

Pioneers of the English Novel

Samuel Richardson 1689-1761



Pamela (1740) and *Clarissa* (1747-48)

- ❖ Epistolary
- ❖ Sentimental

Morality tale: Servant resisting seduction
by her employer

Henry Fielding 1707-1754



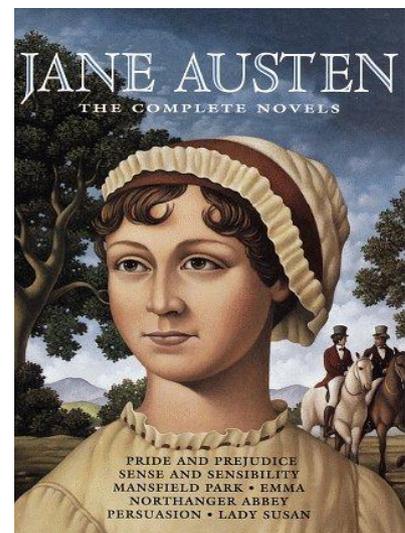
Shamela (1741) *Joseph Andrews* (1742), and
Tom Jones (1749)

- ❖ Picaresque protagonists
- ❖ “comic epic in prose”
- ❖ Parody of Richardson

The Novel of Manners:

Jane Austen

- ❖ Novels dominated by the customs, manners, conventional behavior and habits of a particular social class
- ❖ Often concerned with courtship and marriage
- ❖ Realistic and sometimes satiric
- ❖ Focus on domestic society rather than the larger world
- ❖ Other novelists of manners: Anthony Trollope, Edith



Wharton, F. Scott Fitzgerald, Margaret Drabble

Gothic Novels

- ❖ Novels characterized by magic, mystery and horror
- ❖ Exotic settings – medieval, Oriental, etc.
- ❖ Originated with Horace Walpole's *Castle of Otranto* (1764)
- William Beckford: *Vathek, An Arabian Tale* (1786)
- ❖ Anne Radcliffe: 5 novels (1789-97) including *The Mysteries of Udolpho*
- ❖ Widely popular genre throughout Europe and America: Charles Brockden Brown's *Wieland* (1798)
- ❖ Contemporary Gothic novelists include Anne Rice and Stephen King

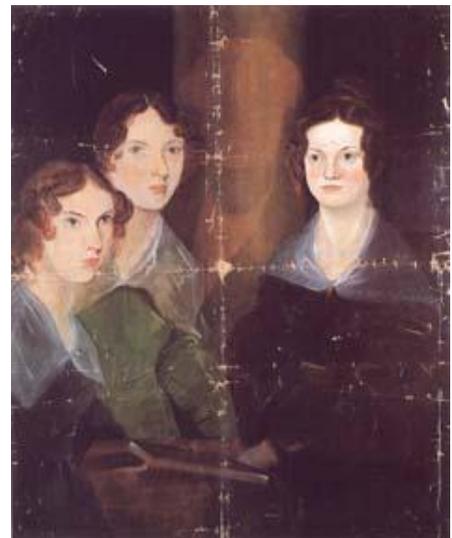
Frankenstein by Mary Shelley 1797-1851

- ❖ One of the most famous gothic novels
- ❖ Inspired by a dream in reaction to a challenge to write a ghost story
- ❖ Published in 1817 (rev. ed. 1831)
- ❖ Influenced by the Greek myth of Prometheus
- ❖ *Frankenstein* is also considered the first science fiction novel

The Brontës

Charlotte (1816-55), Emily (1818-48), Anne (1820-49)

- ❖ *Wuthering Heights* and *Jane Eyre* transcend sentiment into myth-making
- ❖ *Wuthering Heights* plumbs the psychic unconscious in a search for wholeness, while *Jane Eyre* narrates the female quest for individuation



Historical Novels

- ❖ Novels that reconstruct a past age, often when two cultures are in conflict
- ❖ Fictional characters interact with with historical figures in actual events
- ❖ Sir Walter Scott (1771-1832) is considered the father of the historical novel: *The Waverly Novels* (1814-1819) and *Ivanhoe* (1819)

Realism

- ❖ Middle class
- ❖ Pragmatic
- ❖ Mimetic art
- ❖ Objective, but ethical
- ❖ Sometimes comic or satiric
- ❖ How can the individual live within and influence society?
- ❖ Honore Balzac, Gustave Flaubert, George Eliot, William Dean Howells, Mark Twain, Leo Tolstoy, George Sand

Naturalism

- ❖ Middle/Lower class
- ❖ Scientific
- ❖ Investigative art
- ❖ Objective and amoral
- ❖ Often pessimistic, sometimes comic
- ❖ How does society/the environment impact individuals?
- ❖ Emile Zola, Fyodor Dostoevsky, Thomas Hardy, Stephen Crane, Theodore Dreiser

Social Realism

- ❖ Social or Sociological novels deal with the nature, function and effect of the society which the characters inhabit – often for the purpose of effecting reform
- ❖ Social issues came to the forefront with the condition of laborers in the Industrial Revolution and later in the Depression: Dickens' *Hard Times*, Gaskell's *Mary Barton*; Eliot's *Middlemarch*; Steinbeck's *Grapes of Wrath*

- ❖ Slavery and race issues arose in American social novels: Harriet Stowe's *Uncle Tom's Cabin*, 20th c. novels by Richard Wright, Ralph Ellison, etc.

Social Realism Cont.

- ❖ Muckrakers exposed corruption in industry and society: Sinclair's *The Jungle*, Steinbeck's *Cannery Row*
- ❖ Propaganda novels advocate a doctrinaire solution to social problems: Godwin's *Things as They Are*, Rand's *Atlas Shrugged*

Charles Dickens

1812-1870

By including varieties of poor people in all his novels, Dickens brought the problems of poverty to the attention of his readers:

"It is scarcely conceivable that anyone should...exert a stronger social influence than Mr. Dickens has.... His sympathies are on the side of the suffering and the frail; and this makes him the idol of those who suffer, from whatever cause."

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

- ❖ Dickens aimed at arousing the conscience of his age. To his success in doing so, a Nonconformist preacher paid the following tribute:

"There have been at work among us three great social agencies: the London City Mission; the novels of Mr. Dickens; the cholera."

The Russian Novel

- ❖ Russia from 1850-1920 was a period of social, political, and existential struggle.
- ❖ Writers and thinkers remained divided: some tried to incite revolution, while others romanticized the past as a time of harmonious order.
- ❖ The novel in Russia embodied those struggles and conflicts in some of the greatest books ever written.

- ❖ The characters in the works search for meaning in an uncertain world, while the novelists who created them experiment with modes of artistic expression to represent the troubled spirit of their age.

The Russian Novel Cont.

- ❖ Leo Tolstoy (1828-1910):
 - The Cossacks*
 - Anna Karenina*
 - War and Peace*
 - Resurrection*
- ❖ Fyodor Dostoevsky (1821-1881)
 - The Gambler*
 - Crime and Punishment*
 - Notes from Underground*
 - The Brothers Karamazov*