

World Literature

Till the Nineteenth Century

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Earliest Literature

- The Epic of Gilgamesh (1800 BC)
 - Babylonia
- The Tale of Genji (11th c BC)
 - Novel in Japanese
- Illiad and Odyssey
- Rg Veda (8th c)
- The Analects of Confucius (6th c BC)

Europe

- Boundaries
 - North: Arctic Ocean
 - West: Atlantic Ocean
 - South: Mediterranean Sea
 - Southeast: Caucasus Mountains and Black Sea
 - East: Ural Mountains, Ural River, Caspian Sea, Asia
- Three Historical Periods
 - Ancient
 - Medieval
 - Modern

European Literature

- Literature of the countries of Europe
- Written in many languages (mostly Indo-European)
 - English, Spanish, French, Dutch, Polish, Portuguese, German, Italian, Greek, Czech, Russian, Swedish, Irish...
 - Some of these are Romance languages (evolved from Latin from the sixth to the ninth centuries)
 - Spanish, Portuguese, French, Italian, and Romanian
- Common heritage
 - Beginnings date back to ancient Greece and Rome
 - Preserved and promoted by Christianity
 - Common Western democratic and individualistic culture

Classical Literature in Greek

- Classical literature in Greece was influenced by the religious myths of Mesopotamia, Asia Minor, and Egypt
- Classical writers in Rome looked to the Greek masters for themes, treatment, and choice of verse and metre
- All of the chief genres in Western literature – epic, tragedy, comedy, lyric, satire, history, biography, and prose narrative – were established by the Greeks

Classical Literature in Latin

- Roman writers avoided innovation in favour of imitating the Greek masters
- While Greek writers were philosophical and practised abstraction, Latin writers were practical and political
- Latin became the lingua franca throughout Europe in the Middle Ages
- European writers of the Renaissance period imitated and adapted Latin works, through which they learnt about Greek literature and culture

Medieval Literature

- While Greek and Latin literature upheld the ideal of the human being, medieval literature upheld the spiritual ideal of Judeo-Christianity
- The fusion of Christian and Classical philosophy framed the Medieval sensibility.
- Muslim scholars and Christian monks preserved classical literature
- Major genres were hagiographies (lives of saints), religious plays (mystery, miracle and morality plays and passion plays), chronicles, allegories, courtly romances and epic poetry

The Renaissance (Early Modern Period)

- Fall of Constantinople
- Printing press established
- Spread of literacy and education
- Spread of humanism
- Questioning medieval theological misteaching and superstition
- Intellectual and artistic inquiry
- The Protestant Reformation
- Geographical exploration
- Beginning of colonialism
- Material and spiritual development

Writers in Renaissance Europe

- Italy
 - Dante, Petrarch, Boccaccio
 - Ariosto, Castiglione, Machiavelli, Sannazaro
- France
 - Montaigne, Rabelais
- Spain
 - Cervantes
- Holland
 - Erasmus
- England
 - Chaucer, Spenser, Marlowe, Shakespeare, Jonson, Bacon

The Divine Comedy (1308-1321)

- By Dante Alighieri (1265-1321)
- Epic poem in Italian (Tuscan dialect)
- First great work during the period of early Renaissance
- Composed in three books – Inferno (Hell), Purgatorio (Purgatory) and Paradiso (Paradise)
- Each book consists of 33 cantos, with an introductory canto at the beginning of the work
- 14,233 lines in total
- Composed in terza rima

What is it about?

- First person account of the poet's travels through the three realms a dead person is expected to pass through (Dante travels through hell, purgatory, and paradise)
- Allegorically it means the soul's journey to God
- Takes place during the Holy Week
- Tells of Dante's journey through the three realms of the dead, lasting from the midnight before Good Friday to the Wednesday after Easter in the spring of 1300.
- Virgil, the Roman poet, is Dante's guide through Hell and Purgatory
- Beatrice, whom Dante admired from afar from childhood, was his guide through Paradise
- The last word in each of the last three parts of the Divine Comedy is 'stella' (stars)

The Decameron (1350-1353)

- By Giovanni Boccaccio (1313-1375)
- Allegorical prose in Latin
- Sub-title “Prince Galehaut”
- Set in 1348, the year of Black Death
- A collection of 100 tales, ranging from erotic to tragic
- Told as a frame story by a group of seven young women and three young men, in ten days, during a period of two weeks
- They flee Florence, to the countryside to save themselves from the plague
- To avoid monotony, each member tells a story every night

Canzoniere (1327-1368)

- By Francesco Petrarch (1304-1374)
- Love poetry in Italian
- A chronological account of Petrarch's passion for Laura
- "Canzoniere" means book of songs
- A collection of 366 poems, including sonnets, odes, ballads etc. written over a period of forty years
- Divided into two parts – the first includes 266 poems written during Laura's lifetime; the second part consists of poems written after Laura's death
- Considered the first work to represent modern man emerging from a medieval world into the Renaissance period
- It portrays uncertainties, frailties in life and indomitable spirit of man

Gargantua and Pantagruel (1532-1564)

- By Rabelais (1494-1553)
- The story of two giants
 - A father, Gargantua, and his son, Pantagruel
 - Their adventures are recounted in an amusing, exaggerated and satirical manner
- The first two books focus on the lives of the two giants
- The rest of the series is mostly devoted to the adventures of Pantagruel's friends on a collective naval journey in search of the Divine Bottle

In Praise of Folly (1509)

- By Desiderius Erasmus (1466-1536)
- Latin prose
- A humanist satire on human folly first printed in 1511
- Erasmus wrote this book while sojourning with his friend, Sir Thomas More, at More Estate
- In the form of an oration by Folly
- Throughout the book, Folly the protagonist praises herself
- Folly parades herself as a goddess, offspring of Pluto, the god of wealth and a nymph called Freshness
- Erasmus criticizes men, manners, beliefs and practices of his time from a Christian humanist perspective

The Prince (1532)

- Political treatise in Italian (Tuscan dialect) prose
- By Niccolo Machiavelli (1469-1527), the Italian diplomat, historian and political theorist
- Machiavelli was a Florentine statesman who served the royal family of the Medicis
- The book is on acquisition and retention of power by rulers
- Became controversial for its separation of politics and ethics
- Machiavelli argues that political action must always be considered in light of its practical consequences rather than some lofty ideal
- This means that princes can resort to unethical practices if necessary

Essays (1580)

- By Michel de Montaigne (1533-1592) in French
- Montaigne laid the foundation for the personal essay
- In four books
- Steeped in humanist spirit
- Interesting and witty essays of universal significance
- Some of his essays are: Of Sorrow, Of Age, Of Sleep, Of Cannibals, Of Drunkenness, Of Verses of Virgil
- Distinguishing features – stoical, skeptical, epicurean, meditative, and anti-dogmatic

Don Quixote of La Mancha (1605, 1615)

- Spanish prose romance by Miguel de Cervantes (1547-1616)
- An avid reader of chivalrous romances, Alonso Quijano, a retired country gentleman, adopts the name Don Quixote
- An over-enthusiastic man, he thinks of himself as a great knight with chivalrous values and goes out in search of adventure on his horse Rosinante
- He recruits a simple farmer named Sancho Panza as his squire, and also manages to get a lady-love

Don Quixote's Adventures

- On his way, his imagination turns wind mills into giants, inns into castles and slaves into aristocrats
- After a series of misadventures, Don Quixote returns home and dies shortly afterwards
- Superficially an entertainer, the novel actually examines the difference between reality and imagination, and the complexities of the human mind

17th Century French Literature

- Long reign of Louis XIV from 1643 to 1715
- Period of French classicism: France led Europe in political and cultural development
- Debate over the so-called Ancients and Moderns
- French authors expounded the classical ideals of order, clarity, proportion, good taste and “regularity” in tragedy through the strict observance of the three unities
- The ideal of the gentleman: honnête homme (the upright man) or the bel esprit (beautiful spirit)
 - Eloquent speech, skill at dance, refined manners, appreciation of arts, intellectual curiosity, wit, a spiritual or platonic attitude towards love and the ability to write poetry

Molière (1622-73)

- Stage name of Jean-Baptiste Poquelin
- French playwright and actor
- One of the greatest masters of comedy in Western literature
- The position of Moliere in France is like that of Cervantes in Spain, Dante in Italy, Shakespeare in England
- Earliest plays were written for a travelling company of actors
- The first major work, *The Affected Ladies*, came when he was 37
- *The School for Wives* (1622) came next
 - Arnolphe is so intimidated by femininity that he brings up his ward Agnes in a nunnery in such ignorance that she won't be unfaithful to him
 - All his scheming proves useless

Major Plays

- All his masterpieces were written in the period 1645-73
- The Misanthrope
- Tartuffe or the Hypocrite
- The Miser
- The Imaginary Invalid
- The Bourgeois Gentleman (Monsieur Jourdain protagonist)

Tartuffe (1664)

- French verse comedy by Molière
- Subtitled “The Hypocrite or the Imposter”
- A satire on false piety
- After its first publication in 1664, it was banned by the Catholic Church on request from fanatical religious groups who viewed the play as an attack on religion
- With the help of King Louis XIV, Moliere was able to get the ban revoked
- Till 1669, the ban continued
- A true analysis of the play shows that it attacks false devotion

A Religious Hypocrite

- Tartuffe is a religious hypocrite who pretends to be loyal to Orgon, a credulous, wealthy man
- The young romantic Valère struggles to win the hand of Orgon's daughter Mariane
- Orgon's and his mother's lack of moderation leads the family to the verge of destruction

Orgon's Folly

- When Orgon returns from a trip, he finds Elmire, his young wife, ill, but he doesn't take care of her
- Orgon is more concerned about the health and welfare of Tartuffe
- At last, with the help of an unnamed King (Louis XIV), Orgon saves his family from the hold of the criminal Tartuffe
- Tartuffe, Elmire, and Valère are considered among the greatest classical roles in theatre

The Misanthrope (1666)

- Comedy of Manners in verse
- Subtitled The Cantankerous Lover
- Alceste is the misanthrope who constantly expresses his disgust with the dishonesty, hypocrisy, corruption, and injustice
- He is on the other hand completely frank and honest in giving his negative opinions about people
- Philinte, his friend, presents a variety of counterpoints to Alceste's arguments

Two Lawsuits

- When Oronte asks his opinion of a love poem he has just written, Alceste tells him that it should be burned, and that Oronte should never write another poem
- Oronte, who is highly influential at court, retaliates by filing a lawsuit against Alceste
- The matter is only settled when Alceste agrees to apologize to Oronte
- Alceste, meanwhile, is also engaged in a lawsuit concerned with a scandalous book attributed to Alceste's authorship

In Love with Celimene

- Alceste is in love with Celimene but constantly criticizes her for her insincerity and complains of her flirtations with other men
- He claims that he is brutally honest with her only because he truly loves her
- In the end, Alceste is determined to flee the world and live in the wilderness
- His friends attempt to dissuade him

The Miser (1668)

- Subtitled The School for Lies
- Prose play loosely based on Aulularia, a Plautine comedy
- Harpagon is the miser and a widower
 - His name indicates that he is hooked to his greed
 - Harpago in Latin means hook
- Has a son and a daughter Cléante and Élise
- The profligate Cléante loves the poor but attractive girl Mariane
 - But Harpagon has his eye on Mariane!
- Harpagon wants Elise to marry the wealthy old man Anselme
 - But Elise loves Valère who had saved her from drowning

The Climax

- Cléante's valet La Flèche steals Harpagon's hidden treasure
- Harpagon finds out
 - Valère and Mariane are children of Anselme lost in a shipwreck
 - Anselme is actually Dom Thomas d'Alburcy from Naples
- Cléante promises to get Harpagon's money in return for marrying Mariane
- At the end
 - The lovers are married
 - Harpagon is left with his money

Pierre Corneille (1606-1684)

- Considered the creator of French classical tragedy
- Plays show the clash between the characters' indomitable egoism and the forces of destiny
- Major Works
 - Le Cid (1637)
 - Horace (1640)
 - Cinna (1641)
 - Polyeucte (1643)

Querelle du Cid / Le Cid (1637)

- Marked the beginning of modern French drama
- The first play which was splendid literature as well as a popular success
- The title means “The Quarrel of the Lords”
- First subtitled as a tragicomedy
 - To show it rejected dramatic unities
 - Later considered a tragedy
- Did not observe dramatic unities
- Sparked off a literary controversy and a pamphlet war
 - Later plays conformed to the unities
- Regarded as the most significant play in the history of French drama
- Anticipated the “pure” tragedy of Racine
 - In Le Cid and Racine’s plays, the “classical” concept of tragic intensity at the moment of self-realization is found
 - Characters are embodiments of will, intellect and pride

Two Fathers

- Rodrigue and Chimène love each other very much and want to get married
 - Rodrigue is based on a military hero in medieval Spain
- They suffer unnecessarily because of the selfishness of their fathers
- Both fathers are irrational and violent men; they compete for a political position
- Chimène's father slaps the other
- Rodrigue's father wants Rodrigue to kill his opponent in a duel

Rodrigue's Crime

- Rodrigue kills Chimène's father, Don Gomès
- Chimène demands justice but does not want Rodrigue executed
- King Fernand is a patient and objective judge
- He understands that it is the fanaticism of his father Don Diègue that led Rodrigue to do the crime
- Rodrigue is pardoned, and the king asks Chimène to take at least one year before deciding whether she can forgive Rodrigue for his crime

Jean Racine (1639-1699)

- French dramatist renowned for his mastery of French classical tragedy
- Racine replaced Corneille's tragedies of power with the tragedies of the heart
- Andromaque (1667)
- Britannicus (1669)
- Bérénice (1670)
- Bajazet (1672)
- Phèdre (1677)
- Athalie (1691)

Phèdre (1677)

- Tragedy by Racine
- Based on Euripides's Hippolytus
- In ancient Greece, Phedre is the second wife of Theseus and the stepmother of Hippolytus
- She reveals her long hidden love for her stepson Hippolytus
- When her husband, supposed to have died, returns, she lies to him that his son tried to seduce her
- The death of Hippolytus at the hands of a monster sent by God Neptune makes Phedre confess her guilt to Theseus and commit suicide
- Racine seeks answers to some questions—To what extent are human beings capable of free will? Who is responsible for their actions?

Nicolas Boileau-Despréaux (1636-1711)

- Poet and leading literary critic, known for upholding Classical standards in both French and English literature
- Wrote satires, attacking well-known public figures
- One of the most successful of mock-heroic epics, *Le Lutrin* (1667), deals with a quarrel of two ecclesiastical dignitaries over where to place a lectern in a chapel
- *L'Art poétique* (1674), a didactic treatise in verse, set out Classical rules for poetry
 - At the time, the work was considered of great importance, and strongly influenced the English Augustan poets John Dryden, Alexander Pope and Samuel Johnson

18th Century French Literature

- From the death of Louis XIV to the end of the French Revolution
- Classical literature
 - Aristocratic themes; middle-class writers
- The Enlightenment: Montesquieu, Diderot, Rousseau, Voltaire, Fontenelle
- Critical, skeptical and innovative mood
- Continued influence of Molière, Racine and Corneille

Louis XIV

- Golden age of France
- Social conditions profoundly influenced writers
- Versailles, his resplendent palace, was the visible expression of the ideals of the great age
- Beyond the glory of the nobility lay poverty, intolerance and maladministration

The Enlightenment

- Philosophes inspired by two ideals: Reason and Humanity
- Aimed at producing an awakening of public opinion that would transform national life
- They instilled in the society a spirit of hope for the future
- The Encyclopedie (1751-80) covered human activity in all realms, documented in an objective secular manner

Voltaire (1694-1778)

- Pseudonym of François-Marie Arouet
- Witty French writer and public activist
- Wrote plays, poems, novels, essays, and historical and scientific works
- Voltaire's work characterized by critical capacity, wit, and satire, vigorously propagates the ideal of progress

Candide (1759)

- Translated into English as “All for the Best,” “The Optimist,” and “Optimism”
- A picaresque novel as well as a bildungsroman with an erratic, fast-moving plot
- Parodies the clichés and stereotypes of the adventure novel and the romance

Two Characters

- Story of Candide
 - A naïve youth of Westphalia
 - The illegitimate nephew of a baron
 - Leads a sheltered life
 - Indoctrinated in Leibnizian optimism by the scholar Pangloss
 - Leibniz had believed that this world is perfect, and even evil exists for the sake of the good
- Pangloss
 - A teacher of metaphysico-theologo-cosmologonigology
 - Believes that in “the best of all possible worlds,” everything that happens is out of absolute necessity, and for the best

The Plot

- For being in love with Cunégonde, the baron's daughter, Candide is expelled from Westphalia
- He travels to Europe, the New World and Turkey
- After facing many adventures, Candide meets a hardworking farmer, who has no time for philosophical speculation, and teaches him the secret of happiness, i.e., 'one must cultivate one's garden'
- The novel ridicules religion, theologians, governments, armies, philosophies, and philosophers in an allegorical manner
- Was banned upon publication

Jean-Jacques Rousseau (1712-1778)

- Not French; born in Geneva, Switzerland
- Marked the end of the Age of Reason
- Immensely influential
 - Revolutionized popular taste in music and the arts
 - Reformed education
 - Man is born free and good and could remain that way in some ideal state of nature (Noble Savage)
 - Society is responsible for corrupting the nature of man
 - Advocated education that comes directly from nature
 - Stressed emotion rather than polite restraint in friendship and love
 - Advocated a religion beyond dogma
 - A new focus on the beauties of nature

Julie, or the New Heloise (1761)

- Epistolary novel that tells the story of a forbidden love
 - Between Julie d'Etanges, a young noblewoman, and her teacher, Saint-Preux, who is of humble origin
 - The two exchange passionate letters
 - Their relationship is discovered; Julie marries an old nobleman, and renounces her passion
 - Unable to forget her lover, she confesses her love to her husband years later when Saint-Preux comes back from a long trip around the world
- Represents Romantic passion as a complex, compelling, emotional and ethical force that is central in our lives
- Illustrates that passion is not just the opposite of morality or reason, an uncontrollable drive that threatens human societies

Émile (1762)

- A revolutionary dissertation on the proper way to rear and educate a child
- A section of religion in the book caused it to be banned and publicly burned
- Begins with the early physical and emotional development of the infant and the child, Émile
- At the end of the book Rousseau turns to female education of Sophie, Émile's wife-to-be

The Social Contract (1762)

- The book begins with the sensational sentence: “Man is born free, but everywhere is in chains”
- Proceeds to argue that men need not be in chains
- In a civil society based on a genuine social contract, men would receive true political, or republican, liberty
- Such liberty is to be found in obedience to a self-imposed law, i.e., when each man obeys rules he has prescribed for himself
- But then, won't one man's will clash with another's?
- Rousseau solves this problem by defining civil society as an artificial person united by a general will

Les Confessions (1782)

- Initiated the modern autobiography
 - Two famous autobiographies before this—that of St Augustine and St Theresa—discusses religious experiences
- Chronicles Rousseau's struggle to stick to his principles in the face of mounting fame and wealth
- Covers the first fifty-three years of Rousseau's life, up to 1765
- Published posthumously

18th Century German Literature

- Classical period in modern German literature
- The century began with the Enlightenment
 - Johann Gottfried Herder (philosopher and literary critic)
 - Immanuel Kant (philosopher)
 - GWF Hegel (philosopher)
 - Gotthold Ephraim Lessing (critic and dramatist)
- Age of Sensibility (1750s-1770s)
 - Goethe's The Sorrows of Young Werther
- Sturm und Drang (1760s-1780s)
 - Johann Georg Hamann (philosopher)
 - Johann Wolfgang von Goethe (dramatist and novelist)
 - Friedrich Schiller (poet)
- Weimar Classicism (1788-1832)
 - Johann Wolfgang von Goethe
 - Friedrich Schiller

German Romanticism (18th-19th Centuries)

- Johann Gottfried Herder
- Heinrich Heine
- Georg Wilhelm Friedrich Hegel (philosopher)
- E. T. A. Hoffmann
- Friedrich Hölderlin (great German poet)
- Novalis (Friedrich von Hardenberg)
- Friedrich Wilhelm Joseph Schelling
- Friedrich Schlegel
- August Wilhelm Schlegel
- Friedrich Schleiermacher
- Johann Gottlieb Fichte
- Johann Wolfgang von Goethe

Sturm und Drang

- Translated as “Storm and Stress”
- German literary movement of the late 18th century
- Exalted nature, feeling, and human individualism and sought to overthrow the Enlightenment cult of Rationalism
- Goethe and Schiller began their careers as members of the Storm and Stress movement

Johann Wolfgang von Goethe (1749-1832)

- German poet, dramatist, novelist, scientist
- The Sorrows of Young Werther (1774)
 - Epistolary novel written on the verge of suicide, after his unrequited love for Charlotte Buff
- A trip to Italy (1786-88) fired his enthusiasm for the classical ideal
 - Wrote many plays under classical influence
 - The best among these is the Wilhelm Meister series
- Wilhelm Meister's Apprenticeship (1796)
 - The prototype of the German Bildungsroman, or novel of character development
- His art & thought are epitomized in the dramatic poem Faust

The Sorrows of Young Werther (1774)

- The novel encouraged morbid sensibility in German literature and started the Sturm und Drang movement
- Influenced the later Romantic literary movement
- This novel was so successful that Weimar, the place where Goethe lived, became a pilgrim centre for young men
- Goethe disliked the novel as well as Romanticism, calling it “everything sick”
- Werther is a young artist of highly sensitive and passionate temperament
- Majority of the novel is in the form of letters sent to his friend Wilhelm

The Plot

- Werther lives in the fictional village of Wahlheim
- Falls in love with Lotte
 - A beautiful young girl who takes care of her siblings following the death of their mother
 - Already engaged to Albert, 11 years her senior
- Werther is in great pain; lives in Weimar for a while
- Returns to Wahlheim; his pain increases since Lotte and Albert are married
- Out of pity for Werther and respect for Albert, Lotte decides that Werther should not visit her often

The Plot

- In their last meeting, Werther recites Ossian
- Werther decides to take his own life
- He writes to Albert for two pistols (pretending to go on a journey)
- Lotte sends him the pistols with great emotion
- Werther shoots himself in the head; dies 12 hours later
- Buried under a linden tree
- Funeral is not attended by clergymen, Albert or his beloved Lotte

Wilhelm Meister's Apprenticeship (1796)

- Bildungsroman on the 18th-century humanistic ideal of self-education
- Wilhelm Meister
 - Young man disillusioned by his first love, sets out to travel
 - This is a journey of self-realization
 - Attempt to escape the empty life of a bourgeois businessman
 - Following a series of incidents—including his rescue of a mistreated young girl from a group of traveling acrobats and his joining an acting troupe—he learns that, in a certain sense, all of life is an apprenticeship

Wilhelm Meister and Shakespeare

- Depicts the 18th century German reception of Shakespeare
 - Protagonist is introduced to Shakespearean plays by the character Jarno
 - An extensive discussion of Shakespeare's work occurs within the novel
 - Wilhelm and his theatre group give a production of Hamlet, in which Wilhelm plays the lead role

Faust

- Tragic play in two parts, Faust, the First Part (1808) and Faust, the Second Part (1832)
- In Heaven, Mephistopheles makes a wager with God to turn Faust over to sin and evil
- In his study, Faust, bored and disappointed with his human limitations, longs to live a life in harmony with Nature, and brews a poison to commit suicide
- Easter celebrations begin, and Faust goes out for a walk with Wagner
- Mephistopheles approaches him in the guise of a black dog
- Later he offers Faust the Devil's wager, to give Faust a moment of transcendence, in return for which Faust must be his servant for the rest of eternity in hell

- Faust has some adventures
 - At Auerbach's Cellar, a drinking tavern
 - At a witch's cave
- Faust is attracted to Margaret (Gretchen), seduces her and she becomes pregnant
- Faust kills Gretchen's brother Valentine
- Faust attends Walpurgis Night when witches, evil beings get together
- There he attends a play entitled "Walpurgis Night's Dream" based on A Midsummer Night's Dream
- Gretchen drowns the baby, is imprisoned and goes insane
- Faust attempts to help her escape, but she refuses.
- When Faust and the devil flee from her prison, voices from Heaven cry out that she shall be saved

The Second Part

- In Part Two the romantic story of the first part is forgotten
- Faust wakes in a field of fairies to initiate a new cycle of adventures
- There are five relatively isolated episodes each representing a different theme
 - Includes one in which Faust and Helen of Troy bring up their son Euphorion, and the last one is Faust's project to reclaim land from the sea and put it to productive use for humanity
- Faust hears Mephistopheles dig Faust's grave and thinks he is digging for the reclamation project
 - Faust says it is his greatest moment of happiness, and Mephistopheles misinterprets it as the promise having been fulfilled
- Ultimately, Faust goes to heaven, for he loses only half of the bet; angels sing of his redemption

An Analysis

- The play does not have a single meaning or set of meanings
- Expresses the complexities and incongruities of
 - Goethe's own mind
 - German culture
 - Western civilization as a whole

Friedrich Schiller (1759-1805)

- Poet, philosopher, historian, playwright
- Together with Goethe started Weimar Classicism
- Major Plays
 - The Robbers
 - Don Carlos
 - The Wallenstein Trilogy (Coleridge translated this)