

# The Modern Age

1915-1946

# Basics of Modern Literature

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  - Optimism
  - Importance of the individual

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  - In World War I, more than 5 million people were killed during the war.
  - Modern writers Ernest Hemingway, E.E. Cummings, and John Dos Pasos experienced the war firsthand

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- Radio, jazz, and movies filled imaginations

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- Artists and writers flocked to New York's Greenwich Village.
- In 1929, the stock market crashed and the United States, and the rest of the world, went into the Great Depression.
- In 1939, war in Europe broke out again. World War II lasted until 1945 when the United States introduced the Atomic Age by dropping two atom bombs on Japan.

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- Modernists experimented with a wide variety of new approaches and techniques.

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- Modern poets abandoned traditional forms in favor of free verse. They often forced readers to draw their own conclusions

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- Included Hemingway, Fitzgerald, and T.S. Eliot

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- American authors finally began to garner international renown

# Nobel Prize Winners

- Sinclair Lewis (novelist)
- Eugene O'Neill (playwright)
- Pearl S. Buck (novelist)
- T.S. Eliot (poet)
- William Faulkner (novelist)
- Hemingway
- Steinbeck

# The Harlem Renaissance

- Beginning in 1921 in Harlem, New York, African-American writers, most of them newcomers from the South, led a burst of creativity by black writers that changed the landscape of American art.
- The writers of this movement opened the door for African-American artists who followed them.