

SYMBOLISM

What you see is not always what you get...



A symbol is...

- An object that represents a greater idea
- An icon (picture) that stands for a bigger meaning



Even toddlers recognize common symbols...



What can be a symbol?

- An object
- Picture
- Written word
- Sound
- Numerals
- Language



\$1.42



Apple



Chat

I, II, III, IV, V

SYMBOLISM

- Symbolism is the use of a concrete object to represent an abstract idea either by association or by resemblance.

BACKGROUND

- Dramatists have long recognized the problem of expressing experiences which can not take forms in the action of dramatic characters, and have sort devices to overcome the limitations of their art form.

the aside, the soliloquy, the confidante

SYMBOLISM

With the investigations of psychologists into human soul, the dramatists found it hard to express **all ideas, emotions and instincts** through direct speech.

The technique employed to express the inexpressible is symbolism.

SYMBOLISM

Symbolism in literature evokes interest in reader as he finds an opportunity to get an insight into the writer's mind to know

how he views the world and

how he thinks of common objects and actions.

Symbolism is used to...

- Provide meaning beyond the obvious:
 - Emphasize key ideas or themes:



A river can represent the flow of life...

... or its depth may represent the unknown...

... the water might be purity...

... or there could be dangers beneath the surface.

Subject Matter

Unlike the realists, Symbolists chose their subjects from past or from the realm of fancy and avoided any attempt to deal with social problems or environmental forces. They aimed to suggest a universal truth independent of time and place that can not be logically defined or rationally expressed.

Techniques

They believed that most important aspect of a production is

Mood or atmosphere

Little scenery (even that was vague and devoid of historical details)

Techniques

- Placed a gauze curtain in front (so that the action seems to be taking place in a mist or timeless void.)
- Colours chosen for mood value
- Actors chanted their lines and used unnatural gestures.

Symbolism

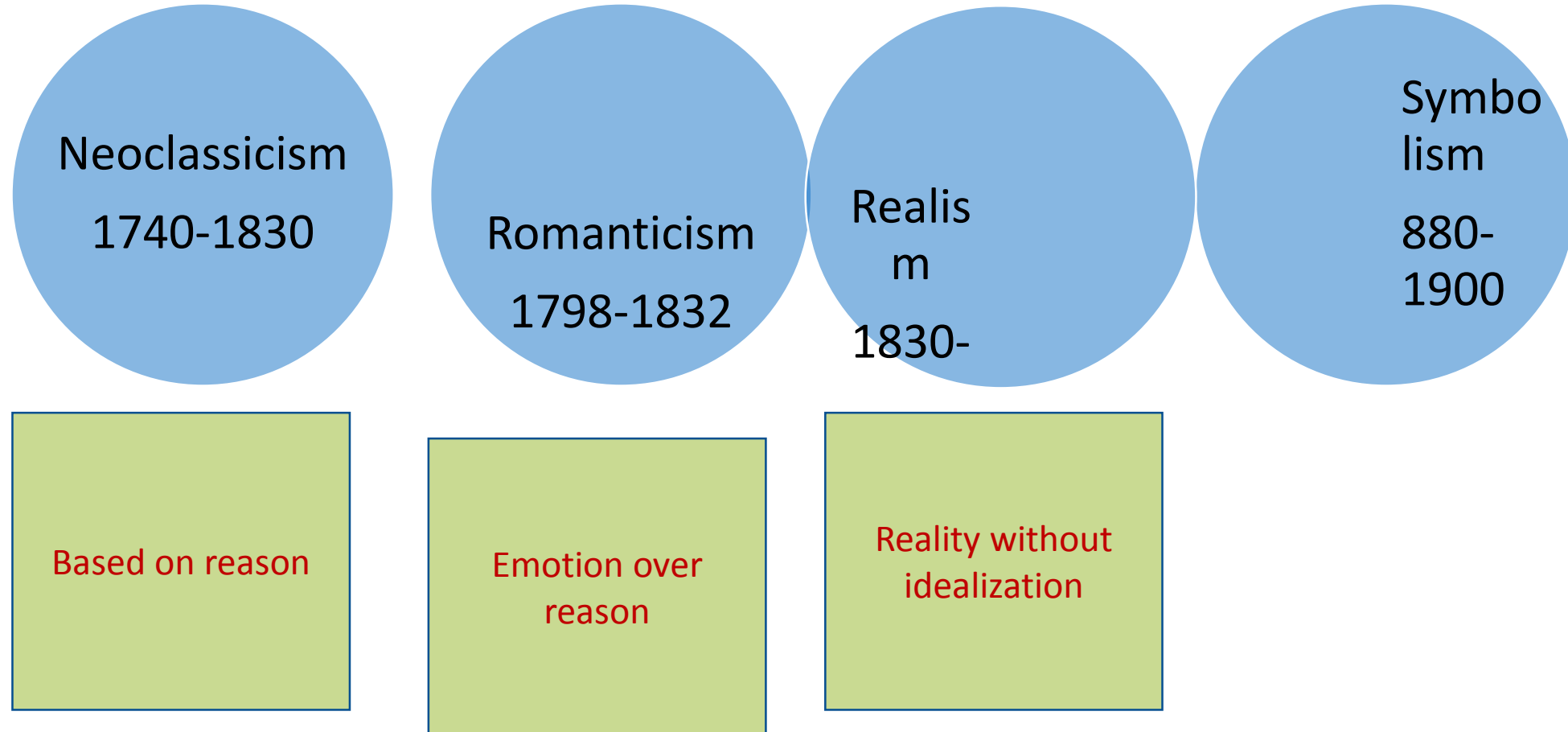
- Plays tended to be vague and mysterious.
- Established theatres not willing to produce.

An Independent theatre
established to perform these
plays in France in 1892.

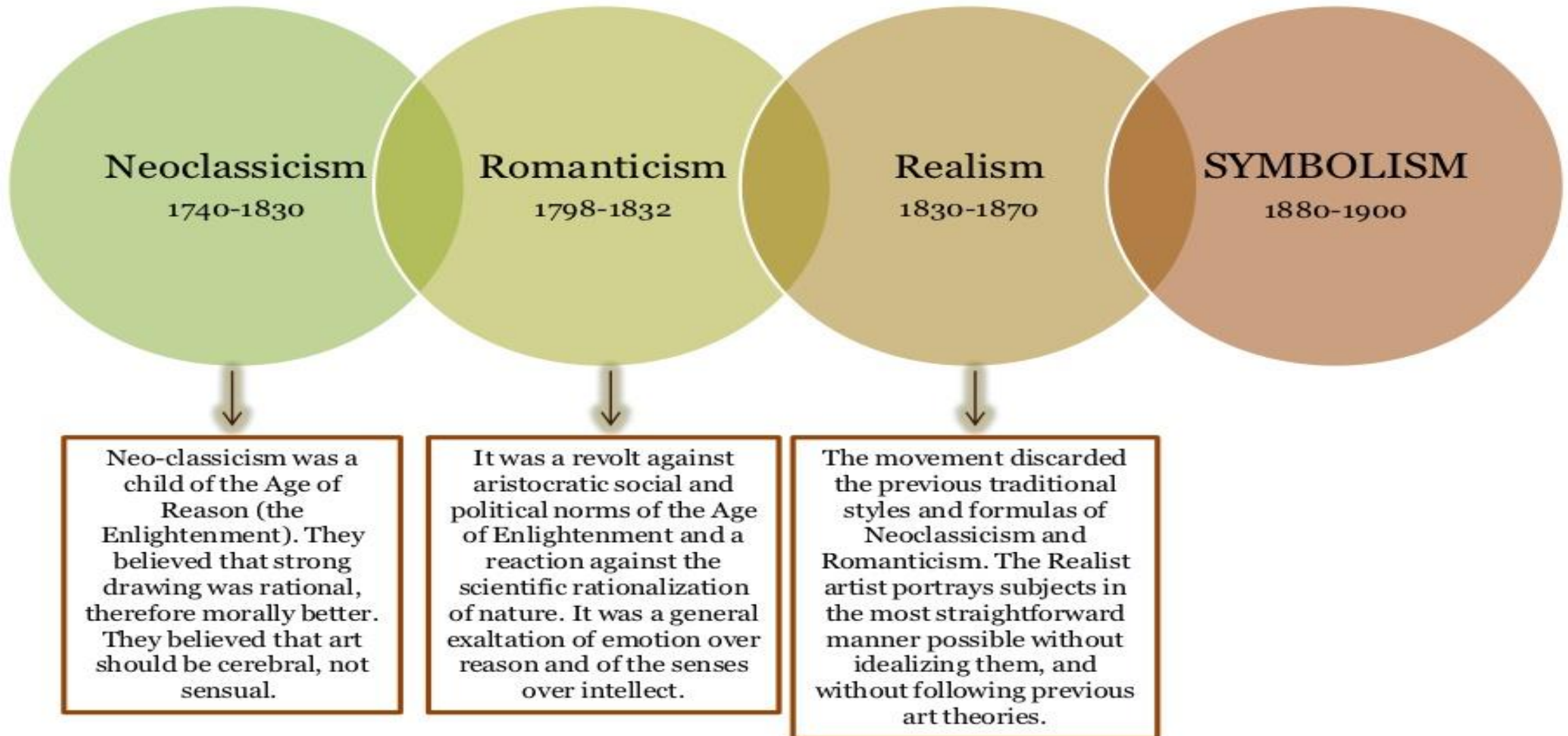
Symbolism

- As a movement, it was short lived.
- Died by 1900

Precursors



Precursors



Precursors

- Neoclassicism 1740-1830
- Neo-classicism was a child of the Age of Reason of Enlightenment They Believed strong drawing was rational therefore morally better. They believed that art should be cerebral, not sensual.
- Romanticism 1798-1832
- It was a revolt against Aristocratic social political norms of the Age of Enlightenment and a reaction against the scientific rationalization of nature. It was a general exaltation of emotion over reason and of the senses over intellect.
- Realism 1830-
- The movement discarded the previous traditional styles and formulas of Neoclassicism and Romanticism that. The Realist , artist portrays subjects in the most straightforward manner possible without idealizing them, and without following previous art theories.
- SYMBOLISM 1880-1900