Who Lived Under a Hill
- Who Killed Cock Robin?

The book also contains a number of less familiar rhymes, some of which were probably unsuitable for later sensibilities.

The term Mother Goose rhymes is interchangeable with nursery rhymes. Lullabies of old British nurses, "Mother Goose's Melody; or Sonnets for the Cradle (1781), published by the successors of one of the first publishers of children's books, John Newbery. The oldest extant copy dates from 1791, it is likely that it was edited by Oliver Goldsmith, who may also have composed some of the verses. The Newbery firm seems to have derived the name "Mother Goose" from the title of Charles Perrault's "Tales of Mother Goose", a French folk expression roughly equivalent to "old wives' tales." The book originated from various sources, including traditional riddles, proverbs, ballads, plays, drinking songs, and historical events. Each page of the book contained a moral remark. The figure of Mother Goose is often pictured as a beak-nosed, sharp-chinned elderly woman riding on the back of a flying gander. By the mid-18th

century, about half of what are now considered traditional English rhymes were already familiar.

It has been argued that nursery rhymes set to music aid in a child's development. Research also supports the assertion that music and rhyme increase a child's ability in spatial reasoning, which aids mathematics skills.

Proverbs and Sayings

Such expressions are notable for their brevity, clarity, and thoughtfulness, often reflecting shared wisdom across different cultures.

For instance, "many hands make light work" can be understood as when many people work together to accomplish a difficult task, it doesn't seem so difficult; "Two wrongs don't make a right" means that seeking revenge after someone wrongs you only worsens the situation. "When in Rome, do as the Romans do" advises adapting to the customs of the people around you, especially when traveling. "Better late than never" emphasizes that completing something is better than not doing it at all, even if it's delayed, while "There's no place like home" highlights the comfort of one's native land; "Don't judge a book by its cover" asks the child not to form an opinion or make a judgment about someone or something based on its outward appearance.

Tongue Twisters

Tongue twisters are sentences or phrases that are designed to be difficult to articulate properly especially when repeated quickly. The term was first applied to this kind of expression in 1895. Tongue twisters can be used as a type of spoken (or sung) word game. Some produce results that are humorous (or humorously vulgar) when they are mispronounced, while others simply rely on the confusion and mistakes of the speaker for their amusement value.

Tongue twisters can be used as exercises to improve pronunciation and fluency. Some rely on rapid alternation between similar but distinct phonemes (e.g., *s* [s] and *sh* [ʃ]), combining two different alternation patterns, or other features of a spoken language in order to be difficult to articulate. The popular "She sells sea-shells by the sea-shore. The shells she sells are sea-shells, I'm sure. For if she sells sea-shells by the sea-

shore Then I'm sure she sells sea-shore shells." tongue twister was originally published in 1850.

Many tongue twisters use a combination of alliteration and rhyme. They have two or more sequences of sounds that require repositioning the tongue between syllables, then the same sounds are repeated in a different sequence. An example of this is the song "Betty Botter", first published in 1899.

Betty Botter bought a bit of butter.

"But," she said, "this butter's bitter!

If I put it in my batter, it will make my batter bitter!"

So she bought a bit of butter better than her bitter butter,

And she put it in her batter, and her batter was not bitter.

So 'twas better Betty Botter bought a bit of better butter.

Tongue twisters are a fun way for kids to enjoy their spoken literacy skills, but there are lots of other uses for tongue twisters in the classroom.

Thus tongue twisters:

- are a fabulous way to play with language and the way we speak. Young students and ESL students can see tongue twisters as a fun language challenge that the whole class could get involved with.

- can challenge children to get familiar with language patterns.

- help develop articulation and strengthen the muscles associated with speech and clear pronunciation.

- can help teachers understand which letters, sounds and words their students are struggling with.

There has been research into usage of tongue twisters in speech therapy. The authors were able to demonstrate the possibility of using tongue twisters to evaluate speech disorders in persons with dysarthria.

Riddles

Riddles are an amusing and effective way to help you practise and think in English. They often involve word play, metaphors, and a deep understanding of the language, making them an excellent tool for language learning. Riddles challenge the mind and provoke creative thinking, making them a fun and engaging way to practice English at various levels of proficiency.

The riddle was a major, prestigious literary form in early medieval England, and riddles were written both in Latin and Old English verse. The pre-eminent composer of Latin riddles in early medieval England was Aldhelm (d. 709), while the Old English verse riddles found in the tenth-century Exeter Book include some of the most famous Old English poems.

Some Anglo-Saxon riddles have survived as playground rhymes. This one comes from Tiptree in Essex. It may be over a thousand years old, and has been kept alive by children learning it from one another and repeating it in the playground.

Four dilly-dandies (teats on the udder)
Four stick standies (legs)
Two crookers (horns)
Two lookers (eyes)
And a wig wag (tail)

Another old riddle.

Born from a myth, I am a mystical creature, With a spiral horn, and graceful feature.

A symbol of purity, untamed and wild,
In olden times, who was I, so beguiled?

Answer: the Unicorn

And this one is from a friend of Ukraine, Stephen King's *The Dark Tower* #4:

"If you break me, I'll not stop working.
If you can touch me, my work is done.
If you lose me, you must find me with a ring soon after.
What am I?" – Can you guess the answer?

Carols

A Christmas carol is a song or hymn, traditionally sung at Christmas itself or during the surrounding Christmas and holiday season (Yuletide). The French word *noel* has sometimes been used.

Many carols which have gained popularity were printed in *Piae Cantiones*, a collection of late medieval Latin songs which was first published in 1582. Early, Latin forms of carols such as "Christ was born on Christmas Day", "Good Christian Men, Rejoice" and "Good King Wenceslas" can be found in this book. "Adeste Fideles" ("O Come all ye

faithful") appears in its current form in the mid-18th century. The publication of Christmas music books in the 19th century helped to widen the popular appeal of carols. "God Rest Ye Merry, Gentlemen", "The First Noel", "I Saw Three Ships" and "Hark! The Herald Angels Sing" appear in 1833 collection *Christmas Carols, Ancient and Modern*.

Here are some old English carols to learn and sing:

O Come, All Ye Faithful (1744), The First Noel (c.16th/17th century), Hark! The Herald Angels Sing (1739), O Come, O Come, Emmanuel (1861), Joy to the World (1719), The Holly and the Ivy (c.1814), O Holy Night (1843), We Three Kings (1857), God Rest You Merry, Gentlemen (c.1650s), Good King Wenceslas (1853), Gaelic carol Taladh Chrìosda (Christ Child Lullaby).

One Christmas carol is particularly relevant to Ukraine being attacked by the russians. It is the Coventry Carol dating from the 16th century. The carol was traditionally performed as part of a mystery play called *The Pageant of the Shearmen and Tailors*. The carol itself refers to the Massacre of the Innocents, in which King Herod ordered all male infants under the age of two to be killed in Bethlehem, and takes the form of a lullaby sung by mothers of the doomed children. The music contains an example of a Picardy third. The author is unknown; the oldest known text was written down by Robert Croo in 1534, and the oldest known setting of the melody dates from 1591.

The Ukrainian carol most known to the Western World is the "Carol of the Bells", composed by the Ukrainian composer Mykola Leontovych as "Shchedryk", with English lyrics by the American composer of Ukrainian descent Peter J. Wilhousky following a performance of the original song by Oleksandr Koshyts (Koshetz)'s Ukrainian National Chorus at Carnegie Hall on October 5, 1922

Limericks

There is typically English small folklore genre that is particularly beloved by younger audiences. Limericks are short, humorously absurd poems composed of five lines and are often nonsensical. Edward Lear popularized limericks with his *Book of Nonsense* (1846), which contained numerous silly limericks. The rhyme structure follows a pattern where the

first, second, and fifth lines rhyme, typically containing 8 or 9 syllables, while the third and fourth lines rhyme with each other and usually contain 5 or 6 syllables. Limericks often begin with phrases like "There once was a..." or "There was a..."

An example of a limerick by Edward Lear:

There was an Old Man with a beard,
Who said, "It is just as I feared! –
Two Owls and a Hen,
Four Larks and a Wren,
Have all built their nests in my beard."

And here is a modern example of a limerick about Ivano-Frankivsk college students

There once were some students so bright,
In Ivano-Frankivsk, full of might,
They'd study all day,
Then laugh and play,
And dance through the Carpathians at night!

Many limericks are anonymous, and their dates of publication are unknown. Despite their nonsensical nature, they continue the long-standing British tradition of humour that can sometimes be difficult to interpret. What unites all small folklore genres is their use of clear rhyme, rhythm, and straightforward expression. These elements make them sonorous and easy to understand.

Children's folklore and early literature offer powerful tools for promoting inclusivity. By adapting these timeless works to reflect modern values and diverse experiences, teachers can create a welcoming environment where every child feels represented and empowered. Through the lens of inclusion, these stories not only entertain but also teach essential lessons about empathy, respect, and the richness of human diversity.

Questions for Self-Assessment

1. What were the characteristics of literature during the Puritan period?
2. How did Enlightenment philosophy influence the development of children's books?
3. What are the common themes in ballads, and why were they popular with children?

4. Compare Robin Hood with a folk hero from your culture. What values do these figures represent?
5. How can King Arthur's legends inspire modern classrooms?
6. What are some inclusive ways to adapt early children's literature for diverse learning needs?
7. Discuss how Halloween storytelling traditions have evolved to become part of children's literature.
8. What are the primary types of English folk tales, and what values do they convey?
9. How do lullabies benefit children emotionally and developmentally?
10. What are some hidden meanings in traditional nursery rhymes, and why are they significant?
11. How can tongue twisters be used effectively in a language classroom?
12. Provide examples of riddles and explain their role in language learning and critical thinking.
13. Discuss the cultural and historical significance of carols in English traditions.
14. How can these oral traditions enhance teaching English to young learners in Ukraine?
15. What are the defining structural features of a limerick?
16. Who popularized the limerick genre, and how?
17. How does the humor in limericks contribute to their appeal for younger audiences?
18. Analyze the cultural elements in Edward Lear's example of a limerick.
19. Create a limerick that reflects a modern or personal theme.

Discussion Topics:

- How has children's literature changed from the 18th century to today? Discuss the role of social values and technological advancements in shaping this evolution.
- How do legends like Robin Hood or King Arthur reflect the values and identity of the culture they come from? Compare them with legends from your own country, such as Ukrainian folk heroes.

- Why are nursery rhymes and ballads still popular today? What makes them effective for teaching language, culture, or values?
- How can teachers use traditional tales and folklore to promote inclusion and understanding in the classroom? Share examples or ideas.
- Compare the themes and characters in early English children's literature with those in Ukrainian or other world literatures. What similarities and differences can you find?
- Many classic ballads and tales have inspired modern books, movies, and TV shows. Discuss how these adaptations can introduce historical stories to a wider, more diverse audience.
- Animal tales, like *The Town Mouse and the Country Mouse*, often teach important lessons. Why do you think animals are so frequently used as characters in children's stories?
- Halloween legends like *Stingy Jack* have roots in cultural traditions. How can stories about festivals from different cultures teach us about their history and values? Share examples from your own traditions.

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Lecture DEVELOPMENT OF ENGLISH LITERATURE FROM RENAISSANCE TILL THE VICTORIAN AGE

The development of English literature from the Renaissance to the Victorian Age represents a pivotal journey in the evolution of storytelling, societal values, and cultural expression. By examining these eras, students gain insight into how literature has reflected and influenced human thought, morality, and creativity across centuries. Understanding this progression enriches our comprehension of modern literature and its foundations, particularly in areas such as humanism, inclusivity, and the emergence of children's literature. This topic also highlights the enduring legacy of key authors and movements, whose works continue to inspire and educate readers of all ages.

Learning Objectives

By the end of this lecture, students will be able to:

1. Identify and explain the key characteristics and historical contexts of the Renaissance, Neoclassical, and Romantic periods.
2. Analyze the influence of humanism and inclusivity on English literature and the emergence of children's literature.
3. Discuss the contributions of major authors such as William Shakespeare, John Milton, Daniel Defoe, and Mary Shelley to the literary canon.
4. Trace the evolution of children's literature and its connection to broader societal changes.
5. Evaluate how themes of morality, emotion, and individual experience shaped literary works across these periods.

Lecture Plan

1. The Renaissance

- Historical context: Humanism, the Protestant Reformation, and exploration.
- Key characteristics: Revival of classical ideals, human emotions, and morality.
- Notable authors and works: William Shakespeare, Christopher Marlowe, John Donne, and Edmund Spenser.

- Early children's literature: Advice books, moral tales, and travel narratives.

2. The Neoclassical Period

- Historical context: The Enlightenment and the "Age of Reason."
- Key characteristics: Satire, wit, and moral instruction.
- Notable authors and works: John Locke, Daniel Defoe, Jonathan Swift, and Alexander Pope.
- Advances in children's literature: John Newbery and the rise of dedicated publishing.

3. The Romantic Period

- Historical context: Reaction to rationalism, Industrial Revolution, and democratic ideals.
- Key characteristics: Emotion, nature, and individual experience.
- Notable authors and works: William Blake, Mary Wollstonecraft, Lord Byron, and Jane Austen.
- Influence on children's literature: Shift toward imaginative and emotional storytelling.

English Renaissance Literature – A Journey through Humanism, Children's Literature, and Inclusion

The Renaissance bridged the medieval world and the modern era. Often dated from 1500 to around 1688, this era marks a rebirth of learning, creativity, and exploration influenced by the revival of Classical Greek and Roman ideals. While the Renaissance is often associated with the works of Shakespeare, it also laid the foundations for modern children's literature and advanced ideas of inclusion, especially through its humanist principles.

The Renaissance, meaning "rebirth," originated in Italy and spread across Europe, arriving in England in the late 15th century. It coincided with the Protestant Reformation, geographical explorations, and the reign of powerful monarchs like Elizabeth I. Literature of this period reflected humanist ideals, focusing on individual potential, morality, and the human relationship with the divine.

Key Characteristics: Revival of classical ideals in arts, philosophy, and literature; Literature that explored human emotions, ethics, and the

complexities of life; Optimism about human potential and the belief in education as a tool for betterment.

Thomas More, an English statesman and author, is best known for *Utopia* (1516), which presented an ideal society grounded in reason, equality, and Christian ethics. His vision of a just and inclusive society resonated with humanist principles and inspired later writers.

The Book of Common Prayer (1549) written in English, it made liturgical practices accessible to the common people, embodying the Renaissance spirit of inclusion and education.

The English Renaissance saw an explosion of literary creativity, particularly in drama and poetry. These works often reflected the complex interplay of humanism, religion, and exploration of the human condition.

- **William Shakespeare.** His plays and sonnets explored universal themes of love, power, betrayal, and mortality. Works like *Romeo and Juliet* and *The Tempest* blend humanist ideals with dramatic storytelling.

- **Christopher Marlowe.** Known for works like *Doctor Faustus*, he explored themes of ambition, human potential, and divine judgment.

- **Ben Jonson.** A contemporary of Shakespeare, Jonson's satirical plays, such as *Volpone*, highlighted human flaws with wit and insight.

- **Edmund Spenser.** His epic poem *The Faerie Queene* celebrated virtue and moral ideals, blending allegory with chivalric tradition.

- **John Donne.** He initiated the 'metaphysical' school of poetry. Donne was a celebrated preacher, who explored love, spirituality, and the human soul. He wrote songs, sonnets, marriage poems, elegies and satires. All these are characterized by genuine poetic feeling, harsh metres and turns of speech called 'conceits'. Two of his most popular poems are – The Sun Rising and The Canonization.

- **John Milton.** In *Paradise Lost*, Milton crafted a profound exploration of free will, morality, and redemption, rooted in Christian humanist ideals.

- **Francis Bacon.** Though primarily a philosopher, Bacon's essays reflect Renaissance concerns with reason, ethics, and human potential.

Early Forms of Children's Literature and Inclusion

Stories during the Renaissance often carried moral, aesthetic, or religious lessons. Advice books, such as *The Book of Courtesye*, taught

children how to become virtuous and courteous members of society. The moral tales emphasized virtues like honesty, generosity, and diligence. By the late Renaissance, travel narratives gained popularity among children and adults alike. These books fueled the imagination and curiosity of young readers, introducing them to diverse cultures and values.

Humanist Values. Stories began to reflect a broader understanding of community and mutual respect. Characters from different walks of life, including the poor and marginalized, were represented, fostering empathy in young readers. The Renaissance, while largely patriarchal, planted seeds for the inclusion of women in education and literature. Female authors like Mary Sidney and Lady Jane Grey challenged societal norms, contributing to the literary landscape. The Renaissance emphasis on morality and humanism laid the groundwork for children's literature to teach values such as kindness, bravery, and resilience. The Renaissance belief in human dignity encouraged the inclusion of diverse characters and experiences in literature, a trend that has become a cornerstone of modern children's stories.

The Renaissance fostered optimism and humanism among its intellectuals, which included renowned politicians, scientists, philosophers, and writers. Literature from this period reflected a keen interest in everyday life, often focusing on ordinary people who were relatable and not marked by extraordinary beauty, strength, or abilities. These works delved into moral issues, emphasizing honesty, generosity, and sincerity, with a consistent theme of good triumphing over evil.

A Journey through Neoclassicism and Romanticism through an Inclusive Lens

Following the Renaissance, English literature continued to evolve, reflecting the changing intellectual, social, and emotional landscapes of its time. Two significant literary movements – the Neoclassical and the Romantic periods – highlighted contrasting ideals, from reason and order to emotion and imagination. Both periods made contributions to the emerging fields of children's literature and inclusivity, setting the stage for modern storytelling's focus on individual experience and empathy. Before the 17th century, children were seen as small adults; however,

during the Enlightenment and Romantic periods, childhood was viewed as a time of innocence that was distinct from adolescence (young adulthood) and adulthood. These changes in viewpoints created a new market for the writing and publishing of books for children, who were seen as innocent and playful beings rather than mini-adults. During this time, moral tales and fables were still published, but more light-hearted books featuring word play, riddles, rhymes, and games began to appear in children's books as well. Children's books also borrowed stories originally written for adults, such as *Gulliver's Travels*, *Ivanhoe*, and *Robinson Crusoe*.

The Neoclassical Period (1660–1798) also known as the "Age of Reason," reflected the Enlightenment ideals of order, logic, and rationality. Satire and wit were dominant, critiquing societal flaws and human follies. Literature often focused on moral instruction, public concerns, and universal truths rather than personal emotion. Neoclassical literature valued public discourse, fostering a sense of common humanity. Early educational texts, inspired by Locke, laid the groundwork for inclusive access to knowledge and literacy.

Notable Works and Authors

- **John Locke.** *Some Thoughts Concerning Education* (1693) became a foundational text in educational theory. Locke emphasized the importance of early education in shaping virtuous and rational individuals, influencing approaches to children's literature.

- **Daniel Defoe.** *Robinson Crusoe* (1719) is often regarded as the first English novel. Its themes of resilience, self-reliance, and exploration inspired early adventure literature for children and adults alike.

- **Jonathan Swift.** *Gulliver's Travels* (1726) presented a satirical critique of human nature and society. Its imaginative travels appealed to young readers and influenced the fantasy genre.

- **John Dryden.** Dryden exemplified the clarity and restraint of Neoclassical poetry and prose, using his works to promote rationality and moral guidance.

- **Alexander Pope.** His satirical masterpiece *The Rape of the Lock* reflected the Neoclassical focus on wit and form.

- **Samuel Johnson.** Johnson's *Dictionary of the English Language* (1755) was a monumental achievement in standardizing the English language, benefiting literature and education.

- **Anne Bradstreet.** *The Tenth Muse Lately Sprung Up in America* (1650), published in England, marked her as one of the first notable poets of the American colonies. Her work bridged Puritan values with personal reflection, emphasizing themes of resilience and faith.

The Romantic Period (1798–1837)

It arose as a reaction against the rationalism and order of Neoclassicism, embracing emotion, nature, and the individual. This era coincided with significant social changes, including the Industrial Revolution and the rise of democratic ideals.

Key Features: Emphasis on individual experience, emotion, and the sublime beauty of nature; Exploration of the imagination, creativity, and the inner life; A shift towards inclusivity, focusing on marginalized voices and experiences.

Notable Works and Authors

- **William Blake.** *Songs of Innocence* (1789), *Songs of Innocence and of Experience* (1794) combined poetry and illustration, celebrating childhood, imagination, and innocence while addressing social inequalities.

- **William Wordsworth and Samuel Taylor Coleridge.** *Lyrical Ballads* (1798) marked the beginning of the Romantic movement, emphasizing simple language and the lives of ordinary people.

- **Lord Byron.** His poem *Mazeppa* (1819) drew on Ukrainian history and folklore, showcasing Romanticism's fascination with heroism and exoticism.

- **John Keats.** Keats' lyrical poetry celebrated beauty and emotion, influencing later children's poetry through its musicality.

- **Mary Wollstonecraft.** *A Vindication of the Rights of Woman* (1792) argued for gender equality, advocating education and intellectual inclusion.

- **Mary Shelley.** *Frankenstein, or the Modern Prometheus* (1818) explored themes of creation, alienation, and humanity's responsibilities, resonating with marginalized groups.

- **Jane Austen.** *Sense and Sensibility* (1811), and her other novels blended Romantic sensibility with satirical social critique, offering nuanced portrayals of women's lives.

- **Robert Burns and Walter Scott.** Their works celebrated Scottish culture and history, enriching Romanticism with regional voices.

Children's Literature and Inclusivity

Locke's educational theories inspired a shift from purely didactic stories to narratives that balanced morality with entertainment. Romantic ideals of creativity and emotion influenced the development of imaginative literature for children. Romanticism's focus on emotion and individuality resonated with marginalized groups, fostering empathy and inclusion. Female authors like Mary Wollstonecraft and Jane Austen challenged patriarchal norms, advocating for women's rights. The Romantic ideal of connecting with nature and personal experience appealed to all social classes. Neoclassical and Romantic texts fostered inclusivity by emphasizing shared human experiences and emotional connections. Stories like *Robinson Crusoe* and *Gulliver's Travels* introduced readers to diverse cultures and perspectives.

These literary tendencies extended to children's literature, which was predominantly didactic. By the transition from the seventeenth to the eighteenth century, literature for children began to flourish. Early works included travel books aimed at both children and adults. The mid-eighteenth century saw the establishment of a dedicated children's publishing house by John Newbery, who is regarded as a pioneer in children's literature. Newbery published England's first children's magazine in 1744 and produced a wealth of children's books. His legacy is honored by the John Newbery Medal, awarded annually in the USA since 1922 for outstanding children's literature.

The development of children's reading interests gained momentum with English literary masterpieces by authors such as Daniel Defoe, Jonathan Swift, and others.

Daniel Defoe (1660–1731)

An English novelist, journalist, and occasional spy, Defoe is best remembered for his novels *Robinson Crusoe* and *Moll Flanders*. Born in London in 1660, Defoe was drawn to politics, publishing his first political pamphlet in 1683. His literary career took a new direction in 1719 with the publication of *Robinson Crusoe*, a novel based on essays he had written over the years. Defoe is credited with shaping the novel genre, contributing to subgenres such as adventure, biography, education, psychological, historical, romance, and travel novels.

In *Robinson Crusoe*, Defoe illustrates the Enlightenment ideal of good human nature influenced by external forces and circumstances. The story follows an Englishman marooned on a tropical island for 28 years, reportedly inspired by the true story of Scottish castaway Alexander Selkirk. Through adventure-filled encounters with cannibals, captives, and mutineers, Defoe crafts a tale that resonates deeply with readers.

Crusoe's relatable humanity, devoid of extraordinary talents, endears him to readers. His initial despair on the island transforms into hope as he overcomes adversity through ingenuity and perseverance. Crusoe's journey reflects universal themes of resilience and triumph, making the novel a timeless source of inspiration for readers of all ages.

Jonathan Swift (1667–1745)

Swift, an English writer, essayist, poet, and satirist of the Enlightenment, is best known for his masterpiece *Gulliver's Travels* (1726). Born in Dublin, Ireland, Swift faced personal hardships, including the loss of his father before his birth. Educated in theology, he worked as a secretary to diplomat William Temple, a period during which he honed his writing and met his future wife, Esther Johnson.

Swift's literary genius lies in his sharp satire, evident in works such as *A Tale of a Tub* (1704) and *Gulliver's Travels*. The latter, a four-part novel, explores moral and ethical dilemmas through Gulliver's adventures in fantastical lands like Lilliput, Brobdingnag, and the Houyhnhnms' realm.

А тут один з перших перекладів українською. Дитячий журнал "Дзвінок", 20 вересня 1896 року. Львів, королівство Галичини і Льодомерії, Австрійська імперія. [Дзвінок.Ч 18. Подорож Гулівера до](#)

краю великанів.1896 [продовження] / Дж. Свіфт. Про Модслі / переказав Б. Грінченко.

Gulliver's Travels teaches young readers to discern deceit, reject hypocrisy, and value justice and truth. Its timeless appeal lies in its ability to entertain while imparting valuable lessons.

Robert Burns (1759–1796)

Regarded as Scotland's national poet, Robert Burns was born into poverty near Ayr and endured a life of hardship. His early education, supported by a local teacher, laid the foundation for his literary brilliance. Burns' poetry, rich in themes of love, friendship, and nature, reflects the struggles and joys of ordinary people. His work preserves Scotland's folk traditions, celebrating "noble poverty" with optimism and faith in humanity.

Burns' legacy endures through the annual Burns Night celebrations on January 25th, where his poems like *The Selkirk Grace* and *Ode to Haggis* are recited worldwide, inspiring new generations. Primary school pupils recite their favourite Burns poems including *My Heart's in the Highlands*, *A Winter Night*, *My Luvie is like a red red rose*, *Auld Lang Syne* and others.

My heart's in the Highlands, my heart is not here,
My heart's in the Highlands, a-chasing the deer;
Chasing the wild-deer, and following the roe,
My heart's in the Highlands, wherever I go.

Farewell to the Highlands, farewell to the North,
The birth-place of Valour, the country of Worth ;
Wherever I wander, wherever I rove,
The hills of the Highlands for ever I love.

Farewell to the mountains, high-cover'd with snow,
Farewell to the straths and green vallies below;
Farewell to the forests and wild-hanging woods,
Farewell to the torrents and loud-pouring floods.

My heart's in the Highlands, my heart is not here,
My heart's in the Highlands, a-chasing the deer;
Chasing the wild-deer, and following the roe,
My heart's in the Highlands, wherever I go.

18th Century Development

During the first half of the 18th century, a few children's books were published, such as *A Little Book for Little Children* (c.1712), which featured riddles and rhymes, and *A Description of Three Hundred Animals* (1730), which was intended to entertain young readers. The 1740s marked a turning point when several London publishers began producing books specifically designed for children, aiming to both educate and amuse them.

Thomas Boreman published a series of small illustrated books on London landmarks, called *Gigantick Histories* (1740-43). Another example is Mary Cooper's *Tommy Thumb's Pretty Song Book* (1744), which is the earliest known collection of nursery rhymes, including familiar classics like "Bah, bah, black sheep" and "London Bridge is falling down."

Father of Children's Literature

During the 18th century, John Newbery, a writer of children's books, greatly influenced children's literature by starting the first publishing house dedicated to children's stories. He published his own stories, as well as the works of other children's book authors. The idea of a publishing house just for children's stories reflected a shift in how society thought of children. John Newbery is often credited as the father of children's literature. His first book for children, *A Little Pretty Pocket-Book* (c.1744), was small, colorful, and neatly designed. Newbery's work reflected John Locke's educational ideas, promoting learning through play and amusement. His success showed that publishing children's books could be profitable, and his business continued to thrive even after his death in 1767, passing on to his descendants.

Newbery was also innovative. He published the first children's magazine, *The Lilliputian Magazine* (1751-52), and his most famous work, *The History of Little Goody Two-Shoes* (1765), is considered the first children's novel. This book tells the story of a poor orphan girl, Margery, who becomes a teacher and later marries a landowner through her virtues of honesty, hard work, and good manners.

Expansion of Children's Literature

The key factors of the sudden rise in children's literature during the 18th century can be explained by Newbery's innovation, the growth of a

middle class, advancements in book production, new educational theories, and changing views on childhood. As a result, by the early 1800s, children's books were booming, and authors could make a living by writing solely for children, marking the beginning of modern children's literature.

Questions for Self-Assessment

1. What are the defining characteristics of Renaissance literature, and how do they reflect the humanist ideals of the time?
2. How did the Neoclassical period's emphasis on reason and morality influence its literary works?
3. In what ways did Romanticism differ from Neoclassicism in its treatment of emotion and individual experience?
4. Discuss how early children's literature evolved during the Renaissance and Neoclassical periods.
5. What role did John Newbery play in shaping modern children's literature?
6. How do works like *Robinson Crusoe* and *Gulliver's Travels* contribute to the inclusivity and imagination in literature for children?
7. Analyze the influence of social and cultural changes on the themes of Romantic literature.

Discussion Topics:

- Do you think early children's literature was inclusive? How can modern adaptations of classic tales reflect diverse cultures, abilities, and perspectives?
- What moral lessons can we learn from stories like *The History of Little Goody Two-Shoes* or *Dick Whittington and His Cat*? Are these lessons still relevant today?
- How do Renaissance ideals of humanism appear in modern children's literature?
- Can you think of a Renaissance work that promotes inclusivity? How can it be adapted for children today?
- What lessons from Renaissance literature remain relevant in fostering empathy and inclusion?

- How do Neoclassical and Romantic ideals influence modern children's literature?
- What lessons from Romanticism about nature and emotion resonate with today's emphasis on mental health and empathy?
- How can educators adapt the works of Blake, Austen, Swift or Defoe to teach inclusivity in modern classrooms?
- Discuss how Robinson Crusoe's transformation from despair to hope reflects human resilience and adaptability. How can his journey inspire readers facing challenges in their own lives?
- Explore how Robinson Crusoe embodies Enlightenment ideals such as self-reliance, rationality, and the belief in progress. In what ways do these themes resonate with modern readers?
- How can *Robinson Crusoe* be used to teach values such as perseverance, problem-solving, and resourcefulness to young readers? Discuss its potential as a tool for moral and educational instruction.
- *Gulliver's Travels* imparts lessons on rejecting deceit and hypocrisy and valuing truth and justice. How can these lessons be introduced to children in a way that is both engaging and thought-provoking?
- Explore the balance Swift strikes between fantastical elements and sharp moral commentary. How does this dual approach make *Gulliver's Travels* both entertaining and educational for readers of all ages?
- Burns is celebrated for his role in preserving Scotland's folk traditions. Discuss the importance of literature in maintaining cultural heritage and identity. How can students relate Burns' work to their own cultural backgrounds?
- Poems like *A Red, Red Rose* and *My Heart's in the Highlands* are often recited by children. What makes Burns' poetry particularly appealing and suitable for young audiences?

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Lecture THE EARLY VICTORIAN PERIOD. DICKENS, CARROLL, LEAR, STEVENSON

The Victorian Age marked a significant era in the history of English literature, reflecting the societal, cultural, and technological changes of the time. The period saw the rise of children's literature as a distinct genre, catering to the educational and entertainment needs of young readers. Exploring works by authors such as Charles Dickens, Lewis Carroll, Edward Lear, and Robert Louis Stevenson offers insights into how literature evolved to address themes of morality, imagination, and the complexities of human nature. This topic is relevant for understanding the foundations of modern children's literature and its lasting impact on literary traditions.

Learning Objectives

By the end of this lecture, students will be able to:

1. Explain the historical and cultural context of the Victorian Age and its influence on English literature.
2. Analyze the themes and stylistic elements in the works of Dickens, Carroll, Lear, and Stevenson.
3. Discuss the emergence and significance of children's literature during the Victorian period.
4. Compare the approaches to morality, imagination, and social critique in the works of key Victorian authors.
5. Evaluate the legacy of Victorian children's literature in shaping modern storytelling for young audiences.

Lecture Plan

1. Introduction

- Overview of the Victorian Age: Historical and cultural background.
- Key developments in English literature during this period.

2. Charles Dickens

- Life and contributions to Victorian literature.
- Analysis of *A Christmas Carol*: Themes of redemption, social justice, and compassion.
- Impact on children's literature and societal values.

3. Lewis Carroll

- Biography and creative journey.
- Exploration of *Alice's Adventures in Wonderland* and *Through the Looking-Glass*:

- Nonsensical literature and its appeal to children and adults.
- Themes of imagination, logic, and freedom.

4. Edward Lear

- Introduction to nonsense verse and its characteristics.
- Analysis of *The Book of Nonsense*:
 - Whimsy, humor, and its influence on children's literature.

5. Robert Louis Stevenson

- Life and literary achievements.
- Examination of *A Child's Garden of Verses*:
 - Themes of childhood, solitude, and imagination.
 - Contribution to poetic storytelling for children.

6. Conclusion and Questions and Discussion

- Summary of the contributions of Victorian authors to children's literature.
- Discussion on the enduring legacy of their works in modern literary traditions.
- Open forum for student queries and reflections.

Victorian' is a term that is often extended beyond the queen's reign (1837-1901) to include William IV's reign from 1830. Queen Victoria's long reign saw a growth in literature, especially in fiction, practised notably by Dickens, Thackeray, the Brontë sisters, George Eliot, Elizabeth Gaskell, Anthony Trollope, James and Hardy. Poetry too was popular, especially that of Tennyson, Robert Browning, Elizabeth Barrett Browning, Christina Rossetti. `

The Education Acts, making a certain measure of education compulsory, rapidly produced an enormous reading public. The cheapening of printing and paper increased the demand for books, so that the production was multiplied.

During the 19th century, greater numbers of books were written for children's play and enjoyment, including the first picture book written by Randolph Caldecott.

Literature successfully explores the worlds of adventure and fantasy. In 1846 Edward Lear published his *Book of Nonsense* (1846), a collection of absurd limericks as anarchic and pointless as any rebellious child might wish. In prose it continued with *The Rose and the Ring* (1855) by William Makepeace Thackeray, an adventure fairy-tale that put fantasy first, moral lessons second. We can compare the immensely popular during the Victorian Age, and helplessly outdated now *Water-Babies* (1863) by an Anglican priest Charles Kingsley and the immortal *Alice's Adventures in Wonderland* (1865) and *Through the Looking-Glass and What Alice Found There* (1871) by an Oxford professor of mathematics and logic Lewis Carroll. Kingsley uses the story of a little chimney-sweep only as a vehicle to introduce traditional moral values, elements of natural history, theology, and history. Carroll, on the other hand, tells a story of a little girl's absurd adventures to entertain and to mock the traditional didactic approach to children's fiction and children's upbringing. He used the traditional British nonsense to show how absurd the "grown-up word" can be by writing parodies on all the classical didactic British verses for children, who abhorred them ever so much. Thus Carroll became a trustful ally of British children and started modern British fiction for them.

Charles Dickens (1812–1870)

A cornerstone of Victorian literature, Dickens captured the plight of the underprivileged during the Industrial Revolution. From *Oliver Twist* to *A Christmas Carol*, Dickens' stories portray the resilience of children in the face of adversity while advocating for compassion, generosity, and social justice.

One of the most beloved and enduring stories of Charles Dickens, *A Christmas Carol* tells of the transformation of Ebenezer Scrooge from a mean-spirited miser to the soul of generosity and the embodiment of the virtues Dickens saw in Christmas. Suddenly conceived and written in a few weeks, *A Christmas Carol* was published in December 1843. The first of a series of annual Christmas books produced by Dickens, the work immediately entered the general consciousness as perhaps the outstanding Christmas myth of modern literature.

Through a series of visions, the miserly Scrooge is allowed to review his life and to change its outcome. The Ghost of Christmas Past reveals vignettes of Scrooge's early life as a schoolboy, an apprentice, and a young man in love. The Ghost of Christmas Present reveals to Scrooge that joy has little to do with wealth; together they visit the homes of Bob Cratchit, Scrooge's much-abused clerk, and of his generous nephew Fred, who has married for love. Finally, the Ghost of Christmas Yet to Come allows Scrooge a vision of what his end will be like if he continues on his present course—he will die despised and unmourned. After witnessing these scenes, Scrooge is a changed man. He immediately sets about mending his ways, becoming generous and thoughtful and thereby finding redemption and joy.

Through Scrooge's transformation in *A Christmas Carol*, Dickens emphasizes redemption and the profound joy that stems from kindness. His works continue to inspire empathy and hope, making him a beloved figure in English literature.

English literature of that long and very extensive period reflects humanity's enduring struggles and aspirations, resonating with readers of all ages and backgrounds. The inclusivity of these narratives ensures their relevance in fostering empathy, understanding, and hope.

Lewis Carroll (1832–1898)

British author, mathematician, logician, and photographer Charles Dodgson is best known by his pen name of Lewis Carroll. He is renowned for writing two of the most famous and admired children's books in the world: *Alice's Adventures in Wonderland* (1865) and its sequel, *Through the Looking-Glass* (1871). Dodgson also wrote poetry for children, including the famous nonsense poem *The Hunting of the Snark* (1876), as well as mathematical treatises. Alice Liddell was the daughter of the Dean of Christ Church, joint editor of the standard Greek dictionary. *Alice* was originally made up by Dodgson for her and her sisters while he was rowing them up the Thames in 1862, when she was ten.

Alice in Wonderland is one of the most famous Victorian classics, which has stood the test of time and still holds its charm amongst young children. It belongs to the genre of nonsensical literature and reading it

gives you a sense of how beautifully the author has created visual imagery through fantasy. It somewhere reaches the height of creativity, when you see that there are so many weird characters entering and leaving the story one after the other and Alice's interaction with them is fun to read.

This book has many versions for different age groups so one must be careful while selecting an age appropriate version for a child. Some kids may find a story a little difficult to comprehend. But once you get acquainted and read it with patience and some guidance, it is very interesting. Then, you will want to reach the end!

Alice's adventures occur when in a dream she falls down a rabbit-hole. After a long fall she reaches a place which is no less than a wonder world with creatures and happenings one can see and witness in one's dreams only.

With Alice changing her size at almost every other turn in the story, what makes it an interesting read is how it happens to her. In a series of odd and threatening situations, creatures engage her in 'curiouser and curiouser' conversations and sing nonsensical songs. Also each character she meets is abnormal in its own way. So was this a dream for Alice or was she witnessing all this in reality...? One has to read the whole book to know the answer. A must read for people who want themselves to get acquainted with classical literature. The author has done full justice in taking the reader to a wonderland with Alice.

Children still like *Alice's* fantasy, surprise, and logical and verbal jokes, as in 'The Mad Hatter's Tea Party'. The action

often shows the absurd arrangements whereby large animals eat small ones (weeping in pity as they do so), and big people boss little people about without compunction. Adults enjoy the stream of riddles and logical games, such as 'How do I know what I mean until I see what I say?', and the Cheshire Cat's grin, 'which remained some time after the rest of it had gone.'

Carroll's innovative storytelling, blending folklore, fantasy, and logic, revolutionized children's literature. His work highlights the importance of personal freedom and imagination, making him one of the most enigmatic figures in English literary history.

Edward Lear

The gentler nonsense verse of Edward Lear (1812-88), a gifted watercolourist, has less logical bite and point than Carroll's, more whimsy, and a melancholy charm.

He reads, but he cannot speak, Spanish,
He cannot abide ginger beer:
Ere the days of his pilgrimage vanish,
How pleasant to know Mr Lear!

Nonsense verse, England's answer to French symbolism, thrived before the 19th century, but its flowering then may be the other side of Arnold's proposition that 'all great literature is, at bottom, a criticism of life'. Victorians also had more time for their children.

Robert Louis Stevenson (1850–1894)

Born in Edinburgh, Scotland, on November 13, 1850, Robert Louis Stevenson was the cherished only child of Thomas Stevenson and Margaret Balfour. Despite inheriting his mother's delicate lungs and facing respiratory challenges from birth, he showed remarkable resilience. Before the age of two, a young woman named Alison Cunningham joined his household as his nurse. Stevenson later dedicated *A Child's Garden of Verses* to her, acknowledging her vital role in nurturing his creative talents.

Though much of his childhood was spent in the confines of a sickroom, Stevenson relished summers in the countryside at Colinton Manse, playing outdoors with his cousins. By the age of six, he had already demonstrated his storytelling abilities, winning a prize for a tale about Moses. His next attempt, *The Book of Joseph*, followed similar religious themes, reflecting the deep influence of his parents' faith. However, as he grew older, his spiritual views evolved.

Stevenson's education began at the age of seven, though frequent illnesses and his father's skepticism about formal schooling meant his attendance was irregular. Despite this, he was a voracious learner, gaining admission to the University of Edinburgh at sixteen to study engineering, a field his father envisioned for him. Realizing his lack of interest in the family profession, Stevenson turned to law to placate his father but devoted his true energies to literature. His unconventional

attire earned him the nickname "Velvet Jacket," symbolizing his nonconformist spirit.

A tireless traveler throughout his adult life, Stevenson sought out climates that alleviated his fragile health. His journeys inspired early works like *An Inland Voyage* (1878) and *Travels with a Donkey in the Cevennes* (1879). Later, after his father's passing, he moved to America, where he explored local folklore and fostered meaningful relationships with the diverse communities he encountered.

Stevenson is best known for *Treasure Island*, an adventure classic, and the psychological thriller *The Strange Case of Dr. Jekyll and Mr. Hyde*. His works often explore the complexity of human nature, particularly the intertwining of good and evil. *Treasure Island* – initially dismissed by his wife – achieved bestseller status and transcended its label as merely a "boys' book." Its universal appeal lies in its thrilling quest narrative, where the protagonist embarks on a perilous journey, encountering trials that reveal inner strength and wisdom.

Stevenson is the author of *A Child's Garden of Verses* a collection of poetry for children about darkness and solitude. The collection first appeared in 1885 under the title *Penny Whistles*, but has been reprinted many times, often in illustrated versions. It contains about 65 poems including the famous classics "Foreign Children," "The Lamplighter," "The Land of Counterpane," "Bed in Summer," "My Shadow" and "The Swing."

These works, alongside his many novels, short stories, and essays, firmly established Stevenson as a pioneer of romantic literature, bridging reality and dream. After his death, 30 volumes of his writings were published, cementing his legacy as an innovator who captured the complexity of human emotions and experiences.

Questions for Self-Assessment

1. What societal changes during the Victorian Age contributed to the rise of children's literature?
2. How does Charles Dickens use themes of morality and social justice in *A Christmas Carol*?
3. In what ways does Lewis Carroll's *Alice's Adventures in Wonderland* challenge traditional didactic approaches to children's literature?

4. What are the defining features of Edward Lear's nonsense verse, and how do they appeal to children?
5. How does Robert Louis Stevenson's *A Child's Garden of Verses* capture the essence of childhood experiences?
6. Compare and contrast the approaches of Dickens and Carroll in addressing the needs and imaginations of young readers.
7. Discuss the legacy of Victorian children's literature in shaping contemporary storytelling for children.

Discussion Topics:

- How did societal changes during the 19th century influence the themes and focus of children's literature?
- Discuss how Dickens' portrayal of children in *A Christmas Carol* and *Oliver Twist* highlights issues of poverty and social reform.
- Explore Carroll's innovative storytelling in *Alice's Adventures in Wonderland* and its impact on children's literature.
- How does Carroll use fantasy to encourage imagination and curiosity in readers?
- Analyze themes of adventure and morality in *Treasure Island* and *A Child's Garden of Verses*.
- What role do Stevenson's works play in blending reality with fantasy?

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Lecture ENGLISH CHILDREN'S LITERATURE IN THE VICTORIAN PERIOD. WILDE, KIPLING, POTTER, BARRIE

The Victorian Age marked a significant era in the history of English literature, reflecting the societal, cultural, and technological changes of the time. The period saw the rise of children's literature as a distinct genre, catering to the educational and entertainment needs of young readers. Exploring works by authors such as Oscar Wilde, Rudyard Kipling, Beatrix Potter, and J.M. Barrie offers insights into how literature evolved to address themes of morality, imagination, and the complexities of human nature. This topic is relevant for understanding the foundations of modern children's literature and its lasting impact on literary traditions.

Learning Objectives

By the end of this lecture, students will be able to:

1. Explain the historical and cultural context of the Victorian Age and its influence on English literature.
2. Analyze the themes and stylistic elements in the works of Wilde, Kipling, Potter, and Barrie.
3. Discuss the emergence and significance of children's literature during the Victorian period.
4. Compare the approaches to morality, imagination, and social critique in the works of key Victorian authors.
5. Evaluate the legacy of Victorian children's literature in shaping modern storytelling for young audiences.

Lecture Plan

1. Introduction

1. Oscar Wilde

- Biography and artistic contributions.
- Analysis of *The Happy Prince and Other Tales*:
 - Themes of empathy, love, and generosity.
 - Use in inclusive education for discussing kindness and diversity.

2. Rudyard Kipling

- Life and cross-cultural influences.
- Exploration of *The Jungle Book*:
 - Themes of coexistence and respect for nature.

- Cultural and moral lessons for diverse classrooms.

3. Beatrix Potter

- Life and artistic journey.
- Discussion of *The Tale of Peter Rabbit* and other works:
 - Anthropomorphic characters and their appeal.
 - Themes of curiosity, resilience, and nature.

4. J.M. Barrie

- Biography and creative legacy.
- Examination of *Peter Pan*:
 - Themes of youth, imagination, and belonging.
 - Role in fostering creativity and empathy in inclusive education.

5. Conclusion, Questions and Discussion

- Summary of contributions by these authors to children's literature.
- Discussion on the enduring legacy of their works in modern literary traditions.
- Open forum for student queries and reflections.

Oscar Wilde (1854–1900)

Oscar Wilde, born on October 16, 1854, in Dublin, Ireland, was the son of a prominent physician knighted for his contributions to Irish public health.

Wilde showed an early love for literature and the arts. During his years at Portora Royal School in Enniskillen, he developed a deep interest in Greek and Roman studies, excelling academically and artistically. He earned top prizes in classics and received a scholarship to Trinity College in Dublin, where he was honored with the prestigious Foundation Scholarship. Wilde's exceptional performance led him to Magdalen College, Oxford, where he achieved first-class honors in classics and classical moderations and began his foray into creative writing.

After graduating, Wilde moved to London and focused on poetry, publishing his first collection, *Poems*, in 1881. His creative peak began in 1888 while editing *Lady's World*. That year, he published *The Happy Prince and Other Tales*, a collection featuring *The Selfish Giant* and *The Nightingale and the Rose*, which continue to captivate readers worldwide.

One of Wilde's best-known stories, *The Happy Prince*, is a poignant tale of selflessness and compassion. In Ukraine, primary school students often read an excerpt translated by Oleksandr Oles. The story follows a swallow and a statue of the Happy Prince, who sacrifice their beauty and lives to help the poor. Their ultimate fate—a broken heart and death—underscores the enduring power of love and generosity. This story, with its themes of empathy and altruism, offers valuable lessons for inclusive education, encouraging students to value diversity, kindness, and mutual support.

Wilde also wrote other notable stories for children, such as *The Birthday of the Infanta*, a critique of social inequality; *The Devoted Friend*, a fable about true friendship; and *The Fisherman and His Soul*, a love story that challenges conventional values. Wilde's work, celebrated for its moral depth and universal appeal, serves as an excellent resource for inclusive classrooms by fostering discussions on fairness, empathy, and societal issues.

Rudyard Kipling (1865–1936)

Rudyard Kipling, one of the most celebrated English writers, was born on December 30, 1865, in Bombay, India. His parents, John and Alice Kipling, were British expatriates immersed in India's diverse cultural tapestry. Kipling's early exposure to Indian languages, folklore, and customs profoundly influenced his later writing.

At six, Kipling was sent to England for schooling, where he endured mistreatment from a foster family. Rescued by his mother at age 11, Kipling recovered and thrived at a new school, discovering his love for writing. Upon returning to India in 1882, he began publishing stories inspired by his experiences, later compiled in *Plain Tales from the Hills*.

Kipling's most famous work, *The Jungle Book* (1894), captures the adventures of Mowgli, a boy raised by jungle animals. Characters like Baloo, Bagheera, and Shere Khan have become iconic in children's literature. The book explores themes of coexistence between humans and nature, emphasizing respect and collaboration—principles that resonate strongly with inclusive education. Stories like *Rikki-Tikki-Tavi*, also from

The Jungle Book, highlight bravery and loyalty, teaching children values that transcend cultural and social boundaries.

Kipling is regarded as a major innovator in the art of the short story; his children's books are classics of children's literature; and one critic described his work as exhibiting "a versatile and luminous narrative gift". He was well familiar with Indian folklore and created legends about India by himself. He showed the problems of nature and a man, the place of a man in nature, using extraordinary adventures, exotic jungles alongside with his experience. Kipling was one of the most popular writers in the United Kingdom, in both prose and verse, in the late 19th and early 20th centuries. In 1907, at the age of 42, he was awarded the Nobel Prize in Literature, making him the first English-language writer to receive the prize, and its youngest recipient to date.

Kipling's inclusive approach to storytelling, weaving Indian folklore with universal themes, makes his works an invaluable tool for fostering cultural understanding in diverse classrooms. His poem *If...*, translated into Ukrainian by Vasyl Stus and Ivan Malkovych, offers timeless lessons on resilience and integrity, further enriching inclusive educational frameworks.

Beatrix Potter (1866–1943)

Helen Beatrix Potter, born on July 28, 1866, in London, England, grew up in a family that valued art and nature. Encouraged by her parents, she developed a passion for observing and sketching animals, laying the foundation for her future as a beloved children's author.

Potter's breakthrough came with *The Tale of Peter Rabbit*, initially written as a letter to her governess's children. Published in 1902, the story became an instant classic, followed by other charming tales like *The Tale of Squirrel Nutkin* (1903) and *The Tale of Benjamin Bunny* (1904). Her final book, *The Tale of Little Pig Robinson* (1930), marked the end of her illustrious literary career.

Potter's works, characterized by anthropomorphic animals and engaging narratives, remain a cornerstone of children's literature. In an inclusive educational context, her stories offer opportunities to explore themes of curiosity, resilience, and the natural world, encouraging

children of all abilities to connect with their environment. Moreover, her focus on individual characters' strengths and challenges aligns with principles of inclusivity, fostering empathy and acceptance among young readers.

Potter's legacy as a writer and naturalist continues to inspire educators to integrate storytelling with lessons on biodiversity and creativity, enhancing the inclusive learning experience.

James Matthew Barrie (1860–1937)

J.M. Barrie, a renowned writer and playwright, was born on May 9, 1860, in Kirriemuir, Forfarshire, Scotland. The son of Scottish weavers, Barrie pursued his dream of becoming a playwright, which led him to London. After earning his degree from Edinburgh University in 1882, he started his career as a journalist. In 1887, Barrie published his first novel, *Better Dead*. While his early plays, including *Walker London* and *Tommy and Grizel* (1900), were moderately successful, it was his works for children that brought him lasting fame.

Barrie's most celebrated work is *Peter Pan*, a story about a boy who refuses to grow up, set in the magical world of Neverland. The inspiration for this iconic character came from Barrie's close relationship with the Llewelyn Davies brothers, whom he met in London's Kensington Gardens in the 1890s. Peter Pan first appeared in Barrie's novel *The Little White Bird* (1902) before becoming a play in 1904. This enchanting tale captivated audiences with its themes of youth, imagination, and the contrast between reality and fantasy.

In 1911, Barrie adapted the play into the novel *Peter and Wendy*, which remains a cornerstone of children's literature. The story features memorable characters like Wendy Darling, Captain Hook, and Tinker Bell. Wendy, often seen as the central protagonist, represents the transition from childhood to adulthood. Her decision to return to her family contrasts with Peter's eternal childhood, underscoring the story's exploration of growth and responsibility.

The narrative of *Peter Pan* holds valuable lessons for inclusive education. Its themes of imagination, identity, and belonging resonate with children of diverse backgrounds. Wendy's nurturing role and Peter's

resilience can inspire discussions on empathy and emotional intelligence. Teachers can use the story to address concepts like adaptability, teamwork, and celebrating individual differences. The book's fantastical elements also allow for creative interpretations that accommodate varying learning styles and abilities, making it a versatile tool in inclusive classrooms.

Moreover, *Peter Pan* has been adapted into various media, from films and musicals to interactive storytelling formats, ensuring accessibility for children with differing needs. Barrie's decision to donate the copyright to Great Ormond Street Hospital, a leading children's hospital, underscores the work's enduring legacy in supporting child welfare and education.

Discussion Topics:

- How do Wilde's tales, such as *The Happy Prince*, teach lessons of selflessness and compassion?
- Discuss the relevance of Wilde's themes for inclusive education today.
- Examine Kipling's use of Indian folklore in *The Jungle Book*.
- How do Kipling's works address human-nature relationships and coexistence?
- How does Potter's focus on animal characters, like Peter Rabbit, inspire children's connection with nature and creativity?
- Discuss *Peter Pan* as a reflection of childhood fantasies and the struggle between growing up and remaining a child.
- How have these 19th-century classics shaped contemporary children's literature?
- In what ways can these works be adapted for today's diverse, inclusive educational settings?

Questions for Self-Assessment

1. What societal changes during the Victorian Age contributed to the rise of children's literature?
2. How do Oscar Wilde's tales, such as *The Happy Prince*, emphasize the importance of empathy and generosity?
3. What themes in Rudyard Kipling's *The Jungle Book* highlight the relationship between humans and nature?

4. How does Beatrix Potter's focus on nature and animal characters contribute to children's understanding of the natural world?
5. How does J.M. Barrie's *Peter Pan* explore the balance between imagination and responsibility?
6. Discuss the legacy of Victorian children's literature in shaping contemporary storytelling for children.

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Lecture ENGLISH CHILDREN'S LITERATURE IN THE LATE 19 – EARLY 20TH CENTURY

The late 19th and early 20th centuries marked the Golden Age of children's literature in English, a period that witnessed an extraordinary flourishing of creativity and innovation. This era not only redefined storytelling for children but also laid the foundations for modern children's literature. Works by authors such as Lewis Carroll, Frances Hodgson Burnett, Edith Nesbit, and others continue to captivate readers with their imaginative narratives and timeless themes. Exploring this period provides valuable insights into the cultural, societal, and literary shifts that influenced the evolution of children's fiction, its genres, and its impact on young audiences worldwide.

Learning Objectives

By the end of this lecture, students will be able to:

1. Understand the historical and cultural context of children's literature during the late 19th and early 20th centuries.
2. Identify key authors and their contributions to the Golden Age of children's literature.
3. Analyze the themes, genres, and stylistic innovations introduced during this period.
4. Discuss the legacy and ongoing influence of these works on contemporary children's literature.

Lecture Plan

1. Introduction

- Overview of the Golden Age of children's literature.
- Key societal and cultural factors influencing the rise of children's fiction.

2. Frances Hodgson Burnett

- Biography and major works.
- Exploration of *A Little Princess* and *The Secret Garden*:
 - Themes of resilience, empathy, and renewal.
 - Influence on storytelling and character development.

3. Edith Nesbit

- Biography and pioneering role in modern children's literature.

- Examination of *The Railway Children* and *Five Children and It*:
 - Integration of real-life settings with fantastical elements.
 - Development of the modern children's adventure story.

4. Andrew Lang and Joseph Jacobs

- Contributions to the adaptation and preservation of folktales.
- Discussion of Lang's *Fairy Books* and Jacobs' collections:
 - Role in introducing folklore to children.
 - Shift in audience from adults to younger readers.

5. Adventure and Coming-of-Age Stories

- Exploration of genre-defining works:
 - *Treasure Island* by Robert Louis Stevenson.
 - *The Jungle Book* by Rudyard Kipling.
 - *What Katy Did* by Susan Coolidge.
- Gender-specific storytelling and its evolution.

6. Emergence of Fantasy Literature

- Foundations laid by George MacDonald and Oscar Wilde.
- Transition to high fantasy and historical fantasy by authors like Lord Dunsany and Rudyard Kipling.
 - The blending of fantasy and reality in American works such as L. Frank Baum's *The Wonderful Wizard of Oz*.

7. Conclusion and Questions and Discussion

- Recap of major authors, themes, and innovations.
- Reflection on the lasting impact of the Golden Age on contemporary children's literature.

The classic Golden Age of children's literature in English started from the second half of the XIX century and continued till the Second World War. In 1865, Lewis Carroll authored *Alice's Adventures in Wonderland*, a groundbreaking work that has left an indelible mark on children's literature. Celebrated as a masterpiece from the moment of its publication, the novel dazzled readers with its imaginative and unconventional narrative. While it drew on familiar elements like a lost child and magical animals, Carroll reimagined these tropes, creating a story that defied expectations and embraced whimsy in a wholly unique way.

The novel's playful exploration of math, logic, and language introduced an innovative storytelling approach that continues to inspire writers across generations. Carroll's creation expanded the horizons of children's literature, paving the way for iconic works that followed. Carlo Collodi delighted readers with *The Adventures of Pinocchio*. L. Frank Baum transported audiences to the enchanting land of Oz in *The Wizard of Oz* and its sequels. J.M. Barrie shared the timeless adventures of *Peter and Wendy*, while Beatrix Potter brought to life the vibrant world of British wildlife in her beautifully illustrated tales. Each of these stories holds a cherished place in the hearts of children, celebrating imagination, diversity of thought, and the magic of storytelling that resonates across cultures and generations.

New values and views propelled children's fiction towards becoming fiction as such, without reservations. From now on younger children could expect stories written for their particular interest and taking into account the needs of their own limited experience of life. Such new attitude to children brought about a range of new topics, genres, and styles of writing.

The turn of the XIX century saw the development of the author's, or literary tale, children's science fiction, children's historical novel, children's adventure and mystery story, ever abundant children's poetry, etc., together with a growing number and quality of adapted folktales and ballads. Such folktale adaptations are best represented by a series of 12 "colour" books by Andrew Lang (starting with "The Blue Fairy Book" (1889) and ending with "The Lilac Fairy Book" (1910)), who also wrote a number of original tales, including "The Gold of Fairnilee" (1888). Another outstanding folklorist and story-teller was Joseph Jacobs (1854-1916), who compiled, adapted, and published many collections of fairy tales, including "English Fairy Tales" (1890), "Celtic Fairy Tales" (1892), and "Europe's Fairy Book" (1916). Originally, these folklore collections were intended for grown-ups, but tastes changed and soon these books were mainly found on children's bookshelves. American children got a chance to enjoy skillfully reworked narratives about Robin Hood (1883) and King Arthur (1903) made by Howard Pyle.

Adventure and Coming-of-Age Stories

From its very beginning, British children's literature tended to be gender-oriented. Adventure stories that surged in popularity during the late 19th century, captivating readers with tales of courage, exploration, and discovery were read by British boys many of whom were to fight for Britain in its colonies. Among the numerous adventure stories the most popular was "The Coral Island" (1858), a story of three boys wrecked on a desert island, by Robert Ballantyne who wrote 80 adventure books in 40 years; it was read by all schoolboys and later on its happily-ended exciting adventures prompted a parody, which became an all-time classic by a Nobel-prize winner – "Lord of the Flies" by William Golding.

Another timeless classic of piracy, betrayal, and treasure-hunting on the high seas, *Treasure Island* (1883) by Robert Lewis Stevenson, became a most important landmark in the development of the adventure story for boys. Rudyard Kipling transported readers to the lush forests of India with *The Jungle Book*, weaving enchanting narratives set among its vibrant wildlife. Adventure novels by Henry R. Haggard and Conan Doyle, together with his Sherlock Holmes mysteries, also were very popular. In the early 20th century, Frances Hodgson Burnett enriched the genre with *A Little Princess* and *The Secret Garden*. These adventure-filled mysteries stood out for centering girls as protagonists, offering a fresh perspective and empowering representation in a genre often dominated by male characters. Among the most popular novelists for girls was Charlotte Mary Yonge (1823-1901), who also for 50 years published a girl's magazine "The Monthly Packet". In America, Yonge's success was repeated by Susan Coolidge in "What Katy Did" (1872) and Eleanor H. Porter in "Pollyanna" (1913).

Nonetheless, older children were still left without a literature of their own and their choice of reading was usually determined by their access to books with characters who were young people or animals, with whom they could easily identify, or action, such as exploring or fighting. Such a list of books included the American Fenimore Cooper's "The Last of the Mohicans" (1826), Harriet Beecher Stowe's "Uncle Tom's Cabin" (1852), Louisa M. Alcott's "Little Women" (1868), Mark Twain's "Adventures of Tom Sawyer," and the British Frances Hodgson Burnett's "Little Lord

Fauntleroy" (1885). This factor explains the eventual growth and popularity of animal tales and adventure stories.

Taking into account children's interest in fairy-tales, it is quite natural that one of the strongest genres of British children's literature is fantasy in all of its numerous varieties. Its foundations, once strongly relying upon the didactic tradition, were laid by George Macdonald (1824-1905) in his classics "At the Back of the North Wind" (1871) and "The Princess and the Goblin" (1872). The tradition of the genre continued by Oscar Wilde (1854- 1900), in his philosophical allegories "The Happy Prince and Other Stories" (1888), famous for their refined language, images, and bitter messages aimed primarily at a grown-up reader, and early collections by Edward John Moreton Drax Plunkett, Lord Dunsany (1878–1957), most famous for his high fantasy "The King of Elfland's Daughter" (1924). Rudyard Kipling, was a master of historical fantasy, as shown by his two collections "Puck of Pook's Hill (1906)" and "Rewards and Fairies" (1910). Both books bring to life episodes from British history as introduced by a fairy to two children and masterfully mix historical, fairytale, and realistic elements, which is characteristic of the British children's fantasy of the early XX centuries.

In the United States, the coming-of-age novel emerged as a significant literary trend, delving into the transformative journey from innocence to maturity. This genre, still beloved today, explores the personal growth and self-awareness of its protagonists. Mark Twain captured the spirit of youthful adventure and moral discovery in *Tom Sawyer* and *The Adventures of Huckleberry Finn*. Simultaneously, Louisa May Alcott celebrated the lives, challenges, and triumphs of young women and their families in *Little Women*, *Little Men*, and *Jo's Boys*. These stories continue to resonate, reflecting the universal themes of growth, resilience, and identity.

Frances Hodgson Burnett: A Legacy in Children's Literature

Frances Hodgson Burnett was born on November 24, 1849, in Manchester, England. After her father's death, her family faced financial difficulties, prompting them to immigrate to the United States in 1865. Settling in Knoxville, Tennessee, Burnett began writing stories to support

her family, eventually gaining recognition for her talent. She became a naturalized U.S. citizen and lived much of her life in America, though she frequently traveled between England and the United States. She passed away on October 29, 1924, in Plandome, New York.

Burnett is best known for her contributions to children's literature, particularly her enduring novels:

Little Lord Fauntleroy (1886): This sentimental tale of a young American boy who discovers he is heir to an English earldom became an instant success. The novel's depiction of kindness and moral integrity captivated readers and influenced children's fashion of the time.

A Little Princess (1905): First serialized as Sara Crewe in 1888, this novel tells the story of a resilient young girl navigating adversity with imagination and grace, embodying the themes of empathy and perseverance.

The Secret Garden (1911): Widely regarded as her masterpiece, this story explores themes of renewal, healing, and the transformative power of nature through the journey of Mary Lennox and her discovery of a hidden garden.

Frances Hodgson Burnett's works have left a lasting impact on children's literature. Her storytelling combined vivid characterization with themes of resilience, kindness, and self-discovery. *The Secret Garden* and *A Little Princess* remain beloved classics, inspiring countless adaptations for stage, film, and television. Burnett's ability to balance emotional depth with accessible narratives continues to resonate with readers worldwide, ensuring her place among the great authors of children's literature.

Edith Nesbit (1858–1924): A Pioneer of Modern Children's Literature

British author Edith Nesbit successfully developed the motive of meeting miracles in real life and took the children's story further out of the adult world and more into the details of family life, imaginative games and domestic adventures. She wrote both tales of fantasy or magic, in which children in everyday circumstances are confronted with an extraordinary character or event, and naturalistic comedies of juvenile behavior or childish misadventure.

Born on Aug. 15, 1858, in London, Nesbit spent her childhood in France and Germany and later led an ordinary country life in Kent, which provided scenes for her books. She was interested in socialism and was one of the founders of the association known as the Fellowship of New Life, out of which grew the Fabian Society, an organization devoted to promoting socialist theory. She died on May 4, 1924, in New Romney, England.

Nesbit began writing fiction for children and adolescents in the early 1890s, and she eventually produced more than 60 books. Her works are marked by vivid characterizations, ingenious plots, and an easy, humorous narrative style. Her innovative approach to storytelling reshaped children's literature, creating a legacy that continues to inspire diverse audiences today.

Nesbit's best-known books include *The Story of the Treasure Seekers* (1899), *The Wouldbegoods* (1901) which follow the adventures of the Bastable children, a middle-class family facing financial challenges. *The Railway Children* remains a beloved classic, further popularized by its 1970 film adaptation. *Five Children and It* (1902) about an ugly and evil-tongued sand fairy who lives in a sandpit, a sentimental novel "The Railway Children" (1906) and *The Story of the Amulet* (1906), in which an ancient Egyptian priest suddenly materializes in 19th century London.

Julia Briggs, her biographer, described Nesbit as "the first modern writer for children." She credited her with moving away from the fantastical secondary worlds of earlier authors like Lewis Carroll, George MacDonald, and Kenneth Grahame, and instead exploring "the tough truths to be won from encounters with things-as-they-are," a realm traditionally reserved for adult fiction. Nesbit is also widely acknowledged for inventing the modern children's adventure story. Noël Coward admired her vivid prose, noting her talent for evoking the essence of English summer days with unparalleled skill.

Nesbit broke new ground by blending realistic, contemporary settings with fantastical elements, now recognized as contemporary fantasy. This fusion of everyday life with magical adventures influenced many subsequent writers, including P. L. Travers (*Mary Poppins*), Diana Wynne Jones, Edward Eager, and J.K. Rowling. C.S. Lewis cited her as an inspiration for *The Chronicles of Narnia*, referencing her Bastable children

in *The Magician's Nephew*. Michael Moorcock even reimagined Oswald Bastable as the protagonist in a series of steampunk novels, while Jacqueline Wilson wrote *Four Children and It* (2012), a sequel to Nesbit's Psammead trilogy.

Beyond children's literature, Nesbit also wrote for adults, publishing 11 novels, short stories, and collections of horror tales. Her work, rich in imagination and insight, continues to resonate, inviting readers of all backgrounds to explore her timeless worlds.

In America, the tendency to introduce the real into the fairy-tale became central to Frank L. Baum with his long series of "The Wonderful Wizard of Oz" (started 1900). Baum sincerely believed that the fairy-tale of the modern age should be rooted in the real and focused on explaining his wonders scientifically: Dorothy is taken to the fairy-land by a common tornado, the great magician Goodwin turns out to be a talented inventor of industrial wonders, one of Dorothy's companions is essentially a robot, etc.

Discussion Topics:

- Discuss how *Alice's Adventures in Wonderland* challenged conventional storytelling and influenced later works.
- Explore how elements of fantasy, logic, and whimsy in Carroll's work shaped the Golden Age of children's literature.
- How did children's literature transition from didactic to imaginative storytelling during the late 19th and early 20th centuries?
- Compare the portrayal of boys and girls in adventure stories of the era, such as *The Coral Island* versus *A Little Princess*.
- Discuss the significance of Andrew Lang's *Colour Fairy Books* and Joseph Jacobs' collections in popularizing folklore for children.
- How do works like Kipling's *The Jungle Book* and Burnett's *The Secret Garden* reflect their cultural and historical settings?
- Examine the blend of fantastical and realistic elements in stories like Nesbit's *Five Children and It* and Baum's *The Wonderful Wizard of Oz*.
- Discuss the impact of Frances Hodgson Burnett and Susan Coolidge in creating stories that center on girls' lives and challenges.

- How did British colonial history influence the themes of exploration and bravery in 19th-century children's adventure tales?
 - Why do novels like *Little Women* and *The Adventures of Huckleberry Finn* continue to resonate with readers today?
 - Analyze Nesbit's influence on blending everyday life with fantasy and how it shaped contemporary storytelling.
 - Explore how moral lessons are conveyed in stories like *Little Lord Fauntleroy* and *Pollyanna*.
 - Discuss how tales of exploration and courage prepared young readers for real-life challenges, particularly during British colonial times.
 - Examine how Beatrix Potter's illustrations contributed to the charm and success of her tales.
 - What elements of the Golden Age persist in modern children's literature, and how have they evolved?

Questions for Self-Assessment

1. What cultural and societal changes contributed to the Golden Age of children's literature?
2. How did Lewis Carroll's *Alice's Adventures in Wonderland* challenge traditional storytelling for children?
3. Discuss the themes of resilience and self-discovery in Frances Hodgson Burnett's *The Secret Garden*.
4. How did Edith Nesbit revolutionize the children's adventure story genre?
5. What role did Andrew Lang and Joseph Jacobs play in adapting folklore for younger audiences?
6. Analyze the gender-specific themes in adventure stories of the late 19th century.
7. How did fantasy literature evolve during this period, and what were its defining characteristics?
8. Compare the use of imagination in works by George MacDonald and L. Frank Baum.
9. In what ways did these authors influence the development of contemporary children's literature?

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Lecture 20TH CENTURY CHILDREN'S LITERATURE: THE BIRTH OF TIMELESS CLASSICS

The 20th century represents a pivotal era in children's literature, marked by the creation of timeless classics that continue to shape the genre. Authors like A.A. Milne, Kenneth Grahame, and Laura Ingalls Wilder crafted works that introduced new dimensions to storytelling for children, incorporating themes of friendship, adventure, and self-discovery. This period also saw the rise of significant awards like the Caldecott Medal, recognizing artistic excellence in children's books. Examining these developments helps us appreciate the evolution of children's literature and its lasting cultural and educational impact.

Learning Objectives

By the end of this lecture, students will be able to:

1. Recognize the historical context of 20th-century children's literature and its influence on the genre.
2. Identify key works and authors from this era and understand their significance.
3. Analyze the themes and narrative techniques used in 20th-century classics.
4. Evaluate the cultural and educational contributions of these works to modern children's literature.

Lecture Plan

1. Introduction

- Overview of the early 20th century as a transformative period in children's literature.
- Societal and cultural shifts influencing literary themes and styles.

2. Kenneth Grahame and *The Wind in the Willows*

- Biography and inspiration behind the work.
- Analysis of anthropomorphic storytelling and themes of nature, friendship, and humor.

3. A.A. Milne and Winnie-the-Pooh

- Milne's life, literary influences, and contributions to children's literature.

- Themes of innocence, friendship, and emotional growth in the Hundred Acre Wood.

- Adaptations and global impact of Milne's works.

4. Laura Ingalls Wilder and *Little House on the Prairie*

- Wilder's semi-autobiographical approach to storytelling.
- Exploration of themes like resilience, family, and the American frontier.

- Influence of Wilder's series on historical fiction for children.

5. The Establishment of the Caldecott Medal

- Purpose and significance of the award in promoting visual storytelling.

- Highlights of notable winners, such as *Where the Wild Things Are* and *The Polar Express*.

6. Dr. Seuss and His Legacy

- Theodor Geisel's innovative use of rhyme, humor, and illustrations.
- Discussion of *And to Think That I Saw It on Mulberry Street* and its impact on early readers.

7. Conclusion and Reflection

- Recap of key authors, works, and their enduring legacies.
- Discussion of how these classics inform contemporary children's literature.

The early 20th century marked the creation of enduring works that have become cornerstones of children's literature. In 1908, Kenneth Grahame published *The Wind in the Willows*, embracing one of the genre's oldest and most beloved traditions: anthropomorphic animals. The adventures of Mole, Rat, Toad, and Badger offer a charming blend of humor, friendship, and the beauty of nature, themes that continue to resonate with readers of all ages.

Alan Alexander Milne (1882–1956)

In 1926, A.A. Milne introduced the world to one of the most iconic characters in children's literature: Winnie-the-Pooh. Across four books, Pooh and his friends in the Hundred Acre Wood invite readers into a whimsical world that captures the fleeting magic of childhood. Milne's

stories subtly explore the bittersweet process of growing up, blending gentle humor with poignant reflections on innocence and change.

Born on January 18, 1882, in Kilburn, London, Milne grew up in a literary environment and later attended Henley House School. His literary career was interspersed with service in both World Wars. After World War II, Milne devoted himself to writing, achieving fame with his stories for children. Inspired by his son Christopher Robin and his toys, Milne began writing children's books, including *When We Were Very Young* (1924) and *Now We Are Six* (1927). The titular character, Winnie-the-Pooh, first appeared in *Winnie-the-Pooh* (1926) and its sequel, *The House at Pooh Corner* (1928).

Pooh's character, though simple-minded, embodies kindness and thoughtfulness. Accompanied by memorable characters like Piglet, Eeyore, Tigger, and Kanga, Pooh's adventures emphasize friendship, problem-solving, and the joys of everyday life. Milne's clever use of humor and poetry made his works timeless classics.

Milne's stories, with their universal themes of friendship and empathy, offer rich opportunities for inclusive education. The diverse personalities of the Hundred Acre Wood characters provide a natural platform to discuss individuality and social acceptance. For instance, Eeyore's melancholy disposition can prompt conversations on emotional well-being, while Tigger's energy highlights the importance of understanding different behaviors.

The accessibility of *Winnie-the-Pooh* extends beyond the text, with adaptations into audiobooks, films, and interactive media, making the stories accessible to children with various learning needs. Moreover, the translations of the books into dozens of languages and their widespread cultural impact enable educators to explore cross-cultural perspectives, fostering global inclusivity. Pooh's adventures have transcended generations, inspiring songs, television shows, and movies. His timeless appeal makes him a cherished figure in global popular culture, continuing to remind readers of the joy and wonder found in life's simplest moments.

Milne's legacy lives on through the Disney adaptations, which have introduced Pooh to new generations. The enduring popularity of his works

underscores their relevance in promoting inclusive values and creating a sense of community among young readers.

In 1937, the Caldecott Medal was established to recognize excellence in children's picture books, highlighting the artistry that brings stories to life. Named after 19th-century illustrator Randolph Caldecott, the award celebrates outstanding achievements in visual storytelling. Dorothy P. Lathrop received the inaugural medal for her book *Animals of the Bible*. Over the years, winners have included beloved classics such as Ludwig Bemelmans' *Madeline*, Robert McCloskey's *Make Way for Ducklings* and *Blueberries for Sal*, Maurice Sendak's *Where the Wild Things Are*, Chris Van Allsburg's *Jumanji* and *The Polar Express*, and Brian Selznick's *The Invention of Hugo Cabret*. These books, known for their captivating illustrations, have become an integral part of children's literary heritage, fostering a lifelong appreciation for both art and storytelling.

During this period, Laura Ingalls Wilder began publishing her iconic *Little House on the Prairie* series. Spanning nine novels (one published posthumously in 1971), these works draw from Wilder's own experiences of growing up on the American frontier in the late 19th century. While deeply rooted in her life, the novels are typically categorized as fiction, blending historical detail with creative storytelling. Wilder's semi-autobiographical style traces its literary lineage to Louisa May Alcott's *Little Women*, which also wove together personal memories and fictional elements. Both authors contributed to a tradition of children's literature that bridges the gap between personal history and imaginative storytelling, offering readers timeless tales of resilience, family, and the spirit of adventure.

Enduring Legacies: Wilder and Dr. Seuss

Laura Ingalls Wilder's *Little House on the Prairie* series continues to captivate readers of all ages, with its timeless appeal spanning generations. Children today still find joy and inspiration in these stories, while reruns of the popular 1980s television adaptation keep the spirit of the series alive. Loved by both parents and children, Wilder's books are celebrated as enduring classics. The concept of a series centered on a

single character or family remains a recurring theme in children's literature, inspiring countless authors to follow in her footsteps.

In the same year Wilder's books gained recognition, Dr. Seuss (Theodor Seuss Geisel) entered the literary world with his debut, *And to Think That I Saw It on Mulberry Street*. Released in 1937, the book earned critical acclaim for its whimsical narrative and distinctive style. Dr. Seuss's iconic illustrations and playful rhyme schemes have since become hallmarks of his work, securing his place

Questions for Self-Assessment

1. How did Kenneth Grahame's *The Wind in the Willows* use anthropomorphism to engage readers?
2. What themes in A.A. Milne's *Winnie-the-Pooh* stories contribute to their timeless appeal?
3. How does Laura Ingalls Wilder blend historical detail with storytelling in her *Little House* series?
4. Why is the Caldecott Medal significant, and how does it influence children's literature?
5. What unique narrative techniques did Dr. Seuss introduce to children's books?
6. Discuss the cultural and educational importance of 20th-century children's literature classics.
7. How have adaptations of these works extended their influence across generations?

Discussion Topics:

- Explore the role of friendship, emotional intelligence, and individuality in the *Winnie-the-Pooh* stories.
- How do Milne's characters provide opportunities for inclusive education?
- How do the themes of friendship and empathy in *Winnie-the-Pooh* contribute to teaching social inclusion in the classroom?
- Discuss the role of diversity among the Hundred Acre Wood characters in fostering an understanding of individuality and acceptance.
- In what ways can Eeyore's melancholy disposition be used to address emotional well-being and mental health awareness among students?

- Analyze Tigger’s energetic personality as a tool for understanding neurodivergence and celebrating behavioral differences.
- How can the cross-cultural accessibility of *Winnie-the-Pooh* books encourage discussions on global inclusivity and cultural exchange?
- Explore the pedagogical benefits of using *The Wind in the Willows* to teach about teamwork and the value of diverse skills and perspectives.
- How do Kenneth Grahame’s anthropomorphic characters in *The Wind in the Willows* promote empathy for animals and environmental stewardship?
- In what ways can Milne’s poetry and humor enhance language learning for children with varying linguistic abilities?
- Discuss how adaptations of *Winnie-the-Pooh* into different media formats (audiobooks, films, and interactive tools) can support inclusive education for children with special needs.
- What lessons on resilience and overcoming adversity can be drawn from Laura Ingalls Wilder’s *Little House on the Prairie* series for inclusive education?
- How can teachers use the visual storytelling in Caldecott Medal-winning books to engage students with visual or auditory learning preferences?
- Explore the impact of Dr. Seuss’s rhymes and illustrations in creating an inclusive learning environment that supports literacy for all learners.
- How can discussions about the timeless appeal of *Little House on the Prairie* and its historical context teach tolerance and respect for different ways of life?
- In what ways do Maurice Sendak’s *Where the Wild Things Are* and other Caldecott Medal winners encourage emotional intelligence and self-expression in inclusive settings?
- Analyze the role of family-centered narratives in *Little House on the Prairie* as a bridge to teach about community values and collective responsibility.

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Lecture ENGLISH CHILDREN'S LITERATURE IN THE XX CENTURY. ROALD DAHL, C. S. LEWIS, J.R.R. TOLKIEN, DONALD BISSET

The 20th century marked a transformative period in English children's literature, introducing groundbreaking works that addressed evolving societal, cultural, and literary landscapes. Iconic authors like Roald Dahl, C.S. Lewis, J.R.R. Tolkien, and Donald Bisset redefined storytelling by blending timeless fantasy, innovative narratives, and relatable themes. This period also witnessed a growing focus on realism and societal issues, expanding the boundaries of children's literature and its impact on young readers. Exploring this era provides insight into the enduring influence of these works and their role in shaping modern literary traditions.

Learning Objectives

By the end of this lecture, students will be able to:

1. Recognize the contributions of key 20th-century authors to children's literature.
2. Understand how societal and cultural changes influenced themes and styles in children's books.
3. Analyze the impact of fantasy and realism in shaping children's literary preferences.
4. Discuss the enduring relevance and adaptations of iconic works from this period.

Lecture Plan

1. Introduction

- Overview of children's literature in the 20th century.
- Discussion of societal influences on literary themes and styles.

2. J.R.R. Tolkien and C.S. Lewis

- Tolkien's contributions:
 - Overview of *The Hobbit* and its legacy.
 - World-building and the fantasy genre.
- Lewis's contributions:
 - Analysis of *The Chronicles of Narnia* series.
 - Themes of morality, imagination, and adventure.

- The collaborative influence between Tolkien and Lewis.

3. Roald Dahl's Storytelling Innovations

- Overview of Dahl's works, including *James and the Giant Peach*, *Charlie and the Chocolate Factory*, and *Matilda*.
- Themes of whimsy, dark humor, and empowerment in Dahl's stories.
- Adaptations of Dahl's works in films and their cultural significance.

4. The Emergence of Realism

- Transition from fantasy to realism in mid-century literature.
- Key authors and works:
 - Margaret Wise Brown's simplicity and warmth.
 - Lois Lenski's *Strawberry Girl* and depictions of rural struggles.
- The shift towards addressing social issues in the 1960s and 1970s:
 - Beverly Cleary, Judy Blume, and Paul Zindel's exploration of relatable adolescent challenges.

5. Mid-Century and Late-Century Classics

- E.B. White's contributions with *Charlotte's Web* and *Stuart Little*.
- Susan Cooper's *The Dark Is Rising Sequence* and its impact on fantasy literature.
- The rise of Judy Blume's relatable adolescent narratives.

6. Modern-Day Golden Age of Children's Literature

- Discussion of late 20th-century and early 21st-century works:
 - J.K. Rowling's *Harry Potter* series and its global impact.
 - The emergence of young adult literature by authors like Rick Riordan and Suzanne Collins.
- The continued expansion of creative possibilities in children's literature.

7. Conclusion Questions and Discussion

- Recap of major authors, themes, and innovations in 20th-century children's literature.
- Reflection on the legacy and future directions of the genre.
- Open forum for student engagement and analysis.

This early history of children's literature illustrates how societal changes influenced writers and book publishers to create and produce books specifically for children. As a market for children's literature had become

firmly established in the 18th and 19th centuries, changes in children's literature in the 20th century were related to the content of books. For example, the period between World War I and World War II showed a proliferation of books depicting idealism and a pioneering spirit, such as the showcasing of small town life in the *Little House on the Prairie* series published between 1932 and 1943 by Laura Ingalls Wilder (1971). However, stories from this time period still included some serious and realistic writing, such as the simplicity and down-to-earth style of Margaret Wise Brown's work for young children, or the realities and hardships of life depicted in stories like *Strawberry Girl* by Lois Lenski (1945) that shared the struggles of a poor, working farm girl.

Tolkien and Lewis: Redefining Fantasy

In 1937, J.R.R. Tolkien published *The Hobbit*, a book that laid the groundwork for modern fantasy literature. As a prequel to his later masterpiece, *The Lord of the Rings*, *The Hobbit* introduced the richly detailed world of Middle Earth, inspiring tropes and conventions that define the fantasy genre to this day. The book, nominated for the prestigious Carnegie Medal, created immense anticipation for a sequel. During his process of world-building, Tolkien shared ideas and inspirations with his close friend C.S. Lewis, whose own fantasy series began with *The Lion, the Witch, and the Wardrobe* in 1950. The *Chronicles of Narnia* series, much like Tolkien's works, became a cornerstone of children's literature and has been widely adapted for film, television, and radio, ensuring its timeless appeal.

Mid-Century Classics (1950s–1980s)

The 1950s ushered in E.B. White's *Charlotte's Web*, a heartwarming tale of friendship between Wilbur the pig and Charlotte the spider. Though it did not win the Newbery Medal, it received a Newbery Honor and later the Laura Ingalls Wilder Medal. Adapted into beloved live-action and animated films, *Charlotte's Web* remains a favorite among readers. White's other classic, *Stuart Little*, also continues to captivate audiences, further cementing his legacy in children's literature.

The 1960s and 1970s belonged to Roald Dahl, whose books redefined storytelling for children. Starting with *James and the Giant Peach* in 1961,

Dahl went on to create iconic works like *Charlie and the Chocolate Factory*, *Fantastic Mr. Fox*, *The Witches*, and *Matilda*. His books' whimsical plots, dark humor, and memorable characters have been adapted into films by renowned directors such as Tim Burton and Wes Anderson, ensuring their enduring popularity.

During this period, Susan Cooper introduced her *Dark Is Rising Sequence*, a series of atmospheric fantasy novels, and S.E. Hinton's *The Outsiders* (1967) helped define the young adult genre by exploring themes of identity and belonging. The 1970s saw Judy Blume's arrival on the literary scene, with books like *Are You There God? It's Me, Margaret*, *Deenie*, and *Blubber* tackling relatable adolescent issues with empathy and candor.

The 1980s brought further treasures to children's literature, including *Sarah, Plain and Tall* by Patricia MacLachlan, Gary Paulsen's *Hatchet*, and the premiere of *Reading Rainbow*, a beloved TV series that celebrated picture books and inspired countless children to embrace reading.

A Modern-Day Golden Age of Children's Literature

Children's literature experienced explosive growth in the 1990s and 2000s, with books like Lois Lowry's *The Giver*, Louis Sachar's *Holes*, and Philip Pullman's *His Dark Materials* trilogy capturing readers' imaginations. Shel Silverstein's poetry collections also became cherished favorites during this time.

The past two decades have been heralded as a golden age of young adult (YA) literature, propelled by the unparalleled success of J.K. Rowling's *Harry Potter* series. Its massive sales led to the creation of a separate children's best-sellers list, highlighting the genre's prominence. Following Rowling, authors such as Rick Riordan (*Percy Jackson* series), Suzanne Collins (*The Hunger Games*), and Eoin Colfer (*Artemis Fowl*) have dominated the market, crafting series loved equally by children and adults.

With more children's books being published than ever before, the possibilities for young readers are limitless. The explosion of creativity in the field ensures that the future of children's literature will continue to surprise, inspire, and take readers to extraordinary new worlds.

The emergence of more realistic stories preceded the onset of a major shift toward realism that accompanied the social and political revolution of the 1960s and 1970s. Between the 1930s and 1950s, writers became more willing to address topics related to societal issues and hardships, such as struggles associated with poverty; however, in the 1960s and 1970s, a flood of children's books emerged centering on realism. Authors such as Beverly Cleary, Judy Blume and Paul Zindel wrote about growing up, death, obesity, and other issues, which marked a shift in the boundaries of what was acceptable, and arguably, even necessary for children to understand. These earlier authors paved the way for the writing of M. E. Kerr, Cynthia Voigt, and Robert Cormier, who wrote about homelessness, race, and sexuality. The realism of children's literature in the 1960s and 1970s represented a radical shift at that time, similar to many of the other shifts throughout history related to historical, political, and societal influences.

Discussion Topics:

- How can the diversity of themes in mid-century classics like *Charlotte's Web* and *Stuart Little* foster discussions about empathy and the value of interspecies friendships in inclusive classrooms?
- What role does realism in children's literature from the 1960s and 1970s play in addressing sensitive topics like poverty, race, and mental health in inclusive education?
- How do fantasy works like *The Hobbit* and *The Chronicles of Narnia* create opportunities to explore cultural diversity, teamwork, and moral values in inclusive settings?
- In what ways can authors like Judy Blume, who address adolescent challenges, help educators promote emotional and social inclusion?
- How can the friendships and community in *Little House on the Prairie* provide a framework for teaching about interdependence and collaboration in inclusive education?
- How can books like *Hatchet* by Gary Paulsen inspire resilience and perseverance in students with diverse learning needs?
- What strategies can be used to integrate *Reading Rainbow*-style storytelling to make literature accessible to children with varying abilities?

- How do modern fantasy series, such as *Percy Jackson* and *Harry Potter*, promote the acceptance of differences and teamwork in an inclusive educational environment?
- What lessons about inclusivity can be drawn from the depiction of hardships in books like Lois Lenski's *Strawberry Girl* and their focus on resilience and compassion?
- How does the shift toward realism in children's literature of the 1960s and 1970s help address contemporary social issues in today's inclusive classrooms?
- In what ways can *The Wind in the Willows'* themes of friendship and cooperation be used to promote inclusion in group activities?
- How can the character diversity in Roald Dahl's books be leveraged to celebrate unique talents and foster a sense of belonging in inclusive classrooms?
- What opportunities do dystopian novels like *The Giver* and *The Hunger Games* offer to discuss social justice, equity, and inclusion in educational settings?
- How can poetry collections by Shel Silverstein support creative expression and inclusion for children with diverse learning styles?
- What role do historical narratives like *Sarah, Plain and Tall* play in teaching respect for cultural heritage and diversity within inclusive educational contexts?

Questions for Self-Assessment

1. How did societal changes influence children's literature in the 20th century?
2. What contributions did J.R.R. Tolkien and C.S. Lewis make to the fantasy genre?
3. How did Roald Dahl's works differ from earlier children's literature?
4. Discuss the significance of realism in children's literature during the mid-20th century.
5. What themes are explored in Judy Blume's adolescent-focused books?
6. How did the *Harry Potter* series redefine modern children's literature?

7. Compare the use of fantasy and realism in 20th-century children's literature.

8. What role did adaptations play in popularizing 20th-century children's books?

9. How have late 20th-century and early 21st-century authors expanded the boundaries of children's literature?

Further readings:

1. Давиденко Г.Й., Стрельчук Г.М., Гречаник Н.І. Історія зарубіжної літератури ХХ століття : Навч. посібник. - К. : Центр учбової літератури, 2007. - 504 с.
2. Давиденко Г.Й., Чайка О.М. Історія зарубіжної літератури ХІХ - поч. ХХ століття: Навч. посібник. - К. : Центр учбової літератури, 2007
3. Зарубіжна література ХХ століття / За ред. О.М.Ніколенко, Н.В.Хоменко, Т.М.Конєвої. - К. : Академія, 1998.
4. Література Англії. ХХ століття : Навч. посібник / К.О.Шахова, Н.Ю.Жлуктенко, С.Д.Павличко та ін.; за ред.. К.О.Шахової. - К. : Либідь, 1993.

Lecture ENGLISH CHILDREN'S LITERATURE IN THE 21ST CENTURY – AN INCLUSIVE PERSPECTIVE

The 21st century has ushered in a golden age of children's literature, characterized by an explosion of diversity in themes, characters, and storytelling methods. English children's literature today reflects an evolving understanding of the importance of inclusivity. Authors, illustrators, and publishers are increasingly committed to creating works that resonate with children from varied cultural, social, and linguistic backgrounds, promoting empathy, understanding, and acceptance. This lecture explores how 21st-century English children's literature incorporates inclusivity, focusing on its themes, characters, and educational potential.

Key Themes in 21st-Century Children's Literature

1. Diversity in Representation

- Modern children's books feature protagonists from various ethnicities, cultures, religions, and abilities. For example, *Last Stop on Market Street* by Matt de la Peña highlights urban diversity and socio-economic differences through the eyes of a curious child.
- Works like *The Proudest Blue* by Ibtihaj Muhammad celebrate cultural identity and the beauty of difference, fostering respect for diversity.

2. Social and Emotional Learning

- Books such as *The Day You Begin* by Jacqueline Woodson encourage children to embrace individuality and confront feelings of being an outsider.
- Titles like *Inside Out and Back Again* by Thanh Hà Lại narrate the immigrant experience, building empathy for children facing displacement.

3. Neurodiversity and Disability Awareness

- Novels like *Fish in a Tree* by Lynda Mullaly Hunt center on a dyslexic protagonist, promoting awareness and understanding of learning differences.

- Picture books such as *We're All Wonders* by R.J. Palacio introduce young readers to characters with physical differences, encouraging kindness and inclusivity.

4. Environmental Stewardship and Global Citizenship

- Stories like *The Lorax* by Dr. Seuss, though written earlier, have inspired 21st-century eco-conscious works like *Greta and the Giants* by Zoë Tucker, emphasizing children's roles in addressing global challenges.

- These narratives encourage young readers to think globally and act locally, fostering a sense of shared responsibility.

5. Intersectionality in Stories

- Authors increasingly explore intersectional identities, as seen in *Front Desk* by Kelly Yang, which combines themes of immigration, poverty, and racism.

- These complex narratives resonate with children navigating layered identities, promoting greater self-awareness and empathy.

Inclusive Characters: Bringing the World to Life

1. Breaking Stereotypes

- Characters in contemporary literature often defy traditional stereotypes. For instance, *Ellie's Dragon* by Bob Graham normalizes emotions like shyness and doubt in boys and girls alike.

2. Representation of Marginalized Groups

- Works like *Julian Is a Mermaid* by Jessica Love celebrate gender diversity and self-expression, contributing to conversations about identity and acceptance.

3. Family Dynamics and Non-Traditional Families

- Books such as *Stella Brings the Family* by Miriam B. Schiffer showcase families with same-sex parents, providing representation for children in diverse family structures.

Innovative Storytelling Techniques

1. Interactive and Multimedia Formats

- Apps, audiobooks, and eBooks make stories accessible to children with visual or auditory impairments. For example, interactive

adaptations of classics like *Alice in Wonderland* provide inclusive ways to engage.

2. **Graphic Novels**

- Titles like *New Kid* by Jerry Craft use visuals to connect with reluctant readers or those with reading challenges while addressing themes of race and belonging.

3. **Poetry and Verse**

- Books written in verse, such as *The Crossover* by Kwame Alexander, cater to children who prefer rhythmic, lyrical storytelling.

Educational Potential and Role of Teachers

1. **Using Literature to Build Empathy**

- Teachers can use stories like *Wonder* by R.J. Palacio to discuss kindness, bullying, and inclusion in the classroom.

2. **Cross-Cultural Education**

- Books set in various cultural contexts, like *Amina's Voice* by Hena Khan, can foster global awareness and appreciation for cultural traditions.

3. **Encouraging Critical Thinking**

- Discussing books with complex themes, such as *The Hate U Give* by Angie Thomas, allows older students to explore social justice and equity.

4. **Inclusive Activities and Discussions**

- Pairing books with creative activities—such as writing inclusive stories, role-playing diverse characters, or illustrating favorite scenes—helps students internalize inclusive values.

Challenges and Opportunities in Publishing

1. **Breaking Barriers in Access**

- Despite progress, many marginalized voices remain underrepresented. Initiatives like #WeNeedDiverseBooks advocate for greater inclusivity in publishing.

2. **Global Reach**

- Translations and cross-cultural adaptations of English children's literature help bridge gaps between cultures, making stories accessible worldwide.

3. Role of Educators and Librarians

- Teachers and librarians play crucial roles in curating inclusive reading lists and fostering discussions that celebrate diversity.

The 21st century has transformed English children's literature into a powerful medium for promoting inclusivity and empathy. By reflecting diverse experiences and addressing critical social themes, these stories empower young readers to understand and embrace differences. Educators, parents, and publishers must continue their efforts to ensure every child sees themselves represented and valued in the books they read. In doing so, literature becomes not only a reflection of society but also a tool for shaping a more inclusive future.

Further readings:

1. Кушнірова Т. Англійська література в культурологічному вимірі (модерний і постмодерний аспект): навчально-методичний посібник. Полтава, 2017.
2. Barbara Henderson.
<https://www.barbarahenderson.co.uk/about/>
3. Scottish Mountaineering Press to publish its first children's title from Barbara Henderson.
<https://www.thebookseller.com/rights/scottish-mountaineering-press-to-publish-its-first-childrens-title-from-barbara-henderson?>

Books for your analysis

1. **J.K. Rowling** – *Harry Potter series*
 - Explore themes of prejudice, inclusion, and community-building through magical allegories.
2. **R.J. Palacio** – *Wonder*
 - Discuss the impact of physical differences and empathy in school settings.
3. **Jacqueline Woodson** – *Brown Girl Dreaming*
 - Reflect on identity, belonging, and cultural heritage through poetic narratives.
4. **Malorie Blackman** – *Noughts & Crosses series*
 - Examine racial inequality and societal division.

5. **Rick Riordan** – *Magnus Chase and the Gods of Asgard*
 - Highlight representations of LGBTQ+ characters and disability in fantasy.
6. **Angie Thomas** – *The Hate U Give* (YA crossover)
 - Analyze how systemic racism and activism are depicted for younger audiences.
7. **Katherine Applegate** – *The One and Only Ivan*
 - Consider empathy and animal rights as pathways to inclusivity.
8. **Julia Donaldson** – *The Smeds and the Smoos*
 - Use this picture book to discuss interracial relationships and acceptance.
9. **Kwame Alexander** – *The Crossover*
 - Showcase how diverse storytelling styles like verse can engage young readers.
10. **Onjali Q. Raúf** – *The Boy at the Back of the Class*
 - Discuss refugee experiences and the importance of kindness.

Activities

1. **Interactive Story Mapping**
 - Students create visual maps of a story's key events, highlighting inclusive themes.
2. **Character Analysis Journal**
 - Assign students to write reflections on the challenges faced by specific characters, relating them to real-world issues.
3. **Diverse Book Clubs**
 - Form groups to discuss books that tackle inclusivity, such as *Wonder* or *The Boy at the Back of the Class*.
4. **Empathy Role-Play**
 - Enact scenes from stories like *Wonder* to experience characters' perspectives.
5. **Creative Writing: Alternate Endings**
 - Have students rewrite endings of books to explore different resolutions that emphasize inclusivity.
6. **Inclusivity Poster Creation**

- Students design posters inspired by the themes of inclusion in books like *The Smeds and the Smoos*.

7. Debate: Representation in Literature

- Debate the role of diverse characters in making children's literature more inclusive and realistic.

8. Compare and Contrast Exercise

- Analyze depictions of inclusivity in classic versus contemporary children's literature.

9. Personal Story Writing

- Students write short stories inspired by their own experiences with inclusivity or exclusion.

10. Film Adaptation Comparison

- Compare books to their adaptations (e.g., *Harry Potter*, *Wonder*), analyzing how inclusive themes are portrayed visually.

Lecture EXPLORING DISABILITY REPRESENTATION IN INCLUSIVE CHILDREN'S LITERATURE

Objectives

- To introduce students to the concept of inclusive literature.
- To discuss the importance of diverse representation in children's books.
- To explore the concept of inclusive literature with a specific focus on disability representation.
- To analyze examples of inclusive literature and understand how they promote empathy and acceptance.

Introduction to Inclusive Literature and Disability

Defining Inclusive Literature

- The broader concept of **inclusive literature**. Books that represent diverse identities and experiences, including race, gender, ability, culture, and family structures.
- It's important for children to see themselves in the stories they read and to learn about experiences different from their own.
- Inclusive literature helps young readers develop empathy by exposing them to various perspectives.
- **Disability** is a critical aspect of inclusion. Children's books featuring characters with physical, intellectual, or emotional disabilities.

Why Disability Representation Matters

- Historical absence of characters with disabilities in children's literature.
- The role of representation in normalizing disability and breaking stereotypes.
- **Social models of disability**: Shift from seeing disability as an individual problem (medical model) to viewing it as a societal issue, where barriers are imposed by lack of accessibility and inclusivity.

Discussion Questions

- What impact does it have on young readers when they encounter characters with disabilities in books?
- Why is it important for children to read about characters different from themselves?

- How does the representation of disability in literature challenge or reinforce societal attitudes?

Portrayals of Disability in Children’s Literature

Types of Representation

1. Stereotypical and Problematic Portrayals

- Sometimes, characters with disabilities are shown as “superheroes” who need to **overcome** their disability. This suggests that having a disability is something that needs to be fixed.

- Other times, they are portrayed as people to feel sorry for or as objects of charity—this is called the **pity trope**.

2. Authentic and Empowering Representations:

- Better portrayals show disability as just one part of a character’s life. These characters are fully developed, with personalities, friendships, and adventures that don’t center around their disability.

Let’s look at two **examples**:

- **Classic Example:** In [Heidi](#) by Johanna Spyri, Clara, who uses a wheelchair, is eventually “cured” of her disability. The story suggests that she has to get better to be happy.

- **Modern Example:** In [Out of My Mind](#) by Sharon Draper, Melody has cerebral palsy and uses a communication device to express herself. Her disability doesn’t define her, and the book shows her as a smart, capable person.

Discussion:

- How does **Out of My Mind** challenge stereotypes about disability?
- Which book offers a better representation of disability? Why?

Analyzing an Inclusive Text - Excerpt Reading

Text for Analysis:

Let us analyze an excerpt from a popular book, **Wonder** by R.J. Palacio, or **El Deafo** by Cece Bell. Both books feature characters with disabilities and give us a lot to think about.

- [Wonder](#) is about Auggie, a boy with facial differences, and how he navigates life at school.

- **El Deafo** is a graphic novel based on Cece Bell’s experiences growing up deaf and using a hearing aid.

Guided Analysis:

- How is the character with a disability portrayed? Do they have a well-rounded personality, or are they reduced to their disability?
- What themes about inclusion, empathy, and accessibility stand out?
- How does the language used in the book shape how we think about disability?
- If we're looking at a graphic novel, how do the **illustrations** help tell the story?

Discussion:

- What does this book teach young readers about disability?
- Does the portrayal avoid harmful stereotypes? Why or why not?

Disability and Intersectionality in Children's Literature

Let's now talk about intersectionality—this means how different parts of a person's identity (like race, gender, or disability) combine to shape their experiences.

For example, in *The Planet Earth is Blue* by Nicole Panteleakos, the main character, Nova, is a non-verbal autistic girl who is also in foster care. Her disability affects her life, but so does her status as a foster child. Together, these create a more complex experience for her.

Activity: Can you think of other characters from books where disability intersects with race, gender, or class? How do these overlapping identities affect their experiences?

The Role of Authors and Illustrators in Disability Representation

Let's talk about who writes these stories. The **Own Voices movement** encourages authors with disabilities to write their own stories. These authors can share their real-life experiences, making the portrayal of disability more accurate and heartfelt.

One great example is **El Deafo** by Cece Bell. As someone who grew up deaf, Bell tells a story that feels real and honest.

Discussion:

- Should non-disabled authors write about characters with disabilities? What are the challenges, and how can they do it respectfully?

- How can authors make sure disability isn't just a **plot device** (сюжетний хід), but part of an authentic story?

Class Activity – Creating Inclusive Stories

Now, it's your turn! In small groups, you'll create a story featuring a character who represents an underrepresented group, such as a character with a disability, different race, or gender identity.

Think about:

- How will you make the character multi-dimensional?
- What message do you want to send about inclusion?

Each group will present their story idea to the class. Afterward, we'll talk about why it's important to create stories like these and how they can change the way people think.

you can create a book like [this](#) online .

Conclusion and Homework

To finish up, let's recap. We've talked about how disability is shown in children's literature and why it matters. We've seen how good representation can help children learn empathy and respect for others. Books like **Wonder**, **Out of My Mind**, and **El Deafo** show that disability is just one part of who someone is.

For homework,

1) choose a children's book that features a character with a disability. Write a reflection on how the book portrays the character and what impact you think the story has on young readers.

Suggested Reading:

1. **El Deafo** by Cece Bell
2. [Wonder](#) by R.J. Palacio
3. [Out of My Mind](#) by Sharon Draper [toolkit](#)
4. *Rules* by [Cynthia Lord](#)
5. *Fish in a Tree* by Lynda Mullaly Hunt
6. you choice...

2) Scan the book **El Deafo** by Cece Bell (I did [part 1](#)).

3) Read the book

4) Analyse the [activities](#) and design your own for use during the school practice.

Attach your work and submit it.

You can also watch a screen adaptation of the book. The torrent file is [here](#). No registration is required.

If you have time you can watch the film *Peter Pan and Wendy* which is quite inclusive (or provoking for some critics) and read some articles:

[Peter Pan & Wendy David Lowery\) \[2023,, WEB-DLRip-AVC\] MVO \(TVShows\) + Sub Eng, Deu, Fren + Original Eng](#)

Check out some articles about inclusion and diversity in the film

- [Peter Pan & Diversity](#)
- [3 Reasons We Need an Asian and Autistic Peter Pan](#)
- [Peter Pan & Wendy Is Everything Wrong With Disney These Days](#)
- [Actor with Down Syndrome Stars in Disney's "Peter Pan & Wendy" Film](#)

Lecture POSTCOLONIAL AND GENDER DISCOURSES. IMPACT OF EL ON UKRAINIAN EDUCATION AND CULTURE. LITERATURE OF UKRAINIAN DIASPORA

Throughout history, numerous influential women have emerged as writers, poets, and essayists, breaking social barriers, challenging societal norms, and questioning established conventions through their literary art. Their contributions have enriched cultural landscapes and ignited essential discussions about gender, identity, and social structures. Whether focusing on famous trailblazers or everyday mothers and sisters, their books empower and inspire children to dream without limits. Below is a brief overview of some of the most groundbreaking female authors in history. Note that some authors did not write specifically for children, and some books described here may not be suitable for young readers; however, college students, being young adults, should be aware of their existence.

Learning Objectives of the Lesson

Students should know:

1. The historical significance of female authors in shaping literature and societal perspectives.
2. Key contributions of selected female authors from various time periods.
3. How these authors challenged societal norms and redefined gender roles through their works.

Students should be able to:

1. Analyze the impact of female authors on both literature and broader cultural discussions.
2. Identify major themes and styles prevalent in the works of influential female writers.
3. Discuss how the literary contributions of these women continue to resonate in contemporary times.

Lecture Plan

1. Introduction

- Historical challenges faced by female writers.

- The importance of their voices in shaping cultural and literary landscapes.

2. Pioneering Female Authors

- Trailblazers who broke societal barriers: Jane Austen, Mary Shelley, and Emily Brontë.

- Literary contributions and societal impact.

3. The Rise of Female Voices in the 19th and Early 20th Centuries

- Elizabeth Barrett Browning, Harriet Beecher Stowe, and George Eliot.

- Themes of identity, social structures, and equality.

4. Modern and Contemporary Female Authors

- Postmodern and contemporary voices like Margaret Atwood, Toni Morrison, and Ursula K. Le Guin.

- Exploration of gender, race, and societal expectations in their works.

5. The Role of Female Writers in Children's and Young Adult Literature

- Louisa May Alcott, Beatrix Potter, Beverly Cleary, and J. K. Rowling.

- Their influence on the imaginations and values of young readers.

6. Conclusion

- Legacy of female authors and their relevance in today's literary world.

- Encouraging future generations to explore their works.

Notable Female Authors

Jane Austen (1775 - 1817) stands out as one of the first female authors to critique and comment on the British landed gentry. Her works often examined women's dependence on marriage and their quest for economic security. Due to societal norms, many of her writings were published anonymously, leading to limited recognition during her lifetime. It was only after her death that her literary stature grew, with her six

major novels remaining in print. Numerous film adaptations and critical essays have also emerged based on her works.

Notable Works by Jane Austen:

- **Sense and Sensibility** (1811): Initially published anonymously under "A Lady," this novel narrates the experiences of the Dashwood sisters, Elinor and Marianne, as they navigate adulthood and relocation with their widowed mother from their childhood estate.
- **Pride and Prejudice** (1813): This novel follows Elizabeth Bennet as she learns about the consequences of impulsive decisions and the distinction between superficial and genuine goodness.
- **Emma** (1815): A comedy of manners portraying the concerns of upper-class women in Georgian-Regency England, focusing on themes of marriage, social status, and gender dynamics.

Mary Shelley (1797 - 1851) is a renowned Gothic fiction author recognized as one of the early pioneers of science fiction. In addition to her literary contributions, she was an influential editor, primarily working on the works of her husband, the Romantic poet and philosopher Percy Bysshe Shelley. Raised by her father, the political philosopher William Godwin, after her mother, feminist activist Mary Wollstonecraft, passed away, Shelley received a unique education that promoted anarchist ideals. She married young and dedicated her life to supporting her husband's work while also pursuing her own fiction writing.

Notable Works by Mary Shelley:

- **Frankenstein; or, The Modern Prometheus** (1818): Written when Shelley was just 18, this tale follows young scientist Victor Frankenstein, who unintentionally creates a sentient being during a radical experiment.
- **Valperga** (1823): A historical novel set during the Guelphs and Ghibellines wars, it recounts the adventures of Castruccio Castracani, a historical figure who became the Lord of Lucca and conquered Florence, Italy.
- **Rambles in Germany and Italy** (1844): A two-volume travel narrative detailing Shelley's journeys across Europe with her son, Percy, and several of his university friends.

Emily Brontë (1818 - 1848). A prominent figure of the Victorian era, Emily Brontë is best known for her sole novel, *Wuthering Heights*. Writing under the pen name Ellis Bell, she was also a talented poet, with her work considered 'genius' both during her time and today. Her most notable poetry collection, *Poems by Currer, Ellis, and Acton Bell*, was published alongside her sisters Charlotte and Anne, using their pseudonyms.

Notable Works by Emily Brontë:

- **Poems by Currer, Ellis, and Acton Bell** (1846): This was the first printed volume of poetry by the three Brontë sisters, marking their literary debut.
- **Wuthering Heights** (1847): A seminal work of Romantic and Gothic fiction, the novel explores the complex relationships between two families of landed gentry on the West Yorkshire moors—the Earnshaws and the Lintons—focusing particularly on the troubled figure of Heathcliff, Earnshaw's adopted son.

Charlotte Brontë (1816 - 1855). Sister to Emily, Charlotte Brontë is renowned for her novels, notably *Jane Eyre* (1847). Although her first novel, *The Professor*, faced initial rejection from publishers, her second novel, *Jane Eyre*, received critical acclaim and has become a cornerstone of British literature.

Notable Works by Charlotte Brontë:

- **Jane Eyre** (1847): This coming-of-age story follows its titular character as she navigates her feelings for Mr. Rochester and her experiences at Thornfield Hall.
- **Shirley** (1849): Set in Yorkshire during the early 19th-century industrial depression, this novel depicts the lives of characters amidst the Luddite uprisings in the textile industry.
- **Villette** (1853): The narrative follows Lucy Snowe as she escapes a family crisis and travels to the fictional city of Villette in France to teach at a girls' school, where she becomes entangled in both adventure and romance.

Harriet Beecher Stowe (1811 - 1896) was an American writer and philanthropist, the author of the novel *Uncle Tom's Cabin*, which contributed significantly to popular sentiment against slavery and is cited among the causes of the American Civil War. Stowe wrote over 30 books and was the mother of seven children.

Notable Works by Harriet Beecher Stowe:

- **Uncle Tom's Cabin** (1852): Originally printing only 5,000 copies, the book's popularity soared. In less than a year, it sold a staggering 300,000 copies and gained popularity not only in the United States but also in Great Britain. In 1853, Harriet traveled to Great Britain and gave lectures about the horrors of slavery in the United States.

George Eliot (1819 – 1880). Born Mary Ann Evans, George Eliot was an influential English novelist, essayist, and poet, best known for her realistic portrayal of Victorian society and human psychology. Writing under a male pseudonym to ensure her works were taken seriously, Eliot crafted novels that explored complex moral issues, social dynamics, and the inner lives of her characters. Her works often highlight themes of duty, compassion, and the impact of individual actions within a broader social context, making her one of the greatest novelists of her time.

Notable Works by George Eliot:

- **Middlemarch** (1871-1872): Often regarded as Eliot's masterpiece, this novel provides an intricate look at life in a provincial English town. It explores the intersecting lives of several characters, focusing on themes of marriage, idealism, and political reform. Eliot's depiction of personal growth and societal change has made *Middlemarch* a timeless classic.

- **Silas Marner** (1861): This shorter novel tells the story of a reclusive weaver who is transformed by his unexpected adoption of a child. The novel touches on themes of redemption, community, and the power of love to change one's life.

- **The Mill on the Floss** (1860): This semi-autobiographical novel follows the lives of siblings Tom and Maggie Tulliver as they struggle with the pressures of family duty, personal desires, and societal expectations. The novel delves into the complexities of sibling relationships and the consequences of social and economic constraints.

Themes and Style: Eliot is known for her deep psychological insight and moral seriousness, often using her novels to explore human motivation and ethical dilemmas. Her writing is marked by a commitment to realism and a belief in the moral weight of individual actions. In addition to her finely drawn characters, Eliot's works frequently examine the relationships between individuals and society, offering nuanced critiques of class, gender, and politics. Though she did not specifically write for children, George Eliot's profound understanding of human nature and her richly detailed worlds have made her novels valuable reading for mature young readers interested in thoughtful, character-driven narratives.

Louisa May Alcott (1832 - 1888) was an American novelist, short story writer, and poet, best known for her beloved novel *Little Women*. However, her literary contributions extend far beyond this single work. Raised in New England by her parents, Abigail and Amos, Alcott was one of four daughters and worked diligently to support her family's financial struggles, often using writing as her creative outlet.

Published in 1868, *Little Women* marked her first major success, coming after she had written for the *Atlantic Monthly* since 1860. In the early 1860s, Alcott also penned several sensational short stories for adults under the pseudonym A. M. Barnard, striving to make her mark in the literary world. After achieving fame with her debut novel, she became actively involved in various abolitionist and feminist movements, including advocating for women's suffrage until her death in 1888.

Notable Works by Louisa May Alcott:

- **Moods** (1864): Alcott's first novel revolves around the passionate tomboy Sylvia Yule, who goes on a camping trip with her brother and his friends, both of whom fall for her.
- **Little Women** (1868): This coming-of-age story follows four sisters as they navigate the challenges of growing up in genteel poverty.
- **Little Men** (1871): A sequel to *Little Women*, this novel continues the journey of familiar characters, particularly Jo Bhaer and the children at Plumfield Estate School.

Beatrix Potter (1866–1943) was an English author, illustrator, and conservationist, best known for her beloved children's books featuring animal characters, such as *The Tale of Peter Rabbit*. Potter's enchanting stories, paired with her delicate watercolor illustrations, have captivated generations of children and adults alike. Her work is celebrated for its warmth, wit, and detailed depictions of animals and rural life in the English countryside.

Notable Works by Beatrix Potter:

- **The Tale of Peter Rabbit** (1902): Potter's most famous and enduring work, this story follows the mischievous Peter Rabbit, who sneaks into Mr. McGregor's garden despite his mother's warnings. The book became an instant success, introducing readers to Potter's charming style and beautifully illustrated world.
- **The Tale of Squirrel Nutkin** (1903): This book tells the story of the bold and rebellious squirrel Nutkin, who taunts an owl called Old Brown and narrowly escapes danger. Like many of Potter's tales, it highlights the personalities and quirks of animals through delightful storytelling.
- **The Tale of Jemima Puddle-Duck** (1908): This story centers around Jemima, a naïve duck who seeks to hatch her own eggs but is tricked by a fox. Potter's storytelling often includes subtle lessons about nature and the consequences of folly, wrapped in a gentle, humorous tone.
- **The Tale of Mrs. Tiggy-Winkle** (1905): Mrs. Tiggy-Winkle is a kindly hedgehog washerwoman who helps little animals by washing their clothes. The book captures the warmth and cozy domesticity for which Potter's tales are famous, alongside her love for English rural life.

Legacy of Beatrix Potter: Beyond her contributions to children's literature, Potter was also a passionate naturalist and conservationist. Her love for the countryside, particularly the Lake District, where she eventually settled, informed much of her work. Potter used the profits from her books to purchase and preserve vast areas of farmland, contributing significantly to land conservation efforts in England. After her death, much of her land was bequeathed to the National Trust. Beatrix

Potter's timeless stories continue to be cherished worldwide, and her dedication to preserving nature remains an inspiring aspect of her legacy.

Lucy Maud Montgomery (1874 – 1942). Born on Prince Edward Island, Canada, Lucy Maud Montgomery was a novelist and short story writer. Raised by her grandparents, who provided a stable home for the restless, imaginative Maud, she began writing on scraps of paper as a girl. After gaining a teacher's license, she took charge of a classroom, but her dream of being a writer remained her primary goal.

After marriage, Maud wove her personal experiences with marriage and motherhood into her work. Her fictional heroines provided an escape from her own life, which became increasingly filled with cares as she entered adulthood. Bouts of depression, her husband's deteriorating mental health, worries about her sons, and legal battles over her books all took their toll.

Major Works:

- **Anne of Green Gables** (1908): This classic novel tells the story of Anne Shirley, an imaginative 11-year-old orphan mistakenly sent to middle-aged siblings Matthew and Marilla Cuthbert, who intended to adopt a boy to help on their farm. Set in Prince Edward Island, where Montgomery grew up, the book and its sequels follow Anne from her arrival in the fictional town of Avonlea, through school, college, marriage, and motherhood.

- Anne of Avonlea
- Anne of the Island
- Anne of Windy Poplars
- Anne's House of Dreams
- Rilla of Ingleside
- The Blue Castle
- Chronicles of Avonlea
- Emily of New Moon (series)
- Kilmeny of the Orchard
- Pat of Silver Bush
- Rainbow Valley
- The Story Girl

Gertrude Stein (1874 - 1946) was a groundbreaking American novelist, poet, playwright, and art collector, recognized as a significant figure in early 20th-century feminism through her lifestyle and literary contributions. Her modernist writing style featured experimental techniques, including broken grammar and illogical narrative flows, as seen in her 1914 work *Tender Buttons: Objects, Food, Room*. She also used repetition to challenge traditional concepts in her later writings like *The Making of Americans*.

Though born in Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania, and raised in California, Stein moved to Paris as an adult, where she hosted a salon frequented by notable figures in literature and art, including Pablo Picasso, Ernest Hemingway, and F. Scott Fitzgerald.

Notable Works:

- **Three Lives** (1909): This collection comprises three distinct stories about the lives of working-class women in Baltimore.
- **Tender Buttons** (1914): Divided into three sections—'Objects,' 'Food,' and 'Rooms'—this book uses poems to explore the mundanities of everyday life, employing experimental language to keep the subjects engaging and fresh.
- **The Making of Americans: Being a History of a Family's Progress** (1925): This novel traces the genealogy, history, and psychological development of two fictional families.

Virginia Woolf (1882 - 1941). Adeline Virginia Woolf was an English writer of the early 20th century, regarded as one of the most prominent modernist authors of her time. Woolf addressed social injustices faced by women in the early 1900s and innovated various literary devices that have become integral to contemporary writing. She is recognized as a pioneer in using stream of consciousness as a narrative technique, especially in her well-known work, *A Room of One's Own*.

Encouraged by her father, Woolf began writing professionally in 1900 and later became part of the bohemian Bloomsbury Group after moving to the artistic Bloomsbury area of London.

Notable Works:

- **Mrs. Dalloway** (1925): This novel follows Clarissa Dalloway, a member of high society in post-World War I England, as she recounts a day in her life.
 - **To the Lighthouse** (1927): A philosophical novel centered around the Ramsay family during their visits to the Isle of Skye in Scotland between 1910 and 1920.
 - **A Room of One's Own** (1929): An extended essay based on lectures Woolf delivered at Newnham College and Girton College, addressing social injustices faced by women.
-

Agatha Christie (1890 - 1976). Dame Agatha Christie, a celebrated detective fiction writer, holds the Guinness World Record as the best-selling fiction author of all time, with her works selling over two billion copies worldwide. She is famed for creating iconic detectives Hercule Poirot and Miss Marple, and she wrote the longest-running play in history, *The Mousetrap*, which has been showing in the West End since 1952. Christie's works continue to captivate detective fiction fans, many of which have been adapted into films and television series.

Notable Works:

- **Murder on the Orient Express** (1934): During Poirot's journey home from the Middle East on the Orient Express, a murder occurs when snow halts the train, forcing the detective to solve the case.
 - **The A.B.C. Murders** (1936): This novel features Poirot, Arthur Hastings, and Chief Inspector Japp as they confront a series of murders committed by an unknown assailant known only as "A.B.C."
 - **The Mousetrap** (1952): Written as a birthday gift for Queen Mary, this murder mystery play remains the longest-running show in the West End. The plot twist at the end is kept secret from the audience, who are asked not to reveal it after attending.
-

Pamela Lyndon Travers (1899 – 1996), an Australian-born British writer, is best known for creating the iconic literary character Mary Poppins, a magical and whimsical nanny who has captivated readers for generations. Travers worked as an actress, journalist, and critic before publishing her first Mary Poppins book in 1934. The character's success

led to a series of books, inspiring the beloved 1964 Disney film and a stage musical. Travers' creation of Mary Poppins was heavily influenced by mythology, folklore, and her interest in mysticism.

Notable Works by P.L. Travers:

- **Mary Poppins** (1934): The first novel introduces the world to Mary Poppins, a mysterious and magical nanny who arrives at the Banks family household on Cherry Tree Lane. With her charm and unconventional ways, she takes the children on extraordinary adventures. Travers' sharp wit and underlying social commentary make the novel much more than a children's fantasy.

- **Mary Poppins Comes Back** (1935): In this sequel, Mary Poppins returns to the Banks family for more magical adventures, solidifying her place as an enduring literary figure. The book explores deeper themes of transformation and order amidst the magic.

- **Mary Poppins in the Park** (1952): This collection of stories follows the adventures of Mary Poppins and the Banks children as they explore the world beyond their home, uncovering more fantastical characters and enchanting moments.

P.L. Travers' Legacy: Travers' Mary Poppins books are notable not only for their imaginative storytelling but also for their blend of fantasy with deeper philosophical and psychological elements. Her interest in mythology and spiritual symbolism is reflected in her writing, giving Mary Poppins a multi-layered complexity that appeals to both children and adults. The character's influence has transcended literature, becoming a beloved figure in popular culture, and continues to inspire adaptations for film, theater, and beyond. Travers' sometimes prickly relationship with Walt Disney and her ambivalence toward the Hollywood version of Mary Poppins was famously depicted in the 2013 film *Saving Mr. Banks*. Despite this, her creation remains one of the most celebrated figures in children's literature.

Daphne du Maurier (1907–1989) was a British author and playwright, best known for her suspenseful and gothic novels. Her work is renowned for its haunting atmospheres, psychological complexity, and themes of mystery, identity, and obsession. Du Maurier's novels often blend

elements of romance and suspense, leaving readers gripped by the tension and uncertainty in her storytelling. One of her most famous works, *Rebecca* (1938), became an international bestseller and remains a classic in English literature.

Notable Works by Daphne du Maurier:

- **Rebecca** (1938): This iconic novel tells the story of an unnamed young woman who marries a wealthy widower, only to find herself haunted by the lingering presence of her husband's first wife, Rebecca. The novel is known for its gothic atmosphere, memorable opening line, and psychological depth. It was adapted into a film by Alfred Hitchcock in 1940, further cementing its status as a literary and cinematic masterpiece.

- **Jamaica Inn** (1936): Set in 19th-century Cornwall, this dark, suspenseful novel revolves around Mary Yellan, a young woman who discovers that the inn she has come to live in is at the center of a smuggling ring. The story is filled with intrigue, danger, and du Maurier's signature brooding landscape descriptions.

- **My Cousin Rachel** (1951): This novel follows Philip Ashley, who becomes suspicious of his cousin Rachel after his guardian dies under mysterious circumstances. The book delves into themes of trust, love, and betrayal, and like many of du Maurier's works, it keeps the reader guessing until the end.

- **The Birds and Other Stories** (1952): This collection of short stories includes the famous novella *The Birds*, which was adapted into another Alfred Hitchcock film. The story is a chilling tale of survival as a small coastal town is inexplicably attacked by flocks of birds, showcasing du Maurier's skill in building tension and suspense.

Her Legacy: Du Maurier's work left a lasting impact on the genres of gothic fiction and psychological suspense. Her novels continue to captivate readers with their exploration of human emotion, obsession, and the often eerie nature of love and relationships. She was awarded the title of Dame Commander of the Order of the British Empire (DBE) in 1969 for her contributions to literature. Today, her work remains widely read, and her influence can be seen in the works of many contemporary writers.

Margaret Wise Brown (1910–1952) was an American author of children's literature, best known for her simple yet evocative writing that has captivated young readers for decades. With a focus on rhythm, repetition, and imaginative storytelling, Brown's books often reflect the curiosity and wonder of childhood. Her ability to connect with children on a deeply emotional level helped redefine children's literature during her time.

Notable Works by Margaret Wise Brown:

- **Goodnight Moon** (1947): Perhaps her most famous work, *Goodnight Moon* is a gentle, rhyming bedtime story in which a young rabbit says goodnight to various objects in his room. Illustrated by Clement Hurd, the book's soothing cadence and cozy imagery have made it a beloved classic for generations of children and parents alike.
- **The Runaway Bunny** (1942): This tender story of a mother bunny reassuring her adventurous little bunny that no matter how far he runs, she will always find him explores themes of unconditional love. With poetic prose and surreal, dreamlike illustrations, *The Runaway Bunny* continues to be a heartwarming favorite.
- **The Little Island** (1946): In this beautifully illustrated story (in collaboration with Leonard Weisgard), Brown explores the changing seasons and the interconnectedness of nature through the perspective of a small island. The book won the Caldecott Medal for its stunning artwork and its gentle reflection on the world around us.
- **Big Red Barn** (1956, posthumously published): A rhythmic, lyrical story about animals on a farm, this book, like many of Brown's works, uses repetition to create a calming, comforting atmosphere for young readers. It has remained a staple in children's literature, praised for its peaceful storytelling.

Legacy of Margaret Wise Brown: Margaret Wise Brown was a pioneer in children's literature, known for her intuitive understanding of how children think, explore, and experience the world. Her stories often focused on the rhythms of everyday life and the beauty of the natural world, communicated in ways that felt both magical and familiar to young readers. Brown's work has had a lasting impact on how stories for children are written, emphasizing a direct connection to a child's emotions and

imagination. Although her life was tragically cut short at the age of 42, her books remain cherished classics, beloved for their simplicity, warmth, and universal appeal.

Beverly Cleary (1916–2021) was a beloved American author of children's and young adult fiction, known for her relatable and heartwarming stories that captured the everyday lives of young readers. Her books feature characters who navigate the ordinary yet significant challenges of childhood with humor, empathy, and insight. With her vivid, engaging portrayal of childhood, Cleary created iconic characters such as Ramona Quimby and Henry Huggins, who have become staples in children's literature. Her books have been translated into multiple languages and sold millions of copies, making Cleary one of the most cherished children's authors of all time.

Notable Works by Beverly Cleary:

- *Henry Huggins* (1950): Cleary's debut novel introduces Henry Huggins, a third-grader who adopts a stray dog named Ribsy. The story captures the joys and adventures of childhood, forming the beginning of a popular series.
- *Beezus and Ramona* (1955): This novel centers on the sibling relationship between nine-year-old Beezus and her mischievous younger sister, Ramona. Their dynamic made Ramona a timeless character in children's fiction.
- *Ramona the Pest* (1968): Ramona Quimby starts kindergarten in this beloved story, showcasing her curious, lively personality as she navigates the ups and downs of school life.
- *Dear Mr. Henshaw* (1983): This Newbery Medal-winning novel is written in letters from a sixth-grader named Leigh Botts to his favorite author, Mr. Henshaw, as Leigh copes with his parents' divorce and a move to a new town.
- *Ramona and Her Father* (1977): This Newbery Honor book examines the bond between Ramona and her father after he loses his job, blending humor and warmth as it addresses family challenges.

Legacy of Beverly Cleary: Beverly Cleary's stories reflect the real emotions, struggles, and joys of childhood with humor and authenticity,

making her a trailblazer in children's literature. Her characters—such as Ramona and Henry—are loved for their relatability and depth, teaching young readers about resilience, family, and friendship. Cleary's books continue to be treasured by readers of all ages and remain influential in classrooms and homes, fostering a love for reading across generations. Throughout her career, Cleary received numerous prestigious awards, including the National Book Award, the Laura Ingalls Wilder Medal, and the National Medal of Arts.

Iris Murdoch (1919–1999) Iris Murdoch was a distinguished British novelist and philosopher whose works profoundly impacted both literature and philosophy. Known for her psychologically complex characters and exploration of ethical and existential themes, Murdoch's novels often delve into moral dilemmas, love, and human freedom. As a philosopher, her writings were heavily influenced by existentialism and moral philosophy, focusing on the nature of goodness. Her dual career in literature and philosophy allowed her to blend these two disciplines, making her one of the most influential thinkers and writers of the 20th century. In 1978, she won the Booker Prize for her novel *The Sea, The Sea*.

Notable Works by Iris Murdoch:

- *Under the Net* (1954): Murdoch's debut novel tells the story of Jake Donaghue, a struggling writer who navigates complex relationships and philosophical dilemmas. The novel is lauded for its humor, wit, and exploration of existential themes.
- *The Sea, The Sea* (1978): This Booker Prize-winning novel follows retired theater director Charles Arrowby as he retreats to the coast, becoming obsessed with a former lover. The novel intricately weaves themes of obsession, self-deception, and the pursuit of happiness.
- *The Bell* (1958): Set in a lay religious community, *The Bell* explores the tension between spirituality and human desire. The novel is celebrated for its exploration of sacred and secular life and is considered one of Murdoch's finest works.

Legacy of Iris Murdoch: Iris Murdoch's influence spans both the literary and philosophical worlds. Her novels are celebrated for their

psychological depth and moral insight, while her philosophical writings continue to inspire discussions on ethics and human nature. Murdoch's exploration of human behavior, morality, and love made her works stand out as both intellectually challenging and emotionally resonant. In addition to her Booker Prize, she received numerous accolades during her lifetime and remains a key figure in 20th-century literature and philosophy. Her work continues to be studied for its unique blend of narrative complexity and philosophical depth.

Doris Lessing (1919–2013) was a British-Zimbabwean novelist, playwright, and short story writer, renowned for her exploration of themes like social justice, identity, and feminism. Throughout her prolific career, she delved into the complexities of human relationships, political ideologies, and societal structures, often blending personal and political narratives. Her works span a variety of genres, including realist fiction, dystopian literature, and science fiction, demonstrating her literary versatility. In 2007, Lessing was awarded the Nobel Prize in Literature, praised for her exploration of the "epic saga of the female experience" and for her powerful voice that combined "skepticism, fire, and visionary power."

Notable Works by Doris Lessing:

- *The Grass is Singing* (1950): Lessing's debut novel is set in Southern Rhodesia (now Zimbabwe) and critiques the racial and gender divides of colonial Africa. It explores the fraught relationship between a white farmer's wife and her African servant, tackling themes of racial tension and personal isolation.
- *The Golden Notebook* (1962): Considered a feminist classic, this novel follows Anna Wulf, a writer grappling with the fragmentation of her personal and political identities. Its experimental structure and deep psychological insights into memory, identity, and politics had a lasting impact on feminist thought.
- *The Children of Violence* series (1952–1969): A five-part semi-autobiographical series, it follows Martha Quest as she grows up in Africa, experiencing adulthood, relationships, and political upheaval. The series

reflects Lessing's own life and thoughts on personal and societal transformation.

- *The Memoirs of a Survivor* (1974): A dystopian novel blending science fiction with psychological realism, it portrays a future society on the brink of collapse. Through the perspective of an unnamed narrator, it explores the breakdown of social norms and human resilience.

- *The Cleft* (2007): One of her later works, this novel reimagines the origins of humanity from a mythological perspective, examining the division between male and female through symbolic, allegorical storytelling.

Legacy and Impact: Doris Lessing's vast and diverse body of work is marked by constant experimentation with form and genre, and a willingness to address politically and socially charged topics, such as communism, apartheid, feminism, and environmentalism. Her sharp insights and unique voice continue to influence modern literature, particularly in the realms of feminist and postcolonial studies. Through her fearless exploration of the human condition, Lessing remains an enduring figure in modern literature, known for challenging societal norms and pushing the boundaries of narrative form. Though primarily known for her adult works, Lessing also made important contributions to children's literature, where she continued to engage with complex themes such as identity and survival.

Notable Works for Children:

- *The Story of General Dann and Mara's Daughter, Griot and the Snow Dog* (2005): A sequel to *Mara and Dann*, this story continues to follow Dann in a future world ravaged by climate change. Though not strictly a children's book, it is accessible to younger readers and explores themes of survival, hope, and human connection.

- *Ben, in the World* (2000): A sequel to *The Fifth Child*, this novel follows Ben, an unusual child struggling to find his place in the world. It resonates with younger audiences through its exploration of alienation and belonging.

Themes and Style in Lessing's Children's Literature: Lessing's forays into children's literature retain her focus on complex emotional and social issues. With imaginative settings and nuanced characters, she

explored themes of identity, belonging, and survival. While her children's books may be less widely recognized than her adult fiction, they remain intellectually stimulating and rich in narrative depth.

Harper Lee (1926–2016) was an American novelist best known for her seminal work, *To Kill a Mockingbird* (1960), which won the Pulitzer Prize in 1961 and became a touchstone for discussions about justice, race, and morality in America. Lee's experiences growing up in Monroeville, Alabama, deeply influenced her writing, particularly her portrayal of racial tensions in the South. Her father, a lawyer who defended two Black men accused of murdering a white storekeeper, served as the inspiration for the character of Atticus Finch, the moral center of *To Kill a Mockingbird*. Lee's exploration of racial injustice and childhood innocence has left a lasting impact on American literature, and her works continue to be taught in schools around the world.

Notable Works by Harper Lee:

- *To Kill a Mockingbird* (1960): This novel remains one of the most beloved and widely read works in American literature. Set in the Deep South during the 1930s, it addresses themes of racial inequality, justice, and moral integrity, seen through the eyes of young Scout Finch as her father defends a Black man falsely accused of rape.
- *Go Set a Watchman* (2015): Released as a companion to *To Kill a Mockingbird*, this novel is set two decades later and reveals a more complex and disillusioned version of Scout's world. Initially presented as a sequel, it is now considered a first draft of *To Kill a Mockingbird*, offering an alternate view of familiar characters and themes.

Legacy and Impact. Harper Lee's *To Kill a Mockingbird* remains a powerful exploration of racial injustice and moral courage, continuing to resonate with readers around the world. The novel's themes of empathy, tolerance, and integrity have made it a fixture in school curricula, encouraging students to confront issues of prejudice and inequality. The book's enduring relevance was highlighted when British librarians ranked it above the Bible as a "must-read" for adults in 2006. Lee was honored with numerous awards throughout her lifetime, including the Presidential Medal of Freedom in 2007, for her contributions to American literature.

Despite her small body of work, Harper Lee's influence on literature and social thought remains profound and enduring.

Ursula K. Le Guin (1929–2018) was an American novelist, poet, and essayist, renowned for her pioneering contributions to speculative fiction, particularly in the genres of science fiction and fantasy. Her work often delved into complex themes such as politics, gender, and society, challenging conventional norms through the richly imagined worlds she created. Le Guin was celebrated for her philosophical depth, literary innovation, and humanistic approach, winning numerous prestigious awards, including multiple Hugo and Nebula Awards. She also received the National Book Award for Young People's Literature.

Notable Works by Ursula K. Le Guin:

- *A Wizard of Earthsea* (1968): The first book in the Earthsea series, this novel follows Ged, a boy who discovers his magical abilities and embarks on a journey of self-discovery. Set in the archipelago of Earthsea, the novel addresses themes of power, responsibility, and the balance between light and dark.
- *The Left Hand of Darkness* (1969): A landmark in science fiction, this novel is set on the planet Gethen, where the inhabitants can change gender. It explores themes of gender fluidity and the nature of identity, told through the story of a human envoy negotiating an alliance with the Gethenians.
- *The Dispossessed* (1974): A profound reflection on utopian and dystopian societies, this novel contrasts two worlds: one focused on individualism and capitalism, and the other on anarchism and communal living. The protagonist, Shevek, seeks to bridge these two worlds through his groundbreaking work in physics.

Children's Books by Ursula K. Le Guin:

- *Catwings* (1988): A charming story about a family of young cats with wings who search for a safe home. Written with lyrical prose, this book became a beloved children's classic for its gentle storytelling and themes of kindness and belonging.
- *A Ride on the Red Mare's Back* (1992): A beautifully illustrated story of a brave girl who embarks on a magical journey to rescue her brother.

The book weaves elements of folklore into a touching adventure, showcasing Le Guin's ability to enchant readers of all ages.

Legacy: Le Guin's influence on the genres of science fiction and fantasy is unparalleled. She broke new ground by using speculative fiction to explore deep philosophical and social questions, often subverting traditional gender roles and power structures. Her work remains a touchstone in literary discussions of feminism, politics, and identity, and her imaginative worlds continue to inspire writers and readers alike. Le Guin's forays into children's literature also reflect her storytelling mastery, as she brought the same care and thoughtfulness to her works for younger audiences as she did to her adult fiction.

Judy Blume (1938–) is an American author best known for her groundbreaking contributions to children's and young adult literature. Blume's candid and empathetic exploration of topics such as adolescence, puberty, family, friendship, and identity revolutionized the genre. Her willingness to address issues once considered taboo in children's books, such as sexuality and bullying, gave a voice to young readers and helped them navigate the complexities of growing up. Blume has received widespread recognition for her work, which continues to resonate with new generations of readers.

Notable Works by Judy Blume:

- *Are You There God? It's Me, Margaret* (1970): This beloved novel follows 11-year-old Margaret Simon as she navigates the challenges of puberty, including body changes, friendships, and religious questions. Celebrated for its sensitive and relatable portrayal of growing up, the book remains a staple in young adult literature.
- *Tales of a Fourth Grade Nothing* (1972): The first book in the "Fudge" series, this humorous story follows Peter Hatcher and his mischievous younger brother, Fudge, offering a lighthearted yet insightful look at family dynamics and sibling rivalry.
- *Blubber* (1974): A powerful novel about bullying, this book tells the story of Jill, a fifth-grader who joins in tormenting a classmate named Linda. Blume explores the complex social dynamics of childhood and the consequences of cruelty and peer pressure.

- *Forever* (1975): This controversial young adult novel explores teenage romance and sexuality with honesty and depth. The story of Katherine and Michael's relationship broke new ground in its frank depiction of adolescent emotions and sexual experiences.

- *Deenie* (1973): This novel tells the story of 13-year-old Deenie, whose dreams of becoming a model are disrupted when she is diagnosed with scoliosis. Blume's sensitive treatment of body image, self-esteem, and resilience has made it a lasting favorite among young readers.

Legacy. Judy Blume's work has had a transformative impact on children's and young adult literature, offering readers empathy, understanding, and a safe space to explore difficult topics. Her books have faced censorship over the years, but Blume has remained an outspoken advocate for intellectual freedom and open discussions about sexuality, bullying, and growing up. She is celebrated not only for her ability to capture the concerns and emotions of young people but also for her enduring influence on generations of readers and writers.

Margaret Atwood (1939–) is a Canadian novelist, poet, and essayist best known for her dystopian novel *The Handmaid's Tale* (1985), which has become a cultural touchstone and was adapted into a successful television series. Atwood's writing often explores themes of power, gender, environmentalism, and totalitarianism, blending literary fiction with speculative and dystopian elements. Over her career, she has won numerous prestigious awards, including two Booker Prizes, the Arthur C. Clarke Award, and the PEN Center USA Lifetime Achievement Award.

Notable Works by Margaret Atwood:

- *The Handmaid's Tale* (1985): This dystopian novel is set in a future where a theocratic regime controls the U.S., and women are subjugated and forced into roles based on their fertility. The story follows Offred, a 'handmaid' tasked with bearing children for the ruling class. The novel explores themes of power, control, and resistance.

- *The Testaments* (2019): A sequel to *The Handmaid's Tale*, this novel takes place 15 years later and is told through the perspectives of three women: Aunt Lydia, a young woman named Agnes, and Daisy, who lives

in free Canada. It explores the inner workings of Gilead and the fight for freedom.

Children's Books by Margaret Atwood:

- *Up in the Tree* (1978): Atwood both wrote and illustrated this charming story about two children living happily in a tree until their ladder is eaten by beavers. The book, written in rhyming text, was an early example of Atwood's versatility and her willingness to engage younger readers.

- *Bashful Bob and Doleful Dorinda* (2006): A whimsical story of a boy raised by dogs and a girl living with distant relatives. Together, they embark on a magical adventure. The book is filled with playful alliteration and vivid illustrations by Dušan Petričić.

- *Rude Ramsay and the Roaring Radishes* (2003): Another playful story employing alliteration, this book follows Ramsay as he escapes his unkind relatives through a rat hole and discovers an unusual garden of radishes.

Legacy. Margaret Atwood's works, particularly *The Handmaid's Tale*, have had a profound impact on both literary and popular culture. Her exploration of power, gender, and environmental degradation resonates deeply in contemporary discussions about politics and human rights. While best known for her adult fiction, Atwood's children's books demonstrate her playful, creative side, introducing younger audiences to her unique storytelling style. Her wide-ranging body of work, spanning genres and themes, continues to inspire readers and challenge societal norms.

Megan McDonald (1959–) is an American author best known for her popular Judy Moody series, which has become a favorite among young readers for its humor, wit, and relatable portrayal of childhood experiences. McDonald's ability to capture the ups and downs of growing up has made her characters, especially Judy Moody, resonate with children worldwide. Through her engaging narratives, McDonald touches on themes like friendship, school, and family life, making her a prominent voice in contemporary children's literature.

Notable Works by Megan McDonald:

- **Judy Moody** (2000): The first book in the series introduces Judy Moody, a third-grader with a big imagination and ever-changing moods. The series follows her adventures through school and home life, establishing Judy as a beloved character for young readers.
- **Stink: The Incredible Shrinking Kid** (2005): This spin-off series focuses on Judy's younger brother, Stink Moody, as he navigates his own humorous and often quirky challenges, appealing to younger audiences with its engaging storytelling and lively illustrations.
- **Judy Moody & Stink: The Mad, Mad, Mad, Mad Treasure Hunt** (2009): In this joint adventure, Judy and Stink team up for a family vacation treasure hunt, showcasing their sibling bond and adventurous spirit.
- **The Sisters Club** (2003): This series moves away from the Moody siblings and follows three sisters as they navigate the complexities of sibling relationships, further demonstrating McDonald's skill at writing heartfelt family stories.

Legacy. Megan McDonald's contributions to children's literature have made her a beloved author for young readers. Her **Judy Moody** series, which has sold millions of copies worldwide, continues to inspire children to embrace their individuality and navigate childhood with curiosity and confidence. McDonald's work is celebrated for its humor, relatability, and positive messages about growing up.

Anita Ganeri (1961–) is a British author known for her extensive contributions to children's educational literature. With a particular focus on geography, history, and science, Ganeri has made complex subjects engaging and accessible for young readers. Her innovative use of humor and interactive content has set her apart as a leading figure in children's non-fiction, and her books have become valuable resources for educators and students alike.

Notable Works by Anita Ganeri:

- **Horrible Geography** (1999): Part of the popular "Horrible" series, this book uses humor and fun facts to teach children about geography, covering topics like volcanoes, earthquakes, and oceans in a way that is both informative and entertaining.

- **I Wonder Why: The Sea is Salty and Other Questions About the Oceans** (1996): This book answers common questions about the ocean and marine life, making scientific concepts accessible and interesting to young readers.

- **Atlas of World Religions** (2006): This comprehensive atlas introduces young readers to the world's major religions, offering a detailed look at their origins, beliefs, and practices.

- **Fantastic Tales for Fearless Girls** (2022): A collection of inspirational stories featuring courageous heroines from around the world, beautifully illustrated and aimed at empowering young readers with messages of bravery and resilience.

Legacy. Anita Ganeri's work has had a profound impact on children's non-fiction literature, making subjects like geography and history exciting and accessible. Her ability to distill complex topics into approachable formats has made her a favorite among educators, and her books continue to inspire curiosity and a love for learning in children around the world.

R. J. Palacio (1963–) is an American author best known for her debut novel, **Wonder** (2012), which has touched the lives of readers worldwide with its themes of kindness, empathy, and acceptance. **Wonder** tells the story of August "Auggie" Pullman, a boy born with a facial difference, and his experiences attending school for the first time. Palacio's sensitive portrayal of friendship, courage, and individuality has made her a leading voice in contemporary children's literature.

Notable Works by R. J. Palacio:

- **Wonder** (2012): This bestselling novel follows Auggie Pullman as he navigates the challenges of attending mainstream school, highlighting themes of inclusivity and empathy. The book's message has inspired the global "Choose Kind" movement.

- **Auggie & Me: Three Wonder Stories** (2015): A companion book to **Wonder**, offering additional perspectives from characters in the original story and giving readers deeper insights into Auggie's world.

- **We're All Wonders** (2017): A picture book adaptation of **Wonder**, simplified for younger readers while maintaining its core message of kindness and acceptance.

- **White Bird: A Wonder Story** (2019): A graphic novel set during World War II, telling the story of Julian's grandmother and her experiences in Nazi-occupied France, exploring themes of bravery and compassion.

Legacy. R. J. Palacio's work, especially **Wonder**, has had a lasting impact on readers of all ages. The book has been widely embraced by schools as a tool for teaching social and emotional learning, and its message of kindness continues to resonate in classrooms and communities. Palacio's work encourages readers to embrace differences and approach the world with empathy and compassion.

J. K. Rowling (1965–) is a British author best known for her **Harry Potter** series, which has become one of the most successful literary franchises of all time. Rowling's imaginative world of magic, wizards, and adventure has captivated readers of all ages, and her work has left an indelible mark on children's literature. Despite numerous rejections, Rowling persevered and published the first book in the series, which went on to become a global phenomenon.

Notable Works by J. K. Rowling:

- **Harry Potter and the Philosopher's Stone** (1997): The first book in the **Harry Potter** series introduces young wizard Harry as he begins his journey at Hogwarts School of Witchcraft and Wizardry. The series spans seven books and chronicles Harry's battles against the dark wizard Lord Voldemort.

- **The Casual Vacancy** (2012): Rowling's first novel for adults, a political and social commentary set in a small English town, dealing with themes of class, politics, and societal issues.

Legacy. With over 500 million copies of the **Harry Potter** series sold worldwide, J.K. Rowling is one of the most successful and influential authors in history. Her work has inspired a generation of readers, creating a lasting cultural legacy that extends beyond literature. The **Harry Potter**

series has become a cornerstone of modern popular culture, and Rowling's storytelling continues to enchant new generations.

Zadie Smith (1975–) is an English novelist, essayist, and short story writer who gained international acclaim with her debut novel, *White Teeth* (2000). Known for her insightful explorations of race, identity, and modern society, Smith has become a prominent voice in contemporary literature. Her work spans fiction and non-fiction, and she is celebrated for her sharp, thought-provoking commentary on a wide range of social and cultural issues.

Notable Works by Zadie Smith:

- **White Teeth** (2000): Smith's debut novel, which explores the lives of two immigrant families in London and addresses themes of race, identity, and generational conflict. It became an international bestseller and established Smith as a major literary talent.
- **On Beauty** (2005): A family saga that spans New England and London, this novel explores themes of art, beauty, and identity, and won the Women's Prize for Fiction.
- **Grand Union** (2019): A collection of short stories that showcases Smith's range as a writer, blending fiction with sharp social commentary.
- **Weirdo** (2021, co-written with Nick Laird): A children's picture book celebrating individuality and the beauty of embracing differences, with illustrations by Magenta Fox.

Legacy. Zadie Smith's work has had a significant impact on contemporary literature, particularly in discussions around race, identity, and society. Her novels and essays have earned critical acclaim, and her voice continues to be influential in both literary and academic circles. Smith's ability to blend sharp social observation with deeply personal storytelling has made her one of the most respected and admired writers of her generation.

Kimberlie Hamilton is a writer, adventure-seeker, and animal lover. She used to live in sunny Southern California and now lives in misty Northern Scotland with her partner John and four cats. She is currently a graduate student at Cambridge University, and also has a MFA in

Screenwriting (University of California, Los Angeles) and a MSc in Creative & Cultural Communication (Aberdeen University).

An animal welfare activist, Kimberlie is an authority on cats and serves on the Board of Directors for an American non-profit organisation that helps homeless felines. She co-founded the JJR Macleod Memorial Statue Society in Aberdeen, Scotland, dedicated to preserving the legacy of scientific pioneers. Kimberlie is a prolific blogger with a passion for digital storytelling, specialising in travel, history, culture, human interest stories and various animal-related topics.

In her engaging and informative non-fiction books for children she blends educational content with compelling storytelling, making them both accessible and enjoyable for young readers. She focuses on themes related to animals, history, and inspiring real-life stories. Hamilton is also recognized for her contributions to promoting literacy and fostering a love of learning among children.

As a published author, has written a popular series of nonfiction children's books which have been translated into over 20 languages.

Major Works:

- **"Rebel Cats! Brave Tales of Feisty Felines" (2018).** This book focuses on extraordinary cats that have influenced human lives in surprising ways. *Rebel Cats!* tells the stories of adventurous and brave cats, some of which have performed daring feats during war or lived alongside famous historical figures. The stories highlight the often-overlooked bond between humans and cats, making history come alive for young readers.

- **"Rebel Dogs! Heroic Tales of Trusty Hounds" (2019) contains** the incredible stories of real-life dogs that have made a mark on history. The book features tales of heroism, loyalty, and adventure, profiling dogs from different times and places. It includes both well-known dogs like Balto and lesser-known heroic dogs, encouraging children to appreciate the role of animals in human history.

- **"Rebel Animals at Risk: Stories of Survival" (2021).** Discover secrets, stories and facts about the world's most at-risk animals from all seven continents and the oceans. This fascinating book includes tons of information about animal conservation and climate change, making it an

ideal read for those who love nature and animals and want to make a difference. Issues covered include: nature and wildlife conservation recycling and reuse eco-preneurs.

- **"A History of the World (According to Cats!)" (2023).** A cat's-eye view will help a reader discover secrets, stories and facts about history's most fascinating felines! Young historians may never look at the past - or cats! - in quite the same way again. Did you know that ancient Egyptians loved cats so much that they had special laws to protect them? Or that Isaac Newton's cat helped him develop the theory of gravity? How about that Féliette, a French street cat, was the first cat to go into space in 1963? Discover unknown stories about real-life felines, including WWII heroes, courageous adventurers and even an astrocat that travelled in space (and made it back to Earth to tell the tale), this book places cats as the heroes of their own stories.

Educational Value: Hamilton's works are often used in educational settings because of their ability to engage children in learning without feeling like traditional textbooks. Her books incorporate fun illustrations, infographics, and bite-sized facts that make complex ideas more approachable. Teachers use her work to introduce students to non-fiction in a way that feels more like reading a storybook, which is particularly effective for younger audiences.

Hamilton's books inspire curiosity, empathy, and a love for learning. By focusing on animals and real-life heroes, she broadens children's understanding of the world, teaching them about responsibility, history, and kindness. Her writing has contributed to efforts to promote literacy and animal advocacy, making her an influential figure not just in literature but also in social issues related to animal welfare. Hamilton's work continues to inspire children, fostering a love of reading and learning, and encouraging empathy and curiosity in her audience.

Presentation of the Educational Material

Historical Context. Discuss the societal constraints that limited women's access to education and publishing opportunities. Highlight how female authors overcame these barriers to establish themselves in literary fields.

Biographical Overviews. Provide brief profiles of select authors, focusing on their most iconic works and the impact they had on readers and society.

Themes and Contributions. Examine the recurring themes in their works—love, resilience, identity, and societal critique. Discuss their stylistic innovations and how they inspired subsequent generations of writers.

Discussion of Children’s Literature:. Explore the works of Louisa May Alcott, Beatrix Potter, and others who wrote for younger audiences, focusing on their ability to instill moral values and encourage creativity.

Materials for Student Engagement

1. **Task:** Choose one female author from the list and prepare a brief analysis of how her work challenged societal norms during her time.

2. **Problem Situation:** Imagine you are a female writer in the 19th century trying to publish a controversial book. What challenges might you face, and how would you overcome them?

3. **Test Questions:**

- Who is considered the pioneer of the science fiction genre and why?

- Name two female authors known for their contributions to children’s literature.

- What themes did Toni Morrison often explore in her works?

4. **Illustrative Material:**

- Provide images of book covers and portraits of the authors.

- Excerpts from key texts (e.g., *Pride and Prejudice*, *Jane Eyre*, *Beloved*).

Questions for Self-Assessment

1. What societal barriers did female authors historically face, and how did they overcome them?

2. How did the themes in 19th-century female literature differ from those in contemporary works?

3. Why is it important to study the contributions of female authors in a college setting?

4. Which female author’s work resonates with you the most, and why?

5. How do female writers continue to influence literature and society today?

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Lecture NON-BRITISH ENGLISH CHILDREN'S LITERATURE: USA, CANADA, AUSTRALIA, NEW ZEALAND

English-speaking countries outside of Britain have developed rich traditions of children's literature, reflecting their unique cultural identities, histories, and social landscapes. In this lecture, we will explore the contributions of the United States, Canada, Australia, and New Zealand to the world of children's literature. We will examine key authors, themes, and their impact on young readers, with a focus on how these works address inclusion, diversity, and representation.

1. Children's Literature in the United States

Key Features and Themes:

- Focus on multiculturalism and social justice.
- Exploration of individuality, family dynamics, and overcoming adversity.
- Genres like fantasy, realistic fiction, and historical fiction are prominent.

Notable Authors and Works:

1. **Dr. Seuss (Theodor Seuss Geisel)** – *The Cat in the Hat* (1957)
 - Fun, rhythmic tales that emphasize creativity and learning.
2. **Maurice Sendak** – *Where the Wild Things Are* (1963)
 - Themes of imagination and emotional resilience.
3. **R.J. Palacio** – *Wonder* (2012)
 - Promotes empathy and understanding of disabilities.
4. **Jacqueline Woodson** – *Brown Girl Dreaming* (2014)
 - A poetic memoir celebrating African-American heritage.
5. **Kwame Alexander** – *The Crossover* (2014)
 - Engages young readers with verse, sports, and themes of family.

Impact:

American children's literature reflects the country's diversity, providing windows and mirrors for young readers to see themselves and others.

2. Children's Literature in Canada

Key Features and Themes:

- Deep connections to nature and the wilderness.
- Exploration of indigenous stories and perspectives.

- Multiculturalism as a core theme.

Notable Authors and Works:

1. **Lucy Maud Montgomery** – *Anne of Green Gables* (1908)
 - A classic tale of resilience and self-discovery.
2. **Robert Munsch** – *Love You Forever* (1986)
 - A timeless story about the bond between parent and child.
3. **Monique Gray Smith** – *When We Are Kind* (2020)
 - Celebrates indigenous values of kindness and community.
4. **Margaret Buffie** – *The Watcher* (1993)
 - Tackles themes of mental health and family struggles.
5. **Shauntay Grant** – *Africville* (2018)
 - Honors the history of a vibrant Black community in Nova Scotia.

Impact:

Canadian literature emphasizes inclusion and respect for cultural heritage, particularly through its integration of indigenous narratives and diverse voices.

3. Children's Literature in Australia

Key Features and Themes:

- A strong focus on the Australian landscape and wildlife.
- Exploration of aboriginal stories and cultural traditions.
- Emphasis on humor, adventure, and environmental themes.

Notable Authors and Works:

1. **May Gibbs** – *Snugglepot and Cuddlepie* (1918)
 - Celebrates Australian flora and fauna through whimsical characters.
2. **Mem Fox** – *Possum Magic* (1983)
 - A beloved tale of Australian animals and cultural pride.
3. **Shaun Tan** – *The Arrival* (2006)
 - A wordless graphic novel exploring migration and belonging.
4. **Alison Lester** – *Are We There Yet?* (2004)
 - Chronicles a family's journey across Australia.
5. **Bronwyn Bancroft** – *Why I Love Australia* (2010)
 - Highlights indigenous art and storytelling.

Impact:

Australian children's literature brings the country's unique ecosystems and indigenous heritage to global readers, fostering awareness and appreciation of environmental and cultural diversity.

4. Children's Literature in New Zealand

Key Features and Themes:

- Integration of Māori culture and mythology.
- Themes of identity, belonging, and the environment.
- Focus on family and community dynamics.

Notable Authors and Works:

1. **Margaret Mahy** – *The Haunting* (1982)
 - A celebrated tale blending supernatural elements with family struggles.
2. **Joy Cowley** – *The Silent One* (1981)
 - Explores disability and friendship within a Pacific island setting.
3. **Witi Ihimaera** – *The Whale Rider* (1987)
 - A modern Māori legend about leadership and tradition.
4. **Gavin Bishop** – *Aotearoa: The New Zealand Story* (2017)
 - A richly illustrated history of New Zealand for young readers.
5. **Kyle Mewburn** – *Old Hu-Hu* (2009)
 - A poignant story about loss and memory.

Impact:

New Zealand's children's literature fosters understanding of Māori traditions and environmental stewardship, promoting inclusivity and cross-cultural awareness.

5. Cross-Cultural Connections and Themes

- **Inclusion and Diversity:** Across these regions, authors prioritize representation of marginalized communities.
- **Nature and Environment:** Stories often emphasize the connection between children and the natural world.
- **Resilience and Growth:** Many works explore how young protagonists overcome personal and societal challenges.

- **Cultural Heritage:** Indigenous stories and traditions are celebrated, fostering respect and understanding.
-

Activities for Classroom Engagement

1. **Story Map Creation:** Students map the cultural and geographical elements of a story from one of these countries.
 2. **Comparative Analysis:** Compare a classic British children's book with one from a non-British tradition.
 3. **Cultural Showcase:** Students research and present on the cultural background of an author or story.
 4. **Interactive Read-Aloud:** Share a picture book, like *Possum Magic* or *When We Are Kind*, and discuss its themes.
 5. **Art and Illustration Activity:** Create illustrations inspired by works like *The Arrival* or *Aotearoa: The New Zealand Story*.
 6. **Role-Playing:** Act out scenes from books like *The Whale Rider* to explore cultural themes.
 7. **Book Debate:** Debate which region's literature best addresses inclusion and diversity.
 8. **Creative Writing:** Write short stories inspired by the landscapes or cultural themes of these countries.
 9. **Multimedia Exploration:** Watch adaptations of books like *The Whale Rider* and discuss how the visuals enhance the story.
 10. **Thematic Discussion:** Discuss the role of family and resilience in stories like *Wonder* or *Anne of Green Gables*.
-

Conclusion

The children's literature of the USA, Canada, Australia, and New Zealand enriches the global literary landscape with its diverse themes, voices, and cultural heritage. By exploring these works, young readers gain a broader perspective on the world, learning the value of inclusion, empathy, and the beauty of diverse storytelling traditions.

Lecture FURTHER DEVELOPMENT AND TRENDS. PRESCHOOL READING ACTIVITIES & CURRICULUM STANDARDS. MINI CONFERENCE.

Literature: Ways to "live and let live".

I'll let you be in my dreams if I can be in yours

Bob Dylan, musician, singer, songwriter, activist, nobel prize laureate

*- Якщо використовуйте ШІ, то перевіряйте потім, бо він інколи
вигорає.*

*- Ехх, хотіла один раз спростити собі життя і то не вдалось Вибачте
З переписки*

The saying *Live and let live* means run your own life the way you want to, and let others do the same; respect and be tolerant of differences. It was included in a book of English proverbs collected by John Ray in 1678. Charles Dickens used this phrase in his novel *Bleak House*. Our lecture will dwell on it a bit.

На фотах – молоді люди, які навчаються, живуть, думають і читають. Їх набагато більше, але можу говорити лиш про тих, кого бачив того дня. Було прохолодно, росяно, сонячно. Сподіваюсь, незвично-творчо. Підозрюю, невизначено і нудно. Утім, ми спробували вивести літературу за межу приміщень і книжок, бібліотек і бомбосховищ, того, що обмежує і визначає. Третій рік війни змінив нас: вчителів і студентів. Колись більше посміхалися. Колись більше довіряли. Колись менше думали, гадаю.

На фотах – люди, які думають, навчаються, живуть і читають в країні, яку вбивають. Була і закінчилася повітряна тривога, на полігоні за містом і бахкало, триг'єруючи сигналку в припаркованих автівках, але в довколишніх новобудовах деренчали мирні електроінструменти, на нас зацікавлено поглядали сім'ї з маленькими дітьми, а на фінал прибіг рудий лис з Маленького Принца (хто впізнали – ті в темі).

Не вдалося все зробити з запланованого в попередньому завданні, але що зроблено - безцінне.

Отож, я намагався і прочитати лекцію про літературу, а студентки перешкоджали і таємно не сподівалися, що, коли вона все ж буде прочитана, то почнеться повернення до здорового глузду, перемоги і так далі. Усе ж, про що ми говорили і про що варто представити свої думки ті, хто були і хто не були:

- Що таке література і для чого вона?
- Які є жанри, для чого вони і як їх юзати?
- Чи література може бути зброєю?
- Чи мусить і може вона щось робити?
- Як справитися з "крутими" старшокласниками словом і ритмом?

[Tongue Twister](#) від Kalush, а як справляться - хай осилить [Тіпка](#).

- А як зацікавити молодших школярів ?
- Why does some movie character ask us to [suck out all the marrow of life](#) and how not to choke on the bone?
 - Як застосовувати ті дивні лімерики, тан твістери, нурсері райми і перевірки в шкільному житті et cetera?
 - Чому якісна дитяча література є важливою?
 - Як цю якість досягати.

Ну і так далі...

Що зробили.

- Доздавали борги.
- Почали про поезію, про Кольорові Миші, вірші війни і поетів, які народилися чи пішли у жовтні.
 - Згадали про Halloween – час жовтого, багряного, зеленого, брунатного листя, оранжевих гарбузів, синього неба, білого інею і нічної темряви довгої зими, яку тої ночі освічують вогниками, щоб вкотре дочекати весни.
 - Проаналізували і почитали книгу The Night Pirates.

Що можна сказати тим, хто не були?.. Поезія. Нею можна змінювати світ, а можна її просто читати, або придумати лекцію про неї. Отож

Poetry – The Art of English Poetry

Poetry has long been a vital form of expression in English literature, from its earliest oral traditions to the complex, diverse voices of contemporary poets. English poetry offers a window into the cultural,

emotional, and intellectual currents of its time, reflecting society's shifting values, personal experiences, and human aspirations. Today, we will explore the defining characteristics of English poetry, its historical development, major movements, and influential poets.

1. What is Poetry?

Poetry is a form of literary art that conveys feelings, thoughts, and ideas through carefully structured language, often with attention to rhythm, sound, and imagery. What distinguishes poetry from prose is its economy of language, reliance on figurative language (such as metaphors and similes), and use of musical elements like rhyme and meter.

It has key elements:

- **Meter and Rhythm.** The organized pattern of stressed and unstressed syllables in a line of poetry. Common meters in English poetry include iambic pentameter, used extensively by Shakespeare.
- **Rhyme.** The repetition of similar sounds, usually at the ends of lines, adding musicality to a poem.
- **Imagery.** Vivid descriptions that appeal to the senses, enabling readers to visualize scenes, feelings, or ideas.
- **Figurative Language.** Devices like metaphor, simile, and symbolism help convey deeper meanings and create layers of understanding.

2. The Origins of English Poetry

There are short articles on the web. [A Brief History of English Poetry](#)

English poetry began with the oral traditions of the Anglo-Saxons. These early poems were passed down orally and often focused on heroic tales and battles. The transition to written poetry began with "**Beowulf**," one of the most famous Anglo-Saxon epics, which blends themes of heroism, fate, and mortality.

2.1 Medieval Poetry

Medieval English poetry was influenced by Christian beliefs, chivalric ideals, and romance. Geoffrey Chaucer, with his seminal work "The Canterbury Tales", stands out as one of the greatest poets of this era. Chaucer's work utilized humor, irony, and social critique, establishing narrative poetry as an important form in English literature.

3. The Renaissance: A Golden Age of English Poetry

The Renaissance brought a flowering of English poetry, influenced by classical Greek and Roman texts. During this period, poets embraced formal structures and new themes, such as humanism and individual expression.

3.1 William Shakespeare (1564-1616)

Shakespeare is perhaps the most celebrated English poet, renowned for his mastery of the sonnet form. His Sonnets explore themes of love, beauty, time, and mortality. Shakespeare's use of iambic pentameter and his innovative imagery have left a lasting legacy in both poetry and drama.

Listen and recite Shakespearean poetry.

Sonnet 116 by a former college student

The quality of Mercy reciting challenge

3.2 Edmund Spenser (1552-1599)

Spenser's "The Faerie Queene" is an epic poem written in Spenserian stanza, combining allegory with chivalric romance. This work had a profound influence on later poets, merging mythological themes with moral lessons.

3.3 John Donne (1572-1631)

Donne was a key figure in the Metaphysical Poetry movement. His work is characterized by complex metaphors (known as conceits), intellectual wit, and explorations of love, religion, and death. His famous poems include "The Flea" and "A Valediction: Forbidding Mourning."

3. 4. William Blake (1757–1827)

Blake was a visionary English poet, painter, and printmaker whose work is often described as a blend of the mystical and the revolutionary. Born in London in 1757 to a working-class family, Blake was largely self-taught in both poetry and visual arts. His early education was informal, and he was apprenticed to an engraver, where he developed skills that he later used to create his famous illuminated books. Throughout his life, Blake lived on the fringes of society, both socially and artistically, largely misunderstood by his contemporaries but deeply admired by later generations.

Blake's work was heavily influenced by his spiritual beliefs. He experienced what he described as visions from a young age, seeing angels and other mystical beings, which would profoundly shape his art

and poetry. His personal philosophy rejected the strict rationalism of the Enlightenment, embracing instead a more intuitive and symbolic approach to understanding life and the divine. Blake was politically radical, supporting the ideals of the French and American revolutions, though his works express a complex and often critical view of human society and its institutions.

Notable Works: Blake's literary output includes both poetry and prose, but his most famous works come from his collection of *Songs* and his prophetic books. His unique approach to publishing, where he would engrave his poems alongside his illustrations on copper plates, created a powerful fusion of visual art and poetry.

- **"Songs of Innocence and of Experience" (1789, 1794):** This collection is Blake's most well-known work, presenting a dual vision of the world. *Songs of Innocence* explores themes of purity, joy, and the innocent perspective of childhood, while *Songs of Experience* offers a darker, more mature view of human suffering, corruption, and loss. These poems, often paired with Blake's vivid illustrations, highlight the tension between these two states of being. Famous poems from this collection include:

"The Tyger": A powerful and famous meditation on creation and destruction, symbolizing the darker aspects of existence.

"The Lamb": A companion to "The Tyger," this poem explores themes of innocence and the gentle aspects of life.

4. The Romantic Era: Emotion and Nature

The late 18th and early 19th centuries saw the rise of **Romanticism**, a movement that emphasized individualism, emotion, and the beauty of nature. Romantic poets sought to break free from the constraints of classical forms, exploring new ways to express personal feelings and the natural world.

4.1 Robert Burns (1759–1796)

A famous Scottish poet. He loved writing poems and songs about nature, love, and everyday life. Burns grew up on a farm, and his love for the countryside and the people around him inspired much of his work. Robert Burns is celebrated on January 25 each year during Burns Night,

where people eat traditional Scottish food, read his poems, and sing his songs. He wrote many of his poems in Scots, a language spoken in Scotland, which gives his work a unique and musical quality.

Famous Poems and Songs

1. *Auld Lang Syne* is a famous song and poem that is often sung to celebrate New Year's Eve or to remember old friends and good times. The title means "old long since," or "for the sake of old times," reminding us to cherish friendships and memories. The song asks if we should forget our past and encourages everyone to "take a cup of kindness yet" for those we care about. It's a song about friendship, loyalty, and remembering the people who matter to us.

2. *My Heart's in the Highlands* expresses the poet's love for Scotland, especially the Scottish Highlands. In this poem, Burns talks about how, even if he's far away, his heart remains in the mountains, rivers, and valleys of his homeland. The poem celebrates Scotland's natural beauty, with descriptions of deer, flowing streams, and misty hills, showing how deeply connected Burns feels to his country. It's a heartfelt tribute to Scotland's wild landscapes and his longing to be back among them.

3. *A Red, Red Rose* – This lovely poem talks about love. Burns compares his love to a beautiful red rose, showing how strong and deep his feelings are. It's a sweet and romantic piece that many people enjoy.

4. *To a Mouse* – In this poem, Burns writes about a mouse whose home is destroyed by a farmer. He reflects on how we all share the earth and how sometimes our plans don't work out. It's a gentle reminder to be kind to all creatures.

5. *Tam O'Shanter* – This fun story-poem follows a farmer named Tam on an exciting adventure. He goes to a party and then encounters witches! It's full of action and humor, making it an entertaining read.

4.2 William Wordsworth (1770-1850)

Wordsworth, along with Samuel Taylor Coleridge, helped launch the Romantic movement with their collection "Lyrical Ballads" (1798). Wordsworth's poetry is deeply rooted in nature and emotion, emphasizing the importance of personal experience and imagination. His famous works include "Tintern Abbey" and "I Wandered Lonely as a Cloud."

4.3 Samuel Taylor Coleridge (1772-1834)

Coleridge's "The Rime of the Ancient Mariner" is a narrative poem that blends supernatural elements with moral and spiritual reflections. His collaboration with Wordsworth laid the foundation for the exploration of emotion and imagination in poetry.

4.4 Lord Byron, Percy Bysshe Shelley, and John Keats

These later Romantic poets pushed the boundaries of poetic expression. Byron's "Don Juan" is a satirical epic that critiques society and human nature, while Shelley's "Ode to the West Wind" and Keats's "Ode on a Grecian Urn" explore the transcendent beauty of nature and art.

4.5. Edgar Allan Poe (1809–1849)

An American writer, poet, editor, and literary critic best known for his macabre and Gothic tales, as well as his pioneering work in the mystery and detective fiction genres. Born in Boston, Massachusetts, Poe faced a tumultuous life marked by personal tragedies, financial instability, and struggles with alcohol. Orphaned at a young age, he was taken in by the Allan family in Richmond, Virginia, though his relationship with his foster father, John Allan, was strained. Poe attended the University of Virginia and briefly served in the military before committing himself to writing full-time.

Poe's work spans various genres, but his poetry is particularly notable for its musicality, melancholic themes, and exploration of beauty, love, death, and despair. Though he faced significant financial difficulties throughout his life, his poetic contributions have left an indelible mark on American literature, and he remains one of the most influential writers of the 19th century.

- **"The Raven" (1845):** Perhaps Poe's most famous poem, "*The Raven*" is a narrative poem that explores themes of loss, mourning, and unrelenting grief. It tells the story of a man visited by a mysterious raven who repeatedly utters the word "Nevermore," deepening the speaker's sorrow over the loss of his beloved Lenore. The poem is renowned for its haunting atmosphere, melancholic tone, and intricate meter (trochaic octameter). "*The Raven*" solidified Poe's reputation as a leading American poet and is considered a masterpiece of Gothic literature.

Famous lines: "Once upon a midnight dreary, while I pondered, weak and weary, / Over many a quaint and curious volume of forgotten lore..."

- **"Annabel Lee" (1849):** Written shortly before Poe's death, "Annabel Lee" is a lyrical ballad that mourns the death of a beautiful woman, a common theme in Poe's poetry. The speaker recounts the deep love shared between him and Annabel Lee, suggesting that even the angels in heaven were envious of their bond. Despite her untimely death, the speaker asserts that their love transcends the grave, emphasizing the theme of eternal love.

Famous lines: "But we loved with a love that was more than love— / I and my Annabel Lee—"

- **"The Bells" (1849):** This poem is known for its musicality and use of onomatopoeia, with Poe skillfully mimicking the sounds of different types of bells to evoke various emotions. The poem moves through four stages, each represented by a different type of bell, from joyful wedding bells to ominous funeral bells, reflecting the progression of life and the inevitability of death. The repetition of sounds and rhythm in "The Bells" demonstrates Poe's mastery of auditory effects in poetry.

Famous lines: "Hear the sledges with the bells— / Silver bells! / What a world of merriment their melody foretells!"

5. Victorian Poetry: Morality and Social Change

The **Victorian era** saw poets grappling with the challenges of industrialization, social change, and moral questions. Victorian poets often used traditional forms but infused them with contemporary concerns.

5.1 Alfred Lord Tennyson (1809-1892)

Tennyson, the Poet Laureate of England, is best known for his poem "In Memoriam A.H.H.", which reflects on grief, faith, and the search for meaning in the face of loss. His work often explores themes of heroism, honor, and duty.

5.2 Robert Browning (1812-1889)

Browning's dramatic monologues, such as "My Last Duchess," allowed him to explore the psychological complexity of his characters, offering insight into human nature.

5.3 Christina Rossetti (1830-1894)

Rossetti's poetry, such as "Goblin Market," addresses themes of temptation, redemption, and female empowerment. Her work is noted for its vivid imagery and spiritual depth.

5.4 Rudyard Kipling (1865-1936) was a British author and poet, born in India. He wrote famous stories and poems for children, often inspired by the wild animals he saw in India and his travels. His works are filled with exciting adventures, moral lessons, and memorable characters. Kipling's writing is full of imagination, making him one of the most beloved authors for children around the world.

1. **If—** – This poem gives advice on how to be strong, brave, and kind even when life gets difficult. It encourages children to believe in themselves and keep a positive attitude, making it one of Kipling's most inspiring works.

2. **The Elephant's Child** – This poem tells the story of a curious young elephant who wants to know more about the world. It's fun and adventurous, filled with rhythm and humor, and teaches children about the importance of curiosity.

3. **The Way Through the Woods** – In this mystical poem, Kipling describes a hidden path in the woods that nature has taken over. It's full of beautiful imagery, making children imagine the wonders of the forest.

4. **The Jungle Book Poems** – Kipling wrote poems to go along with his *Jungle Book* stories, such as "The Law of the Jungle," which teaches important lessons about respect, friendship, and working together. These poems reflect the world of Mowgli, Baloo, and Bagheera, making them favorites for young readers.

6. Modernism and Beyond: Breaking with Tradition

The 20th century marked a dramatic shift in English poetry, with the rise of **Modernism**, a movement that rejected traditional forms and embraced experimental techniques.

6.1 T.S. Eliot (1888-1965)

Thomas Stearns Eliot, or T.S. Eliot, was a famous poet and writer. He was born in America in 1888 but spent most of his life in England, where

he wrote poems, plays, and essays that changed the way people thought about poetry. He is famous for his poems that explore deep ideas, but he also wrote fun, silly poems about cats! In 1948 he won the Nobel Prize in Literature for his contributions to poetry.

1. **"The Waste Land"** is one of the most significant modernist poems, using fragmented structure, allusion, and free verse to reflect the disillusionment of post-World War I society. Eliot's use of symbolism and dense literary references made his poetry highly influential.

2. **The Love Song of J. Alfred Prufrock** is about a man who's nervous about talking to people and finding love. It's filled with interesting images and ideas.

3. **Marina** (1930). Inspired by Shakespeare's *Pericles*, *Marina* reflects Eliot's themes of hope and renewal. A father's reunion with his daughter evokes a sense of rebirth and redemption. Using imagery of seas and shores, Eliot captures nostalgia and the mystical. The poem meditates on loss and the deep joy of reunion, symbolizing the possibility of spiritual healing.

4. **Ash Wednesday** (1930). Written after Eliot's conversion to Anglicanism, *Ash Wednesday* explores faith, repentance, and spiritual struggle. In six parts, the poem expresses the journey from barrenness to grace, using images of desolation and hope. Known for its repetitive and prayer-like style, *Ash Wednesday* reflects Eliot's search for salvation and peace, marking a profound shift in his spiritual journey.

5. **Old Possum's Book of Practical Cats** – Unlike his other serious poems, this book is filled with playful poems about cats with names like "Macavity" and "Mr. Mistoffelees." It's fun, rhyming, and easy to enjoy – it even inspired the famous musical [Cats! by Andrew Lloyd Webber](#)

Here are the first four [poems](#) recited during the lockdown

6.2 W.B. Yeats (1865-1939)

William Butler Yeats was an Irish poet who loved telling stories and writing poems about Ireland, myths, nature, and even fairies! He became one of the most famous poets in the world and won the Nobel Prize for Literature in 1923. Yeats's poetry is full of imagination and often explores magical themes inspired by his love for Irish folklore.

Yeats, though initially part of the late Romantic movement, transitioned into modernism in his later work. His poems, like "The Second Coming" and "Sailing to Byzantium," address political upheaval, spiritual searching, and the passage of time.

His poems often sound like music, filled with images of nature, magic, and adventure. He wrote about the beauty of Ireland and used lots of imagery and rhythm, making his poems fun to read out loud.

1. **The Lake Isle of Innisfree** – In this poem, Yeats dreams of living on a peaceful island called Innisfree, far away from the busy city. He describes a quiet life surrounded by nature, showing his love for the simple, peaceful beauty of the Irish countryside.

2. **The Stolen Child** – This magical poem tells the story of fairies who try to take a child away to a mystical land. It's a mix of fun and mystery, with lines that describe sparkling waters and dancing fairies.

3. **He Wishes for the Cloths of Heaven** – In this short but beautiful poem, Yeats talks about his dreams and wishes, comparing them to fine cloths he'd lay down for someone he loves.

6.3 W.H. Auden (1907-1973) or Wystan Hugh Auden was an English-American poet who wrote about many important topics like love, friendship, and the world around us. Born in England, he eventually moved to America and became one of the most famous poets of the 20th century. Auden's poems have a musical feel and explore big ideas but can be easy to understand and enjoy.

1. **Night Mail** – This poem describes a mail train traveling across England, carrying letters and parcels. Auden wrote it to sound like a train moving, making it a fun, rhythmic poem to read out loud.

2. **Funeral Blues** – Also known as 'Stop all the Clocks,' this poem is about loss and feeling sad. It expresses emotions so well that people still read it to understand feelings of grief and remembrance.

3. **As I Walked Out One Evening** – This poem tells a story about love and time. It's like a fairytale that reminds us to enjoy life and the people we care about.

4. **'Lullaby'** describes the love that one speaker has for his imperfect "beloved" and how that love will be enough to content them both. This poem stands out as one of Auden's finest love pieces, weaving a narrative

where love triumphs over human flaws and the mundane. It delves into themes of unconditional love, the transient nature of life, and the dismissal of divine intervention in favor of cherishing human connection.

5. *August 1968* responds to the Soviet Union's invasion of Czechoslovakia, which ended the Prague Spring's hope for reform. In just a few lines, Auden condemns authoritarianism, comparing oppressive leaders to "ogres" who can use power to suppress freedom but can't silence the truth or control people's minds. The poem highlights the resilience of the human spirit, affirming that, despite oppression, the desire for freedom endures.

6.4 Dylan Thomas (1914-1953) was a poet from Wales, who loved words and used them to create beautiful poems about nature, childhood, and emotions. He became very famous for his unique way of writing and reading poetry. Dylan's poems are full of strong images and sounds, which make them fun to listen to and imagine! Dylan Thomas loved performing his poems and had a strong, memorable voice.

1. **Do Not Go Gentle into That Good Night** – This poem is about staying strong and fighting on, even when things get tough. Though it's serious, it teaches us to keep going and never give up.

2. **Fern Hill** – This is a poem about childhood and happiness. Dylan remembers his days playing on a farm, running through fields and enjoying the beauty of nature. It's a celebration of the carefree joys of being young.

3. **A Child's Christmas in Wales** – This isn't a poem but a short story in poetic language. It describes Christmas as a child in Wales, with snow, fun adventures, and family traditions. It's perfect for anyone who loves holiday stories!

7. Contemporary English Poetry: Diverse Voices

Today, English poetry is more diverse and experimental than ever. Poets from various cultural backgrounds explore themes such as identity, politics, and personal experience through free verse, spoken word, and multimedia forms.

7.1 Carol Ann Duffy (1955-)

As the first female Poet Laureate of the UK, Duffy's work, including "The World's Wife," offers sharp, often feminist perspectives on classical myths and historical figures, challenging traditional gender roles.

7.2 Simon Armitage (1963-)

Armitage, the current Poet Laureate, combines humor and serious reflection in his exploration of modern life, using a conversational tone to address everyday experiences and social issues.

7.3 Bob Dylan (1941-) is a famous American singer, songwriter, and poet known for his powerful songs about life, love, and the world. His paternal grandparents, Anna Kirghiz and Zigman Zimmerman, emigrated from Odesa to the USA, Dylan became a voice for change in the 1960s, using his music to talk about important issues like peace and fairness. His songs are so special that he won the Nobel Prize in Literature in 2016, making him one of the only musicians to receive this honor. He's known for constantly changing his style, experimenting with rock, folk, blues, and country music. Bob Dylan's songs are like poems set to music, filled with strong images, catchy tunes, and thought-provoking words. He uses simple language to talk about big ideas, making his songs feel like stories or conversations. Dylan's unique voice and style of singing make his music easy to recognize and memorable.

Famous Songs

1. **Blowin' in the Wind.** This song asks big questions about peace and freedom. With its simple, catchy tune, it's easy to sing along to while thinking about making the world a better place.

2. **The Times They Are a-Changin'.** This song was an anthem for young people who wanted change. It tells listeners to be open to new ideas and ways of thinking.

3. **Mr. Tambourine Man.** This is a dream-like song where Dylan sings about imagination and creativity. It's full of fun, poetic images and encourages everyone to dream big.

4. **Masters of War** is a powerful protest song that critiques those who promote war and violence. The song emphasizes the impact of war on innocent people and calls for accountability, making it a significant anthem against militarism.

5. **Forever Young** is a hopeful and loving song that expresses wishes for a child's future. The song conveys messages of love, guidance, and the importance of living a good life.

8. Ukrainian poets in English speaking countries

8.1. Bohdan Rubchak [Богдан Рубчак) (1935–2018). Poet and literary scholar. Born in Kalush, after being displaced by the Second World War, Rubchak settled in the United States. He studied comparative literature at Rutgers University in New Jersey and was a professor at the University of Illinois. A member of the New York Group, Rubchak published five collections of poetry — *Kaminnyi sad* (Stone Orchard, 1956), *Promenysta zrada* (Bright Betrayal, 1960), *Divchyni bez kraïny* (For a Girl without a Country, 1963), *Osobysta Klio* (Personal Clio, 1967), and *Marenu topyty* (To Drown Marena, 1980) and a volume of collected works, *Krylo Ikarove* (The Wing of Icarus, 1983). Rubchak's lyrical poetry is introspective and marked by classical restraint and an intellectual atmosphere enhanced by his literary erudition. Numerous essays in both English and Ukrainian reveal that he is a knowledgeable, incisive, and eloquent critic of Ukrainian poetry, individual poets (Bohdan Nyzhankivsky, Bohdan Kravtsiv, Vasyl Barka, Yuriy Tarnawsky, Patrytsiia Kylyna [Patricia Warren], Vira Vovk), modernism, and émigré Ukrainian literature. Together with Bohdan Boychuk he edited and wrote biographical-critical vignettes for the important two-volume anthology of contemporary Ukrainian poetry in the West *Koordynaty* (Co-ordinates, 1969).

8.2. Bohdan Kravtsiv [Богдан Кравців], (1904, Lopianka, Dolyna county – 1975, Rutherford, New Jersey). Poet, journalist, and community and political figure; full member of the Shevchenko Scientific Society. A member of the Ukrainian Military Organization and a student activist, he headed the Union of Ukrainian Nationalist Youth. In the USA he served several times as the editor of the Plast Ukrainian Youth Association's journal *Molode zhyttia* and was a member of the editorial boards of the journal *Suchasnist'* and *Entsyklopediia Ukraïnoznavstva* (Encyclopedia of Ukraine).

Kravtsiv's poetry was published in periodicals and in the collections *Doroha* (The Road, 1929), *Promeni* (Rays, 1930), *Sonety i strofy* (Sonnets and Strophes, 1933), *Ostannia osin'* (The Last Autumn, 1940), *Pid chuzhymy zoriamy* (Under Foreign Stars, 1941), *Korabli* (Ships, 1948), *Zymozelen'* (Wintergreen, 1951), *Dzvenyslava* (1962), and *Hlosarii* (Glossary, 1974).

From the 1930s on, his poetic style evolved towards a classicist form. He translated into Ukrainian 'The Song of Songs' (1934) and Rainer Maria Rilke's poems, edited several key anthologies of poetry: *Obirvani struny* (Broken Strings, 1955), *Poety chumats'koho shliakhu* (Poets of the Milky Way, 1962), and *Shistdesiat' poetiv shistdesiatykh rokiv* (Sixty Poets of the Sixties, 1966).

8.3. Vasyl Barka [Барка, Василь] (1908–2003). Poet, writer, literary critic, translator.

Barka's orphic works require intuitive rather than logical comprehension. Drawing on the early works of Pavlo Tychyna for his pantheistic descriptions of nature and for his folkish idiom, he derived his originality from extreme abstraction, intensified metaphor, and a unique revitalization of accepted folk imagery through sudden and unexpected juxtapositions. Barka's poetry developed and grew in stature, from the early lyrical collections *Shliakhy* (Pathways, 1930), *Tsekhy* (Guilds, 1932), *Apostoly* (Apostles, 1946), and *Bilyi svit* (The White World, 1947), through a biblically inspired intensification in *Troiandnyi roman* (The Rose Novel, 1957) and *Psalom holubynoho polia* (The Psalm of the Dovelike Field, 1958) and the syncretic *Okean* (Ocean, 1959, 1979, 1992), to the monumental 4,000-strophe epic novel in verse *Svidok dlia sontsia shestykrylykh* (The Witness for the Sun of Seraphims, 1981), addressed to the theme of reconciliation between 'man and the Creator.' The monumental poetic works he wrote in the 1980s were published in Ukraine in the 1990s: the epic poem *Sudnyi step* (Steppe of Judgement, 1992) and the drama in verse *Kavkaz* (Caucasus, 2 vols., 1993). A collection of his selected poems, *Lirnyk* (Lyrist), was published in 1968 and in an expanded edition in 1992.

Barka's second novel, *Zhovtyi kniaz'* (The Yellow Prince, 1962, 1968) is about the Famine-Genocide of 1932–3.

Barka's Ukrainian translation of William Shakespeare's *King Lear* appeared in 1969, and his translation of fragments of Dante's *Divine Comedy* were published in 1979.

8.4. Yuriy (George) Tarnawsky [Юрій Тарнавський], (born on 3 February 1934 in Turka, Sambir county). Linguist, poet, novelist, and translator.

Tarnawsky was displaced by the Second World War, emigrated to the United States in 1952. He was awarded a PH D in Linguistics from New York University in 1982. Between 1993 and 1996 he taught Ukrainian literature at Columbia University in New York and was one of the coordinators of the Ukrainian studies program at the Harriman Institute at that university.

In his early poetry Tarnawsky was influenced by the French pre-Symbolists and Surrealists, as well as modern Spanish-language poets and by the philosophy of Existentialism. His linguistic studies and computer work have had a profound influence on him as a writer. In his poetry as well as in his prose he has eschewed the more usual embellished language and has sought the utmost semantic and syntactic directness, as if his creations were to enter into a one-to-one computerized relationship between word and meaning. Tarnawsky is unique in his expression, and his poems reflect well the mechanized and dehumanized contemporary world. He began writing in the early 1950s and has published several collections of verse: *Zhyttia v misti* (Life in the City, 1956), *Popoludni v Pokipsi* (Afternoons in Poughkeepsie, 1960), *Idealizovana biohrafiia* (Idealized Biography, 1964), *Spomyny* (Memories, 1964), and *Bez Espanii* (Without Spain, 1969); a collection encompassing all of the aforementioned and some new cycles and representing volume one of his collected poems, *Poezii pro nishcho i inshi poezii na tsiu samu temu* (Poems about Nothing and Other Poems on the Same Subject, 1970); and a bilingual English-Ukrainian collection, *Os', iak ia vyduzhuu* (This Is How I Get Well, 1976; published in the Polish translation in 2002 in Lublin). A collection of his poetry, *Bez nichoho: Poezii* (Without Anything: Poems), appeared in Ukraine in 1991 and was followed by a long poem *Ura na* (1992). In 1999 volume two of his collected poetry entitled *Īkh nema* (They Do Not Exist) was published in Kyiv.

Tarnawsky was one of the founding members of the New York Group of poets and the cofounder and editor of their periodic publication *Novi poezii* (1959–71). His literary criticism, published in various journals, concerns modern poetry, particularly poetic translations and bilingualism.

8.5. Vasyl Makhno (1964-) is a Ukrainian poet, prose writer, essayist, and translator. He was born in Chortkiv and currently lives with his family in New York City. Makhno is the author of fourteen collections of poetry: *Skhyma* (1993), *Caesar's Solitude* (1994), *The Book of Hills and Hours* (1996), *The Flipper of the Fish* (2002), *38 Poems about New York and Some Other Things* (2004), *Cornelia Street Café: New and Selected Poems* (2007), *Winter Letters* (2011), *I Want to be Jazz and Rock'n'Roll* (2013), *Bike* (2015), *Jerusalem Poems* (2016), *Paper Bridge* (2017), *A Poet, the Ocean and Fish* (2019) and most recently *One Sail House* (2021).

One of his poetry from [Плавник Риби](#)

8.6. Ilya Kaminsky (1977-) was born in Odesa, and arrived in the United States in 1993, is a poet, critic, translator and professor. He is the author of *Deaf Republic* and *Dancing In Odessa* and co-editor and co-translated many other books, including *Ecco Anthology of International Poetry*, *In the Hour of War: Poems from Ukraine*, and *Dark Elderberry Branch: Poems of Marina Tsvetaeva*.

His work was the finalist for The National Book Award and won The Los Angeles Times Book Award, The Anisfield-Wolf Book Award, The National Jewish Book Award, the Guggenheim Fellowship, The Whiting Award, the American Academy of Arts and Letters' Metcalf Award, Lannan Fellowship, Academy of American Poets' Fellowship, NEA Fellowship, Poetry magazine's Levinson Prize, and was also shortlisted for National Book Critics Circle Award, Neustadt International Literature Prize, and T.S. Eliot Prize (UK).

Deaf Republic was The New York Times' Notable Book, and was also named Best Book of the Year by dozens of other publications, including Washington Post, Times Literary Supplement, The Telegraph, Publishers Weekly, The Guardian, Irish Times, Vanity Fair, Lithub, Library Journal, and New Statesman.

He collaborates frequently with painters, sculptors, musicians, choreographers, and theater artists. Odesa, Kaminsky's recent collaboration with the photographer Yelena Yamchuk, published by Gost Books, was listed by Time Magazine among The 20 Best Photo Books of 2022.

His poems have been translated into over twenty languages, and his books are published in many countries, including Turkey, Netherlands, Latvia, Norway, Finland, Sweden, Russia, Mexico, Macedonia, Romania, Spain, Iceland, India, Slovenia, France (where Kaminsky received Prix Alain Bosquet given annually by Gallimard), Italy (where his work was honored by the Bonanni Prize in L'Aquila), Germany (where his poetry was listed by the SWR television channel as German literary critics' top pick) and China (where he was awarded the Yinchuan International Poetry Prize). In 2019, Kaminsky was selected by BBC as "one of the 12 artists that changed the world."

Ilya Kaminsky has worked as a law clerk for San Francisco Legal Aid and the National Immigration Law Center. More recently, he worked pro-bono as the Court Appointed Special Advocate for Orphaned Children in Southern California.

He currently teaches in Princeton and lives in New Jersey.

Home assignments

1. You are invited to present your favourite pieces of literature:

- poetry (in English, Ukrainian or any other languages - for children, for adults, for animals, by famous authors, by local poets, or your own pieces) or
- prose or even drama

Check out some Shakespearean poetry (the links will be provided at the lecture).

Sonnet 116 by a former college student

The Quality of Mercy reciting challenge

first the beautiful example by a professional actress Laura Carmichael .

Then by some Ukrainian amateur readers:

The quality of Mercy by a school student

The quality of Mercy by a college student

The quality of Mercy by a Uni student

Do not forget to hit the *Like* button or even write some comments.

2. You are welcome to talk about writers, poets and dramatists, play music, sing songs, eat pumpkin cake and drink non-alcoholic Bloody Mary.

3. Those who feel like doing it - finalise your presentations "My Study in IF college" from the [task](#) and post the links as comments [there](#). The procedure is explained in the post.

Questions for Self-Assessment

1. **Understanding Poetry:**

- What distinguishes poetry from prose?
- Define key elements of poetry such as meter, rhyme, imagery, and figurative language.

2. **Historical Development of Poetry:**

- How did English poetry originate, and what role did oral traditions play in its early development?
- What are the key themes and styles of Medieval poetry?

3. **Major Movements in English Poetry:**

- What defined the Renaissance period in English poetry, and how did it differ from the Medieval era?
- How did Romantic poets emphasize emotion and nature in their works?

4. **Influential Poets:**

- What are the notable contributions of William Shakespeare to English poetry?
- How do the works of Romantic poets like Wordsworth and Keats reflect the values of their time?
- What are the recurring themes in Edgar Allan Poe's poetry, and how do they connect to his personal experiences?

5. **Modernism and Beyond:**

- How did Modernist poets like T.S. Eliot break with tradition in their works?
- Discuss the use of symbolism and fragmented structure in "The Waste Land."

6. **Cultural Context and Impact:**

- How did the social and cultural changes of the Victorian era influence its poetry?
- In what ways did poets like Kipling and Blake combine storytelling with moral lessons in their works?

Discussion Topics

1. **The Evolution of English Poetry:**

- Compare and contrast the themes and styles of poetry from the Medieval period, the Renaissance, and the Romantic era.

2. **The Role of Emotion in Poetry:**

- How do poets use imagery and figurative language to evoke emotions?
- Discuss the balance between personal experience and universal themes in Romantic poetry.

3. **Exploring Specific Works:**

- Analyze Shakespeare's "Sonnet 116" or "The Quality of Mercy" in terms of its use of rhythm, imagery, and themes.
- Discuss the symbolism in Blake's "The Tyger" and "The Lamb."

4. **Poetry as a Reflection of Society:**

- How do poets address societal issues, such as industrialization in Victorian poetry or disillusionment in Modernist poetry?
- Discuss how the Romantic poets' focus on nature and individualism was a response to the Industrial Revolution.

5. **The Poet's Perspective:**

- Explore how Edgar Allan Poe's personal tragedies influenced the themes in his poetry.
- Discuss T.S. Eliot's spiritual journey as reflected in poems like "Ash Wednesday."

6. **Poetry for Younger Audiences:**

- How do poets like Kipling make complex themes accessible to children?
- Discuss the importance of rhythm and storytelling in poems designed for young readers.

7. **Timelessness of Poetry:**

- Why do certain poems and poets, such as Shakespeare and Wordsworth, remain relevant today?
- How can poetry serve as both a historical document and a timeless form of art?

Further readings:

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4. Creamer, E. Knight, L. (2024, October). 'It's quite galling': children's authors frustrated by rise in celebrity-penned titles. *The Guardian*. Retrieved from <https://www.theguardian.com/books/2024/oct/20/its-quite-galling-childrens-authors-frustrated-by-rise-in-celebrity-penned-titles>
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This book's aim is to discuss the use of children's literature as a pedagogical tool for fostering inclusion in early childhood education, explore methods of critical analysis and motivate pre-service teachers for leadership in inclusive education.

Ukraine has been resisting russia's aggression, thus enduring lessons of loss and resilience, heroism and indifference, empathy and cooperation. Literature must discuss such things. The war causes chaos and disperation, education brings hope and opportunities. Future victory, peace and prosperity require active engagement from students, educators, families, and communities working together to create an inclusive learning environment, while our heroes and heroines ward off the aggressor. Glory to Ukraine and its heroes, like you, friends!