

Genre: Philosophical Literature

Published: 1922

By: Hermann Hesse

Siddhartha

Author's Style:
• tends to write novels on self-reflection + separation
• meditates on same themes of individualism + spirituality.

Historical Information:

Written during time of WWI. Siddhartha was written as a literary work that focused on a separation of self from a world of war + turmoil. Hesse (during the time of writing this book + publication) had internal conflicts with self doubt + personal reflection.

Symbolism:

- * The River: represents life, time + path to enlightenment; teaching without words.
- * Ferryman's smile: smile evokes spiritual perfection + harmony
- * Kamala: Opening Siddhartha to a realm of feeling + passion
- * Siddhartha's Son: letting his son free was his final step to enlightenment

"Today we'll hear the teachings from his mouth," Said Gopinda. Siddhartha did not answer.

SIDDHARTHA

BY HERMAN HESSE

A philosophical fiction {

NOVEL - almost a proverb - {
of a son of a BRAHMIN searching
for some meaning. } } }

Accompanied by his good friend
GOVINDA, he goes on a journey to
test his FAITH and try to under-
stand why the traditional scripture
of the BRAHMINs were not satisfying
his spirituality.

He and GOVINDA join the Samanas
where they religiously learned to become "empty of wishes, empty of dreams,
empty of joy and sorrow."

He FASTS, MEDITATES and GIVE/PRAYS all of the time until he
leaves the Samanas to seek GORAMA, the Buddha

Even BUDDHA cannot satisfy
Siddhartha he continues his journey
where he discovers things of life:
•selfishness •vanity •lust
•pleasure •desire •greed
and stays with these VICES a
while until he comes to a river-
the same one he previously crossed
and hears the Om which he
uses to save his own life

He ENDS up with the PERRYMAN
VASUDEVA who represents warmth and
enlightenment and is spiritually and
socially flawless. He tires by the
river - the place that SIDDHARTHA
finds his solitude and feels finally
at peace.

The river gives him:

- knowledge
- reflection
- realization → the flow of life/time
→ the water keeps flowing and is new each
second yet still remain as the same river-
Showing SIDD a secret → 'there is
no such thing as time'

"Teachings mean nothing to me;
they possess nothing but words. Perhaps
that is what prevents you from finding
peace, perhaps it is all those words.
For even salvation and virtue, even
samsara and nirvana are mere
words, Govinda. There is no thing
that is nirvana there is
only the word nirvana."

— SIDDHARTHA —

Waiting for Godot

by Samuel Beckett

Genre: Fictional play; absurd; tragicomedy

Publication date: 1952

Characters

Estragon: "Yo Yo", poor memory, short, shoe issues, helpless (always getting hurt.)

Vladimir: "DiDi" responsible, mature, leader of the two, critical thinker, remembers his goals and events of the first day.

Pozzo: Had money, had a slave, symbol for wealthy class, blind in second act, also doesn't remember the first day.

Lucky: The first day he was decently smart and useful to Pozzo, was afraid of Pozzo getting rid of him, injured Estragon. Second day he was pretty useless and dumb.

Godot: Man who Vladimir and Estragon are waiting for, keeps them constantly waiting, never really appears and he might just be God.

The boy: Godot's messenger, does not remember events of first day.

Plot:

Plot: Two homeless men wait for a man named Godot to appear and fix their problems. They run into strange characters along the way, Pogo and Lucky. At the end of the day they contemplate death as an option, but when a boy comes and says Godot will come the next day, so they decide to hold out. The next day they run into the same issues and characters, except Vladimir is the only one that remembers the events of the day before. At the end they once again contemplate hanging themselves, but after getting news from Godot's messenger that he will come the next day, they once again decide to wait.

Watchmen

Character

Porshach protagonist
mentally unwell, crafty
but morally just
unreliable narrator.

Veidt human potential
good vs evil
makes up plan
to destroy NY
to save the world
smart
confident
determined

Dr. Manhattan

God Symbol

his existence puts
the destruction of
NY in traction,
"plays God"

unbiased
detached

moves plot along
and symbolizes
another moral
stance

being
normal
sad

Symbols

displays
feminist
archetype

long
feminine
headstrong

Laurie

female
character

smiley face — icon for
comedian

Dan

anti
hero

shows
armored
war paint

ironic
mean
harsh
dead

What you need to know

context creates most
historical
of the plot; American world affairs,

War

Time is irrelevant.

- Just 'cause they're super heroes doesn't mean
they all follow same code of conduct
- Are they above Man's law???

Doomsday clock — reveal time
left until end of the world.

Death of a Salesman

Plot Summary: Willy Loman, a salesman, struggles with family issues, such as his relationship with his son, and financial problems.

- Symbols:
- 1. The stock market
 - 2. Rubber hose
 - 3. Office pen

Literary 3x3:

- 1. Salesman fails family.
- 2. Son rejects normality (normality).
- 3. Father kills himself.

Meaning of the work as a whole: The deconstruction of the American dream. The idea that success is all about the perspective of an individual.

zoe.w Lexie.K Theresa.K Abby D.

Genre: Post-apocalyptic fiction

Published: 2006

THE Road

By: Cormac McCarthy

Historical Events during publication:
The middle of the Afghanistan war.

Plot Summary: An unnamed father and his son journey across a post-apocalyptic landscape. The remaining civilians sometimes resort to cannibalism, and the man and son must remain good in a world full of bad. Their goal is to reach the south, which hopefully holds more opportunities for them.

Author's style:

- no punctuation
- vivid description
- stream of consciousness
- archaic syntax

Significance of:

Setting:

- Post apocalyptic waste-land
- ↳ Starts in Northern US.
↳ Journey to South
- Very barren land
- ↳ U.S. highways + abandoned homes and cellars.

Closing Scene →

setting opens up to post-apocalyptic world. Author present anonymity to show that this is happening to everyone (lack of names). Lack of punctuation shows departure from old society.

life in order to get his son to safety. The son finds the good guys in end. The father gives son ultimate gift to show his love — life.

Characters:

- The man → The protector of the boy, but also himself. He is a father figure, but only because he has to be. He's stuck in the past; he is the only link to the post-world for the boy.

- The boy → Born into the apocalypse, with no knowledge of the world before.

The man's only reason for staying alive. He the only source of morality in the world and the man's life.

- Ely → Reference or modeled off of Eli from the Book of Samuel. He does act or speak like a prophet, but his statements and we being just what the man thinks about. He says that God is nonexistent, which is ironic.

- Coke can → disintegration of the consumer, Capitalistic society.

- Flute → Hope in the world; only music left.

- The road → very transient; represents mental and physical state of characters. The road would lead them to their goal (the South) or the end, like the world ground them.

Symbols

Gothic : Romanticism

Frankenstein

By: Mary Shelley
1818

- FRAME NARRATIVE

Walton

↳ Viktor Frankenstein

↳ 1st person quotes from monster

PLOT

- Viktor Frankenstein = science
- creates a horrific monster
- he abandons the monster
↳ begins a go in some over the guilt
- The monster searches for his creator in order to gain acceptance
- The monster becomes vengeful after Frankenstein rebuffs him
- The monster begins murdering Frank's family
- "

Characters

- Viktor Frankenstein →
 - ↳ creates monster
 - ↳ cowardly
 - ↳ power seeking
 - ↳ lonely
 - ↳ searching
 - ↳ spiteful
 - ↳ emotional
- Monster →
 - ↳ 1st Narrator
 - ↳ curious
 - ↳ brave
- Walton →

English novelist
Married to Percy Shelley

Setting

- 18th century
- Geneva : the Swiss Alps
- England
- Scotland : Northern Ice

Symbols

Fire & Light are symbols of goodness.

@ 1st, the monster is attracted to them but then learns to fear them.

Jane Eyre

by: Charlotte Brontë

Publication: 1847

Genre: Gothic, romance & Bildungsroman

Summary: Jane Eyre is a young orphan being raised by Mrs. Reed, her cruel, wealthy Aunt. She gets sent away to school where she becomes a governess for a man named Rochester. From there a weird tension filled relationship forms. She runs away only to go back.

Symbols: Bertha Mason - impedes Jane's happiness, but also catalysts the growth of Jane's self-understanding.
The red room - symbol of what Jane must overcome in her struggle to find freedom, happiness, and belonging.

Meanings: Gender relations, social class, religion, and love versus autonomy.

Opening: Shows the struggle Jane is/will face.

Closing: She finds peace and Rochester's blindness gives her power and equality.

The Stranger

By: ALBERT CAMUS

SUMMARY

- Meursault is a man who is, in essence, a stranger in his own life. Dissociated from many of the major events that occur throughout the novel (his mother's death/funeral, meeting and forming a 'relationship' w/ Marie, 'friendship' with Raymond, killing the Arab, his own murder trial and conviction, and facing the consequence of his actions — execution)

Symbols

- The Beach: The one place Meursault felt emotion
- Marie: Hope, she disappears as Meursault becomes more self aware (depression)
- The Gun: Meursault's use of the gun opens up a new world of negative emotion

Message: Give life a purpose

"And it was like knocking four quick times on the door unhappiness."

"Maman died today. or yesterday maybe, I don't know."

Atonement

by
Ian McEwan

McEwan is an English novelist and screenwriter. He began writing Gothic stories. He achieved notoriety in 1979 because BBC suspended his play because it was obscene.

MAIN. CHARACTERS

Briony Tallis - is the narrator & sister of Cecilia. She causes a lot of the problems in the story.

Cecilia Tallis - is the middle child & shuns her own family. She is in love with Robby.

Emily Tallis - is the mother of the children. Literally is insignificant.

Robby Turner - Son of Grace who lives on Tallis land. In love with Cecilia & allegedly "raped" Lola.

Lola Quincey - Cousin of Cecilia & Briony. Gets Raped.

Paul Marshall - Friends of Cecilia's brother. Rapes Lola.

Writers never achieve atonement for their works.
The actions of our past will affect our future.

Heart of Darkness



Author: Joseph Conrad

Setting: Congo River, Africa

Setting:

The Congo - in the heart of Africa

Symbols:

The Congo, ivory, darkness, the city, the ship

Plot:

Marlow is a sailor who recounts to his friends what happened to him while he worked as a riverboat captain for a Belgian Ivory trading company. He had a quest to find Kurtz, the inner station's captain. They find him, but he is crazy and dies on the journey home.

Characters:

Kurtz	the insane man	symbol of men succumbing to their wild nature
Marlow	Captain, searching for Kurtz	realizes the Congo's power & comes to question his moral values. Is what his company doing right? Has he been blind to the horror around him?

Style:

themes of dual nature of identity, darkness in souls, etc. Likely modernist, relates psychological theories

Meaning:

Essentially a journey to the inner center of the self. It's a psychoanalysis of human nature and its complexity

Ending / Climax Scene:

Shows Kurtz as a completely diff. man than what his wife thought. He would have scared her if he showed his true self.

Opening Scene:

foreshadows what's to come or sets up story as a frame narrative

Quotes:

"The word ivory rang in the air, was whispered, was sighed..."	Marlow's impression of the control station. Ivory represents economic freedom & social advancement
"I was within a hair's breadth... he had summed up... he had judged. "The horror!"	Kurtz makes a definite something, he refuses to acknowledge ambiguity. He has ensured his own immortality.
"Ivy yes, it was ugly enough; but if you would admit to yourself that there was in you the faintest trace of that noise, a dim suspicion of there being a meaning to it."	The wildness from the natives charms engage his imagination, which troubles him. It suggests he has a kinship w/ these natives, whom are classified as inhuman

Madison PD7

The Window

By Lemony Snicket

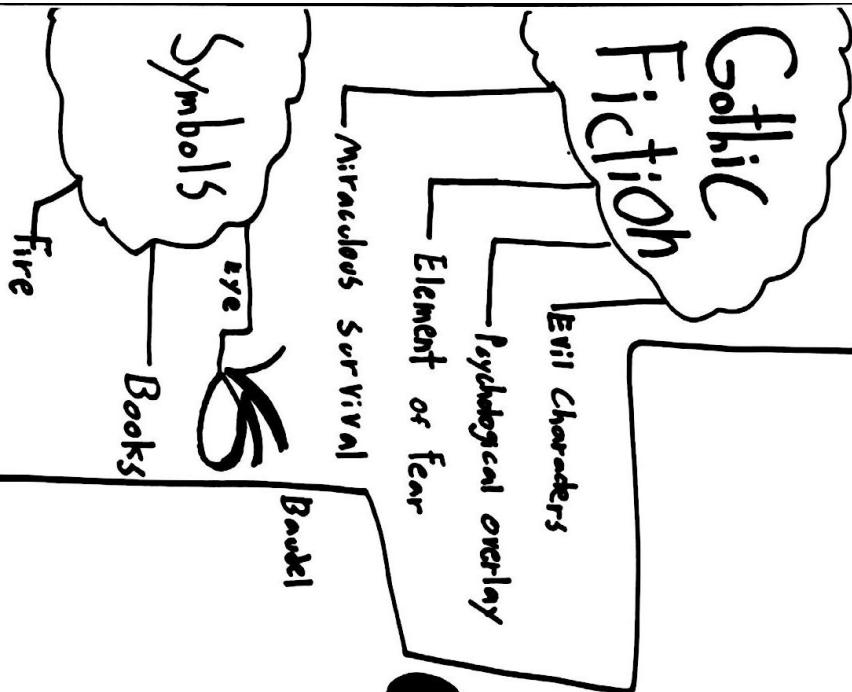
(A series of unfortunate events)

CHARACTERS

Lake
Lachrymose

Setting

- Fate introduces change
- Bad luck unearths evil
- Cunning saves temporarily



Cast of Eden

by

JOHN
STEINBECK

BRIEF SUMMARY

1. Adam : Charles constantly fight for father's love
2. Adam starts own life ; marries evil woman
3. Adam's children : runs away
4. Adam practically catatonic - Lee raises twin boys
5. Cain : Abel storyline.
6. Cain : Abel storyline.
7. Cain falls in love w/ Aron's girlfriend Aron
8. Cain gets killed
9. Cain runs away to the army ; gets killed
10. Cain gets crushed, has a stroke, final resolution
11. Cain on his death bed

CHARACTERS

- ADAM TRASK: Main character, son | brother | father - perpetuates brother.
- CATHY (KATE): Evil deceptive love of Adam, Cain's mother who abandons them to run a brothel.
- LEE: Adam's Chinese - American servant, Sage advice-giver, huge task household fixture
- SAMUEL HAMILTON: Neighbor, intellectual, father of 3, jolly good hearted man who offers Adam lots of guidance
- CHARLES TRASK: Scary brother of Adam, father's least favorite.
- CAL TRASK: Son of Adam, second "Cain" of the novel, sad li.
- ARON TRASK: Misunderstood boy, golden child, "holier-than-thou"

THEMES

- "Imsheil": fate ; free will, citing Genesis. God's promise to reward Cain, emphasizing choice.
- Jealousy: Between brothers, regarding favoritism, making characters seem fact
- Evil or good
- Good vs. Evil: Genesis again - evil entering the world, dividing people ; actions into Right & Wrong

QUOTES:

- "As a child may be born without kindness."
- "So one may be born without any virtue at all."
- "This I would take any thought for: the freedom & wishes."