

POINTS TO REMEMBER IN ENGLISH LITERATURE SERIES- 12

1. Though the **stream-of-consciousness technique** and interior monologue have been used synonymously, there is a difference between these two techniques. Unlike in the stream of consciousness, there is a logical progression of thoughts.

2. **Interior monologue** relates the character's thoughts as coherent, but the stream-of-consciousness technique portrays the actual thought in all its chaos and distraction.

3. Stream of Consciousness is a narrative device that presents a written equivalent of a character's thought process. It is an attempt to make the reader think as the character is thinking.

4. Some of the examples of the Stream of Consciousness technique are:

a) Virginia Woolf - Mrs. Dalloway

b) Toni Morrison- Beloved

c) T.S Eliot- The Love Song of J. Alfred Prufrock (The work is probably considered to be influenced by Robert Browning's poem ' Soliloquy of the Spanish Cloister'

d) William Faulkner- As I Lay Dying

e) Death in Venice- Thomas Mann

5. While the narrative technique of the stream of consciousness has been associated with the Modernists in the first part of the twentieth century, a number of precursors have been suggested:

FIRST CATEGORY(FROM BEGINNING TO 1900)

a) Laurence Sterne - Tristram Shandy (It is often cited as a psychological novel)

b) Edgar Allen Poe- The Tell- Tale Heart (1843,short story)

c) Leo Tolstoy- War and Peace (1869), Anna Karenina (1878)

- d) Ambrose Bierce- An Occurrence at Owl Creek Bridge (1890)
- e) Edouard Dujardin's - Les Lauriers Sont Coupes (1887)
- f) Knut Hamsun- Hunger (1890) Mysteries (1892)
- g) Anton Chekhov's short stories and plays - The Seagull (1896), Uncle Vanya (1898)
- h) Henry James- The Portrait of a Lady (1881)
- i) Arthur Schnitzler- None But the Brave (1900), this short story is often touted to be the first complete work to have used the stream-of-consciousness technique.

6) The SECOND CATEGORY is the early twentieth century:

- a) Marcel Proust- In Search of Lost Time (1913-1927)
- b) James Joyce - A Portrait of the Artist as a Young Man (1916, serialized in The Egoist)
- c) James Joyce - Ulysses (1922, The Little Review)
- d) James Joyce- Finnegans Wake (1939)

7) The THIRD CATEGORY (1923-2000) :

- a) Italo Svevo - La Coscienza di Zeno (1923)
- b) Virginia Woolf - Mrs. Dalloway (1925), To the Lighthouse (1927)
- c) William Faulkner - The Sound and the Fury (1929)
- d) Samuel Beckett- Molloy (1951), Malone Dies (1951)
- e) Robert Anton Wilson/ Robert Shea- Illuminatus!
- f) James Kelman- The Busconductor Hines, A Disaffection and How Late It Was, How Late.
- g) Sylvia Plath- The Bell Jar (1963)
- h) Irvine Welsh - Trainspotting (1993)

i) Dave Eggers - A Heartbreaking Work of Staggering Genius (2000)

j) Roberto Bolano - Amulet (1999)

8) **The FOURTH CATEGORY includes :**

a) Jonathan Safran Foer- Everything is Illuminated (2002)

9) **Johan August Strindberg** (1849-1912) was a Swedish playwright, novelist, painter, essayist and poet. He is considered the ' father ' of modern Swedish Literature. His novel 'The Red Room' has been described as first modern Swedish novel.

10) With his plays ' The Father ' (1887) and ' Miss Julie' (1888) and Creditors (1889), he created Naturalistic dramas that built on Henrik Ibsen's already established problem plays while rejecting to the structure of the well-made play.

11) He associated himself with **Emile Zola's** manifesto ' Naturalism in the Theatre' (1881) and Andre Antoine's newly established Theatre Libre(1887).

12) **Anton Pavlovich Chekhov** (1860-1904), a Russian playwright and short-story writer, is considered to be one of the greatest writers in the world. Along with August Strindberg and Henrik Ibsen, Chekhov is considered one of the three most important figures in the birth of early modernism in theatre.

13) **Interior monologue** resembles soliloquy in that it reveals character's innermost thoughts and feelings, but unlike a soliloquy it is not meant to be performed. A soliloquy is meant to be spoken, revealed but interior monologue will never be spoken: it is a record of character's record.

14) **Dramatic Monologue** is a type of poetry written in the form of speech of an individual character. This person addresses and interacts with one or more speaker. It is a way of expressing the views of a character and offers the audience a greater insight into the character's feelings.

15) One of the most important influence on dramatic poetry is Romantic poetry. However, long, personal lyrics are not dramatic monologues.

16) The novels and plays have been important influences on the dramatic monologue, particularly as a means of characterization. It can also be used in

novels to tell stories. For example- Mary Shelley's *Frankenstein*, Albert Camus' *The Fall* and Mohsin Hamid's *The Reluctant Fundamentalist*.

17) **The Victorian period** presented the high point of the dramatic monologue in English poetry:

i) Alfred, Lord Tennyson's *Ulysses*(1842) has been called the first true dramatic monologue. Other examples are *Tithonus*, *Idylls of the King*, *The Lotus Eaters* and such others.

ii) Matthew Arnold's *Dover Beach* is an example of semi-autobiographical monologues.

iii) Robert Browning's *My Last Duchess*, *The Ring and the Book*, and such others.

iv) Dante Gabriel Rossetti - *Jenny* and *The Blessed Damozel*

v) Swinburne- *Hymn to Proserpine*

vi) Edgar Allen Poe- *The Raven*

vii) Post- Victorian examples are:

a) William Butler Yeats - *The Gift of Harun al-Rashid*,

b) Elizabeth Bishop - *Crusoe in England*

c) T.S Eliot- *Gerontion*

18) **Robert Browning** was an English poet and playwright whose dramatic monologues put him among the leading Victorian poets. He was noted for irony, dark humor, syntax, social commentary, historical settings etc. Only later in his career, his *Dramatis Personae* (1864) and book- length epic poem *The Ring and The Book* made him a leading poet.

19) **Sordello**, a long poem in heroic couplet, presented as a imaginary biography of the Mantuan bard spoken of by Dante in the *Divine Comedy*.

20) Certain famous lines from Browning's poems are:

a) Grow old along with me! (Rabbi Ben Ezra)

b) A Man's Reach Should Exceed his Grasp (Andrea Del Sarto)

c) Less is More (" " ")

d) It was Roses, Roses all the Way (The Patriot)

e) God's in his heaven- All's right with the world (Pippa Passes)

21) Stephen King's The Dark Tower was chiefly inspired by **Browning's Child Roland to the Dark Tower Came**.

22) **Mark Alburger's** 2004 opera The Pied Piper of Hamelin sets the Browning poem in the time of George W. Bush and Osama Bin Laden.

23) **H.P Lovecraft** considered Swinburne(1837-1909) " the only real poet in either England or America after the death of Mr. Edgar Allen Poe.

24) **Swinburne** wrote several collections of poetry including Poems and Ballads and contributed to the Eleventh Edition of the Encyclopedia Britannica. He wrote on many taboo topics such as lesbianism, cannibalism, anti-theism and sado-masochism.

25) There are several historical figures that featured in Swinburne works- Sappho, Anactoria and Catullus.