

–

The foundations of early bourgeois realism were laid  
by Daniel Defoe and Jonathan  
Swift

- The moral and philosophical meaning of literary  
action
- Bourgeois values and morality are fake and superficial

–

Novels that reconstruct a past age, often when two  
cultures are in  
conflict (Historical Novels)

–

The London Times called him "pre-eminently a writer of  
the people and for the people . . . the 'Great  
Commoner' of English fiction." (Harriet Martineau )

–

Sir Walter Scott is considered the father of the historical  
novel

–

Pioneers of the English Novel  
(Samuel Richardson– Henry Fielding)

–

The **Novel of Manners** Novels dominated by the customs, manners, conventional behavior and habits of a particular social class

–Contemporary Gothic novelists include **Anne Rice** and **Stephen King**

–**Frankenstein** One of the most famous gothic novels

–

**Novels of Sentiment** Novels in which the characters, and thus the readers, have a heightened emotional response to events

–Social or Sociological novels deal with the **nature, function** and **effect** of the society

–

**Muckrakers** exposed corruption in industry and society

**Propaganda novels** advocate a doctrinaire solution to social problems

–

The new markets demand a new type of worker:

1–skilled and literate.

2–The establishment of grammar schools..

–

By including varieties of poor people in all his novels, **Dickens** brought the problems of poverty to the attention of his readers  
–In the 17th and 18th centuries, **prose** was still not recognized as a literary form.

- Only Greek and Latin and English verse were considered “**high culture**.”
- English prose** was what lower or middle class people read and wrote.
- The first novels were published as **serial stories** in newspapers.

–

- Daniel Defoe Born in **1660** in **London**
- His mother and father were **Presbyterian dissenters**
- Defoe developed a taste for **travel** that lasted throughout his life
- his characters **Moll Flanders** and **Robinson Crusoe** both change their lives by **voyaging far** from their

native England.

- Defoe **published** his first novel, Robinson Crusoe, in **1719**, when he was around **60 years** old
- Robinson Crusoe was based on the true story of a shipwrecked seaman named **Alexander Selkirk** and was passed off as history
- In the **second** journey Crusoe becomes the **slave** of a Moor
- he manages to escape and is rescued and befriended by the
  - he calls the Island of **Despair**
  - He keeps a calendar by making marks in a **wooden** cross which he has built.
  - Years later, he discovers native cannibals who occasionally visit the island to **kill and eat** prisoners.
  - when a prisoner manages to escape, Crusoe helps him, naming his new companion "**Friday**"
  - The term "**Robinsonade**" was coined to describe the genre of stories similar to **Robinson Crusoe**.

- In the 1850s it was still common to find people who forbid their families from reading novels
- To tell stories, especially fiction, was still considered by some to be a sin.

–The audience for the novel grew enormously during the 19th century

–

“A novel is a splendid thing after a hard day’s work, a sharp practical tussle with the real world”

This is how one of the characters in Mary Braddon’s *The Doctor’s Wife* (1864) described the novel.

- Novel writers were told in the *Saturday Review* 1887 that the average reader of novels is not a critical person,

–

Until the end of the 19th century, there were palpable demands on novel writers to make their novels have a happy ending.

–

Dickens is known to have changed the ending of some

of his novels to please the reader with a happy ending.

– George Eliot is known to have opposed the idea

–

Realist writers sought to narrate their novels from an objective, unbiased perspective that simply and clearly represented the factual elements of the story.

–

The realists endeavored to accurately represent contemporary culture and people from all walks of life

–

Realist writers are widely celebrated for their mastery of objective, third-person narration.

–

The Realist novel of the 19th century was written in opposition to the Romance of medieval times

–By the end of the 19th century, artists and novelists

were already becoming **unsatisfied** with realism.

–Rejection of Realism and Naturalism became **common**

–

Breakfast in the Studio– **Realist Art**

Weeping Woman– **Modernist Art**

–According to Conrad,**Heart of Darkness** is based  
on **real events**–

–Conrad is "**Marlow**" in the novella.

– Heart of Darkness is set in the **Congo** at the time of  
the **Belgian colonization**

– **Africa** was **the last** continent to be overtaken by  
Europeans.

–**Leopold II** financed exploration of the Congo area, laid  
claim to it, and made it his **private colony**.

–It belonged to the man, not to the country of Belgium.

It was therefore called a "**crown colony**."

–Profits from the area went into **his own pocket**, not into  
the treasury of Belgium.

–**Belgian Congo area** was larger than Britain, France,  
Spain, Italy and Germany **combined**.

–

Leopold called it the "Congo Free State."

Later it became known as Zaire and is now called Democratic Republic of Congo

– Leopold hired the famous explorer Henry Morton Stanley to get control of the Congo.

–

An 1884 treaty signed by Stanley and the chiefs gave the chiefs a piece of cloth in exchange for all of their waterways, roads, game, fishing, mining rights, and freedom-- FOREVER.

– Leopold declared a monopoly on rubber and ivory.

– Leopold set up a mercenary force called the Force Publique

– The only difference between forced labor and slavery is that the workers in forced labor situations are not actually owned by other people.

– The head of the Force Publique was Leon Rom

– Leon Rom kept a gallows permanently erected in his station to intimidate the workers

– The character Kurtz in the novella is based on Leon Rom.

– The Force Publique went into villages and captured the



natives for forced labor

–

The women and children were separated from the men and held hostage until the men brought in their quota of rubber or ivory.

–Leopold claimed that his goal was ultimately humanitarian–

–Leopold II was responsible for the deaths of between ten and eleven million people in the Belgian Congo.

–Conrad, author of Heart of Darkness, said that Heart of Darkness is a documentary

–The novel begins on a yacht called the Nellie at the mouth of the river Thames in London.

–The five men, old friends held together by the bond of the sea

–

Marlow recounts how he obtained a job with the Belgian “Company” through the influence of his aunt who had friends in the Company’s administration.

–

The Company was eager to send Marlow to Africa, because one of the Company’s steamer captains had recently been killed in a fight with the natives.

- Marlow signs his contract, and goes to be checked by a doctor. The doctor takes **measurements** of his **skull**
- The doctor tells Marlow, **the changes take place inside.**

–

Marlow is aware, though, that the Company operates for profit and not for the good of humanity, and he is bothered by his aunt's **naïveté**.

–

The French steamer takes Marlow along the coast of Africa, stopping **periodically** to land soldiers and customs house officers

–

Marlow sees a group of **black prisoners** walking along in **chains** under the guard of another **black man**, who wears **a shoddy** uniform and carries **a rifle**

- Marlow comes to a grove of trees and, to his horror, finds a group of dying **native laborers**.

- Marlow spends ten days waiting for **a caravan** to the next station.

–

Marlow travels overland for two hundred miles with a caravan of **sixty men**. He has one **white companion** who falls ill and must be carried by the native bearers, who

start to desert because of the added burden.

–Marlow suspects the damage to the steamer may have been **intentional**, to keep him from reaching Kurtz.

–

The manager tells Marlow that he took the boat out in a hurry to **relieve** the **inner stations**, especially the **one belonging** to Kurtz, who is rumored to be ill.

–

One day , **a grass shed** housing some trade goods burns down, and the native laborers dance delightedly as it burns.

–

One of the **natives** is accused of causing the fire and is **beaten** severely; he **disappears** into the forest after **herecovers**.

–Marlow overhears the **manager** talking with the **brickmaker** about **Kurtz** at the site of the burned hut.

–

Marlow realizes the **brickmaker** had **planned** on being assistant manager, and Kurtz's arrival has upset his chances.

–

Marlow **gives up** on ever receiving the rivets he needs

to repair his ship, and turns to wondering **disinterestedly** about **Kurtz** and his ideals.

—

Marlow and his companions find **a hut** with a stack of firewood and a note that says, “**Wood for you. Hurry up. Approach cautiously.**”

—

The manager concludes that the **wood** must have been left by the **Russian trader**, a man about whom Marlow has overheard the manager complaining

–They stop again 8 miles away from Kurtz’ station because of the **fog**.

–The leader of the cannibals tells Marlow that his people **want to eat** the people making the **loud cries**

–the central theme in Heart of Darkness is **colonialism and imperialism**.

–The novel exposes the **hypocrisy** of colonialism and imperialism.

–Kurtz is **frank** about the fact that he is there to **steal and plunder** ivory

–no African is allowed to **speak** in the novel, and they are often portrayed as **sub-humans** and **primitives**