

THE TWENTIETH CENTURY ENGLISH LITERATURE: PART 1

Survey of Contemporary English Literature

Historically speaking...(1)



Historically speaking...(cont.)



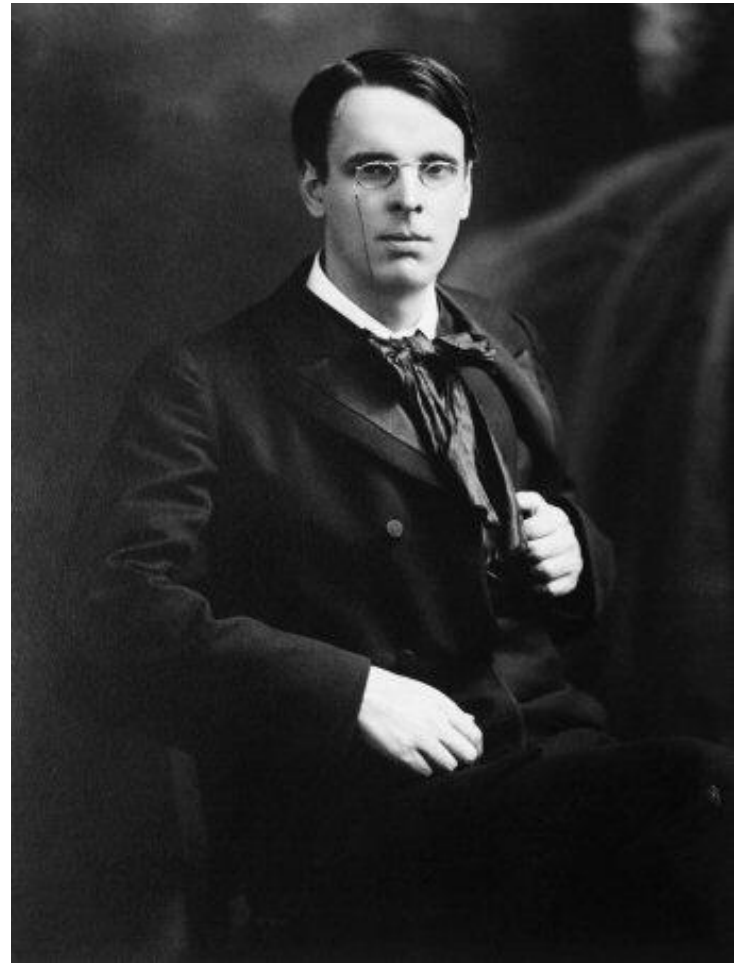
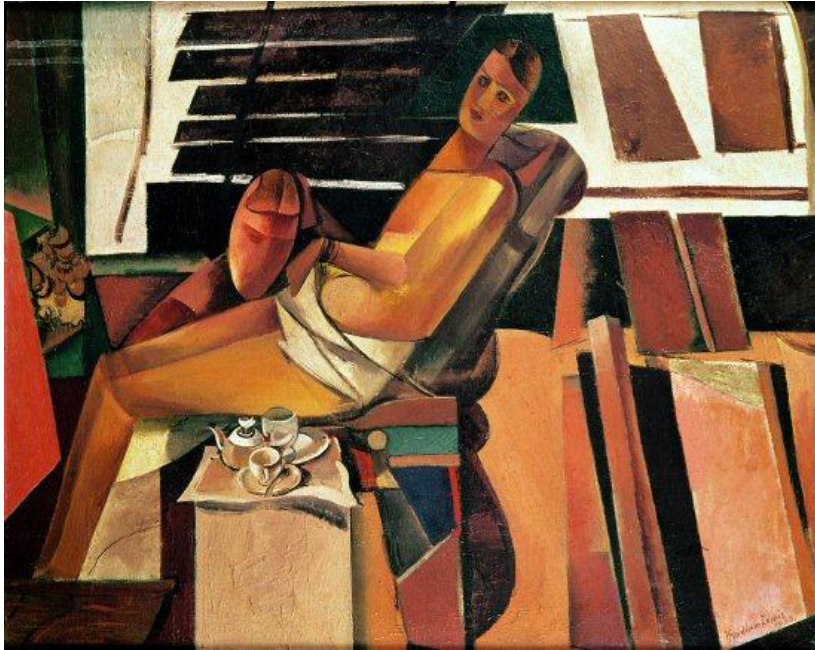
Historically speaking...(cont.)



Historically speaking...(cont.)



Art Movement



The First Half of Twentieth Century : Welcome to Modernism

- The Great War (1914-1919)
- Technology and Science
- Women's Role
- Arts & Literature

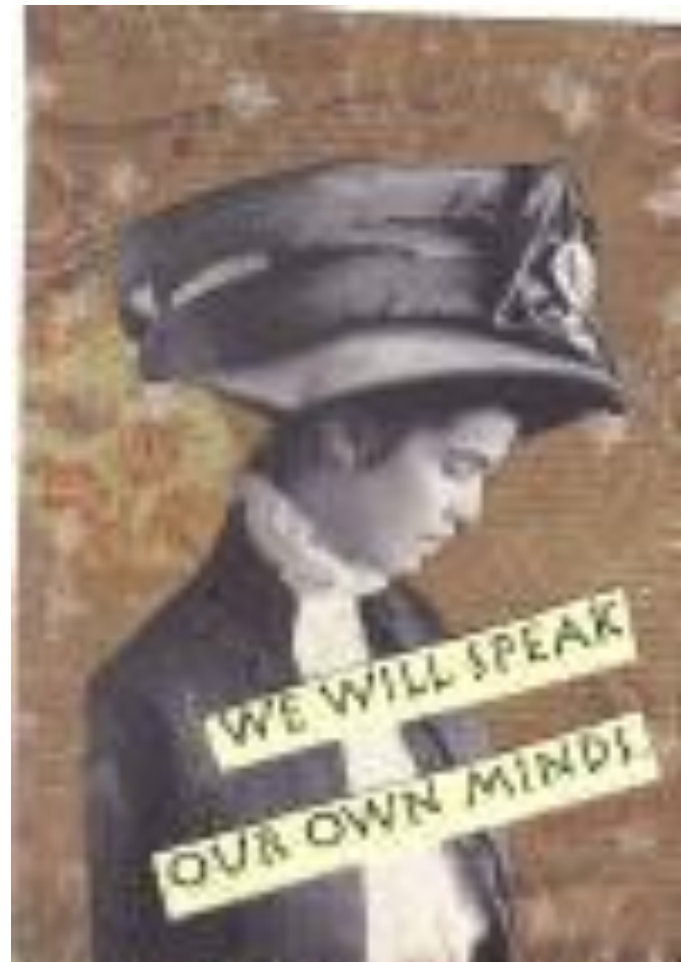
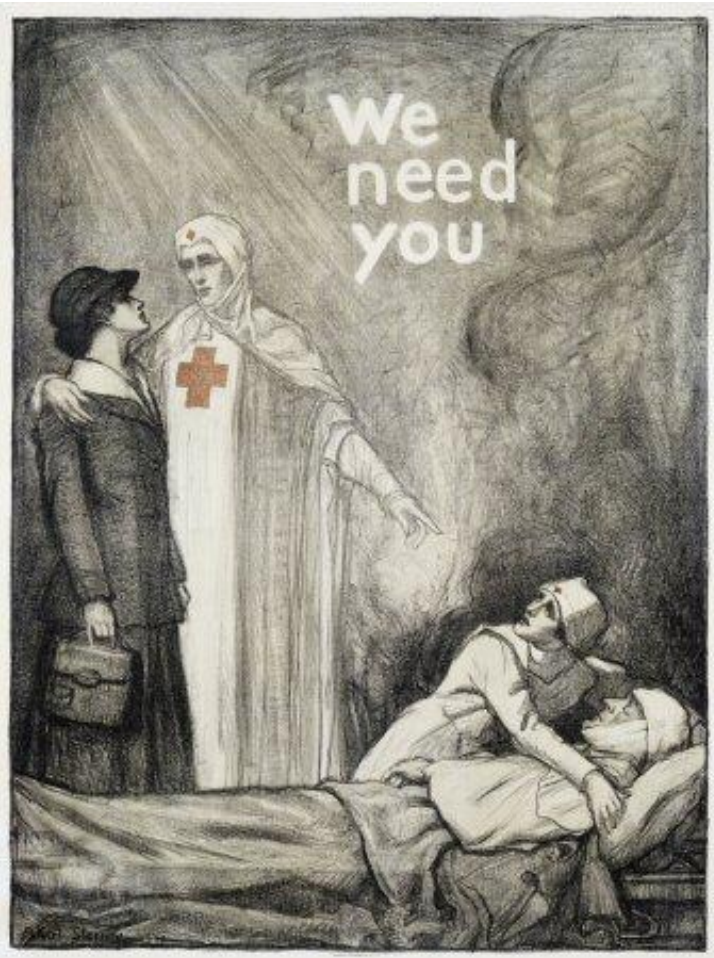
The Great War



Science and Technology



Women's Role



Arts



Literary Movement: Modernism

- Rejecting Victorian notions of artist's moral duty -> "the alienation" of the artist
- Modernity: doubtful about the previously stable assumptions about the self, the community and the divine.
- The emerge of Freud's Psychoanalysis.
- Poetic revolution led by T.S. Eliot: New Criticism, Looking back to metaphysical poems of the 17th century.

The Modernist Novel

- often non-chronological with experiments in the representation of time such as sudden jump or temporal juxtapositions.
- The narratives move from one level to another; sometimes one story inside another.
- Often work towards open endings or unique forms: utilize enigma, the ellipsis, the narrative gap, value ambiguity and complexity.
- Good example: Joseph Conrad's *Heart of Darkness*

Ezra Pound's: *In a Station of the Metro*

The apparition of these faces in the crowd;
Petals on the wet, black bough.

Literary Figures

- T.S. Eliot
- James Joyce
- Joseph Conrad
- George Bernard Shaw
- W.B. Yeats
- Virginia Woolf
- D. H. Lawrence
- The War Poets: notably, Wilfred Owen and Siegfried Sassoon
- Scott F. Fitzgerald
- Robert Frost

Thomas Stearns Eliot (1888-1965)



T.S. Eliot (1888-1965)

- Born in St Louis, Missouri.
- Educated in Harvard and Oxford.
- Became British subject in 1927.
- Got Nobel Prize in Literature in 1948
- An influential critic and poet.
- Known for his revival of the metaphysical poetry: display learning, 'thought and feeling closely fused', difficulty and tough newness.
- Famous work: 'The Waste Land' a representative of postwar disillusionment.

Wilfred Owen (1893-1918)

- A son of a station master
- Educated in Shrewsbury Technical College
- Join the war in 1915, won MC in 1918.
- Killed a week before the Armistice.
- Regarded as a war poet of the first rank.



Anthem for the Doomed Youth (1920)

What passing-bells for these who die as cattle
Only the monstrous anger of the guns.
Only the stuttering rifles' rapid rattle
Can patter out their hasty orisons
No mockeries for them from prayers or bells,
Nor any voice of mourning save the choirs –
The shrill, demented choirs of wailing shells;
And bugles calling for them from sad shires.
What candles may be held to speed them all?
Not in the hands of boys, but in their eyes.
Shall shine the holy glimmers of good-byes.
The pallor of girls' brows shall be their pall;
Their flowers the tenderness of patient minds,
And each slow dusk a drawing-down of blinds.

Owen's

- Known for his bleak realism, indignation, compassion
- Master of metrical variety and of assonance.

Can you compare the two poets?