

# Unit 3 – The Restoration and the 18<sup>th</sup> Century

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## **The Restoration and the 18<sup>th</sup> Century 1660-1798 - Tradition and Reason**

Pg. 462-478

- After years of tumult and upheaval, England settled happily into a time of peace, order, and prosperity.
- Behind the façade of tradition, however, was a radical new way of thinking – scientific, logical, and “enlightened” – that would change the face of Britain.
- The monarchy had been restored, but in this era, reason ruled unchallenged.

### **The Restoration and the 18<sup>th</sup> Century: Historical Context**

- Writers of this era worked in a context of relative political stability and increasing rights under a more limited monarchy.

### **The Reign of Charles II**

- French sophistication
  - England turned its back on the grim era of the Puritan rule
  - Charles spent much of his exile in France
  - He tried to emulate the French king Louis XIV
- Patron of arts & sciences
  - Charles re-established Anglicanism as England’s state religion
- Supported by Tories, limited by Whigs
  - Support grew in Parliament as Charles weathered the Great Plague and the Great Fire of London.
  - **Whigs** – wanted to limit royal authority and upperclassmen
  - **Tories** – supporters of royal authority. They consisted mainly of land-owning

aristocrats and conservative Anglicans, who had little tolerance for Protestant dissenters and no desire for war with France.

## **Royalty and the People**

### ***William and Mary***

- Charles was succeeded by his catholic brother James II.
- James wanted to restore Catholicism.
- As a result James was forced to abdicate (give up) the throne to his protestant daughter Mary.
- **Glorious Revolution** – Mary and her husband William of Orange peacefully took the throne.
  - This was a triumph of parliament over the kings
- English Bill of Rights – put specific limit on royal authority
- William of Orange ruled after Mary passed away.
  - Because he was Dutch and a protestant he was a natural enemy of Catholic France.
  - A second Hundred Year's war went on because of all the battles between England and France.
  - *Act of Settlement* was passed which barred Catholics from the throne.
- The throne then went to Mary's sister Anne. During her reign Scotland was officially united with England to form *Great Britain*.

### ***The House of Hanover***

- Anne was the last monarch in the house of Stuart.
- After Anne passed the crown went to a distant cousin, the ruler of Hanover in Germany, George I, first ruler of the House of Hanover.
- George I spoke no English and was

viewed with contempt.

- George relied heavily on Whig ministers.
- George I and his son George II relied on capable prime Ministers.
- Seven Year's War – Britain acquired French Canada.
- George II's grandson was the first British born monarch from the House of Hanover.
- George II led Britain into a series of political blunders that resulted in the loss of the American Colonies.

### **Ideas of the Age**

- This period became known as the Age of Reason, because people used reason, not faith, to make sense of the World.

### **The Age of Reason**

- The late 1600's and the 1700's
- The Enlightenment or Age of Reason
  - People began to use scientific reasoning to understand the world.

### **The Scientific Method**

- **Sir Isaac Newton** – Mathematical Principles of Philosophy (1687)
- **Scientific Method** – consists of analyzing facts, developing a hypothesis, and testing that hypothesis with experiments.
- Suggested that the universe operated by logical principles that humans were capable of understanding.
- Milky Way was discovered and chemists discovered carbon dioxide.
- Animals were categorized

### **Enlightened Philosophies**

- The discoveries of Newton also inspired in government and other areas other than science.
- **John Locke** encouraged people to use

their intelligence to rid themselves of unjust authorities.

- Locke provided a logical justification for the Glorious Revolution and the American Revolution.

### **Living Well**

- The Enlightenment led to improvements in living conditions.
  - Inoculations and vaccinations
- British citizens lived well and sumptuously.
- Many rich aristocrats had multiple houses.
- Writers, artists, politicians, and other members of society gathered daily in London's coffeehouses to exchange ideas, conduct business, and gossip.
- Educated women held salons, or private gatherings.

### **Literature of the Times**

- In this time of prosperity and relative stability, literature flourished, finding new audiences, new forms, and new voices.

### **Social Observers**

- A growing middle class increased demand for middlebrow literature.
- Journalism became popular, providing opinions as well as facts.
- Novels were modeled on nonfiction forms.
- Pepys's diary captured Restoration period.

### **Satirical Voices**

- Neoclassicists emulated the rationality of ancient Greek and Roman writers.
- The early 1700s were called the Augustan Age, in reference to the times of Roman emperor Augustus.
- Satire pointed out society's problems; Horatian satire was gentle, Juvenalian

was dark.

- Restoration comedies satirized the Stuart court.

### **The Age of Johnson**

- The late 1700s were called the Age of Johnson in tribute to Samuel Johnson, an influential writer.
- Nonfiction flourished.
- Poetry entered a transitional period.

### **Women Writers**

- Unable to participate in public intellectual life, women formed salons.
- Intellectual women were known as bluestockings.
- Women began publishing their work.
- Wollstonecraft called for women's rights.

## Metaphysical Poetry

### Introduction

- During the late 1600's writers rejected the late-Elizabethan lyric poetry.
- They began to write metaphysical poetry.
  - Of to a reality beyond what is perceptible.
  - Abstract and theoretical reasoning
  - Primarily devotional and often mystical in content, even when dealing with subjects such as physical love and relationships.
- They used logic and intellect
- Can be difficult to understand
- They poets experimented with language
- Each had a unique style but they shared common traits
  - Simple, conversational vocabulary, but complex sentence patterns.
  - Metaphysical conceits, a type of extended metaphor comparing very dissimilar things.
  - Paradoxes or statements that seem to contradict themselves.
  - Disruptions of poetic meter.
  - Witty and imaginative plays on words.
- It is criticized for disrupting poetic meter. "deliberate unevenness"

## John Donne

Pg. 480-493

### About the Author

- Life and poetry contained startling contrasts.
- Raised Roman Catholic but he became a powerful Anglican priest.
- Both worldly and spiritual
- Studied at Oxford and Cambridge but never received a degree because he was Catholic and would not pledge allegiance to Elizabeth I
- Brother died in prison sheltering a Jesuit priest.
- Abandoned his church and became Anglican priest from the urging of James I
- Marriage also influenced him
- Married his wife in secret and when they were found out he lost his job.
- From then on he battled poverty
- Death was also another theme
- People died frequently during the renaissance because of lack of medical knowledge.
- Wife died in childbirth with their 12<sup>th</sup> child.
- 2 children were stillborn and others died at the ages of 3, 7, and 19.

### Literary Analysis: Metaphysical Conceit

- **Metaphysical Conceit** – a type of metaphor or simile in which the comparison is unusually striking, original, and elaborate.

### Reading Skill: Interpret Ideas

### Background

- Donne has a wife who he really loves, he's going to leave her for a long trip, she doesn't want him to leave.
- To tell her not to be sad (a valediction is a hopeful request).
- Metaphysical poets love to use similes & metaphors.
- Similes use like or as to compare two dissimilar things.

<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• <b>Paradox</b> – a statement that seems to contradict itself but reveals some element of truth.</li><li>• <b>Interpret</b> – explain the meaning of</li></ul>	
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<p><b>Song</b> John Donne Pg. 482-83</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• This poem expresses what it feels like to be separated from the person one loves.</li><li>• Donne’s argument is artfully presented through a conceit that compares a temporary absence to the permanent absence of death.</li></ul>	
<p><b>A Valediction: Forbidding Mourning</b> John Donne Pg. 484-485</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• The speaker of this poem urges his wife not to mourn his absence, for their love is strong enough to endure the separation.</li><li>• He compares their love to a compass, with one lover remaining stationary while the other revolves around his or her stability, making a perfect circle.</li></ul>	<p><b>A Valediction Forbidding Mourning</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• It is one of the greatest examples of a love poem.</li><li>• This is one of the most beautiful love poems written.</li><li>• <b>First stanza</b> - When a good guy is ready to die, his friends are not ready for him to go.</li><li>• <b>Second Stanza</b> – for us, Donne &amp; his wife.</li><li>• No crying, we don’t need it.</li><li>• Profanation means to not show real respect.</li><li>• When people on the outside see us leaving, we don’t need to blow snot &amp; cry to prove to me that you love me.</li><li>• The laity (those who don’t understand the ‘religion’ of love) doesn’t need to know what we are.</li><li>• <b>Stanza three</b> – moving of the earth brings harms &amp; fears, men reckon what it did &amp; meant.</li><li>• But trepidations of the sphere... We can be afraid of what’s coming, but it’s harmless.</li><li>• I’ve got to go away, but don’t be sad.</li><li>• Our business has nothing to do with</li></ul>

	<p>anyone else.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• <b>Stanza four</b> – dull sublunary lovers’ love, whose soul is sense can’t admit absence because it doth remove the thing that elemented it... everything that relates to the five senses are “physical”, then the stuff that relates outside of those senses become “meta-physical: Those whose love is the body, when the body is gone – there’s nothing to love.</li><li>• If you love because of the physical body, then what is there to love when the body is gone?</li><li>• <b>Stanza five</b> – but we so much of a love so refined...care less of the eyes, lips,...</li><li>• We (Donne &amp; his wife) love of the minds, we don’t need the eyes, lips, etc.</li><li>• Most people love the body &amp; not of the mind.</li><li>• That’s why most people blow snot, because they love of the body.</li><li>• <b>Stanza six</b> – Our two souls (another word for mind)...</li><li>• Gold, when you heat it up is still the same gold.</li><li>• Just because we’re separated doesn’t change our form, we are as gold.</li><li>• <b>Stanza seven</b> – My soul... To make a perfect circle, one of the legs of the compass has to move; the other leg of the compass has to stay planted, but when the circle has been mad – the compass gets picked up &amp; the two legs come back together.</li><li>• True love is when two minds come together.</li><li>• <b>Stanza eight</b> – Such wilt thou be to</li></ul>
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	<p>me...thy firmness makes my circle just.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Observations – all kinds of sexual connotations.</li> <li>• Donne is playing a game with readers; you're staying in the physical &amp; not moving to the meta-physical</li> </ul>
<p><b>Holy Sonnet 10</b>          John Donne          Pg. 486-487</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• In this sonnet, the speaker warns Death not to be proud of its fearsome reputation.</li> <li>• He explains that those who die live on eternally, while Death itself shall die.</li> </ul>	
<p><b>Meditation 17</b>          John Donne          Pg. 488-489</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• In this prose meditation, Donne explains that since humans are interconnected, what affects one person affects everyone.</li> </ul>	

## Andrew Marvell

Pg. 505-508

### About the Author

- Known for lighthearted, musical verse.
- Regarded Ben Jonson as literary father. “Sons of Ben”
- Combined cavalier style with metaphysical.
- Known more for political activities than writing poetry.
- Supported Parliament in the English Civil War.
- Served in Parliament until his death.
- Poetry published after his death.
- Not recognized as a great poet until the 20<sup>th</sup> Century

### To His Coy Mistress

Andrew Marvell

Pg. 506-508

- In this lyric poem, the speaker tells his sweet-heart that since time is fleeting, they should love one another now.
- **Archaic Language** – the word mistress in the title has the archaic meaning of “sweetheart” or “beloved female”; it suggests that the lady in question owns the speaker’s heart.

**Robert Herrick**

Pg. 509-510

**About the Author**

- Anglican priest and admirer of Ben Jonson.
- Assigned to a rural church in Devonshire
- Deprived of a post because he was loyal to the King during the parliamentary government.
- Published during the civil war when people had little interest in it.
- Only book of poems was *Hesperides*.

**To the Virgins, to Make Much of Time**

Robert Herrick

Pg. 510

- The speaker in this lyric poem urges young women to marry and enjoy love before their youth is gone and they are left to face old age alone.

## John Milton

Pg.516-539

### About the Author

- *Paradise Lost* is considered the finest epic poem in the English language.
- Studied very hard as a young man and determined to become an important writer.
- Went to Cambridge University for seven years.
- Continued education independently.
- Allied with the Puritan faction during the British Civil War.
- Wrote pamphlets to support the republican government.
- Appointed as one of Cromwell's secretaries.
- Wife died in childbirth and the infant died a few weeks later.
- Not long after he lost his eyesight.
- Shortly before the restoration of the monarchy he began working on and epic Christian poem that he had conceived when he was 19.
- The Fall of Men was basic source.
- Took five years to finish *Paradise Lost*.

### Literary Analysis: Figurative Language

- **Figurative language** – words that communicate ideas beyond their literal meaning.
- **Personification** – an expression in which human qualities are attributed to an object, an animal, or an idea.
- **Metaphor** – an expression that makes a comparison between two seemingly unlike things.

### John Milton

- Milton decided early to become an important writer and became one of England's most revered poets.
- *Paradise Lost* being his most famous work and widely accepted as the finest epic poem in the English language.
- When civil war erupted in 1642, Milton, critic of the monarchy, allied himself with the Puritan faction who supported Parliament over the king.
- Following the execution of Charles I in 1649, a republic was established under the Puritan leadership of Oliver Cromwell, who appointed Milton to post of secretary handling foreign correspondence and defending Puritan leadership.
- Milton started and completed "Paradise Lost" by dictating it to his daughters since he had gone blind.
- *Paradise Lost* was inspired by Milton's faith & was based on the biblical account of the Fall of Man, he wrote it to "justify the ways of God to men."

**Reading Strategy: Clarify Sentence Meaning**

- **Clarify Meaning** – by rereading and restating difficult sentences.
- **Archaic Language** – words that were once in common use but that are now considered old-fashioned or out-of-date.
- **Inverted Syntax** – sentence structure in which the expected order of words is reversed.

**How Soon Hath Time (*Sonnet VII*)**

Pg. 522

John Milton

- In this sonnet, Milton voices disappointment that, at the age of 23, he has not achieved great things.
- He concludes that achievement, whenever it comes, is part of God's plan.

**How Soon Hath Time:**

- Milton voices disappointment that, at the age of 23, he has not achieved great things. He concludes that achievement, whenever it comes, is part of God's plan.
  - What helps Milton cope w/disappointment? His faith in God.
  - What human qualities does Milton attribute to time? That time steals & leads the way
  - To what living creature does Milton compare time? A bird.
  - Lines 1-4 – Milton complains that he has nothing great to show for his 23 years of living.
  - Conclusion – Milton concludes that God is in control and is guiding his destiny. If he acts upon the opportunities that God sends his way, he will achieve God's will, according to God's timing.

**When I consider How My Light is Spent (Sonnet XIX)**

John Milton

Pg. 523

- In this sonnet, Milton expresses frustration at having his writing career curtailed by blindness.
- He finally realizes that those who patiently accept God's will also serve God.

**When I Consider How My Light Is Spent**

- Milton expresses frustration at having his writing career curtailed by blindness. He finally realizes that those who patiently accept God's will also serve God.
  - Lines 1-6 – Milton feels that his blindness makes it seemingly impossible for him to serve God.
  - Lines 8-14 – Milton's own response to his question of why his talent has been made "useless" is that "God doth not need Either man's work or his own gifts..." and that he should not question the ways of God; hence Paradise Lost.
  - Milton's poems suggest that his motives are to use his talent and to celebrate God through his writing.

**Paradise Lost**

Pg. 524-539

**Literary Analysis: Allusion**

- **Allusion** – is a brief reference to a fictional or historical person, place, or event, or to another literary work or passage.

**Reading Strategy: Reading Difficult Texts**

- **Syntax** – word order
- **Archaic expressions** – words and phrases we no longer use.

**Summary**

- This opening section of Milton's epic

<p>focuses on Satan, once a glorious angel in Heaven, who led other angels in an unsuccessful rebellion against God and who has been banished to the fiery pit of Hell.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Defeated but unrepentant, Stan tells Beelzebub, his second in command, that he would rather reign in Hell than serve in Heaven.</li><li>• He refuses to seek God's mercy; instead, he begins to plot revenge.</li></ul>	
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## Sir Francis Bacon

### About the Author

- Renaissance man – had many interests including philosophy, science, law, and public service.
- Thomas Jefferson was influenced by Bacon.
- Born to a wealthy family
- Father served Elizabeth I
- Elizabeth referred to him as “my little Lord Keeper.”
- Studied at Cambridge
- Diplomat to France but returned when his father died.
- Because of his financial situation he had to work as a public servant and rose to royal service.
- He was knighted and given the highest judicial position in England.
- He was charged with accepting bribes and forced to resign his post.
- Dedicated to writing his essays.
- His interest in science led to his death. He died from bronchitis resulting from an experiment.

### Literary Analysis: Essay

- **Essay** – is a relatively brief work of nonfiction that offers an opinion on a subject.
- **Aphorisms** – brief statement that express general observations about life in a witty, pointed way.

### Reading Skill: Evaluate Opinions

- Evaluate – determining whether you agree or disagree with the opinions.

### Sir Francis Bacon

- Renaissance man. Father of the English essay.
- Thomas Jefferson influenced by Bacon’s essays
- Bacon born into a wealthy family, but father left him no money upon his death
- Bacon was ‘forced’ into public service as a lawyer to earn money
- Awarded the highest judicial seat in England, but 3 years later was stripped of title due to accepting bribes.
- Bacon is interesting; Stanford created a software program to find out who was the smartest person, Bacon was second – Phd by 13 & reads & writes 9 languages. Considers himself a scientist, died stuffing chickens w/snow checking the spoilage of meat. Bacon predicts that the world will change to include those that are educated will earn the money.
- Of Studies – considered one of his finest work
- Studies are broken into:
  - Reading – makes you full;
  - Writing - say exactly what you mean; having the words. Intellectual weakness is similar to what a doctor does for an ill patient; the more practice you have, the better you get.
  - Communicate – makes you a ready man, always able to communicate; confidence
- Example of annotation from McGee:

- Studies serve
  - Delight – privateness and retiring; alone & bedtime reading
  - Ornament – discourse; conversation, talking & if your educated & talented you can use when you need. Knowledge is power. If you have good vocabulary, you can make yourself like smarter.
  - Ability – judgment & disposition of business; educated people make more money and have power. There are two kinds of people in the world;
    - Experts – know a lot about a little.
    - Learned – know how to use what they’ve learned.
    - You can schooled and not very educated, you can be uneducated and be very smart.
  - The only education that is of value is the one where you make the most money
  - Don’t go to college unless you’re ready to use your knowledge
- Crafty men contemn studies, simple men admire them, and wise men use them
  - Crafty men – construction workers who condemn education
  - Simple men – Oh my, he’s so smart; I’ll never be as smart as

	<p>him</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>○ Wise men – come in all forms &amp; use their education to make money</li></ul>
<p><b>Of Studies</b> Sir Francis Bacon</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• In this essay, Bacon explores the use and abuse of studies.</li><li>• He advises readers to choose books that will make them think, but he suggests that books vary in their value in this regard and that various subjects benefit readers in distinct ways.</li><li>• Bacon concludes that reading, discussion, and writing are profitable forms of study and that appropriate study can remedy many personal shortcomings.</li></ul>	

## Jonathan Swift

Pg. 604-627

### About the Author

#### Jonathan Swift

- Greatest satirist in the English language.
- Politically and socially influential in the 18<sup>th</sup> century.
- Born in Ireland to English parents.
- Went to Trinity College.
- Became a secretary to a diplomat in England.
- Ordained an Anglican priest.
- Clergyman and political writer for the Whig party.
- Raged about arrogance and phoniness in moral and intellectual life.
- When the Whig party lost power the Tory party courted him to be on their side, but he left politics on principle.
- Went back to Ireland to be the dean of St. Patrick's Cathedral.
- He became a hero to both Catholics and Protestants alike.
- Anonymously published *Gulliver's Travels*.
- It was extremely popular and controversial

#### Literary Analysis: Satire

- **Satire** – is a literary technique in which people's behaviors or society's institutions are ridiculed for the purpose of bringing about social reform.
- **Verbal Irony** – what is said is the opposite of what is meant.

#### Reading Skill: Identify Proposition and Support

- **Problem** – identify
- **Solution** - how to solve the problem
- **Proposition** – how to implement the

solution

- **Support** – provide in the form of reasons and evidence.
- *Other possible Solutions*

### Vocabulary

- **Sustenance** – a means of support or nourishment
- **Rudiments** – a basic principle or element
- **Collateral** – accompanying as a parallel or subordinate factor; related
- **Deference** – a yielding or courteous regard toward the opinion, judgment, or wishes of others; respect
- **Expedient** – something useful in achieving the desired effect; a convenience; an advantage
- **Encumbrance** – a burden
- **Famine** – a period in which there is a severe shortage of food.
- **Propagation** – the act of reproducing, multiplying, or increasing

## **Gulliver's Travels**

Jonathan Swift

### **Literary Analysis: Fantasy**

- **Fantasy** – is literature in which the limits of reality are purposely disregarded.
- **Satire**

### **Reading Skill: Understand Satire in Historical Context**

- **Historical Context** – the conditions and events that inspired or influenced the work's creation.

### **Vocabulary**

- **Conjecture** – to infer based on incomplete evidence; guess
- **Submissive** – tending to yield to the will of others; docile; meek
- **Dexterity** – skill in manipulating one's hands or body
- **Diminutive** – very small
- **Prodigious** – of great size or power; huge; impressive
- **Animosities** – ill feeling; hostility
- **Foment** – to stir up trouble; to incite
- **Posterity** – future generations

### **Summary**

Pg. 624-641

- In these excerpts from Swift's satirical novel, Lemuel Gulliver, a British ship's doctor shipwrecked by a storm, finds himself in Lilliput, whose tiny inhabitants are obsessed with petty conflicts that mirror the English politics of Swift's day.
- Gulliver's next voyage takes him to Brobdingnag, populated by giants.
- When the king of Brobdingnag hears of the wars and vices of Gulliver's homeland, he concludes that most of the English are a "pernicious race of

<p>little odious vermin.”</p>	
<p><b>A Modest Proposal</b> Jonathan Swift Pg. 617-627</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• In this satire, Swift first identifies a problem:<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>○ Ireland’s poor are leading wretched lives.</li></ul></li><li>• He then offers a proposal for relieving this burden, decreasing the population, finding a new source of food, and curbing begging.</li><li>• The solution is to breed a certain portion of Irish children to be eaten.</li><li>• Swift provides statistics and detailed reasons supporting the plan, which serves as a harsh social critique of England’s treatment of the Irish.</li></ul>	

## Alexander Pope

Pg. 628-645

### About the Author

- Unrivaled poet and satirist in the 18<sup>th</sup> century.
- Raised Roman Catholic when only Protestants could obtain university education or hold public office.
- Self-taught
- Critically recognized by age 17 for his writing.
- Got tuberculosis from bad milk when he was 12. (never grew taller than 4'6")
- Neoclassicist writer translated Homer.
- Money from the translation made him financially independent.
- Affiliated with the Tory political group.
- He was often attacked by less talented writers.
- Died shortly after his 56<sup>th</sup> birthday.

### Poetic Form: Mock Epic

- **Mock Epic** – uses the lofty style and conventions of epic poetry to satirize a trivial subject.

### Literary Analysis: Heroic Couplet

- **Heroic couplet** – is a pair of rhymed lines written in iambic pentameter.
- **Iambic pentameter** – a metrical pattern of five feet (units, each which consists of two syllables, the first unstressed and the second stressed).

### Reading Strategy: Understand Elevated Language

- **Side notes** – to understand unfamiliar words and historical allusions in the text.
- **Visualize** – the action in the poem
- **Paraphrase** – restate sentences in your own words.

**From An Essay on Man**

Alexander Pope

Pg. 630-631

- Pope’s heroic couplets are the perfect vehicle to balance the contrary attributes of mankind.
- The passage asks, “What is man?”
- Its answer is that man is a creature in the middle.
- Both the glory and the jest of the world, man is above all a riddle.

**The Rape of the Lock**

Alexander Pope

Pg. 632-645

- These excerpts from Pope’s mock epic describe a quarrel between members of the British aristocracy.
- A baron watches Belinda while she wins a game of cards
- Then, despite attempted intervention by supernatural powers, he snips off a ringlet of her hair consent.
- Belinda is horrified and attacks the baron.
- The stolen lock ascends to the heavens, where it becomes a star that immortalizes the fair lady.

## Thomas Gray

Pg. 678-679

### About the Author

- Was a quiet private man who didn't like the business of the city
- He wrote poetry rather than satire
- Refused the poet laureate because of how shy and introverted he was
- Born in London and of 12 brothers and sisters was the only one who lived to adulthood
- Went to Eton College
- Became friends with the son of the Prime Minister who encouraged him to publish his poems
- He lost his closest friend at 25 and because of his sadness this was a theme in his poetry
- Later poems were harder to understand
- An inheritance allowed him to be private in his later life

### Poetic Form: Elegy

- **Elegy** – an extended meditative poem in which the speaker reflects on death – often in tribute to a person who has died recently – or on an equally serious subject.

### Reading Skill: Make Inferences

- **Inferences** – logical guesses

### Elegy Written in a Country Churchyard

Thomas Gray

Pg. 664-671

- As the elegy begins, the speaker describes a rustic evening and then reveals that he is in a churchyard.
- He reflects upon the humble but meaningful lives of the peasants buried there.
- He notes that although poverty has kept

<p>these people from realizing great achievement, it also has kept them from doing great harm.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Finally, the speaker contemplates his own death and suggests an epitaph for his grave.</li> </ul>	
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<p><b>Anne Finch</b>  <i>Countess of Winchilsea</i>          Pg. 672-675</p>	
<p><b>About the Author</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Lived in an era that rejected female intellectuals</li> <li>• Parents died when she was an infant</li> <li>• Raised by grandmother</li> <li>• Separated from siblings</li> <li>• Had a progressive education for girls</li> <li>• Studied Greek and Roman literature, French, Italian, history, poetry, and drama</li> <li>• Endured poverty when James II was driven from power.</li> <li>• Not famous in her time but had a large impact on 19<sup>th</sup> century authors</li> </ul>	
<p><b>A Nocturnal Reverie</b>          By Anne Finch          Pg. 673-675</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• In this meditative poem, Anne Finch reflects how in the softness of twilight, the sounds and sights of nature reveal their beauty.</li> <li>• The poem celebrates the restorative power of this twilight world, where the mind may roam freely, unfettered by the confusion of the day.</li> </ul>	