

British Literature III (The Twentieth Century)

UNIT – 1:**Modern poetry**

T.S. Eliot

1. What is the central theme of "The Waste Land"?

Answer: Disillusionment and spiritual decay.

2. What is the significance of the "objective correlative" in Eliot's poetry?

Answer: A poetic device to convey emotions objectively.

W.B. Yeats

3. What is the main theme of "The Second Coming"?

Answer: Chaos, anarchy, and the disintegration of society.

4. What is the significance of the "gyre" in Yeats's poetry?

Answer: A symbol of cyclical time and the interconnectedness of human experience.

W.H. Auden

5. What is the central theme of "Stop All the Clocks"?

Answer: Mortality, grief, and the passing of time.

6. What is the significance of Auden's use of imagery in his poetry?

Answer: Creates vivid, powerful, and often unsettling pictures in the reader's mind.

Dylan Thomas

7. What is the main theme of "Do Not Go Gentle into That Good Night"?

Answer: Resistance to death, the will to live.

8. What is the significance of Thomas's use of metaphor in his poetry?

Answer: Creates complex, layered meanings and powerful emotional resonance.

Sylvia Plath

9. What is the central theme of "Daddy"?

Answer: Trauma, identity, and the complexities of family relationships.

10. What is the significance of Plath's use of imagery in her poetry?

Answer: Creates vivid, intense, and often disturbing pictures that reflect her inner turmoil.

Morder drama

Waiting for Godot by Samuel Beckett_

1. What is the central theme of "Waiting for Godot"?

Answer: The absurdity of human existence, waiting, and uncertainty.

2. Who are the two main characters in the play?

Answer: Vladimir and Estragon.

3. What is the significance of Godot's character?

Answer: Represents the elusive, unattainable nature of human desires.

Death of a Salesman by Arthur Miller_

4. What is the central theme of "Death of a Salesman"?

Answer: The American Dream, illusion, and the disillusionment of the protagonist.

5. Who is the protagonist of the play?

Answer: Willy Loman.

6. What is the significance of the character of Linda Loman?

Answer: Represents the voice of reason, loyalty, and compassion.

A Streetcar Named Desire by Tennessee Williams_

7. What is the central theme of "A Streetcar Named Desire"?

Answer: Desire, loneliness, and the decline of the American South.

8. Who is the protagonist of the play?

Answer: Blanche DuBois.

9. What is the significance of the character of Stanley Kowalski?

Answer: Represents the brutal, animalistic forces that destroy Blanche.

The Caretaker by Harold Pinter_

10. What is the central theme of "The Caretaker"?

Answer: Power dynamics, manipulation, and the fragility of human relationships.

11. Who are the three main characters in the play?

Answer: Mick, Aston, and Mac Davies.

12. What is the significance of the character of Mac Davies?

Answer: Represents the outsider, the stranger, and the disruptor of relationships.

Modern fiction

1984 by George Orwell_

1. What is the central theme of "1984"?

Answer: Dangers of totalitarianism, loss of individual freedom.

2. Who is the protagonist of the novel?

Answer: Winston Smith.

3. What is the significance of the character of Big Brother?

Answer: Represents the all-powerful, all-knowing totalitarian state.

The Catcher in the Rye by J.D. Salinger_

4. What is the central theme of "The Catcher in the Rye"?

Answer: Alienation, disillusionment, and the challenges of adolescence.

5. Who is the protagonist of the novel?

Answer: Holden Caulfield.

6. What is the significance of the title "The Catcher in the Rye"?

Answer: Represents Holden's desire to protect childhood innocence.

Brave New World by Aldous Huxley_

7. What is the central theme of "Brave New World"?

Answer: Dangers of a highly controlled, consumerist society.

8. Who is the protagonist of the novel?

Answer: Bernard Marx.

9. What is the significance of the character of John the Savage?

Answer: Represents individual freedom, emotion, and humanity.

The Stranger by Albert Camus_

10. What is the central theme of "The Stranger"?

Answer: Absurdity, morality, and the meaninglessness of life.

11. Who is the protagonist of the novel?

Answer: Meursault.

12. What is the significance of the character of the Arab man?

Answer: Represents the Other, the unknown, and the absurdity of life.

UNIT – II

The Second Coming- by William Butler Yeats

1. Who wrote "The Second Coming"?

Answer: William Butler Yeats.

2. What poetic form is "The Second Coming" written in?

Answer: Free verse.

3. What image represents chaos and disorder?

Answer: Falcon flying away from falconer.

4. What symbolizes the old order?

Answer: Falconer.

5. What theme is explored in "The Second Coming"?

Answer: Chaos, disorder, cyclical nature of history.

6. What message does the poem convey about the future?

Answer: Uncertainty, potentially catastrophic.

7. What literary device is used in "Turning and turning in the widening gyre"?

Answer: Metaphor.

8. What device emphasizes the speaker's sense of uncertainty?

Answer: Imagery.

9. What tone does the speaker convey?

Answer: Ominous, foreboding.

10. What mood is created by the poem?

Answer: Dark, apocalyptic.

11. How did Yeats's interest in mysticism influence "The Second Coming"?

Answer: Use of symbolic imagery.

12. What historical events may have influenced Yeats's writing of the poem?

Answer: Post-WWI chaos, Irish independence movement.

13. What does the "second coming" refer to?

Answer: A new era of chaos and disorder.

14. What does the falcon symbolize?

Answer: The loss of control and the breakdown of social order.

15. What literary device is used in "The blood-dimmed tide is loosed"?

Answer: Metaphor.

16. What device emphasizes the speaker's sense of urgency?

Answer: Imagery.

17. How does the poem explore the idea of cyclical history?

Answer: The falcon's flight, the widening gyre.

18. How did Yeats's interest in Irish nationalism influence the poem?

Answer: Use of imagery, symbolism.

19. What characterizes Yeats's poetic style in "The Second Coming"?

Answer: Use of symbolism, imagery, and metaphor.

20. What does the poem suggest about the nature of humanity?

Answer: Prone to chaos, violence.

21. What is the rhyme scheme of the poem?

Answer: None (free verse).

22. What is the effect of the poem's non-linear structure?

Answer: Enhances sense of chaos, disorder.

23. What does the "gyre" symbolize?

Answer: Cyclical nature of history.

24. What does the "beast" represent?

Answer: Chaos, destruction.

25. What historical events influenced Yeats's writing of the poem?

Answer: WWI, Irish independence movement.

26. How did Yeats's interest in mysticism influence the poem?

Answer: Use of symbolic imagery.

27. What does the poem suggest about the role of humanity in shaping its own destiny?

Answer: Limited control.

28. How does the poem's tone contribute to its overall effect?

Answer: Ominous, foreboding.

29. How does "The Second Coming" differ from Yeats's other works?

Answer: Darker tone, more ominous themes.

30. What similarities exist between "The Second Coming" and other modernist poetry?

Answer: Experimentation with form, exploration of chaos.

Q. Briefly analysis the poem the second coming

Or

Write the theme of the poem

Or

write the summary of the poem

Or

Discuss the main idea or central idea of the poem

Ans: Flying around and around in a widening spiral, a falcon can no longer hear the call of its owner. Things are breaking down, and their foundation is giving way. Pure destruction and lawlessness have spread across the world, and so has a tidal wave darkened by blood. All the

rituals of innocence have been swallowed by this tide. The best people aren't motivated to act, but the worst people are impassioned and eager.

Some kind of revelation has to happen soon, and the Second Coming itself must be close. Excitedly, the speaker exclaims: "The Second Coming!" But just as the speaker says this, a vision comes to the speaker from the world's collective unconscious. The speaker sees a barren desert land, where a creature with a man's head and a lion's body is coming to life. Its expression is, like the sun, empty and without pity. Its legs are moving slowly, and all around it fly the shadows of disturbed desert birds. Everything becomes dark again, but the speaker knows something new: two thousand years of calm have been irreversibly disrupted by the shaking of a cradle. The speaker asks: what beast, whose time has finally come, is dragging itself towards Bethlehem, where it will be born.

Preludes-by T.S. Eliot

1. Who wrote "Preludes"?

Answer: T.S. Eliot.

2. What poetic form is "Preludes" written in?

Answer: Free verse.

3. What image represents urban despair?

Answer: "The yellow fog that rubs its back upon the window-panes."

4. What symbolizes spiritual decay?

Answer: "The burnt-out ends of smoky days."

5. What theme is explored in "Preludes"?

Answer: Alienation, disillusionment.

6. What message does the poem convey about modern life?

Answer: Empty, meaningless.

7. What literary device is used in "The morning comes to consciousness"?

Answer: Personification.

8. What device emphasizes the speaker's sense of detachment?

Answer: Imagery.

9. What tone does the speaker convey?

Answer: Detached, melancholic.

10. What mood is created by the poem?

Answer: Somber, reflective.

11. What does the poem suggest about the human condition?

Answer: Alienation, disconnection.

12. How does the poem portray the city?

Answer: As a place of decay, spiritual emptiness.

13. What literary device is used in "His soul stretched tight across the skies"?

Answer: Metaphor.

14. What device emphasizes the speaker's sense of disillusionment?

Answer: Imagery.

15. How does the poem explore the theme of modernity?

Answer: Portrayal of urban alienation.

16. What message does the poem convey about the search for meaning?

Answer: Difficulty in finding meaning in modern life.

17. How did Eliot's experiences in World War I influence "Preludes"?

Answer: Emphasis on disillusionment, spiritual decay.

18. What cultural movements influenced Eliot's writing of "Preludes"?

Answer: Modernism, Imagism.

19. What does the poem suggest about the relationship between the individual and society?

Answer: Alienation, disconnection.

20. How does the poem's structure contribute to its overall effect?

Answer: Fragmented, disjointed structure emphasizes sense of dislocation.

21. What tone does the speaker convey in the first stanza?

Answer: Detached, observational.

22. How does the tone shift in the final stanza?

Answer: More introspective, melancholic.

23. What does the "fog" symbolize in the poem?

Answer: Obscurity, confusion.

24. What does the "window" represent?

Answer: Barrier between inner and outer worlds.

25. What image represents the monotony of daily life?

Answer: "The burnt-out ends of smoky days."

26. What literary device is used in "The morning comes to consciousness"?

Answer: Personification.

27. What device emphasizes the speaker's sense of disillusionment?

Answer: Imagery.

28. How did Eliot's interest in philosophy influence "Preludes"?

Answer: Exploration of existential themes.

29. What cultural movements influenced Eliot's writing of "Preludes"?

Answer: Modernism, Imagism.

30. What does the poem suggest about the human search for meaning?

Answer: Difficulty in finding meaning in modern life.

UNIT – III

The Unknown Citizen-by W.H. Auden

Q. Who wrote "The Unknown Citizen"?

Answer: W.H. Auden.

Q. What poetic form is "The Unknown Citizen" written in?

Answer: Free verse.

Q. What image represents the citizen's anonymity?

Answer: "A marble tablet" with "no inscription".

Q. What symbolizes the citizen's conformity?

Answer: "He served the Greater Community".

Q. What theme is explored in "The Unknown Citizen"?

Answer: Conformity, anonymity.

Q. What message does the poem convey about modern society?

Answer: Critique of bureaucratic, dehumanizing systems.

Q. What literary device is used in "He was found by the Bureau of Statistics"?

Answer: Irony.

Q. What device emphasizes the citizen's lack of individuality?

Answer: Imagery.

Q. What tone does the speaker convey?

Answer: Detached, ironic.

Q. What mood is created by the poem?

Answer: Somber, reflective.

Q. How did Auden's experiences during World War II influence "The Unknown Citizen"?

Answer: Critique of totalitarian regimes.

Q. What cultural movements influenced Auden's writing of "The Unknown Citizen"?

Answer: Modernism, existentialism.

Q. What does the poem suggest about the effects of bureaucracy on individuality?

Answer: Erasure of personal identity.

Q. How does the poem's use of irony contribute to its overall effect?

Answer: Highlights the absurdity of modern life.

Q. How does the poem explore the theme of anonymity?

Answer: Portrayal of a nameless, faceless citizen.

Q. What message does the poem convey about the importance of individuality?

Answer: Warning against the dangers of conformity.

Q. What does the "marble tablet" symbolize?

Answer: Official recognition, anonymity.

Q. What does the "Bureau of Statistics" represent?

Answer: Bureaucratic, dehumanizing systems.

Q. How does the speaker's tone contribute to the poem's overall effect?

Answer: Detached, ironic tone highlights the absurdity of modern life.

Q. What mood is created by the poem's final line, "Was he free? Was he happy?"?

Answer: Reflective, questioning mood.

Q. What does the poem suggest about the effects of modernity on individuality?

Answer: Erosion of individuality.

Q. How does the poem portray the relationship between the individual and society?

Answer: Critical of societal pressures.

Q. What literary device is used in "When there was peace, he was for peace"?

Answer: Satire.

Q. What device emphasizes the citizen's conformity?

Answer: Repetition.

Q. How did Auden's experiences in World War II influence "The Unknown Citizen"?

Answer: Critique of totalitarian regimes.

Q. What cultural movements influenced Auden's writing of "The Unknown Citizen"?

Answer: Modernism, existentialism.

Q. What does the poem suggest about the role of bureaucracy in modern society?

Answer: Critique of dehumanizing systems.

Q. How does the poem's tone contribute to its overall effect?

Answer: Ironical, satirical tone emphasizes critique.

The church going

Q. Which thing was in the container?

There was sacred water in the container that was lying by the wall of the church.

Q. What do you mean by a desk?

The desk means the place where the bishop sits and recites the verses from the Bible. In a mosque a Molvi gives sermon at such place.

Q. What does the poet recite in the church?

The poet recites some verses from the Bible in a loud tone; it looks like the Azan Allama Iqbal gave at Qartaba Mosque.

Q. What does the poet feel when he recites the verses of the Bible?

The poet hears the resound of the verses which he recites; he feels as if some one were laughing at him by mocking him.

Q. Where does the poet sign when he returns from the church?

The poet signs the book that is there for writing comments. The book is available outside the main door of the church.

Q. What does the poet drop in the charity box?

The poet drops a six pence coin in the charity box of the church; this shows that the poet is well aware of the manners that are required for attending such place.

Q. Why does the poet leave the church soon?

The poet leaves the church soon because he thinks it is not a worth stopping place. There is stuffy and divested atmosphere in the church.

Q. Does the poet take any advantage for going in the church?

No, the poet does not take any advantage for going in the church. Rather he thinks he wasted his time by going there.

Q. What is, according to Larkin, the purpose of building a church?

According to Larkin, the purpose of building a church is to offer religious duties. If the people do not come to offer prayers in the church there is no need of building it.

Q. What place the church will be if the people do not go there to worship?

If the people do not go to the church to worship; it will become like a museum. In such museum there will be religious relics in the glass showcase.

Q. What will be the condition of the churches that are situated in farfetched areas?

The churches that are situated in the farfetched are as will turn into divested building and there will be weeds, bushes and grass everywhere.

Q. What will the people think about the ruined churches?

The people will take the ruined churches as ghost houses; they will think it like unlucky places.

Q. What will the women use to do in the ruined churches?

The women without identity will visit the ruined churches with their children to touch the sacred stone so as to get them healthy.

Q. What will, according to Larkin, happen when the people will ignore the church?

According to Larkin, when the people will ignore the churches, the religion would have not control over society; then superstitions will rule the world.

Q. Why do the people will not find the church on their next visit?

The people will not be able to find the church on their next visit because the bushes hide it within week.

Q. Who will be the last visitor of the church?

According to Larkin, the last visitor of the church may be any worshiper, a clergy or some Christmas celebrator.

Q. Which ceremonies are held in the church now a days?

The ceremonies held in the church today are the birth ceremony, marriage ceremony and the death funeral.

Q. Why does the poet declare the church as a store?

The poet declares the church as a store because it is ill smelling like a grain store as we see in our farm houses.

Q. What is the real aim of building a church?

The real aim of building a church is to purify the souls of the sinners; to solve the worldly problems in the light of the religion; to solve the psychological problems.

Q. Is Larkin an optimistic or a pessimistic?

Larkin is an optimistic when he says that the church will remain important in the life of the people. He hopes that the church will be used for the purpose was made.

Q. What is the condition of the church when the poet enters in it?

There is no any ceremony in progress in the church when the poet enters in it. There is darkness in every nook and corner of the church.

Q. What does the poet see in the church?

The poet sees matting floor, seats and stones and the copies of the Bible in the church when he enters in it.

Q. What was the condition of the flowers in the church?

The flowers in the church were withered; its color had turned into brownish from pink. It was so because during the week days no one visited it.

Q. Why there are musical instruments in the church?

The musical instruments are there in the church to produce music at the time of prayers. It is tradition in Christianity to sing religious songs along with the

Q. What was the atmosphere in the church?

The church atmosphere was mysterious. There was silence and the atmosphere was tense and musty.

Q. How does the poet cover his head before going in the church?

The poet has no hat so he takes off the clips of his cycle and manages to cover his head with it.

Q. Briefly analysis the poem the church going

Or

Write the theme of the poem

Or

write the summary of the poem

Or

Discuss the main idea or central idea of the poem

As soon as I'm positive that there's nothing happening inside the building, I enter and let the door close loudly behind me. I'm visiting yet another church: one with floor mats, pews, and stone architecture; displays of cut flowers that were laid out for Sunday services and are starting to brown; some brass objects and the like up near the altar; the trim little pipe organ; and an uncomfortable, stale-smelling, distracting silence, which has been settled here for ages. Since I don't have a hat to take off, I remove my bicycle clips as an awkward way of showing respect.

I move further inside and touch the rim of the special vessel for holy water. The church roof looks almost new from my vantage point, and I wonder if was recently cleaned or totally restored. I'm sure someone could answer that question, but I can't. Stepping up to the pulpit, I browse a few imposing, moralistic biblical verses and read out the words "Here endeth" with more volume than I'd anticipated. The sound of my voice echoing through the church briefly seems to mock me. Heading back out the front door, I sign the church's guestbook, drop a small Irish coin into the donation box, and think that it wasn't worth taking the time to go in.

And yet, that's exactly what I did; in fact, I stop by churches all the time. Each time I do, I end up feeling this same kind of uncertainty, wondering what I should be trying to find—and wondering what society will do with churches once people completely stop attending them. I wonder whether we'll leave a few of the grander ones around as tourist attractions—with their holy documents, ceremonial plateware, and vessels for the Eucharist locked up in cases—and just let the others get taken over by sheep and the elements (i.e., let them decay). Will we steer clear of those churches, believing they bring bad luck?

Or will shady women visit them after dark to make their kids touch a certain stone for luck, pick herbs that are supposed to heal cancer, or wait around on some specific night they've been told that a ghost will show up? The power of the churches will endure in some form, in games, riddles, or other random-seeming ways. But superstition, like religious belief, has to end at some point—and what will be left of churches when even the need for active disbelief has ended? Just the grass, pavement with weeds poking through, prickly vines, some bits of the old buildings, and the sky above.

The decaying church's shape will be harder to recognize over time, its purpose harder to remember. I wonder who will be the absolute last person to seek this church out as a church. One of the history buffs who touch things curiously and jot notes and know what "rood-lofts" and other obscure parts of the church were? Someone who's hooked on visiting old ruins because they crave antique artifacts? Someone who loves Christmastime and hopes to catch a whiff of clerical garments, organ pipes, and fragrant incense?

Or will he be someone like me: bored, ignorant when it comes to religion, knowing that the church has no supernatural aura, yet gravitating past suburban shrubbery toward this spot because it held together—so long and so calmly—things that now exist only in scattered form? For example, marriage, birth, death, and thoughts of all these things—the very things this special container (the church) was built to hold? Because while I don't know what this decorated, stale-smelling, barn-like building is worth, I like quietly standing here.

This church is a serious and meaningful place, built on meaningful ground. Inside it, all our combined human instincts are acknowledged and dignified as fate. And that aspect of it, at least, can never die out, since someone, somewhere, will always discover in themselves a desire to grow more serious. And that desire will always lead them toward this spot, which they once heard was an appropriate place to seek wisdom—if only because it's surrounded by so many dead people.

UNIT – IV

Lord of the Flies- by William Golding

Q. Briefly analysis the story the lord of the flies

Or

Write the theme of the story

Or

write the summary of the story

Or

Discuss the main idea or central idea of the story

Ans: In the midst of a raging war, a plane evacuating a group of schoolboys from Britain is shot down over a deserted tropical island. Two of the boys, Ralph and Piggy, discover a conch shell on the beach, and Piggy realizes it could be used as a horn to summon the other boys. Once assembled, the boys set about electing a leader and devising a way to be rescued. They choose Ralph as their leader, and Ralph appoints another boy, Jack, to be in charge of the boys who will hunt food for the entire group.

Ralph, Jack, and another boy, Simon, set off on an expedition to explore the island. When they return, Ralph declares that they must light a signal fire to attract the attention of passing ships. The boys succeed in igniting some dead wood by focusing sunlight through the lenses of Piggy's eyeglasses. However, the boys pay more attention to playing than to monitoring the fire, and the flames quickly engulf the forest. A large swath of dead wood burns out of control, and one of the youngest boys in the group disappears, presumably having burned to death.

At first, the boys enjoy their life without grown-ups and spend much of their time splashing in the water and playing games. Ralph, however, complains that they should be maintaining the signal fire and building huts for shelter. The hunters fail in their attempt to catch a wild pig, but their leader, Jack, becomes increasingly preoccupied with the act of hunting.

When a ship passes by on the horizon one day, Ralph and Piggy notice, to their horror, that the signal fire—which had been the hunters' responsibility to maintain—has burned out. Furious, Ralph accosts Jack, but the hunter has just returned with his first kill, and all the hunters seem gripped with a strange frenzy, reenacting the chase in a kind of wild dance. Piggy criticizes Jack, who hits Piggy across the face. Ralph blows the conch shell and reprimands the boys in a speech intended to restore order. At the meeting, it quickly becomes clear that some of the boys have started to become afraid. The littlest boys, known as "littluns," have been troubled by nightmares from the beginning, and more and more boys now believe that there is some sort of beast or monster lurking on the island. The older boys try to convince the others at the meeting to think rationally, asking where such a monster could possibly hide during the daytime. One of the littluns suggests that it hides in the sea—a proposition that terrifies the entire group.

Not long after the meeting, some military planes engage in a battle high above the island. The boys, asleep below, do not notice the flashing lights and explosions in the clouds. A parachutist

drifts to earth on the signal-fire mountain, dead. Sam and Eric, the twins responsible for watching the fire at night, are asleep and do not see the parachutist land. When the twins wake up, they see the enormous silhouette of his parachute and hear the strange flapping noises it makes. Thinking the island beast is at hand, they rush back to the camp in terror and report that the beast has attacked them.

The boys organize a hunting expedition to search for the monster. Jack and Ralph, who are increasingly at odds, travel up the mountain. They see the silhouette of the parachute from a distance and think that it looks like a huge, deformed ape. The group holds a meeting at which Jack and Ralph tell the others of the sighting. Jack says that Ralph is a coward and that he should be removed from office, but the other boys refuse to vote Ralph out of power. Jack angrily runs away down the beach, calling all the hunters to join him. Ralph rallies the remaining boys to build a new signal fire, this time on the beach rather than on the mountain. They obey, but before they have finished the task, most of them have slipped away to join Jack.

Jack declares himself the leader of the new tribe of hunters and organizes a hunt and a violent, ritual slaughter of a sow to solemnize the occasion. The hunters then decapitate the sow and place its head on a sharpened stake in the jungle as an offering to the beast. Later, encountering the bloody, fly-covered head, Simon has a terrible vision, during which it seems to him that the head is speaking. The voice, which he imagines as belonging to the Lord of the Flies, says that Simon will never escape him, for he exists within all men. Simon faints. When he wakes up, he goes to the mountain, where he sees the dead parachutist. Understanding then that the beast does not exist externally but rather within each individual boy, Simon travels to the beach to tell the others what he has seen. But the others are in the midst of a chaotic revelry—even Ralph and Piggy have joined Jack's feast—and when they see Simon's shadowy figure emerge from the jungle, they fall upon him and kill him with their bare hands and teeth.

The following morning, Ralph and Piggy discuss what they have done. Jack's hunters attack them and their few followers and steal Piggy's glasses in the process. Ralph's group travels to Jack's stronghold in an attempt to make Jack see reason, but Jack orders Sam and Eric tied up and fights with Ralph. In the ensuing battle, one boy, Roger, rolls a boulder down the mountain, killing Piggy and shattering the conch shell. Ralph barely manages to escape a torrent of spears.

Ralph hides for the rest of the night and the following day, while the others hunt him like an animal. Jack has the other boys ignite the forest in order to smoke Ralph out of his hiding place. Ralph stays in the forest, where he discovers and destroys the sow's head, but eventually, he is forced out onto the beach, where he knows the other boys will soon arrive to kill him. Ralph collapses in exhaustion, but when he looks up, he sees a British naval officer standing over him. The officer's ship noticed the fire raging in the jungle. The other boys reach the beach and stop in their tracks at the sight of the officer. Amazed at the spectacle of this group of bloodthirsty, savage children, the officer asks Ralph to explain. Ralph is overwhelmed by the knowledge that he is safe but, thinking about what has happened on the island, he begins to weep. The other boys begin to sob as well. The officer turns his back so that the boys may regain their composure.

UNIT – V

Look Back in Anger-by John Osborne

Q. Who wrote "Look Back in Anger"?

Answer: John Osborne.

Q. When was the play first performed?

Answer: 1956.

Q. Who is the protagonist of the play?

Answer: Jimmy Porter.

Q. What is the name of Jimmy's wife?

Answer: Alison.

Q. What is the main conflict of the play?

Answer: Jimmy's disillusionment with society and his relationships.

Q. What is the central theme of the play?

Answer: Anger and disillusionment with post-war British society.

Q. What is Jimmy's background?

Answer: Working-class, educated, but feels trapped.

Q. What is the nature of Jimmy's relationship with Alison?

Answer: Complex, troubled, and emotionally abusive.

Q. What event marks the climax of the play?

Answer: Alison's miscarriage and Jimmy's realization of his own emotions.

Q. How does the play end?

Answer: Jimmy and Alison reconcile, but the future remains uncertain.

Q. What motivates Jimmy's anger and frustration?

Answer: Feeling trapped, disillusioned with society.

Q. How does Alison's character change throughout the play?

Answer: Becomes more assertive, independent.

Q. What role does Cliff Lewis play in the story?

Answer: Jimmy's friend, confidant, and voice of reason.

Q. How does the play explore the theme of social class?

Answer: Portrayal of working-class struggles, frustrations.

Q. What message does the play convey about the consequences of unchecked emotions?

Answer: Destructive, hurtful behavior.

Q. What event sparks Jimmy's anger and frustration?

Answer: Alison's miscarriage, his own feelings of powerlessness.

Q. What symbolizes Jimmy's desire for freedom and escape?

Answer: His jazz trumpet playing.

Q. How did the play reflect the social and cultural changes of post-war Britain?

Answer: Portrayal of working-class life, youth culture.

Q. What does the play suggest about the nature of relationships and marriage?

Answer: Complex, flawed, and often hurtful.

Q. What is the nature of Jimmy's relationship with Helena Charles?

Answer: Emotional, intense, but ultimately doomed.

Q. How does the play explore the theme of masculinity?

Answer: Portrayal of Jimmy's struggles with traditional masculine roles.

Q. What event marks a turning point in Jimmy's relationship with Alison?

Answer: Alison's decision to leave Jimmy and return to her parents.

Q. What symbolizes Jimmy's desire for creative expression?

Answer: His jazz trumpet playing.

Q. How did the play reflect the social and cultural changes of the 1950s?

Answer: Portrayal of youth culture, working-class life, and social disillusionment.

Q. What does the play suggest about the consequences of emotional repression?

Answer: Leads to destructive behavior, hurtful relationships.

Q. What motivates Alison's decision to leave Jimmy?

Answer: Desire for security, stability, and escape from Jimmy's emotional abuse.

Q. How does Cliff Lewis's character serve as a foil to Jimmy's?

Answer: Cliff's calm, rational nature contrasts with Jimmy's emotional, impulsive personality.

Q. How does the play explore the theme of social mobility?

Answer: Portrayal of Jimmy's struggles to transcend his working-class background.

Q. What event marks the beginning of Jimmy's emotional breakdown?

Answer: Alison's miscarriage and subsequent departure.

Q. What symbolizes Jimmy's lost innocence and disillusionment?

Answer: His broken jazz trumpet.

Q. How did the play's portrayal of working-class life reflect the social realities of post-war Britain?

Answer: Accurate depiction of poverty, limited opportunities, and social disillusionment.

Q. What does the play suggest about the consequences of unchecked emotions and impulsivity?

Answer: Leads to destructive behavior, hurtful relationships, and emotional devastation.

Q. Briefly analysis the story look back in anger

Or

Write the theme of the story

Or

write the summary of the story

Or

Discuss the main idea or central idea of the story

Cliff helps Alison treat the burn, and she reveals to him that she is pregnant with Jimmy's child. She hasn't told Jimmy yet, because she is afraid that he'll feel trapped and angry. Cliff comforts Alison, and tells her that Jimmy loves her. He kisses her. Jimmy enters while they are kissing, but doesn't acknowledge or object (the three live in a non-traditional set-up that would have been shocking to audiences at the time). Soon after, Cliff leaves to get some cigarettes, and Alison and Jimmy share a tender moment. They play their "bear and squirrel" game, which allows them to escape into affection while pretending to be animals. Then Cliff returns and says that Helena Charles, one of Alison's upper-class friends, is on the phone. Jimmy's mood immediately darkens. When Alison says that Helena wants to stay with them, Jimmy explodes. He says he wishes that Alison would have a baby that would die so that she could experience true suffering.

The second act begins with Helena and Alison sharing the womanly duties of the home while Jimmy plays his trumpet off stage. Alison tells Helena about her first months with Jimmy. They lived with his working-class friend Hugh Tanner, and spent time going on "raids" to parties of Alison's upper-class friends. She says that she felt like "a hostage from those sections of society they had declared war on." Helena asks why they got married, and Alison says that it seemed to be largely because Alison's mother and her father Colonel Redfern disapproved. That made Jimmy want to marry her no matter what.

Jimmy and Cliff come in to eat. When he hears that Helena and Alison are going to church together later that day, Jimmy also becomes convinced that Helena is out to take Alison away from him. He lets fly a series of outrageous insults against Alison's mother. Helena tries, and fails, to reason with him, and Jimmy asks whether she has ever watched someone die. He tells the story of watching his father die from wounds received fighting in the Spanish Civil war when he was ten years old, and claims that this taught him more about life than Helena and Alison know even now. Near the end of the scene, Jimmy leaves to go get the telephone. While he's gone, Helena tells Alison that she has sent a message to Colonel Redfern asking him to come pick Alison up. Alison doesn't protest. When Jimmy returns, he says that Hugh's mum, the working-class woman who set him up in his candy stall and for whom he harbors deep affection, is dying of a stroke. He asks Alison to come to the hospital with him. Instead, she goes to church. Jimmy is left alone on stage.

In the next scene, Colonel Redfern helps Alison pack to leave. He reveals that he thinks he and Alison's mother reacted too strongly to her marriage with Jimmy, and that Jimmy might have been right to be angry with them. He says he thinks that Jimmy could be right that he, Redfern, is a relic of an old version of England that has ceased to exist. He also says that he and Alison have a tendency to stay neutral and not take a strong stand on things. She is surprised to hear this from him, and as she finishes packing she briefly re-considers her move. Then Helena enters, and Alison decides to go. She says goodbye to Cliff. Helena stays behind because she has a work meeting the following day. Alison and Colonel Redfern exit, and Cliff, angry that Helena has disrupted their life, leaves before Jimmy comes back. Jimmy returns a few moments later, furious, having seen Alison leaving with her father on his way home. Helena gives him a letter that Alison wrote explaining her decision. Jimmy is angry at her polite, restrained language. Helena tells him that Alison is going to have a baby. He says that he is not overcome with emotion at this news, and insults Helena, who slaps him. This causes Jimmy to collapse in despair. Then Helena "kisses him passionately," and the act ends.

The scene opens several months later, looking very similar to the beginning of Act 1, except that it is now Helena who is ironing. Jimmy and Cliff joke and discuss newspaper articles. They roughhouse, and Cliff dirties his shirt. Helena leaves to clean it, and while she is off stage, Cliff tells Jimmy that he is moving out. Jimmy wonders why he always chooses women over male friendship, even though he values Cliff's company more highly than he values Helena's. Helena comes back with the shirt, and Cliff leaves to dry it in his room. Helena tells Jimmy that she loves him, and he asks her desperately to never leave him. Then Alison appears at the door, looking sick and dishevelled.

The next scene opens a few minutes later, with Jimmy playing his trumpet off stage. Alison tells Helena that she is not angry with her, and is not trying to break up the new couple. Helena, however, says that Alison's presence has reminded her that what she is doing is wrong. Alison has also had a miscarriage, and Helena considers this a "judgment" on her relationship. She calls Jimmy back, and tells him that she is leaving. Jimmy says that he always knew Helena wasn't strong enough for true love, which requires "muscle and guts." Helena leaves.

Alison apologizes, and Jimmy says that she should have sent flowers to Hugh's mum, and remembers his first meeting with her, when he thought that she had a "wonderful relaxation of spirit." This turned out to be just complacency, he says. Alison lets out a cry, and tells him that

the loss of their child has made her understand the depth of emotion that he wanted her to have all this time. She tells him that she wants to be “corrupt and futile,” and collapses at his feet. Jimmy can’t bear to see her this way, and kneels to help her. Then, “with a kind of mocking, tender irony,” he launches into their bear and squirrel imaginary game. “Poor squirrels,” he says to Alison, and she responds, “poor, poor, bears