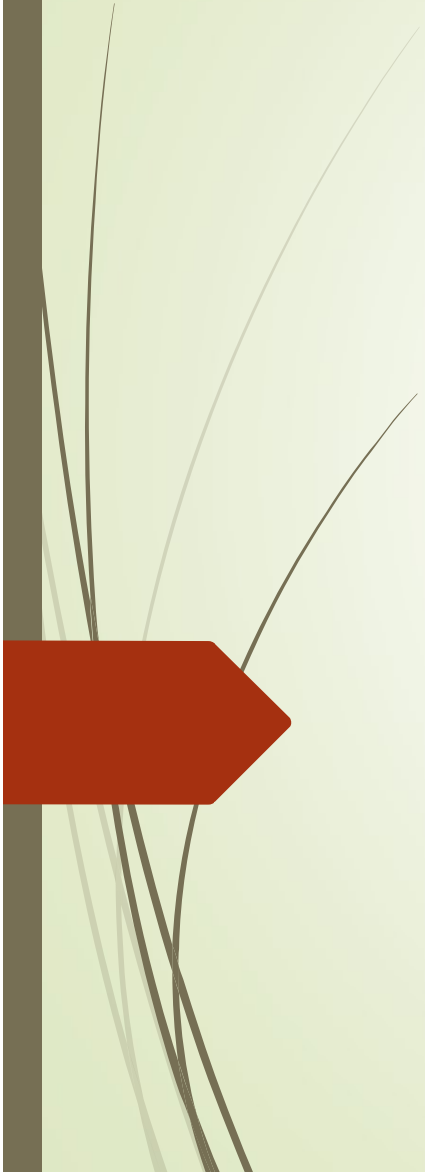


UNIT - V





MIDNIGHT'S CHILDREN

- Midnight's Children is a loose allegory for events in India both before and, primarily, after the independence and partition of India.
- The **protagonist** and narrator of the story is Saleem Sinai, born at the exact moment when India became an independent country.
- The dynamic relationship between Saleem's individual life and the collective life of the nation suggests that public and private will always influence one another.

Things Fall Apart

- **Things Fall Apart**, first novel by Chinua Achebe, written in English and published in 1958.
- *Things Fall Apart* helped create the Nigerian literary renaissance of the 1960s.
- The novel chronicles the life of Okonkwo, the leader of an Igbo community, from the events leading up to his banishment from the community for accidentally killing a clansman, through the seven years of his exile, to his return, and it addresses a particular problem of emergent Africa—the intrusion in the 1890s of white missionaries and colonial government into tribal Igbo society. It describes the simultaneous disintegration of its protagonist Okonkwo and of his village.
- The novel was praised for its intelligent and realistic treatment of tribal beliefs and of psychological disintegration coincident with social unraveling.



Beloved

- *Beloved* offers a harrowing look at slavery and its lasting impact.
- The intensely shocking and moving narrative was written in a variety of voices and lengthy fragmentary monologues, which, like the character of Beloved herself, are sometimes ambiguous.
- Morrison's beautiful language and intense imagery were rightly celebrated in this classic work.



1984

- **1984** is a dystopian novella by George Orwell published in 1949, which follows the life of Winston Smith, a low ranking member of the Party, who is frustrated by the omnipresent eyes of the party, and its ominous ruler Big Brother.
- 'Big Brother' controls every aspect of people's lives.
- Orwell wrote *Nineteen Eighty-four* as a warning after years of brooding on the twin menaces of Nazism and Stalinism.
- Its depiction of a state where daring to think differently is rewarded with torture, where people are monitored every second of the day, and where party propaganda trumps free speech and thought is a sobering reminder of the evils of unaccountable governments.



Gulliver's Travels

- **Gulliver's Travels** is an adventure story involving several voyages of Lemuel Gulliver, a ship's surgeon.
- The **main idea** behind **Gulliver's Travels** is to persuade Britons to reform their own society.
- Swift uses his gullible narrator, appropriately named Gulliver, to show through his eyes a number of comically cruel and absurd fictional cultures.



To the Lighthouse

- To the Lighthouse is a **novel** by Virginia Woolf.
- The **novel** centres on the Ramsay family and their visits to the Isle of Skye in Scotland between 1910 and 1920.
- The novel 'To The **Lighthouse**' by Virginia Woolf is considered a **classic** because it was groundbreaking and arresting.
- It has also stood the test of time and remains a beacon of it's kind- one that illuminates literature, and feminist literature.



Middlemarch

- **George** Eliot's influential **novel** Middlemarch its subtitle, a “study of provincial life.”
- At its center are the beautiful and inquisitive Dorothea Brooke and the ambitious young doctor Tertius Lydgate, who have to abandon their idealist views when faced with the reality of daily life.
- Eliot's refusal to conform to happy endings demonstrates the fact that *Middlemarch* is not meant to be entertainment.
- She wants to deal with real-life issues, not the fantasy world to which women writers were often confined.
- Her ambition was to create a portrait of the complexity of ordinary human life: quiet tragedies, petty character failings, small triumphs, and quiet moments of dignity.

The Sound and the Fury

- The Sound and the Fury, **novel** by William Faulkner, published in 1929, that details the destruction and downfall of the aristocratic Compson family from four different points of view.
- Faulkner's fourth **novel**, The Sound and the Fury is notable for its nonlinear plot structure and its unconventional narrative style.
- William Faulker's The **Sound and the Fury** tells the story of a Mississippi family between 1910 and 1928.
- Fallen from their aristocratic pedestal, the Compson family members struggle to realize their identities and to deal with the challenges life presents them.



Ulysses

- ▶ James Joyce's **novel** is set in Dublin on the day of June 16, 1904 and the protagonist, Leopold Bloom, is a middle-aged Jew whose job as an advertisement canvasser forces him to travel throughout the city on a daily basis.
- ▶ An important theme in Ulysses is that **death** is universal, ordinary, and extraordinary.
- ▶ **Ulysses** is the hero of the Odyssey, the Greek epic poem attributed to Homer.
- ▶ **Ulysses** spends 10 years trying to get back home to Ithaca after the Greeks win the Trojan War.
- ▶ **Ulysses** comes up with the idea of the Trojan Horse that permits the Greeks to get inside the Trojan city walls, torch the city, and go home.




Pride and Prejudice

- Pride and Prejudice follows the turbulent relationship between **Elizabeth** Bennet, the daughter of a country gentleman, and **Fitzwilliam Darcy**, a rich aristocratic landowner.
- They must overcome the titular sins of pride and prejudice in order to fall in love and marry.
- The main messages of Pride and Prejudice are that first impressions aren't always correct, that love and respect are the key to a happy **marriage**, and that inflexible **gender** roles are unfairly limiting.



The Decameron

- **The Decameron** comprises a group of stories united by a frame **story**.
- As **the** frame narrative opens, ten young people flee plague-stricken Florence to a delightful villa in nearby Fiesole.
- The book is structured as a frame story containing 100 tales told by a group of seven young women and three young men.
- They shelter in a secluded villa just outside Florence in order to escape the Black Death, which was afflicting the city.



Moby-Dick

- Moby-Dick or, The Whale is an 1851 **novel** by American writer, Herman Melville.
- The book is the sailor Ishmael's narrative of the obsessive quest of Ahab, captain of the whaling ship Pequod, for revenge on Moby Dick, the giant white whale that on the ship's previous voyage bit off Ahab's leg at the knee.
- **Revenge** is the central theme in Herman Melville's 'Moby-Dick.' What appears to be retribution for a lost leg becomes something more, as Ahab's desire for **revenge** consumes him and all those around him.

The Golden Notebook

- Doris Lessing's *The Golden Notebook* is a multilayered **novel** that centrally concerns the life, memories, and writings of Anna Wulf in the 1950s, during her late twenties and early thirties in London and colonial Africa.
- *The Golden Notebooks* speaks about war, Stalin, communism, feminism, and sexuality.
- The central figure of “ *The Golden Notebook* ” is Anna Wulf, a writer from South Africa, living in London.
- During World War II Anna marries a German refugee Max but divorces and then emigrates to London with her daughter Janet.



The Old Man and the Sea

- The Old Man and the Sea, short heroic **novel** by **Ernest Hemingway**, published in 1952 and awarded the 1953 Pulitzer Prize for fiction.
- It was his last major work of fiction. The story centres on an aging fisherman who engages in an epic battle to catch a giant marlin.
- The **Old Man and the Sea** is the story of an epic struggle between an **old**, seasoned fisherman and the greatest catch of his life.
- For eighty-four days, Santiago, an aged Cuban fisherman, has set out to **sea** and returned empty-handed.



Gitanjali

- The songs of Gitanjali can purify our body and mind to get closer to our **God**.
- Although the **God** of Rabindranath is the **God** of beauty, wisdom and perfection, not a rigid deity prescribed by religion or tradition.
- This **God** does not have any specific image nor did the poet ever represent his **God** through any symbols.
- The central theme of Gitanjali is devotional. It expresses the yearning of the devotee for re-union with the **divine**. It is in the tradition of the devotional poetry, but it finds a new and original treatment.