

UNIT 6 Hard Times
Depression and World War II 1929–1945

A STEINBOURNE
FROEBEL
BILINGUAL SCHOOL
Home of the Epic Generation



THE SOUTHERN RENAISSANCE

WITH
JIM SOTO



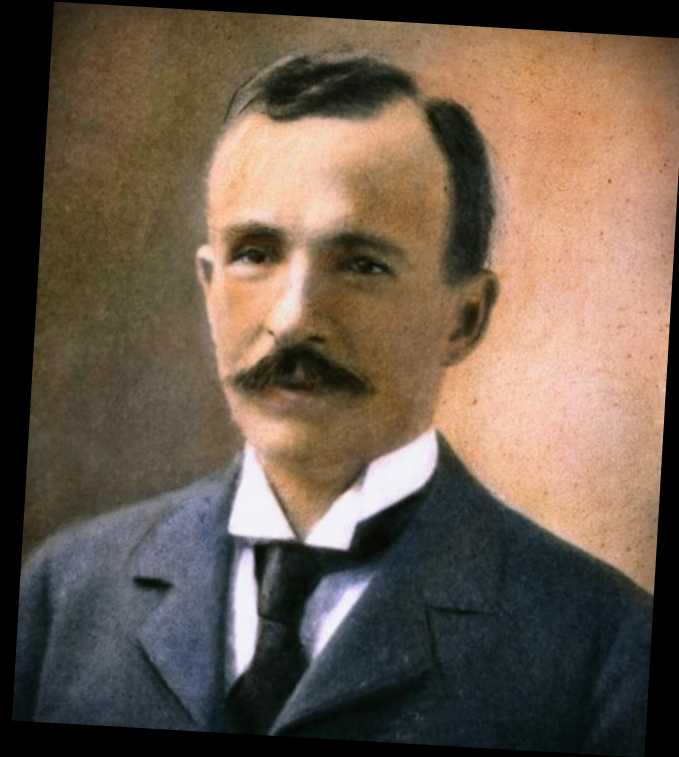
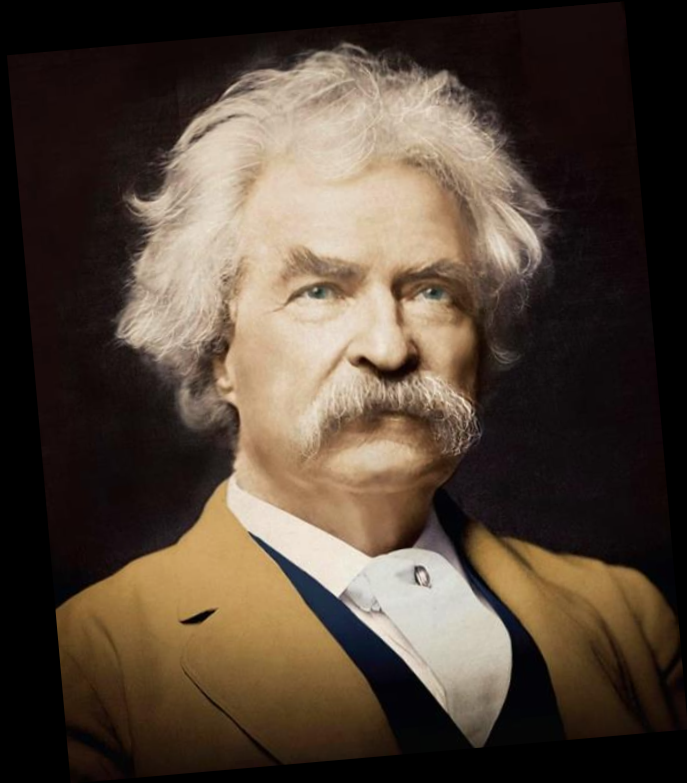
The early 20th century was a time of great social change in all the United States. Literary movements emerged around the country in the 1920s from the Southern Renaissance and the Harlem Renaissance to the writings of F. Scott Fitzgerald and William Faulkner.

THE END OF SELF-DECEPTION?

Post-Civil War southern literature had often invoked the ideas of the "Lost Cause" with a romantic view of the antebellum south. It often portrayed an idyllic southern culture before the war, while ignoring the social evils of slavery and the inequality of the plantation system.

A good example of this is Margaret Mitchell's *Gone with the Wind*, published in 1936 but indicative of the earlier style. The writings of the Southern Renaissance contrasted with this presentation of the pre-Civil War south.





New southern writers adopted a new critical spirit, critiquing the past and present of southern society in ways few previous authors had. These writers were building off the earlier legacy of writers such as **Mark Twain** and some African American writers like **Charles W. Chestnutt**, bringing this critical spirit into mainstream southern literature.

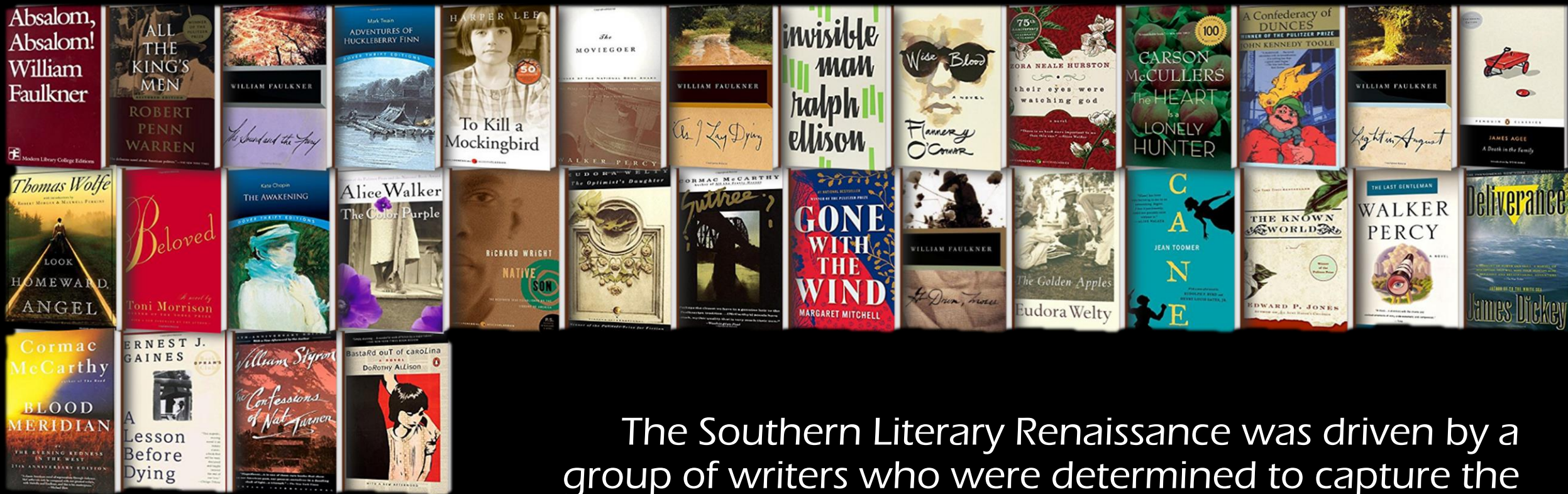


The Southern Literary Renaissance was a period of literary activity that occurred in the American South between the two World Wars. This movement was characterized by a renewed interest in the unique culture and history of the South, as well as a rejection of the industrialization and urbanization that was taking place in the rest of the country.

MAINTAINING ITS DISTINCTIVENESS



The movement was a response to the cultural and economic changes that were occurring in the South. The region had been devastated by the Civil War and was still struggling to rebuild its economy and social structures. In addition, the rise of industrialization and urbanization in the rest of the country threatened to homogenize Southern culture and values.



The Southern Literary Renaissance was driven by a group of writers who were determined to capture the unique character and voice of the South. Some of the key figures in this movement include William Faulkner, Flannery O'Connor, Eudora Welty, and Robert Penn Warren.

THEMES



Most works were characterized by a number of key themes, including the importance of family, the struggle between tradition and modernity, and the legacy of slavery and racism. Many Southern writers also explored the tensions between the individual and the community, as well as the search for identity in a rapidly changing world.

WILLIAM FAULKNER



William Faulkner is perhaps the most famous writer associated with the Southern Literary Renaissance. His works, including "The Sound and the Fury" and "As I Lay Dying," explored the complex relationships between family members and the legacy of the Civil War in the South.

FLANNERY O'CONNOR



Flannery O'Connor was another key figure in the Southern Renaissance. Her works, such as "Wise Blood" and "A Good Man is Hard to Find," often dealt with the themes of redemption and the struggle between grace and sin.

EUDORA WELTY & ROBERT P. WARREN



Eudora Welty focused on the everyday lives of people in the South. Her works, including "The Optimist's Daughter" and "Delta Wedding," explored the themes of family and the changing landscape of the South. Robert Penn Warren was a poet, novelist, and critic who wrote works, such as "All the King's Men," that explored the themes of power and corruption in Southern politics.

LEGACY

The Southern Renaissance had a lasting impact on American literature. Many of the writers associated with this movement continue to be read and studied today, and their works have influenced subsequent generations of Southern writers. In conclusion, the Southern Renaissance was a period of literary activity that occurred in the American South between the two World Wars. This movement was characterized by a renewed interest in the unique culture and history of the South, as well as a rejection of the industrialization and urbanization that was taking place in the rest of the country. The key figures in this movement explored themes such as family, tradition, and racism, and some of their works will be read in this unit.

ASSESSMENT

1. What is the Southern Literary Renaissance?
 - a) A period of literary activity that occurred in the American South between the two World Wars.
 - b) A political movement in the American South in the early 20th century.
 - c) A social movement focused on improving the lives of people in the American South.

2. What was the key driving force behind the Southern Literary Renaissance?
 - a) A renewed interest in the unique culture and history of the South.
 - b) The rise of industrialization and urbanization in the rest of the country.
 - c) The legacy of the Civil War.

3. Who were some of the key figures in the Southern Literary Renaissance?

- a) William Faulkner, Flannery O'Connor, Eudora Welty, and Robert Penn Warren.
- b) Edgar Allan Poe, Nathaniel Hawthorne, and Herman Melville.
- c) Mark Twain, Jack London, and Ernest Hemingway.

4. What were some of the key themes explored by Southern writers during the Renaissance?

- a) The importance of family, the struggle between tradition and modernity, and the legacy of slavery and racism.
- b) The importance of the individual, the search for identity, and the legacy of the American Revolution.
- c) The struggle between power and corruption in Southern politics.

5. Which of the following works is not associated with the Southern Literary Renaissance?
- a) "The Great Gatsby" by F. Scott Fitzgerald.
 - b) "The Sound and the Fury" by William Faulkner.
 - c) "A Good Man is Hard to Find" by Flannery O'Connor.
6. Which Southern writer is famous for exploring the legacy of the Civil War in the South?
- a) William Faulkner.
 - b) B. Flannery O'Connor.
 - c) C. Eudora Welty.

7. What themes did Flannery O'Connor explore in her works?
 - a) Redemption and the struggle between grace and sin.
 - b) The changing landscape of the South.
 - c) The tensions between the individual and the community.

8. Which Southern writer explored the themes of power and corruption in Southern politics?
 - a) Robert Penn Warren.
 - b) Eudora Welty.
 - c) William Faulkner.

9. What was the lasting impact of the Southern Literary Renaissance?

- a) Many of the writers associated with this movement continue to be read and studied today, and their works have influenced subsequent generations of Southern writers.
- b) The movement had no lasting impact on American literature.
- c) The movement led to a revival of the American economy in the South.

10. In what ways did the Southern Literary Renaissance reject the industrialization and urbanization that was taking place in the rest of the country?

- a) By focusing on the unique culture and history of the South.
- b) By rejecting all forms of modernity.
- c) By embracing industrialization and urbanization.



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