

Restoration / 18th Century - Authors & Works

Chudleigh (see handout for details on her life)

"To the Ladies"

- stating the opposite of what she actually means
but is what many of the men of that society believe
from lines 1-20.

- wife / servant = same (1-2)

- husband / God = same (16)
/ Eastern Prince (9)

- man as Law Supreme (6)
- "haughty Lord" (19)
- Fatal Knot (marriage) (3)
 - negative connotation

Final 4 lines → straight & clear: no irony!

Jonathan Swift

- ↳ born in Ireland
- never recognized as great, to his ^{dis}satisfaction
- Catholic
- ↳ father died before he was born
- ~~great~~ friends w/ Pope, A.
- known as one of the greatest satirists in the English language

Satire (p 994) = defined in textbook: a kind of writing that holds up to ridicule or contempt the weaknesses & shortcomings of individuals, groups, institutions, or humanity in general.

Alexander Pope - the author.

- a Catholic
 - = somewhat physically deformed: dwarfish & hunch backed.
 - brilliant from young age
 - published pastorals early
 - translated Homer into English verse.
 - wrote prose as well.
 - known for his heroic couplets
- * Aphorisms - short witty statements

Terms
to
know

*Mock Epic - taking a small inconsequential topic or incident + writing about as if worthy of an epic.
"Using a vast force to lift a feather" - Pope def. mock epic.

"The Rape of the Lock"

- starts with an invocation of the muse, like all great epics

- epic battle is a card game:

- 3 armies: Belinda + 2 young men.
- the dead victims are die carded cards
- the "Kings" lead their armies
- great & detailed description of the "fighters" which are the face cards

- Belinda is triumphant.

- during coffee, the sylphs take care of Belinda
but the Baron begins to plan to get her hair.

- sylphs protect hair, but Ariel sees that
Belinda actually likes the Baron & is powerless.

- Clarissa gives Baron scissors.

- The Baron rubs his triumph in her face. She
screams in anguish! The fight is on... (cont in Conto V)
- epic fight of boys vs girls. Girls fight w/ looks,

glares at snuff. The boys have no defense.

- the lock is sent to be a star in heaven, forever symbolic of this battle.

Clearly a mock epic!

Robert Burns

- a Scottish god; revered by all.

- the reason he is still so loved by the Scots is b/c he deliberately embraced all things Scottish

- he wrote in dialect

- he made Scottish legends known around the world.

"To A Mouse"

- life of a human compared to that of a mouse.

Conclusion:

Mouse is better off than man.

Why?

- because mice don't have to know what's coming in the future, just focus on the present. ∴ mice never get let down.
- mice don't look back
- mice don't dream. ∴ No disappointment/anticipation
- have a stream of consciousness

Satire Topics

- gangsta dress & attitudes
- plastic surgery
- school requirements (ie Portfolio)
 - ↳ Grad. → hair, nails, dress, date.
 - ↳ shoes, make-up
- Fashion
- hockey fans/players
- relationships

William Blake

- life

"The Lamb" → from Songs of Innocence

1st - asks his main question:

Who made you in this manner

- soft

- quiet

- all innocent

2nd - answer: God did & it is also compared to Jesus & his sacrifice.

"The Tiger" - from Songs of Experience

Blake's symbol of 'evil' is the Tiger & he asks of it - who made you?

His answer is grasping, reaching & even in the form of another question (line 20) that it must be God. Why? is not answered.

- can symbolize all evil in the world.

Thomas Gray 1716-1771

- life: quiet & placid. A Cambridge professor & a writer of hymns, but powerful poems due to his painstaking exactness.

"Elegy Written in a Country Church"

Ask yourself what you would think as you

visit a graveyard ...

This is what Gray said:

Stanzas 1-4

- sets the scene with sights & sounds of a country graveyard.

5-9

- thinks of and focuses on the 'rude forefathers' in their graves & what life was like for them but now is not more.

10-11

- Turns to 'Ye Proud' & states that death is the same for all people

12-19

- speaker muses on what could have been if circumstances were different for those parents.

20-23

- but even without what could have been he realizes the unlamented people had sleep & fulfilled lives.

24-29

- Gray speaking of himself, or perhaps turning to us the reader & discussing what death may be like for him & us. We can look on it & think about it b/c we are living.

30-32

- 'The Epitaph' Every grave what could be an ideal epitaph that he would like for himself.