

Book six is about War in Heaven
 Book seven is about Creation
 Book eight is about Science, love and epics.
 Book nine is about The Fall
 Book ten is about Aftermath of the Fall
 Book eleven is about The Future
 Book twelve is about The future and the Expulsion.

He did “things” un-attempted yet in prose or rhyme.
 His language is lofty and grandiloquent.
 The epic starts in Mediasres.

Blake said “Milton was of the devil’s party without knowing it”.

T.S. Eliot criticized Milton. He said Milton built a china wall against the blank verse and he said that Milton with his artificial style corrupted poetry.

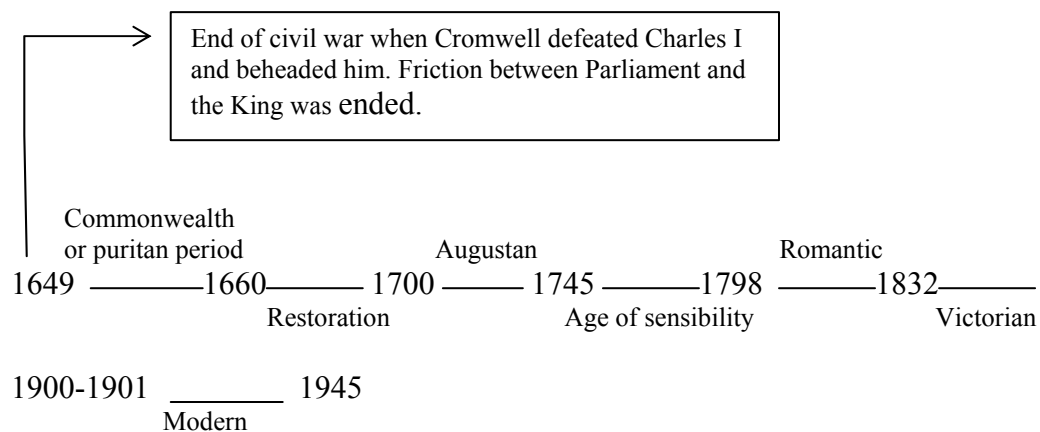
Stantey Fish in his “Surprised by Sin” says ambiguity of Milton’s syntax compels to recognize our fallen state.

Then he wrote Paradise Regained which is in four books. The them is man’s disobedience lost paradise but Christ’s obedience will regain it.

It is about Christ’s triple temptation. Firstly by bread, then by wealth and finally by glory. He will regain paradise because he resisted temptation.

Of the Tenure of Magistrate and Kings is a pamphlet which justifies tyrancide.

Neo-classical Period 1660-1798



Restoration is when the parliament restored the monarchy.

Milton and Bunyan are speakers of Puritan period in poetry and prose, respectively.

Charles II opened the theatres and brought actresses from France.

Themes of Restoration drama or comedy of manners are the behaviour of couples and sexual reactions. This comedy was accused of immorality and was replaced by comedy of sensibility in the 18th century, but it was later revived by Oscar Wild.

John Dryden (1631-1700).

He is the best writer of the Restoration period. He was a poet, dramatist, satirist, critic translator and founder of modern prose. He was the most representative of the Restoration. He became a poet laureate in 1668. He excels his contemporaries in every field, except that of comedy. He is called the father English criticism. He was the first modern critic. Mr Gosse called him the strongest poet of the age of prose. His comedies satisfy the corrupt taste of the merry monarch's court. In the Restoration, he was the greatest man. He was accused of opportunism. He wrote in rhymed couplet. The blank verse of the Renaissance was replaced by the couplet especially heroic couplet.

Satire was another important sub-genre in the neoclassical period. It is the age of couplet, prose, reason and satire. Dryden was neo-classicist. He translated Juvenile, Virgil and parts of Horace and Ovid.

He was accused of opportunism. He wrote All for Love, which is a play in blank verse with the theme of love vs. honor. It is a reworking of Anthony and Cleopatra.

He wrote Of Dramatick Poesy, in which four critics are discussing the literature of time. One of them is Eugenius, the second is Crites, the third is Lisideius and the fourth one is Neander, who is Dryden himself.

They are comparing British and French drama. He defended the use of rhythm in drama. He praised Shakespeare. "Nature is the same in all places and reasons too. Yet the climate, the age and the disposition of the people to which a poet writes is different" is a quotation from the book.

He wrote The Hind and The Panther. It is allegorical. The Hind represents other sects of Christianity. It is about religious toleration and reconciliation. It is an allegorical beast fable

He wrote Don Sebastian, a tragic comedy in blank verse about the king of Portugal. It is his best play.

He wrote Mac Flecknoe, he attacks a rival and bad poet, Shadwell. He is the king of realm of stupidity.

He wrote Aureng-Zebe, his last tragedy in rhymed couplets. It is about a struggle for empire in India.

He wrote Absalem and Achitophel, a verse allegory which uses the biblical story of Absalem's rebellion against his father King David. In this story Achitophel (of the bible) in Shaftsbury. King David of the bible is Charles II. Absalom of the bible is Monmouth, the bastard son of King (Charles II). It is a satire.

There were two parties of Whig (labour) and Tory (conservatives) in his time.

1665 and 1666 was when the great fire of London and the great plague happened.

He wrote Annus Mirabilis, meaning the wonderful year. He wrote it in 1667. The wonderful of the title is 1666, because that year fire of London and war with Holland

happened. He says that the fire and the war were God's test, not punishment. He wanted to inspire his fellow countryman.

He wrote *Religio Laici*, meaning the "the faith of a layman". He defended the Church of England against the Catholics. He attacks the Catholics (pope's followers). He is against deism (natural religion, religion through reason).

He has several famous odes

1. To Anne Killigrew
2. A Song for Saint Cecelia's Day. Saint Cecelia is the patron of music.
3. Alexander's feast. It is again about Saint Cecelia. It is about Alexander the Macedonian who set Persepolis on fire. The real story is that he did it because his wife tempted him, but in this work he says that he did it because he was captivated by music of Thimotheus and the God of wine, Bacchus.

His other work is *The Medal*. The Whigs gave a medal to Shaftsbury. Dryden satires this giving of medal.

Another book is *Fables Ancient and Modern*.

Marriage A-la-Mode is about a wife who does not love her husband and vice-versa. They love other people's husbands and wives. The theme of it is: why should a foolish marriage vow. T.S. Eliot called it his best work. It is a comedy in blank verse, influenced by Moliere (the French writer who had the most influence on British comedy).

The Conquest of Granada is his other work.

William Congreve (1670-1729)

Restoration was famous for immorality and it was about the life and immoralities of the upper class. The masterpiece of Restoration comedy is *The Way of the World* written in 1700, by comedy.

Congreve was in fact England's Moliere. In early modern comedy Oscar Wilde, imitated and revived comedy of manners.

Jeremy Collier wrote 'A short view of the immorality and profaneness of the English stage' in which he attacked Congreve, and he answered back by writing 'Amendments of Mr. Collier's False and Imperfect Citations'.

Congreve was a master of repartee (verbal fighting), which is witty. It consists of beaux and belles (fashionable gentleman and ladies). He was the best writer of comedy in Restoration. He was a formalist, technician, and he unmasked the follies of the age. He received his education in Trinity College. He is buried in Poet's Corner of the Westminster Abbey.

His comedies deal with the world of passion, courtship, and seduction. His comedies are witty as well. They are about manners and their priority over morals.

The Old Bachelor is about Mr. Heartwell who hates woman, but falls in love with Silvia.

He wrote Double Dealer.

He wrote Love for Love which is about Valentine and Vangelica.

His masterpiece is the Way of the World, which is about Mirabell who is in love with Millamant. It has a complex plot. They want to build a true marriage because marriages of those times were built around property and were called marriage of convenience, a marriage which is not based on the ways of the world, which is falsehood and pretense.

‘Grief walks upon the heels of pleasure’.

Daniel Defoe (1660-1731)

He was a pamphleteer, journalist, novelist, social historian and a secret agent (spy). He was a dissenter, an outsider. He is the first English novelist who wrote fictional lives. His style was simple, direct and colloquial. He was a traits man in outlook and morality. He discovered the novel of incident. He was the first writer to give a voice to the spirit of individualism and the sense of personal confrontation with the world that was to be typical of the emerging middle-class, and in general of the shifting mobile society, in which characters such as Moll has to learn to survive, an individual who has stamina, integrity, etc.

Defoe was not a member of Church of England. In ‘Shortest Way with the Dissenters’ he proposed that the ‘dissenters’ be hanged. He was pilloried for 3 days for writing this pamphlet, and narrowly escaped, cutting one of his ears.

Robinson Crusoe is about a man who is cast away in an island. It is about colonising other countries and civilizing and converting them. It is a middle-class man of perseverance. It is about social optimism, the need to master and taming the nature and the importance of social living. It is a praise of middle-class virtues and values.

He wrote novels about an individual’s situation which was tangible to read.

His first writings are autobiographical, the fictional ones turned into novels.

Moll Flanders is about an old woman who has become old and repented. She was a thief and prostitute. She married 5 times, once her own brother. It is again a kind of autobiography and it lacks a coherent plot. She is on the edge of the society.

Defoe was very prolific and wrote more than 200 works. Another autobiography by him is Colonel Jack. It is about a convicted pick pocket.

His *Tour through the Whole Island of Great Britain* is a guide book.

Moll Flanders was a picaresque (a novel of adventure on the road). Virginia Woolf called it the best novel (it is liked by feminists).

Novel started in 18th century.

He was a poet, dramatist, gambler, drinker and inventor of ballad opera. It drove the Italian opera from the English stage.

John Gay

He is famous for writing the best 18th century drama called *Beggar's Opera* (1728). It is about Newgate prison and Capt. Macheath, who is the leader of a gang of robbers and popular with woman. He secretly marries Polly who is the daughter of Peachum, buyer of stolen goods. Peachum reports him and he is arrested. In prison he finds Lucy, daughter of Mr. Lockett, the warder of the prison. Lucy helps him escape, but he is arrested again. Four other wives come with their children claiming that he is their husband. He is going to be hanged but the people tell Mr. Beggar, the narrator, why the poors are always hanged. So he changes the ending and Macheath goes and lives with Poly.

It became very popular. There are many ironies and humours in it and it is musical. The play satires the corruption of the governing class. Since it was popular, he wrote a sequel on it called 'The Polly'. 'Three Penny Opera' by Brecht is an imitation of this opera. It is the story of lowlife in prison.

Alexander Pope (1688-1744)

He is the best speaker of Neo-classicism period and is called Boileau (French neo-classicist) of England.

Pope was catholic, physically deformed, self-educated and wrote in heroic couplets. He was not original. He believed in the poetry of common sense. He believed in nature as the pure standard of taste and judgement that should control all man's artistic endeavours. He believed in nature methodized which means controlled, normalized and improved.

He believed in imitation of the ancients. 'To copy nature is to copy ancients'. He was against extremes and originality. He was socially pre-occupied and translated Horace and Homer. He was a satirist as well and his style was didactic.

He was the best example of Augustan (height of neo-classicism) poetry.

There is a famous definition of wit by him:

'True Wit is Nature to advantage dressed
What oft was thought, but ne'er so well expressed'

He was stoic.

'Dunciad' is an attack on bad poets and his enemies.

He wrote 'Moral Essays' which is book of four essays about men and women characters.

‘Essay on Man’ is a didactic poem in heroic couplet. He wants to justify the ways of God to man. It is a simple work. In this book, he was influenced by Shaftsbury’s philosophy that God is a pure, rational idea (deism). Man is fundamentally good and desires other’s happiness. It is not an original work but sums up the philosophy of neo-classicism. It was written in four epistles.

‘Essay on Criticism’ is about the canons of literary taste and style according to classical works of Aristotle and Quintilian (Italian Renaissance figure). It is didactic.

‘The Rape of the Lock’ is a mock epic (which has style of epic but has a low subject) in which there is a lady called Arabella and a man called Lord Petre, who took a lock of Arabella’s hair which gave rise to a quarrel between the families. Pope composed this poem in order to correct things and put an end to the quarrel.

The lady is preparing to go on a party near the river Thames, but it seems that she is going on a war of Troy. She plays a card game which is described as a war. In this game Lord Petre takes a string of her hair.

There are two purposes for this poem.

1. First, to put an end on enmity and quarrel of two families. However the families became his enemy.
2. Second, to make fun of fashionable society of the day.

It was written in 5 parts with topical allusions. It is about beaux and belles. Hazlitt called it ‘the triumph of insignificance’.

There are four great names in neo-classical period: Dryden, Pope, Dr. Johnson and Swift.

Dr. Samuel Johnson (1709-1784)

He was a poet, essayist, critic, lexicographer, dramatist, biographer and the greatest literary figure of the end of neo-classical period. He imitated classical poetry.

English new classical criticism has Dryden at the beginning, Pope in the middle and Johnson at the end. He was a Tory. He wrote in heroic couplets and followed Pope.

‘Vanity of Human Wishes’ is a satirical poem about vanity.

‘London’ is another satirical poem about the vanities and sins of London life, in heroic couplet.

He edited plays of Shakespeare and wrote a preface to it. He says ‘Shakespeare is above all modern writers. He is the poet of nature, the poet that holds up to its readers a faithful mirror of manner and life’.

The Lives of the English Poet: It's a biography of 52 poems.

He wrote a Dictionary of English language in two volumes.

He wrote ‘Rosselas Prince of Abyssinia’. It is a philosophical romance. It is didactic. The theme is: the disillusioning search after happiness. It lacks a coherent plot. It is

based on a Persian story. In fact it is a book of essays on various subjects. The plot is about a prince who has everything and lives in a valley, but is not happy. He goes in search of happiness and lives different kind of lives, and returns to his palace unsatisfied. The last chapter is called 'A conclusion in which nothing is concluded'.

Jonathan Swift (1667-1745)

He is the greatest prose writer of the 18th century. He was a bitter and savage satirist. Unlike other new classicists, he was pessimist and misanthrope (man hater). He was a cynic and attacked human nature and reversed the great chain of being by putting human beings lower than animals and called them 'an animal capable of reason'. He was a neo-classicist but had opposite idea. He was an original writer. He was Irish but believed that Ireland a place good enough to die in.

Some famous questions from him: 'all governments without consent of the governed are the very definition of slavery'. 'Now and then beasts may generate into man'.

He was a radical critic of the Augustan's faith in human nature and man's capacity for improvement.

'The Battle of the Books' is about St James's Library where the ancients and moderns fight. The spider symbolizes the modern who make webs and the bee symbolizes the ancient who make honey out of nature.

'A Tail of a Tub' is about three brothers who inherit three pairs of suits and a will (the bible) from their father. The pairs of suits symbolize different sects of Christianity: Calvinism, Anglican Church and Roman Catholic Church.

'A Modest Proposal' an ironic essay in which he proposes that the children of Ireland who are poor and have no future ahead of them and expensive to look after, be brought up until they are one year old and then sold out to be eaten.

His master-piece is 'Gulliver's Travels' in four books.

Book one is in Lilliput

Book two is in Brobdingnag

Book three is in Laputa

Book four is in Houyhnhnms

In book one, Gulliver who is a surgeon and on a merchant ship, takes his shipwreck to Island of Lilliput, where he is arrested by the Lilliputians. They are in war with Blefuscu over how to break an egg. It symbolizes conflict between British and French and different sects of Christianity. There is a fire in palace of the king and he urinates on the palace to put out the fire. They try to poison him but he doesn't die.

In book two inhabitants of Brobdingnag are shocked by his shrewdness. There are a lot of descriptions of human body in it. It is an attack on human physique.

Book three is set in Laputa, a flying island made of science and technology. It is a criticism of science, technology and industrial revolution. Laputa in Spanish means

prostitute. In this island, scientists are so mentally preoccupied with science that they forget to answer back in conversations. There are some people called 'flappers' who remind them about this. It's a disillusionment of human being.

Book four is in country of clean and rational horses. They have servants called 'Yahoos', who eat human beings.

Then he goes back to his own country, and finds that he even hates his wife.

The book is very pessimistic and nihilistic. There is a lot of description of excretion and toilet in it. Swift suffered from anal fixation. He shows the evil human pride and is disillusioned about human mankind. It is a satire on vices of human and human institutions.