

INTRODUCTION to LITERARY MOVEMENTS

What is a Movement?

The course of action (regarding a certain field) adopted by a group of people with a shared aim or a development or change that occurs can be taken as a MOVEMENT. Let's see what is meant by Literary Movement.

Definition 1:

Literary movements are a way to divide literature into categories of similar philosophical, topical, or aesthetic features, as opposed to divisions by **genre** or period. Like other categorizations, literary movements provide language for comparing and discussing literary works. (Wikipedia)

Definition 2:

A literary movement is a general term for pieces of literature by different authors (usually over the same time period) who share a similar impetus for writing in some way. Usually these authors are considered part of a "movement" because they have similar ideas about something. (e-notes)

Important Considerations:

Dates and Titles

Please realize that scholars are continually debating the **dates** and even the "**titles**" of literary movements. The answers to these questions are not cut and dry. For example, sometimes a literary movement is simply created to counter another. For example, *Realism* emerged as a response to *Romanticism* while *Romanticism* itself came as a revolt against the *norms of Enlightenment*, etc.

Historical Happenings

Even though the dates and "titles" are debated, they do have to congeal in the same general time in history. Because of this, the literary movement of a time period is often influenced by the historical happenings (and politics) of a time. For example, look at the intense Classicism espoused by the writers before and during the Revolutionary War. Further, the emotional and nature-loving Romantics correspond with the writers during and after the French Revolution.

Literary Movements to be covered: (MIDS+FINALS)

- ⇒ **Realism, Naturalism, Surrealism, New Criticism, Russian Formalism, Existentialism, Absurdism**
- ⇒ **Structuralism, Deconstruction/Post-Structuralism, Psychoanalysis, Feminism, Marxism, Post-Colonialism, Post- Modernism**

