

Literary Periods & Movements

Name: _____

Essential Question: How do history, culture, and society shape _____?

1. Periods & Movements

Literary Period: A span of _____ in which literature shares certain historical, cultural, or stylistic characteristics.

Literary Movement: A group or trend in literature in which writers share similar _____, styles, subjects, or goals.

Remember:

PERIOD = _____ it happened

MOVEMENT = shared _____ / STYLE

2. Important Literary Terms

Archetype

A recurring character, symbol, _____, or pattern that appears across many stories and cultures.

Character Archetypes

Archetype	What Is It?	Popular Example
Hero	Faces challenges and works toward an important _____.	Harry Potter
Villain	Opposes the _____ and creates conflict.	Darth Vader
Mentor	A wise character who _____ or teaches another.	Yoda
Trickster	Uses humor, tricks, or rule-breaking to cause _____.	Loki
Innocent	Trusting or inexperienced; sees the world simply or _____.	Buddy (<i>Elf</i>)
Rebel	Challenges rules, authority, or _____.	Katniss Everdeen

Situation Archetypes

Archetype	What Happens?	Popular Example
The Quest	A character completes an important _____.	Frodo destroys the Ring
Good vs. Evil	Opposing _____ forces struggle.	Harry vs. Voldemort
The Journey	A character travels and _____ from the experience.	Dorothy in Oz
The Fall	A character loses power or goodness because of choices or _____.	Anakin → Darth Vader
Death & Rebirth	A character experiences loss and returns or begins again _____.	Simba returns to Pride Rock

Character archetype = type of _____ Situation archetype = pattern of _____

Myth

A traditional story that often explains a culture's beliefs, origins, natural phenomena, heroes, gods, or _____.

Example: Greek myths about Zeus, Athena, Hercules, and Prometheus.

Myths can reveal what a culture:

VALUES • FEARS • _____

Event

An important historical _____ that influences writers, literature, or society.

Examples: wars, revolutions, industrialization, immigration, economic depressions

Figure

An important _____ whose ideas, actions, leadership, or writing influence a historical or literary period.

Examples: author • leader • activist • philosopher • scientist • artist

BIG IDEA:

EVENTS + FIGURES + _____ → LITERATURE

3. Major Literary Periods & Movements

RENAISSANCE

When: Roughly 14th–17th centuries

Meaning: "_____"

Key Ideas

Greek & Roman learning • humanism • education • exploration • individual achievement • scientific curiosity

Literature explored: human behavior, ambition, love, politics, morality, and individual _____

Important Figure: William _____

MEMORY WORD:

RENAISSANCE = _____

ROMANTIC PERIOD / ROMANTICISM

When: Especially late 18th–early 19th centuries

Romanticism emphasized:

_____ + IMAGINATION + NATURE

Other characteristics:

- Individual freedom
- Mystery
- _____ elements
- Rebellion against strict rules
- Personal experience

IMPORTANT!

Romanticism does NOT simply mean _____ stories!

MEMORY WORDS:

ROMANTICISM = EMOTION + _____ + NATURE

VICTORIAN PERIOD

When:–

Named for Queen _____

Historical Context

Industrialization • growing cities • scientific developments • class divisions • social reform

Literature Often Examined

Poverty • social class • morality • family • inequality • social expectations

Important Figure: Charles _____

MEMORY WORDS:

VICTORIAN = INDUSTRY + _____ + SOCIETY

COLONIAL PERIOD

When: Primarily _____s-early _____s

Early American literature produced during European settlement and colonization.

Common Influences

Religion • survival • exploration • community • settlement • Puritan beliefs

Common Forms

Sermons • diaries • _____ • letters • historical accounts

Colonial history also includes the experiences and displacement of _____ peoples and the development of racial slavery.

MEMORY WORDS:

COLONIAL = RELIGION + SETTLEMENT + _____

REVOLUTIONARY PERIOD

When: Especially the late _____s

American literature surrounding the struggle for independence and creation of the United States.

Major Ideas

Liberty • independence • government • natural rights • democracy • revolution

Common Forms

Speeches • political _____ • essays • letters • public arguments

Important Figures

Thomas Paine • Benjamin Franklin • Thomas Jefferson • Phillis Wheatley

MEMORY WORDS:

REVOLUTIONARY = _____ + INDEPENDENCE

REALISM

Realism portrays ordinary people, situations, and social conditions in a _____ and realistic way.

Characteristics

Everyday life • ordinary characters • real social problems • detailed settings • believable dialogue

The Big Difference:

Romanticism → what life _____ or IMAGINES like

Realism → what everyday life _____ like

MEMORY WORDS:

REALISM = ORDINARY + BELIEVABLE + _____ LIFE

HARLEM RENAISSANCE

When: _____s-early _____s

A major flourishing of African American literature, music, art, and culture centered especially in _____, New York.

Historical Context

The Great Migration • growth of Black communities in northern cities • jazz • new artistic opportunities • racial discrimination

Major Themes

Black identity • pride • heritage • racism • freedom • community • urban life • artistic expression

Important Figures

Langston _____

Zora Neale _____

Claude McKay

Countee Cullen

MEMORY WORDS:

HARLEM RENAISSANCE = BLACK CULTURE + _____ + ARTISTIC EXPRESSION

MODERN PERIOD

When: Largely late 19th–first half of the _____ century

Modern writers often experimented with traditional forms and questioned established beliefs.

Historical Influences

World War I • World War II • industrialization • urbanization • new technology

Characteristics

Experimentation • uncertainty • alienation • changing traditions • questions about identity

MEMORY WORDS:

MODERN = CHANGE + _____ + UNCERTAINTY

CONTEMPORARY LITERATURE

Literature of the relatively recent past and _____.

Common Topics

Identity • race & ethnicity • gender • technology • immigration • family • globalization • war • inequality • cultural diversity

MEMORY WORDS:

CONTEMPORARY = TODAY'S WORLD + _____ VOICES

4. Quick Reference

Fill in the missing memory word or phrase.

Period / Movement	Main Focus	Remember It As
Renaissance	Human potential & classical learning	_____
Colonial	Religion, settlement, survival	Early America
Revolutionary	Liberty & independence	_____
Romanticism	Emotion, imagination, nature	FEEL
Victorian	Society, class, industrialization	Social Change
Realism	Ordinary, believable life	_____
Harlem Renaissance	Black culture, identity, creativity	Expression

Modern	Experimentation & uncertainty	_____
Contemporary	Current issues & diverse experiences	TODAY

5. ROMANTICISM vs. REALISM

ROMANTICISM	REALISM
_____	Reality
Imagination	Ordinary life
Nature	Believable _____
Individualism	Everyday problems
Mystery	Social conditions
Extraordinary experiences	Detailed observations
_____	Less idealization

Remember:

ROMANTICISM = How life _____ REALISM = How life _____

6. Name That Movement! Write the correct period or movement.

1. Imagination, powerful emotions, and wild nature

2. Ordinary working-class people and believable problems

3. Political writing supporting American independence

4. Black identity, music, culture, and art in 1920s New York

5. Poverty, social class, and industrialization in 19th-century Britain

6. Religion and survival in early American settlements

7. Rebirth of classical learning and interest in human potential

8. Experimentation and uncertainty in a rapidly changing 20th-century world

7. Final Connection

Complete the chain:

Historical _____

↓

Changes in _____

↓

New Ideas & Experiences

↓

_____ Respond

↓

Literary Periods & Movements

ONE BIG IDEA TO REMEMBER:

Literature is influenced by the _____, _____, and _____ in which people live.