

## LECTURE № 7

### Literature.

British literature is so rich that it is absolutely impossible to describe its history and its main writers, poets and dramatists in any detail. Like many other world literatures English literature grew up from the rich and diverse folklore of the nations in this country. Rich narrative traditions of ballads, songs and tales come to us through literature, writings of English authors ranging from Chaucer, Shakespeare and Ben Johnson, to William Yeats, Burns and Bernard Shaw and John Milton.

Everyone in the childhood read Robinson Crusoe by Daniel Defoe (1660-1731), Gulliver's Travels by Jonathan Swift (1667-1745), historical novels of Walter Scott, Oliver Twist and David Copperfield by one of the greatest English writers of the 19<sup>th</sup> century Charles Dickens (1812-1870).

The Bronte sisters were exceptional writers of poetry as well as fiction. "Wuthering Heights" by Emily Bronte and Jane Eyre by Charlotte Bronte are read and enjoyed even now.

Thomas Hardy's and Jane Austen's novels reflected different sides of English life of the 19<sup>th</sup> century. It was not easy for 19 century women- writers to sell their books under their real names. Many of them used male pseudonyms: George Eliot (1819-1880) never used her real name which was Mary Ann Evans. Her books show a detailed picture of provincial Victorian society with humour and feeling. A Scottish writer Robert Stevenson (180-94) wrote famous adventure novels, and an English novelist William Thackeray (1811- 63) in his brilliant satire "Vanity Fair" became the master of great individuality.

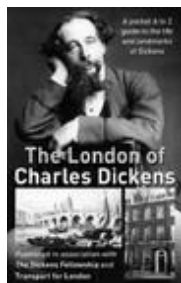
Jerome, K. Jerome (1859-1927) wrote two humorous books, one of which "Three Men in a Boat" is favourite with the Russian students.

Rudyard Kipling (1865-1936) wrote a lot of poems, stories and tales, which children of all the countries still enjoy today. His stories about Mowgli and finest animal stories inspired American Walt Disney to create wonderful cartoon films.

**Kipling was the first English writer to be awarded with the Nobel Prize in 1907.** An Irish-born author Oscar Wilde (1854 - 1900) created novels, stories and plays, still staged in Russian theatres.

There were many wonderful poets in Britain. Romantic poets Byron and Shelley influenced the poetry of Alexander Pushkin.

Scottish poet Robert Burns (1759-1796) whom we know in wonderful translations by Marshak grew up on the folklore traditions of his land. R. Burns managed to combine in his simple poems tenderness, rich humour, lyric and love for freedom of the Scottish folklore heroes. His birthday is celebrated in Scotland as the national holiday and his statue and house in Dumfries are the places, visited by his numerous admirers.



The 20<sup>th</sup> century gave a great number of talented British writers, poets and dramatists: poet Thomas Eliot (1888-1965), novelist and

dramatist John Galsworthy (1867-1933), David Lawrence, satirist Aldous Huxley (1894-1963), Sean O'Keisi, Richard Oldington, novelist, dramatist and essayist John Priestly (1894-1984), Evelyn Waugh (1903-66), Graham Green (1904-91), Irish novelist James Joyce (1882-1941) and many others.

Joyce's novel *Ulysses* started the development of modernist literature in Britain. In this novel and later in Einnegan's *Wake* Joyce revolutionized the techniques of fiction – writing, introducing the “stream of consciousness,” inventing words and experimenting with syntax.

Virginia Woolf (1882-1941) in her novels also experimented with the stream-of-consciousness narrative technique.

An Irish playwright Sean O'Casey wrote a number of tragicomedies, blending realism with symbolism and poetry with vernacular speech.

The poetic writings of **William Yeats (1865-1939), marked with the Nobel Prize in 1923**, had a great influence on the development of the British poetry of the 20<sup>th</sup> century. All his books of verses were full of the Irish spirit, brilliant vigorous technique, the combination of western viewpoint with national philosophy and traditions.

*The War of the World* by H. Wells (1866-1946) became the first great works of science fiction.

William Somerset Maugham (1874-1965) is considered to be the best short-story writer in English. Many of his stories, together with novels and plays have been dramatized and became very fashionable and successful.



Agatha Christie (1890), the world's most successful and best-known detective writer, occupies a special place in British literature. During her long writing career she wrote over 83 books including 66 detective novels and 14 short story collections. Her detective novels were translated into every major language and tens of millions of her books were sold. Her little Belgian detective Poirot became as popular as Sherlock Homes by Arthur Conan Doyle. Poirot and her other detectives have also appeared in many of the popular films, radio programmers and stage plays, based on her books.

In the late 1950s John Osborne, one of a group of so-called Angry Young Men, achieved fame as an author of tough realistic drama about working class life. Iris Murdoch gained an international reputation for her “psychological detective stories”.

Sir Arthur Clarke created a number of science fiction books but probably became best known for his book “*A Space Odyssey*” which was made into an extremely popular film.

English literature influenced the literatures of America, Europe, Russia and many other world countries. It also gave rise to the young literatures of former British colonies. For example, Paul Scot's novels show the last years of the British presence in India, Alan Paton, Jack Cope, Alex La Guma wrote about the racial relationships in South Africa. Chinua Achebe described the tribal life in Nigeria.

**Nadina Gordimer, a white author from South Africa, was rewarded with the Nobel Prize in 1991 as the greatest English writer of her time.**

## **Music**

Because of its location and other economic factors, London is one of the most important cities for music in the world: it has several important concert halls and is also home to the Royal Opera House, one of the world's leading opera houses. Britain also supports a number of major orchestras including the BBC Symphony Orchestra, the Royal Philharmonic Orchestra.

A prolific composer of the 20th century Andrew Lloyd Webber has dominated the West End for a number of years and his musicals have travelled to Broadway in New York and around the world, as well as being turned into films.

Pop music in Britain is an important part of British culture. It is mainly a mixture of styles. It is difficult to find people who don't listen to music at least for pleasure so it is not surprising, that music can be an instrument of social influence and change.

In the 20th century American influences became most dominant in popular music, with young performers producing their own versions of American music. This led to the explosion of the 'British Invasion' of America of the early 1960s, with movements on one side of the ocean being exported to the other. The UK as one of the two main countries in the development of "rock and roll" along with the US, and has provided bands and singers including The Beatles, the Rolling Stones, Led Zeppelin, The Who, Queen, Pink Floyd, Queen, Elton John, Iron Maiden, Status Quo, and many others.

As a result the United Kingdom remained a major source of musical innovation and participation in the modern time.

### **Answer the following question:**

1. When was the term ballad used in its present sense?
2. What is one of the oldest printed fairy tales in England?
3. What important information does the British folklore contain?
4. What English fairy tales and legends do you know?
5. Which English writers do you know?
6. Which English writers have you read in English?
7. What do you know about UK Theater?
8. Have you read or seen any Shakespeare plays?
9. Have you seen any B. Shaw's plays?

### **2. Translate the following sentences into English:**

1. Главная причина уникальности культуры Великобритании лежит на поверхности.
2. Большинство английских сказок существовали только в устной форме.

3. Сказки с одинаковыми сюжетами и героями можно обнаружить практически во всех европейских культурах.
4. Баллады можно считать богатым источником информации об истории, общественной жизни, чувствах и ценностях англичан.
5. Легенды о короле Артуре начали появляться в 12 веке и, возможно, в их основе лежат предания о предводителе кельтов 5 или 6 веков, защищавшего страну от саксонского нашествия .
6. Самые древние баллады о Робин Гуде относятся к 15 веку. Его имя впервые упоминается в английской литературе в поэме Вильяма Лэнгленда, написанной в 1377 году, и позже в 18 веке в правительственных документах.
7. Можно с уверенностью сказать, что Робин Гуд действительно был похож на человека, описанного в старинных балладах.
8. Великий шотландский поэт Роберт Бернс любил свою родину, своих соотечественников и писал, в основном, о них.
9. В 1718 году, когда английскому писателю Даниэлю Дэфо было уже около 60 лет, он встретил моряка, который пробыл много лет один на необитаемом острове около Чили.
10. Необычные приключения моряка Селкирка захватили его воображение, и Дэфо написал историю человека, потерпевшего кораблекрушение. Он выбрал остров в другой части мира и создал вымышленный образ своего героя Робинзона Крузо.
11. Мастерство журналиста позволило Дэфо создать очень правдивую и увлекательную историю. Книга имела грандиозный успех. Читатели поверили в реальность описанного.

Suggested themes for the projects (compositions) on the UK life (5-12 pp).

1. Important scientific and technological advances made by people from the UK
2. Scientific research
3. Cultural life.
4. Music.
5. Literature and writers
6. Museums and interesting sights
7. National life and characters
8. Personalities