Progressive Era: 1900-1920

- **Human Nature:** Self cultivation, social criticism
- **Society:** social and economic reform
- **Nature:** To be exploited
- **Style:** spacious, raw, lonely, and authentic
- **Purpose:** to make society aware of injustice
Modernism: 1920-1945

- **Human Nature**: The individual is all important: trying not to be lost – not fitting in.
- **Society**: Tries to destroy the individual “Moloch” (Moloch is a Semitic god to whom children were sacrificed; also referring to Allen Ginsberg’s “Howl” Poem)
- **Nature**: To be exploited before it destroys mankind
- **Style**: Experimentation, individualism, stream of consciousness
- **Purpose**: To attempt to maintain individuality in a world of sameness
The Three D’s

- **Disillusionment**: disenchanted with the world, society, people, or self
- **Disappointment**: lack or failure of fulfillment of expectations
- **Disjointedness**: ostracized or alienated from world, society, people
New Eden

• A new society coming forth full of hope and a focus on the individual.
Symbolist vs. Imagist

- Symbolism- “a form of expression in which the world of appearances is violently rearranged by artists who seek a different and more truthful version of reality.” (Anderson 707)
- Portray the emotional effects the object produces
- Imagination is more reliable than reason
- Key word: revelation
- Sought to get rid of common “symbols” because they were over used
- “The symbolist poets tried to reconstitute the sense of what it meant to be a human in a time when materialism was rapidly replacing religion.” (Anderson 708)

- Imagist- “rid poetry of its prettiness, sentimentality, and artificiality. They would concentrate on raw power of the image to communicate feeling and thought.” (Anderson 709)
- Used “exact word” over “decorative word”
- Never became an important movement itself
- Came to stand as new order in the U.S. and associated with “free verse”
- New way of seeing the world
- Did not use normal rules of grammar, logic, syntax
- Readers had to participate in the poem
- Key Poets of both movements: Ezra Pound (founded Imagist movement) & T.S. Eliot

Please read the notes in your textbook on Imagism & Symbolism for more detail- pp. 706-710.
Imagist Poem example

• To a Poor Old Woman
  by William Carlos Williams

munching a plum on the street a paper bag of them in her hand

They taste good to her
   They taste good to her.
   They taste good to her

You can see it by the way she gives herself
   to the one half sucked out in her hand

   Comforted
   a solace of ripe plums seeming to fill the air
   They taste good to her
Influential Authors

**Progressives**
- Edgar Lee Masters
- Edwin Arlington Robinson
- Robert Frost
- Carl Sandburg
- Willa Cather
- Sherwood Anderson

**Modernists**
- William Carlos Williams
- Ernest Hemingway
- Ezra Pound
- Zora Neale Hurston
- E.E. Cummings
- William Faulkner
- Langston Hughes
- John Steinbeck
- Sinclair Lewis
- James Weldon Johnson
- Claude McKay
- Countee Cullen
- *F. Scott Fitzgerald*
Your Assignment 😊

- Individually (that’s right) you will choose 1 of the authors and do research for the following areas.
  - Biography
  - Their writings - at least 2 and a summary of what they are about
  - Influence in history & connection to history
  - Why they are still read today
  - 2 pages double spaced, typed with a works cited page
  - Must use reputable sources
WHY this assignment?

- Your upcoming essays and projects this semester will be all researched based.
- Proper research makes for a reputable paper and more reliable.
- A large portion of this semester is based on the modernist.
- You will continue to use research the rest of your educational career.
- Practice makes perfect 😊