

# Victorian Age & 20<sup>th</sup> Century



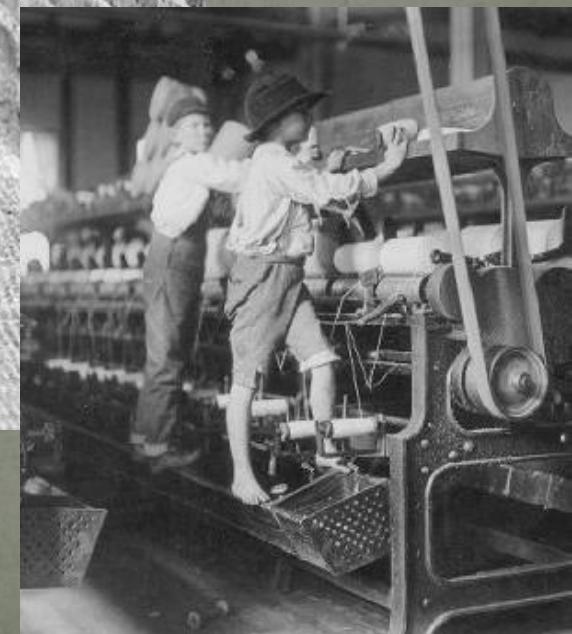
# Historical Context – Victorian Age

- 1837 Start of Queen Victoria's reign
- Huge growth of cities
- Huge growth of the empire ('the sun never sets on England')
- Huge growth of social problems

## RESULTING IN:

- Big difference between rich and poor
- 1.5 million unemployed people on poor relief
- Gradual political reform

# Child Labour



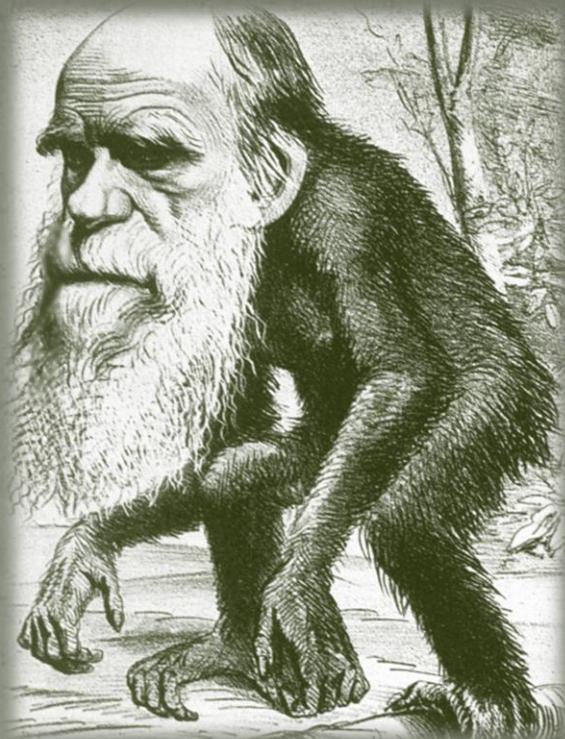
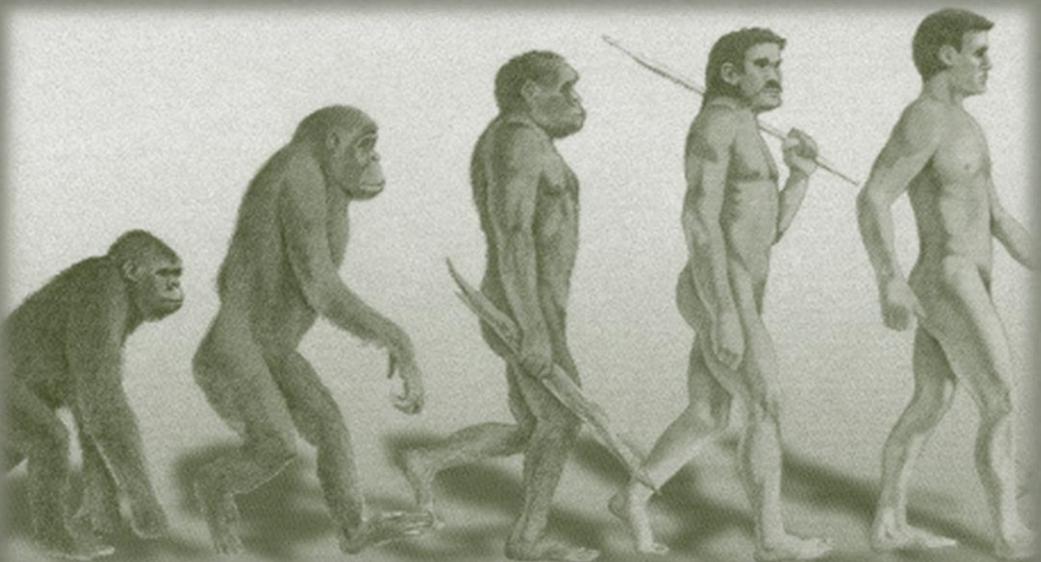
Schools were bad too

BBC

# VILE VICTORIANS

# DARWIN

- 1859 Darwin published his “Origin of Species”
- Discoveries in geology



# Literature

- Literacy rose from 40 % to 90%
- Prose more suitable to present the problems in society
- Instalment system



## REALISM

# Themes in novels

- The relationship between the individual and the rapidly changing society
- Morality
- The treatment of children
- Romance



# •The novel

Is Victorian progress really progress if it leads to so many social problems?



Their work was didactic  
rather than a form of  
personal expression

Social rather than individual

# Charles Dickens



Loading

# Historical Context – 20<sup>th</sup> century

- 1914-1918 First World War
- 1929 Wall Street Crash
- 1940-1945 Second World War
- By 1950 Britain is a welfare state, but empire is crumbling
- 1960s centre of culture for a while
- 1970s economic crisis
- 1979 Thatcher, unpopular reforms (until 1990)
- 1982 Falklands war



Watch your step.

# Literature

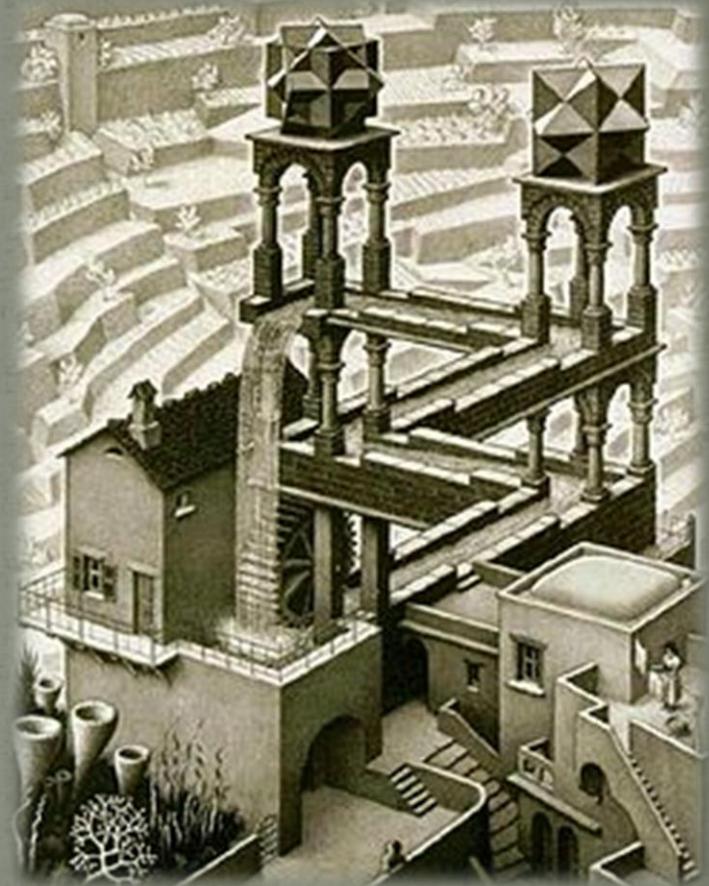
WW 1: war poets

After WW 1: disillusionment, many writers left England

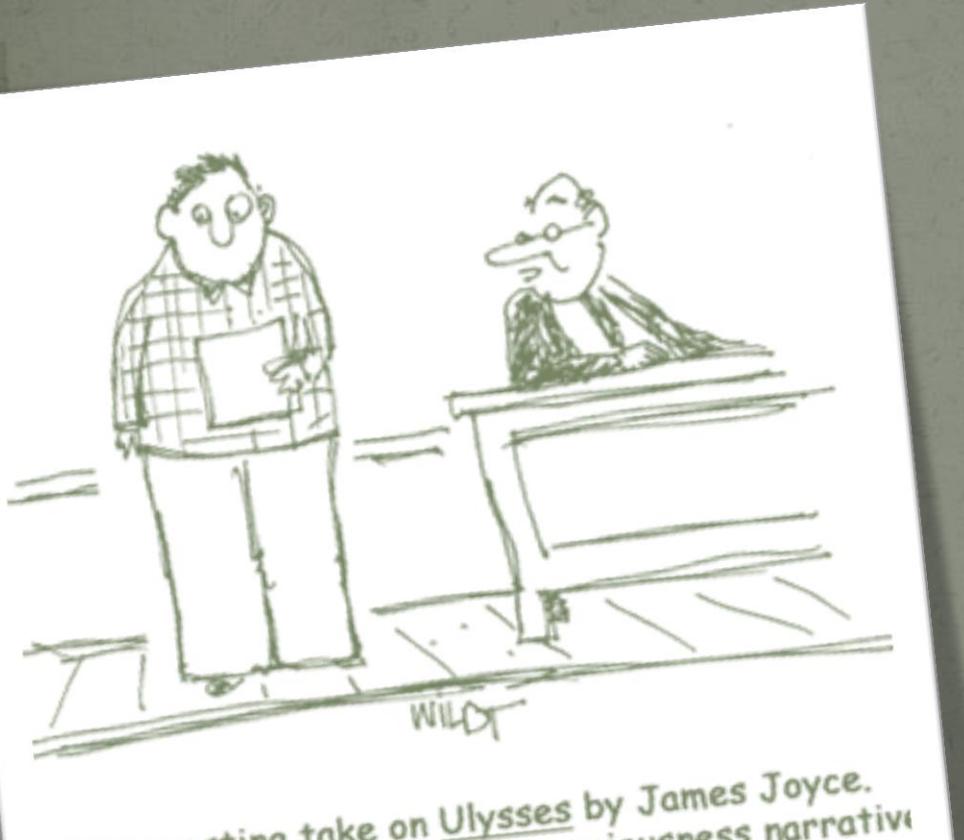
After World War 2 , 'Angry Young men' writing about social problems

70s & 80s: Postmodernism, stories don't have to be realistic

Literature in English from all over the world.



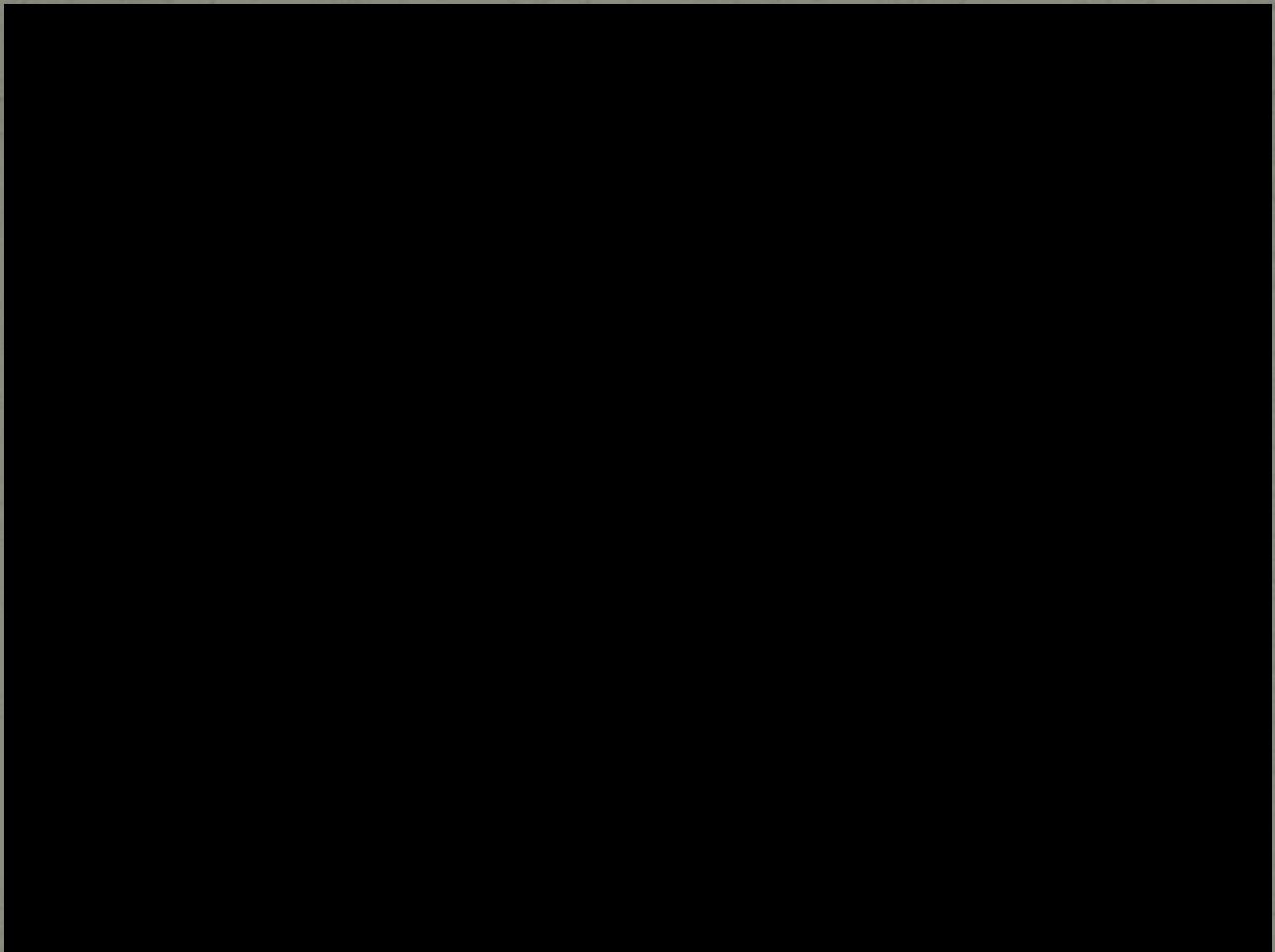
# Literary Genres



"Interesting take on Ulysses by James Joyce.  
I've never heard steam-of-consciousness narrative  
described as 'one long Twitter.'"

- Theatre of the absurd
- Stream-of-consciousness
- Dystopian novels

# George Orwell's 1984



# British Prime Ministers



SE letterkunde:

10 vragen over de reader en 10 vragen over één van de gedichten

Deze toets zal in de Engelse taal worden afgenomen.

Tijdens de toets mogen géén woordenboeken gebruikt worden!

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Nog een paar opmerkingen over de bestudering van de reader:

- je hoeft geen jaartallen te leren
- je moet wel de periodes kunnen onderscheiden en desgevraagd op volgorde kunnen zetten
- ook de schrijvers, hun werken en bij welke periode ze horen is belangrijk om te leren
- je hoeft de bijgevoegde teksten niet tot in detail te kennen, maar je moet wel weten waar ze globaal over gaan en je moet kunnen uitleggen waarom de desbetreffende tekst bij een bepaalde literaire stroming / periode hoort.