

BRITISH FICTION

UNIT - I

ROBINSON CRUSOE

DANIEL DEFOE

Widely regarded as the first English novel Daniel Defoe's 'Robinson Crusoe' is one of the most popular and influential adventure stories of all time. Based on the actual experiences of Alexander Selkirk, a marooned sailor, the novel recounts the story of a young Englishman who defies his father's wishes and runs off to sea to seek his fortune.

In his own words, Crusoe narrates how a violent storm drowned all his fellow sailors and how he was stranded on a seemingly deserted island. Forced to overcome self pity and despair, he struggles to create a life for himself in this frightful wilderness.

From practically emptiness, Crusoe painstakingly teaches himself how to fashion a hut, grow crops, bake bread, domesticate live stock and build a canoe. His many adventures are described in vivid detail in the novel. Defoe narrates a ferocious battle with cannibals and his rescue of Friday, who becomes indispensable to Crusoe as a trusted companion and fellow survivor. Robinson Crusoe's story is a celebration of human values, ingenuity, patience and hard work.

Crusoe has written a letter to the English captain's widow, describing all his adventures. He has faced slavery and escaped and then he met the Portuguese captain at sea, who was more humane in his behavior. Then he narrated all about his story to a merchant in London. Then the captain's wife delivered the money. The merchant in London sent him directly to Lisbon. Then Crusoe was given all kinds of tools, iron work and utensils for his plantation.

Crusoe's plantation was great success. He raised fifty great rolls of tobacco on his own ground. His father has recommended a quiet, peaceful life for Crusoe. But Crusoe is not content with his career as a farmer. He wants to explore more areas by wandering abroad. Thus he breaks away from his parents and continues his wandering. Tempted by the words of some friends, Crusoe, decides to escape from his parents' control by boarding a ship that travels to African coast. Then the ship meets with a sea storm and the inmates of the ship are shaken to the core by

the sudden storm. In a fatal accident, the ship dashes against a rock and Crusoe becomes senseless and helpless. After sometime, he recovers and lands on a seashore safely. Being thirsty, he looks for some fresh water in the island he has marooned. As a fatigued man, he sleeps on a tree. He has stayed in the island for five weeks. There he finds the wrecked boat in which he has travelled and gets into it. He searches the boat for food and he gets the ships provisions dry and untouched. Thus he feeds his mouth and picket with bread. Then he saved the provisions for his future use.

Crusoe builds a raft to ring the resources available in the island. The second voyage is not successful financially. Hence he plans another. His ship is seized by Moorish pirates. Consequently, Crusoe is enslaved by pirates in the North African town of Sallee. While he is fishing along with another slave boy, they break free and sail down the African coast. A kind Portuguese captain picks them up. Then Crusoe is taken to Brazil. In Brazil, Crusoe establishes himself as a plantation owner and becomes prosperous. As slave trade yields so much of profit for him, Crusoe embarks on a slave-gathering expedition to West Africa. But he ends up in shipwreck and he is marooned in the coast of Trinidad.

Crusoe apprehends that he is the only survivor of the expedition and forages for food and shelter for himself. He returns to the wreck's remains in order to procure guns, food and other items. On the shore, he finds goats and takes them for his use. He erects a cross and inscribes the date of his arrival in it. It is September 1, 1659. He makes a notch everyday so that he can never lose track of time. He keeps a journal to record his household activities, nothing his attempts to make candles, his lucky discovery of sprouting grain, and his construction of a cellar, among other events. In June 1660, he falls ill and hallucinates that an angel visits him and warns him to repent. Drinking tobacco-steeped rum, Crusoe, experiences a religious illumination and realizes that God has forgiven his sins. Crusoe finds that he is in an island. Therein he finds a pleasant valley abounding in grapes, where he builds a shady retreat. Crusoe begins to feel more optimistic about being on the island declaring himself as a king of the island. He trains a pet parrot, takes a goat as a pet. He develops skills in basket weaving, bread making and pottery. After building a small boat, he rows around the island, but nearly perishes when swept away by a powerful current. Reaching shore, he finds his parrot calling his name and is thankful for being saved once again.

One day Crusoe is shocked to discover a man's footprint on the beach. He assumes the foot print as that of devils'. Later on he finds the existence of cannibals on the island. Hence he builds an underground cellar in which his goats are reared. The next day, he hears a gunshot and there is a ship wreck on the shore. He discovers that the shore has been strewn with human carnage. Crusoe is cautious and at last he catches sight of 30 cannibals with human beings as victims. One of the victims, escapes and runs towards Crusoe's dwelling. Crusoe protects him and defeats the cannibals. The victim vows total submission to Crusoe in gratitude for his liberation. Crusoe names him 'Friday' in order to celebrate the day in which he was saved. He takes Friday as his servant. The cannibals eat the flesh of their enemies. Since Friday wants to meet his community people, Crusoe and Friday venture to explore the cannibals. They kill the cannibals and Friday's father also. They release the captain of the ship from the hold of the slave traders.

Shouting to the remaining mutineers from different points, Friday and Crusoe confuse mutineers and tire them. Crusoe and the captain pretend that the island is an imperial territory and that the governor has spared their lives in order to send them all to England to face justice. Keeping the five men as hostages, Crusoe sends the other men out to seize the ship. Then Crusoe returns to England by a ship. He finds his family disintegrated. After getting a lot of fortune by selling his plantation in Brazil, he becomes rich. He marries, but his wife dies. Then he revisits the island which is now ruled by Spaniards.

PAMELA

SAMUEL RICHARDSON

Pamela is a novel composed of letters. The novel focuses on Pamela to hone in on her experience and state of mind. Pamela is a fifteen year old maidservant in Bedfordshire. She is innocent and virtuous. She serves Lady B, who is kind to her. Unfortunately Lady B has just passed away. Pamela is nervous about her work situation, as she is a poor woman. Lady B's son assures the employees their work in his house.

Mr. B makes romantic advances to Pamela. At first he taunts her with his verbal expressions, as she reports to her parents. Pamela promises to keep herself chaste at all times.

Her parents agree with her. But they warn her that if Mr. B makes physical advances towards her, she must return home, though it means utter poverty and despair.

Soon Mr. B begins to make physical advancement towards Pamela though she tries to avoid him. He even wants to pay her more in order to bring her under his will and wish. But Pamela bluntly refuses him and informs the house keeper Mrs. Jervis about his misbehavior.

But Mr. B continues to harass her with his attempts to kiss her while she undresses for the evening. He hides himself in her closet and keeps eyeing upon her body. Consequently, Pamela faints, which dissuades Mr. B from continuing his action. At one time Pamela intimidates him saying that she is going to her parents' home. Mr. B is against her leaving and disrupts her resolution.

In order to pacify Pamela, he offers more money to Pamela, then her marriage with a clergyman in Lincolnshire, namely Mr. Williams. She denies all the benefits accorded to her, and decides to return home. Mr. B plays a trick upon the innocent girl and sends her to his estate in Lincolnshire. Mr. B writes a letter to her parents that he has returned Pamela to her parents in order to save her virtue as she has been in a relationship with a penurious clergyman. Pamela's father does not believe in the fabricated account of Mr. B and he attempts to retrieve her at Bedford shire estate. But to his shock, Pamela is not found there.

Pamela begins a journal in Lincolnshire, hoping that her parents will read her writings and understand her situation. Pamela is virtually a captive there under the constant vigil of Mrs. Jewkes' the spiteful housekeeper. Every now and then, Mr. B tempts Pamela with his sweet coated words that he will keep her as his mistress. But she firmly refuses to his proposal. Finally, she plans her flight from there with the aid of Mr. Williams. They exchange letters leaving them next to the sunflower in the garden. Mr. Williams tries his best efforts to rescue her, with the help of the local gentry. They refuse due to Mr. B's power and influence. They advise Mr. Williams to marry her. When Williams discloses his plan of marrying her, with the view to liberate her from the prison, she refuses.

Pamela is worried about the robbery in Williams's home, wondering if the theft was conducted to check their letters. She is all determined to escape, but gives up on this idea when she is hurt during her attempt. Pamela refuses to Mr. B's proposals repeatedly. Finally Mr. B with

Mr. Jewkes' help tries to seduce her. He disguises himself as a female servant Nan and pretends to be drunk. Then he sneaks into Pamela's bed, when Pamela realizes what is going on, she faints with a violent fit.

Following Pamela's fits, Mr. B becomes regretful, though he is still stubborn in possessing her body. Pamela begs him to stop his harassment. He discloses his mind to her that he loves her, but is unable to marry her due to the social hierarchies. Pamela is shocked to hear his confession. When he leaves the estate, a fortune teller says that Mr. B is trying to force her into a Sham marriage. She rethinks burgeoning affection for Mr. B.

Mr. B's affection for Pamela intensifies after reading her writings. He attempts to set right the wrongs done to her, though he comes up with the marriage proposal. She is still suspicious of Mr. B. Hence she rejects him. Pamela wants to return home and he allows her to go home. But she is sad after leaving the estate.

On her way, Mr. B requests her again to return and this time she accepts his request. The gentry accepts Pamela's marriage with Mr. B, due to her charm. Pamela's father is happy that Pamela is married and is happy with Mr. B. Mr. B's sister-Lady Davers charges Pamela for her low social standing. She even compels Mr. B to confess of his alliance as a young man, and his child Miss. Goodwin through that relationship. He introduces Pamela to Miss. Goodwin who believes Mr. B as her uncle. Miss. Goodwin's mother is happily married in Jamaica.

Mr. B. sets up Pamela's parents to look after Mr. B's estate. Finally Pamela is accepted by Lady Davers. Pamela becomes a mother of many children, besides mothering Miss. Goodwin.

This novel explicates the conventional ideology that virtue wins ultimately. Pamela, after her numerous tests, and trials, attains her goal and fulfillment in life.

Heart Of Midlothian

Sir. Walter Scott

Sir Walter Scott's "Heart of Midlothian" is a historical novel. It is a seventh novel of Sir. Walter Scott . It is one Waverley of novels. It was published in four volumes in 1818, under the title of "Tales of My Landlord". The main action takes place between September 1736 and May 1737. It is set in motion by the Porteous Riots in Edinburg. It involves an epic journey from Edinburg to London by a working class girl to receive a royal commutation of the death penalty incurred by her sister for the alleged murder of her new born baby . In spite of some negative contemporary receives, some esteem it as Scott's best novel.

The title of the novel alludes to the old Tolbooth prison in Edinburg, Scotland at the time in the heart of the Scottish country of Midlothian . The historical background of the novel was the event known as the Porteous riots . A riot broke out in Edinburg in 1736 regarding the execution of two strugglers . The captain of the city guards, captain John Porteous gave a command to the soldiers to fire into the crowd . It led to the murder of many civilians. Later, Porteous was shot dead by a lynch mob who stormed the old Tolbooth.

The essence of the novel is based on a short story written in an unsigned letter. It was about Helen Walker who had journeyed all the way to London by foot, to obtain a royal for her sister who was charged with infanticide . Jeanie Deans is in the place of Walker , a young women from an aristocratic Presbyterians. Jean visits London to meet audience with the queen through the offices of the Duke of Argyll.

Jeanie and Effie Deans are temperamentally different. In volume one , captain Porteous is condemned for murder , but he is later reprieved at the last second. A young noble man namely George Staunton assumes a false name Geordie Robertson . He leads a mob that attacks the prison and lynches Porteous. Staunton also tries to extricate his lover Effie Deans whom he has impregnated. She has been put behind bars for the alleged killing of his new born baby. In spite of her chances to escape , she refuses , as she thinks it would mean her admission of guilt. Reuben Butler , a young minister loves Jeanie. He witnesses Effie's refusal to flee from the prison. This fact strengthens Jeanie 's belief that her sister Effie is innocent.

In volume two, Scott presents the trial of Effie she cannot prove her innocence as she is unable to present the baby she has hidden her pregnancy from her family. Since there is none to support Effie she is sentence to death.

Jeanie decides to beg pardon for her sister . As a result , she contacts the Duke of Argyle who may owe his family a favour, asking for his intervention. On her way Jeanie is way laid by Madge Wildfire and her mother Meg Murdockson. Jeanie comes to understand that they stole the baby out of jealousy of Effie's have affair with Staunton. Meg makes efforts to murder Jeanie but she escape the death trap. I. London , the Duke of Argyll, impressed with Jeanie's ferrous arranges meeting Queen Casoline. The Queen is compassionate and is mused by Jeanie's eloquence. Eventually, she convinces the Queen Casoline and the Queen begs the pardon from the king . Ultimately Effie is liberated from the prison . Jeanie returns to Scotland, her father is given adequate land to superintend by the Duke. In the meantime, Butler is promoted and given a large income.

In volume four , Jeanie is married to Butler and they live happily in the estate is Argyle . It is exposed that the son is Effie is not murdered but sold to a work gang by Meg. She learns that Staunton is the real murderer, Robertson. Effie marries Staunton the long last son who has been a criminal travels to Scotland and murders Staunton before his flight to USA to live with native Americans. Effie finally travels to France and becomes a nun. But she needs to be converted to Catholicism which shocks Jeanie .

Jeanie Deans is the first Scott's woman protagonist who hails from lower classes. This character is much celebrated and idealised for her religious devotion and her moral rectitude . Scott ridicules the moral certitude represented by the branch of Presbyterians central to the novel is the 18th century Jacobitism. It is a common theme in Scott's novel. Scott's sympathies go with the Duke of Argyll, a moderate on these two religious ideologies.

TESS OF THE D'URBERVILLES

-Thomas Hardy

'Tess of the d'Urbervilles' is one of the moving tragedies written by Thomas Hardy. The novel is set in the fictional town called Wersex. This novel was written during the 19th century. As usual, Fate plays a vital role in the novel also.

John Durbey Field, a poor peddler comes to know all of a sudden that he is the descendant of an ancient noble family, the d'urbervilles. As a status conscious noble man, he stops working. He sends his daughter Tess to work in order to maintain his status. Tess, the eldest daughter joins the village girls in the May Day dance. At that time, she exchanges glances with a young man Angle Clare. Mr. Durbey field, her father wants to send Tess to the mansion of d'urberville mansion where they hope Mrs. d'urberville will promote the fortune of Tess. In reality, Mrs. D'urberville is no relation to Tess at all. Her husband, the merchant Simon shokes simply altered his name to d'urberville after he retired. But Tess does not know this truth. The lascivious Alex d'urberville, her employer's son finds Tess very charming and attractive. He gives Tess a job of tending fowls on the d'urbervilles estate. Tess has no choice but to accept this offer. Tess blames herself for an accident involving the family's horse. So long, they had the horse as a source of income for the family.

Tess works for several months in the farm of Alex. At that time, she has to resist the romantic advances of Alex. Alex tries to seduce her many times. At last she falls a terrible victim to the lust of Alex. This rape occurs when Tess visits Chaseburgh along with other girls. When all the girls laugh at her for a stream of treacle drips from her basket car notices Tess laughing at her and confronts her. At that time, Alex arrives and takes her away. As Alex whisks Tess off, Car's mother remarks that Tess has "gotten out of the frying pan and into the fire".

On their journey home, Alex asks Tess why she does not like Alex when he tries to kiss her, Tess discloses the fact that she does not like Alex and she shows her anger towards his lushy behavior. Tess finds out the evil motive of Alex as he prolongs the ride home. So she decides to walk home by herself. Alex asks Tess to wait while he ascertains their precise location. He returns to find Tess sleeping and Alex takes advantage over her loneliness and seduces her.

Later, Tess informs Alex that she hates herself for her weakness and shows hatred towards him. Tess confesses the whole episode to her mother Joan and asks her why she has not warned her about such dangers from lusty men like Alex. In the meanwhile, Tess returns to the village of Marlott. She becomes pregnant and delivers a baby. But the child becomes very sick before she can get the baby baptized. As she has no chance to call a priest to baptize her baby, she herself baptizes the baby as 'sorrow' before it dies. When Tess happens to meet the person the following day, he accepts that the baby has been properly baptized. But he firmly refuses to give sorrow a Christian burial as the baby is conceived before wedlock.

Following the tragedy, Tess leaves Marlott once again to work at Talbothay's dairy. This farm is owned by Richard Crick. There Tess finds Angel Clare when she vaguely remembers. She leaves through other milkmaids that Angel is there to learn milking and that Angel Clare, being a son of a person, rarely notices girls. His brothers are clergy men, but he takes an exception to this stereotyped role. Angel differs largely from his father's established church doctrines. Hence he does not want to become a person. He is interested in establishing a farm for himself.

Angel Clare develops a passionate love for Tess, but she learns that Clare has aversion towards members of noble families. Even those who have lost their fortunes. The other milkmaids take interest in Clare, Tess feels jealous of other's attraction towards Clare. She feels that, as a working woman, she is more suited to be a farmer's wife than a woman of equal rank as Angel Clare. Though Tess retreats from him, Clare proposes his love for Tess atlast.

Angel discusses the possibilities of his marriage with Tess with his parents. His parents suggests him to marry a local girl Mercy Chaut. Clare replies that he wants to marry a woman with practical talents. His parents give their consent only on their confirmation that the girl is an unimpeachable Christian. When Angel returns from Emminster, he make a marriage proposal to Tess. But Tess refuses his offer bluntly. In spite of persistant requests, Tess refuses him saying that she is a d'urberville, a member of an aristocratic family whom Clare reherally detests. Even then, Angel Clare remains unfazed by this news. Finally Tess agrees to his marriage proposal.

Tess feels guilty about her past and feels uncertain about the outcome of such marriage with Angel Clare. Hence, she seeks the advice of her mother whether she should confess her past to Angel Clare or not. Her mother tells her not to narrate or release anything regarding her past.

But Tess is very gloomy and nervous concerning her impending marriage. She attempts to postpone her marriage and takes no interest in her marriage. While she visits the town with Angel, a man who has known her in Trantridge recognizes her and makes a remark in her questionable honour. But Clare defends Tess. At last, Tess wants to confess her past life to Clare, no matter whatever be the consequences. Hence, Tess writes a letter describing all her past and slips it under his doorway. But Angel does not find it and so he remains normal. It is only on the day of her marriage that Tess finds that the letter slid under the carpet and Angel has missed her letter.

On the wedding night, Angel and Tess vow to tell one another their secrets in the past. Angel admits that he has had a short time affair with a girl in London. Encouraged by his candid behavior, Tess also comes out with her affair with Alex d'urberville.

On hearing Tess' past life, Clare becomes confused and unhappy. Though Tess extends apologies for her fault, Clare remains stubborn and cannot forgive Tess. She promises to do anything he asks for, and to die if he would desire so. Though he claims to forgive her, he raises a strong doubt about Tess' love for himself. At last, Clare decides to separate himself from Tess. Tess returns to her parents' home where they live in impoverished condition. Tess receives a letter from him that he has gone to north of England to look for a farm. Tess uses this as an excuse to leave Marlott. Clare's parents are able to perceive something wrong in the relationship between Tess and Clare, but he remains silent about the issue. He makes a marriage proposal to another girl Izz Huelt and wishes her to accompany him to Brazil. He asks her if she loves him as passionately as Tess does. But she is uncertain about it and proclaims that nobody can love him more sincerely than Tess. At that time, Angel realizes his folly and tries to retrace Tess and reconcile with her.

On the journey to Flintcomb-Ash, Tess is notified by two men who have known her previously. Tess conceals herself from them. Again, in order to erase her physical identity, Tess shaves off her eyebrows to make herself less attractive. Now Tess works as a Swade-hacker in Flintcomb, a rough place. She does not allow Marian, a milkmaid to speak in a derogatory manner about Angel. Tess learns that a noted preacher in nearby who is Alex d'urberville. When Alex encounters Tess, he claims that he has a new found duty to save others including Tess. He blames Tess for being a source of temptation to sin. He frequently visits Tess and

openly proposes to marry her. He asks Tess to accompany him to Africa as a missionary. Tess refuses and claims that she is already married. Alex refuses Tess's religious views and laughs at her marriage with Clare. Alex accuses her of backsliding from Christianity. Alex disavows his faith and returns to his more fashionable ways. He gives up preaching. He even suggests and forces her to give up her relationship with her husband Clare. When Alex tries to hit her, she tells Alex that she will not cry if he hits her because she will be his victim.

Alex tries all possible touches to make her submit to him by exerting financial superiority. He tries to subordinate Tess and her family. After the death of Tess's father, Tess's family loses their house. Tess firmly refuses the financial help of Alex. The family strays and they have to shelter themselves in a Church.

In the meantime, Angel returns from Brazil full of sickness. He searches for Tess, but cannot find out her whereabouts. At last through Tess's mother Angel learns that Tess is at Sandbourne. In an inn, Angel finds Tess living comfortably with Alex. She tells him that she has been convinced by Alex that Angel would never return to her. Tess breaks down emotionally. Following a heated argument with Alex, Tess stabs Alex and Alex is killed.

As the dejected Clare leaves the town, he finds Tess following him. Both decide to flee England to another country to escape the punishment. Fearing that she will be captured, Tess asks Angel to marry her sister Liza-Lu. As Tess sleeps, a party of men capture her and arrest her for her murder. Tess is executed for her crime, while Clare remarries Liza-Lu. This novel holds a pessimistic picture of life and the role of fate and chance in bringing the downfall of Tess.

Tale of Two Cities (1859)

Charles Dickens

Charles Dickens is a popular social novelist ' The Tale of Two Cities' speaks about the social evils that plagued both England and France. Jerry Cruncher works for Tellson's Bank . He has a message for Jarvis Lorry . According to the message, Lorry has to wait at Dover for a young lady. Lorry respond with the cryptic words "Recalled to the Life" . Lorry meets Miss. Lucie Manette whose father and a doctor, has been assumed to be dead . But in reality, Dr.Malnette has

been put in prison in Paris. Lorry escorts Lucie to Paris where they meet Defarge, who has once been a servant of Doctor Manette. He has kept the doctor safe in a garret. Driven mad by eighteen years of imprisonment in the Bastille, Manette spends his time hours in making shoes. Lorry assures Lucie that her love and devotion can bring the father to life.

Charles Darnay is accused of treason and so he is arrested by French officials. They suspect him to be a spy of English government in France. As he is an aristocrat, the French Revolutionaries keep him in prison. There is no way to get freedom from the prison. Lucie learns that his father is alive Lorry takes her to France for reunion.

In the Paris neighbourhood, of the Faubourg Saint Antoine, Dr. Malnetta has been given lodging by his former servant and his wife Madam Defarge. They live in France as wine shop owners. Lorry and Lucie find Dr. Malnetta is a small garret where he spent his time in shoe-making. Eventually, Doctor Manette is taken to England to restore his depressed mind.

Roger Clay and John Barsad are the two spies who are responsible for the arrest of Darnay. Darnay's lawyer point out that his colleague Sidney Carton bears close resemblance of Darnay is acquitted and Sidney Carton is arrested and put in the place of Darnay.

In Paris, the aristocratic Marquis St. Evremonde commands his carriage driver to speed up through the crowded streets. It killed a child and his father Gaspard screamed for compromise, a coin is flung into the carriage.

Darnay is disgusted with his aristocratic background and renounce his surname St. Evremonde, to Darnay. Darnay doesn't approve of Marquis' view that Repression is the only lasting philosophy. Gaspard creeps into Marquis' chamber and kills him Gaspard is hanged in the nearby Village.

In London, Carton proposes his love for Lucie. But he recognises that she does not love him, but Darnay. But Carton assures his endearing love for her and her dreams. Darnay asks for Dr. Manette's consent to marry Lucie. Dr. Manette is not for their marriage as he learns the aristocratic background of Darnay. Manette asks him to withhold until the day. This sudden revelation pushes him back to shoe making.

As the years pass, Lucie and Charles Darnay raises a family in England, a son and a daughter Lorry finds a second home with them. Carton is accepted in their family and he befriends with little Lucie.

In 1789, the French Revolutionaries plot to storm the Bastille Prison. Defarge enters Dr. Manette's former cell and searches it thoroughly. All the aristocrats are murdered and St. Evremonde Chateau is burnt to ashes. This novel depicts the gory picture of France during the French Revolution. Defarge and his wife activate the rebels against English aristocrats. Though Darnay is not against common people, the French Revolutionaries target the English aristocrats. Lucie wants to marry Darnay. Following the murder of Marquis, Darnay has to succeed the position of Marquis. So Darnay sets out for Paris. On his passage to Paris, Darnay was arrested and put in La Force Prison. In order to save Darnay, Dr. Manette and Lucie and her daughter move to Paris. Fifteen months later, there was a trial for Darnay. Dr. Manette testified on behalf of Darnay and Darnay is released. But soon, he is re-arrested later that day.

Miss. Pross, the governess of Lucie's daughter is excited to find out her long lost brother Solomon who is employed by the Revolutionaries. Solomon desperate to hide his identity. Carton threatens Solomon to expose him as one of English spies. Thus he takes Solomon to execute his plan. In the next trial conducted by Defarge against Darnay, Defarge produces evidence against Dr. Manette. In that Dr. Manette has stated that his release is in the hands of Darnay's uncle. It proves that Darnay is connected with Marquis. Darnay's uncle has raped a peasant girl. But the girl's brother is killed by Marquis, while he goes to take revenge on Marquis. The jury concludes that Darnay is guilty and Darnay is destined to die by the guillotine next day. Madam Defarge is the only survivor in the rape victim's family. She warns Lucie and her family to leave the country.

In the meantime, Carton decides to rescue Darnay by sacrificing his life. He resembles Darnay and using this, he goes to the prison where Darnay is kept. He releases Darnay and posits himself in the place of Darnay.

The French Revolution reaches its peak with the breaking of the Bastille prison. Although Darnay succeeds the title and the estate of his uncle Marquis' after his murder, he disowns all his bonds with his brutal uncle's family. Now he works in England as a tutor of French Language and literature. In the mean while, there was a wave of violence and destruction

in France in the year 1792. The revolutionaries start killing anyone whom they consider as enemy of the state. Moved by pity and sense of duty, Darnay returns to France. He obeys the plea of Evremonde's Stewart to save him by returning to France. Once he lands in Paris, Darnay is imprisoned with little hope of returning home. Even though Dr. Manette condemning the Evremonde's for their atrocities, as evidence, Darnay is sentenced to death. Dr. Manette reverts to his previous state of dementia.

Sidney Carton learns the tragic lot of Darnay and the possibility of the murder of Lucie and her daughter Jerry. Determined to rescue the lives of innocent people, Carton sneaks into the prison where Darnay is kept. He drugs Darnay and takes him out of the prison. No one questions either man's identity as they resemble each other. Mr. Lorry takes the responsibility of taking Lucie and her family to England. Carton goes to the guillotine, confronted by the knowledge that his sacrifice rescues his lover Lucie and her family.

“Middlemarch”

George Eliot

‘Middlemarch’ has many features of modern novel. It is accused for its morbid and frustration tone. George Eliot scatters obscure literary and scientific allusions throughout her novel. During the Victorian era, an intellectual woman writer is despised. Eliot herself does not approve of ‘silly woman novelist’. In the 19th century, women writers presented only stereotyped romance fiction. Eliot protested against the constraints imposed on women's writing. Her dislike for conventional romance is clear. Her treatment of marriage is quite unconventional. In this novel, both Rosamond and Lydgate conceive of romance and courtship in terms of ideals taken directly from conventional romance. In traditional novels, the end of the novel comes with a happy marriage but Eliot portrays the realities of marriage.

An ill-advised marriage between two people who are inherently incompatible never becomes completely harmonious. The fatal marriage between Lydgate and Dorothea is avoided as her elderly husband dies of a heart attack. At the same time, Lydgate and Rosamond married when they were young.

In the narrative of 'Middlemarch' there are two major life choices one is marriage and the other is vocation. Eliot treats these two factors earnestly. Brief, romantic courtships end up in disillusionment as both members entertain unrealistic ideals. They rush into formal marriage before mutually understanding each other marriages based on compatibility endures for a long time.

Marriages in which women have greater freedom work better. The marriage between Fred and Mary is an example for this. She is very candid and discloses her mind to him that she does not want to marry a clergyman. Thus her condition rescues Fred from an unhappy entrapment in an occupation she hates. The marriage between Dorothea and Casaubon is a failure as Casaubon tries to subdue her spirit. The same happens in the marriage between Lydgate and Rosamond.

The option of selecting one's occupation also plays a crucial role in the novel. The novelist concentrates in the fatal consequences of choosing a wrong profession. She deals with the adverse impact of confining women to stereotyped domestic roles. Dorothea's passion for social reform is never fulfilled. Her life ends with happy marriage, her major role is only wife and mother. According to the novelist, there is no significance in playing such domestic roles. Rosamond's shrewd character degenerate into waste and mere manipulation. Rosamond's is uneasy with the domestic space due to his stifled ambitions, she becomes unhappy.

Eliot's novel 'Middlemarch' is not meant for mere entertainment. She probes is to real life issues. She hates the fantasy world which is often described by women writers. Eliot engages herself in creating a portrait of the complexity of ordinary human life, petty character failing and quite moments of dignity. The novelist's depiction of provincial society is reflected in the complexity of individual characters.

The important feature of this novel is that there is no single person occupying the centre of action. It is necessary to include multiple people. This novel is experimental in form and content most characters go her marriage as obligation rather than love. Marriage appears negative and unrealistic in the perspective of the novelist. Marriage is not taken as an ultimate source of happiness. Dorothea's marriage fails because of her youth and of her disillusion about marrying a much older man. Lydgate's marriage comes to an end as they are irreconcilable personalities. Mr. and Mrs. Blustrode encounter a marital crisis due to her inability to confess to

her about the past. Fred , Vincy and Mary Garth face a lot of hardships in making their union. This novel is a critique of the usual courtship and marriage.

When an individual does not conform to the codes of the society, he is severely punished or rejected. Ladislaw is cruelly treated by the society due to his mixed pedigree. Fred is disowned as he chooses to go against his family' s wishes . Vincy rejects his community wishes by foregoing his education. Rosamond's need for gentility and the desire to live up to the social codes causes her downfall . But Dorothea's decision to breath the social norms allows her to emerge as the new women.

In 'Middle March' self determination and opportunity are not opposing forces but rather they are balancing act. When Rosamond asks her husband to give her money, for his relative, it creates a tense moment for him. When Fred believes in chances and indulges in gambling , he falls into debt only when he turns away from gambling and clergy profession, he prospers.

A PORTRAIT OF THE ARTIST AS A YOUNG MAN

-James Joyce

James Joyce's "The portrait of the Artist as a Young Man" is an autobiographical novel which describes the growth of James Joyce from early childhood to the stage of his manhood. During the manhood period, Joyce took up his selected vocation of an artist. The protagonist Stephen Dedalus undergoes many struggles from Childhood to early adolescence. According to him, a true artist must not have any loyalty except to his vocation as an artist. The novel gives expression to the ways in which Stephen unfettered himself from the bonds which bound him to his family, his country and his church.

Joyce took up his wrong career even in his teens. He chose Stephen as his protagonist and through him, he describes the various incidents which had moulded him and his career. The descriptions were mostly objective. By the year

1908, Joyce had written about 1,50,000 words of this book. Still the book was not complete. Joyce was unhappy with this writing and went for a shorter book in five chapters. The focus is on the artist and his attempts to fly out of the confined spaces, such as family, his country and his church. Following the publication of this novel in 1916, Joyce destroyed most of the manuscript of his earlier work.

The novel is a true portrait of the artist, that is Joyce himself. The last few words of the title are important as it shows the progress of the artist while he was a young man.

The first two pages deal with family, country, church, music and language. Each of the five chapters of the novel presents an aspect of these materials in relation to Stephen's growth. The behaviour of politicians and religious men breaks up the harmony of the family and causes bitterness to the young boy. At the Christmas dinner, the members of the family have an argument on the shabby treatment meted out by the clergyman of Ireland to the great Irish politician Parnell. Due to the hot situation, aunt Dante walks out of the dinner. At the school, Father Dolan inflicts very cruel punishment on the poor boy who had committed no mistake. When the matter was reported to the Rector, the letter assures him that he would discuss the matter with Father Dolan. Later he learnt that the matter had been taken as insignificant by the authorities. Stephen came to understand that the Jesuits had an orderly life, but passionate life. He was pained to notice that his family was sinking deeper into the squalor and that upset him.

As a sensitive young man, Stephen was able to impress everyone at Clongowes and later at Belvedere college. He rejected the stereotyped roles assigned by the society. He asserts his sense of individualism. He could not find happiness in collective life. He had framed his own values and opinions. Instead of merging his personality in a group, he struggled to put himself above his companions.

James Joyce had a firm faith that an artist should be loyal to his art and to nothing else. He could not accept artist having alliance with other entanglement or commitment. He holds the opinion that artist should be given perfect freedom for his soul. Like Dedalus, Stephen wanted to spread his wings and fly without any restriction.

Another significant theme of the novel is "Apology vs Rebellion". The family, the country and the church wanted to suppress his spirit and made him conform to their ways, but Stephen rebelled against such forces. Consequently, he had to go into exile to maintain his liberty. As a small child, Stephen told that he would marry Eileen when he grew up. But his mother and aunt rejected his choice as Eileen was a Non Roman catholic. In order to threaten him, his aunt Dante said, that if he did not apologize, the eagles would come and pull out his eyes. Both father and mother tried to overpower him, but Stephen revolted against their domination.

In the traditional ambience and religious matrix, Stephen remained a rebel. At Belvedere College, Mr. Tate, the English teacher charged him of heresy. The fellow students assaulted him for his appreciation of Byron's poem, as the other held the opinion that Byron is immoral. The director attempted to strangle his independent spirit by offering him a priesthood but Stephen turned down the offer. His mother demanded him to perform Easter duty, but he refused to do that duty. He insisted that he would never do a thing in which he did not believe. He could never accept the establishment norms of religious society.

Stephen rejects pornography as well as didacticism in art. Art must not be moral or immoral. It must not be tied to any fixed policy. It must not provoke desire or loathing. In a way, art must stay away from society. Stephen believes in

the theory of art for arts sake. Art should be alone and self-sufficient. A work of art achieves radiance when it gets wholeness and harmony.

Stephen is an introvert. He cannot mingle freely with his fellow beings. In school, he feels like an outsider. He is neither interested in sports nor collective activities. He is weak of sight and shy of mind. The commanding voices of his parents find no response in his heart. Serving his fellow men is an aversion to him. He says, "I will not serve that in which I no longer believe, whether it call itself my home, my fatherland or my church and I will try to express myself in some mode of life or art as freely as I can, and as wholly as I can". This passage highlights the self-centered nature of Stephen. He is proud of himself and loves to live in isolation. When he grew up, he regards himself as Napoleon. Following the plain style of Napoleon's dress, Stephen chooses to remain unadorned. Later he identifies himself with St. Stephen. Then he compares himself with Jesus Christ. Later Father Arnell described Lucifer's pride and his refusal to serve God, Stephen started comparing himself with Lucifer also.

Observing Stephen's isolation, Mc Cann says, "you are an anti-social being wrapped upon yourself". Another man Davin comments on Stephen thus "you're a terrible man, Stevie...always alone... In your heart, you are an Irishman, but your pride is too powerful".

Stephen has a highly refined sense of language. The language he learns in Dublin offends his mind. The words used by Cranly sink like 'a stone through a quagmire'. He compares this 'dead language' with the beautiful phrases of Elizabethan England. A boy normally feels that he can learn from his father and seeks guidance from him. But Stephen's father was irresponsible. The father in church did not care about him. They had treated him and made him a laughing matter. Hence he did not rely on any father-figure, political or religious. Everyone finds

Stephen an outlaw. He refuses to submit to any authority. Hence, he is opposed to all his associates. He tries to express himself in some mode of life or art freely. Cranly warns him that the penalty for such escape is complete isolation. But Stephen is prepared to face any such situation. This super-human courage is the outcome of his conviction that an artist is semi-divine. He describes himself as an oracle in an ancient temple.

This novel exhibits the evolution of Stephen from a creature to a creator. As a sensitive boy he was plagued by a hostile world in the beginning. Later on, he has emerged as a young artist in full control of his environment and in possession of the qualities which an artist should possess.

To the Light House

-Virginia Woolf

'To the Light House' is a novel written by Virginia Woolf. This novel explores themes such as marriage, memory and the passing of time. The novelist has spent 13 summer holidays with her family at Talland House in Cornwall. The novelist deals with the theme of light through her characters Mrs. Ramsay and Lily Briscoe. Both women associate light differently in their lives. She uses light as a means of connection and inspiration. The novel tracks the intricate thoughts and impressions within a single lived second. Also it meditates on the infinity of geologic time. It moves back into the past and forward into the future beyond the span of human understanding.

The essence of the novel is harmony instead of being antagonistic towards each other, women and men should live in peace to gain integrity. It is the real perception of Woolf's feminism. Ramsay's attempt to view Paul and Minta married ends up in failure as it leads to more attempts. They go on more excursion rather than rest. The light house is a symbol of this lack of attainability. James Ramsay realises that it is not the mist shrouded destination of his childhood.

The novel exhibits that meaning is subjective, contingent upon circumstance and perspective. Each life contains many meanings which shift from year to year, from moment to moment.

In the beginning of the novel, Mr. Ramsay and Mrs. Ramsay and their eight children set on a trip to Hebrides, a group of islands. They stay at the family's Summer Home on the Isle of Skye before the beginning of World War I. Across the bay is a lighthouse which becomes an important symbol in the family's life. Their youngest child James Ramsay loves to visit the lighthouse, but the father refuses his wish as the weather is not pleasant enough for a trip. James resents the insensitivity of his father. This resentment sets the tone of the novel. Mrs. Ramsay wants Lily to marry William Bankes but Lily does not like this proposal. Paul and Minta Doyle are engaged during their visit.

Lily attempts to paint the portrait of Mrs. Ramsay who is worried about the intellectual shortcomings of James. As they walk on the beach, Paul proposes to Minta. In the evening party, there is a shaky start as Mr. Ramsay is angry with Mr. Carmichael for requesting more soup. Anyhow, at last they seem to be connected. Mrs. Ramsay cannot openly declare her love for her husband. But through their unspoken dialogue, he understands her love.

In the second section of the novel entitled "Time passes" the summer house is deserted for ten years. Mrs. Ramsay dies and Andrew Ramsay is killed in war. After a long span of time, the Ramsays return to the home. James and Mr. Ramsay visit the lighthouse. But the children do not approve of Mr. Ramsay's domineering manners. He is angry about delays Lily cannot sympathise with him. At last Lily decides to finish the painting of Mrs. Ramsay which she had taken up ten years ago.

In spite of the children's anger for their father, they feel a connection with him. As the boat reaches the destination, Lily paints the final stroke on her canvas. Then she completes her mission.

The Golden Notebook

Doris Lessing

“The Golden Notebook” is an interesting novel written by Doris Lessing in the year of 1962. This post modern novel narrates the story of the narrator Anna Wulf. She explores four separate, fragmented stories of her life recorded in four separate notebook. The portrayal of communism and the effects of war is powerful. It also deals with philosophies of the newly emerging women’s liberation movement. The book is a serious attempt to probe the inner working of human mind . It explores how lives are created , and how mental and societal breakdown are connected with psyche .

The stories are narrated in non-linear way. It is structured in disparate section and told non-chronologically. Though each sector overlaps with other , they have different focal points . The novel tells the story of Anna , her friend Molly, Molly’s ex-husband , Richard and Richard’s new wife Marion. The section entitle “Free Women” is a fall of the experiences of Anna and Molly and their relationships with their children and lovers .

The black notebook relates her experience in South Rhodesia during the second world war. The yellow notebook narrates the narrator’s encounter with communist party. The red notebook discusses her tragic love affair that ended with a divorce. The blue notebook a personal diary regisTess her thoughts, emotions and personal life . In this novel , Anna is portrayed as a writer.

The different notebooks have inspired different nobles, but her ultimate destination is to group together all the four notebooks into one. It is an accurate portrayal of her whole life , her memories, emotions , experiences and philosophies.

Anna is a small , slender girl and Molly is portrayed as tall and boyish. The women are gossiping about Molly’s ex-husband Richard and his new wife Marion. Marion mistakes Anna for Molly. In the meanwhile Richard arrives to talk Molly about their son Tommy. Tommy is a spoilt brat who wastes all his time in sleep. Tommy has grown up only with Molly and so he rejects Richard and his job in his father’s company. The sudden arrival of Tommy causes tension among everyone. Molly becomes suspicious as both Tommy and Richard visited Anna while Molly was away on trip. Anna opens up the secret that Richard wanted to sleep with her but

Anna rejected his proposal as he is tired of men like Richard. The women discuss about the communist party and their political philosophies.

Anna shares her experiences in Africa during world war, which made her write her novel “Frontiers of war”. In this red book , the narrator express her experiences in the British Communist party, including friends she has taken there. She gives her observation about them . In the yellow book, Anna assumes a false name ‘Ella’ to tell the story of a relationship with the psychoanalyst named Paul. It also ended up in tragedy. In the blue notebook Anna writes about her ex-husband Max, her daughter Janet for whom the narrator is grateful. She loves her daughter very much and her dreams .

In the next section “Free Women”, Tommy attempts suicide but it is a failure. But he is left blind. He comes to live with Molly which alienates the women , as they cannot talk candidly. Anna is in trouble due to the new housemate who is gayman, who writes his lover to live with Anna as well.

The yellow notebook contains 19 short stories as love, while the other notebooks narrates stories of dreams and memories of comrades in London. They all end up with a sharp double black line . It is manifested that Marion has left Richard to live with Molly. But Marion claims that she will secure her own place soon, and alienated from home , Anna snaps and demands her housemate leave.

The novel reflects Anna’s dreams of living independently. In the final notes , she realises that she is going insane in attempting to share her own life . Her only solace in her daughter Janet. Molly has remarried now, and Anna continues to have unfulfilled and temporary affairs . Both women are surprised how strange life has transformed .

The Sense of an Ending

Julian Barnes

“The Sense of an Ending” commences with a set of disjointed images – all memories of Tony Webster who is the narrator and the protagonist. It begins with a “shiny inner wrist” and ends up cold bathwater behind a locked door. Tony thinks that he doesn’t comprehend time very well and

even though it has formed and moulded him. But he registered that he starts his story with his school days .

Tony had his education in London High school and Adrian Finn arrived there where he forms a close relationship with friends like Colin and Alex , Tony is impressed by Tony as he makes clever comment in history class Adrian takes part in school events . The students learn that Robson another student in the school has committed suicide as his girl friend became pregnant. The boys conclude that his action was unphilosophical and weak .

Adrian is the one who has more novelistic life, as his parents are divorced which is rare in their environment. Adrian doesn't reveal anything about himself to others . Adrian calls history the certainty that results from inadequate documentation meeting imperfect memory - and so he uses Robin's suicide as his example.

Adrian gets a scholarship to Cambridge while Tony begins studying history at Bristol. There he meets his girl friend Veronica Mary Elizabeth Ford . He visits her house and her mother gives a wrong picture about her daughter Veronica and warns him not to have any relationship with Veronica . Thus Tony gives up his love for Veronica. In the meantime Adrian wants to date with her and request the permission of Tony to date with his ex-lover Veronica. But Tony is full of rage against Adrian who loves Veronica.

Tony return to Bristol and week later Veronica came to London to meet Tony's friends. Veronica developed an instant connection with Adrian. It was noticed by Tony and he resented it. Before Tony and Veronica broke up, they had sex . Later on , he decided not to continue his relationship with her. In the mind of Veronica, it was like rape by Tony. Veronica's mother wrote a letter to Tony congratulating him for breaking his love with Veronica. When Adrian tried to continue his relationship with Veronica. Tony wrote a letter Adrian accusing Veronica of having lost virginity. In the meantime, Adrian committed suicide . Tony met Margaret and married her. They had a daughter but they were divorced.

Tony is now a retired hospital library assistant. Tony got his graduation from a university and went to the USA there he happened to meet Annie and spent three months with her . He is quite uncomfortable at his relationship with her. When he returned from the USA , he learnt about the suicide of Adrian . Alex informed Tony that Adrian had been happy with Veronica. Tony

decided to admire and respect Adrian's rationale behind his suicide . He met with his friends a year later on the death anniversary of Adrian. Remembering Adrian is not enough to keep the group together. He met Margaret and married her. But it ended up in divorce.

Tony has completed more or less with remembering and begins to speak about his present life. He receives a letter from the estate of Mrs.Sarah Ford , Veronica's mother, who has expired. She has left him 500 pounds and two documents. The first letter explains the unwarranted gift. The second document is still with Veronica Ford. He then finds out that the second document is Adrian's diary. He meets his lawyer to see if there is any legal way to force Veronica to return the diary of Adrian . He receives the e-mail of Jack , Veronica's brother and attempts to use Jack to get Veronica. He receives Veronica's e-mail from Jack and demands to return Adrian's diary. Veronica responds with a phrase "Blood Money", which confuses Tony even more. They e-mail sparingly until Veronica sends him one page of diary of Adrian. In the diary , Adrian tries to turn their relationship into a mathematical formula with variable that Tony cannot understand.

At last Veronica sets up a meeting. The friends discuss until Veronica hands him an envelope and leaves. A day and half later, Tony goes through the letter and realises that it contains the harsh letter than he had written to Adrian and Veronica. Tony feels how bad this letter really had been in the past. He starts blaming himself for Adrian's suicide. He emails Veronica about her family and learns that her father died of cancer . Her mother started smoking and losing her memory. He replies her again and they arranges for another meeting. Tony speaks about his life story, since their breakup, after she hears his story , she leaves.

Again they met for the third time, at a subway station. They drive and Tony drives too, converse but cannot as Veronica. She shows him a man, clearly mentally disabled. He calls Veronica by her middle name ' Mary' . Tony attempts to identify the man on his own. Later he finds out that the man is the son of Adrian and Veronica's mother. This shows that Adrian's suicide has not been due Tony's accusation of Veronica but due to Robson. Tony emails Veronica to apologise but receives a response that he has again misunderstood the situation. He returns to the pub where the man, he believes to be Veronica's son, spends his Friday nights and talks with his handler and who informs that his name is Adrian, and that he is Veronica's brother . Tony infers from this that Adrian is indeed the father, but Sarah Ford is the mother. His mental illness was caused by her advanced age, at the night of pregnancy. The variables of the mathematical

formula also now make sense. The novelist chosen the story by stating that life is full of responsibility, but even more unrest.

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