

Modernism 1890/1900s-1960

The Universe is chaotic, ever changing. Humans are *not* the center of the Universe, nor planet-caregivers. In the arts, Modernists seek new definitions of experience, new forms of showing creative expression, breaking away from the past in a sometime aggressive fashion.

- defy expectation
- fragmented imagery
- multiple perspectives and/or multiple angles
- lack of restraint
- suggest a form of harmony
- HOWEVER, there will be evidence of a
 - lack of full technique, lack of firm traditional formulas; rhyming may be used; free verse emphasized
 - they will borrow from the past to reinvent perspective of present in some cases
 - can use collage-like results, stream of consciousness, mixed perspectives of one scene/object/event

Postmodernism 1960-2000

Postmodernism began in the sixties/seventies. It felt Modernism did not react enough against status quo.

- lack of firm traditional formulas; rhyming may be used; free verse and experimental forms
- fragmented texts are sometimes used; fragmented scenes stitched together; collage of memories
- collage techniques, blurring scenes without firm distinction
- life and fiction often blur together (as in Magic Realism); hard to distinguish between reality & fantasy
- life is impossible to define in a satisfying manner
- *can* mix genres, mix forms
- promotes arbitrary meanings along a common focus
- does not seek firm closure, firm interpretation of text; multiple interpretations likely

Know the following terms and recognize how they operate in a supplied poem:

allusion

deeper meaning (secondary meaning)

free verse

metaphor

meter • iambic pentameter

Modernism • Post Modernism • Meta-Modernism

rhyme (true and half)

rhyme scheme

simile

surface meaning (surface story)

symbol

theme

quatrain • couplet • tercet • cinquain