

## Argomenti svolti

<u>Disciplina</u>: INGLESE ANNO SCOLASTICO 2022-2023

Classe: Quinto anno Liceo delle Scienze umane opz. Economico sociale

DOCENTE: LA MONTAGNA IOLANDA

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### 01. THE ROMANTIC AGE

### Historical background and social context

- > English Reforms:
  - ♣ First Reform act
  - Abolition of slavery
  - The Factory Act
- > The Industrial and Agrarian revolutions and industrial society
- ➤ The French Revolution:
  - Absolutism and King Louis XIV
  - Seven Years War
  - The 3 Estates
  - The Storming of the Bastille
  - The Declaration of the Rights
  - ♣ The end of French Monarchy
  - The Reign of Terror
- ➤ The Napoleonic Wars:
  - Napoleonic Campaign in Egypt
  - Napoleon Emperor
  - British opposition to Napoleon: the Battle of Trafalgar
  - The Russian Campaign
  - Battle in Leipzig, Waterloo and Napoleon's decline
- > The American Revolution:
  - The question of taxes
  - The Boston massacre
  - The Boston tea-party
  - ♣ The First and Second Continental Congress
  - ♣ The War of Indipendence
  - ♣ The American Declaration of Indipendence by Thomas Jefferson

■ The Treaty of Versailles and George Washington First American President

#### Literature in the Romantic Age

- English Romanticism:
  - The meaning of the word "Romantic"
  - The beginning and the end of English Romanticicm: 1798 (publication of *Lyrical Ballads*) 1832 (First Reform Act)
- > Enlightment vs. Romanticism
- The Romantic Nature
- > The Romantic Imagination
- The Romantic Poetry and the Romantic Poet
- > The Sublime

## O2. THE FIRST GENERATION OF ROMANTIC POETS AND AMERICAN ROMANTICISM

- William Blake's life
  - ❖ Songs of Innocence and of Experience
    - The theory of the complemetarity of opposites
    - The loss of innocence
    - The figure of children
  - The Lamb
    - ♣ The poem structure and figures of speech
    - The meaning of innocence
    - ♣ The figure of child and the lamb
    - The link between the symbols: animal, child, poet, Christ
  - The Tiger
    - The poem structure and figures of speech
    - The figure of the tyger and the link with the lamb
    - The theory of the contrary
- William Wordsworth's life
  - The Lyrical Ballads
    - The concept of poetry
    - Nature and childhood
    - The figure of the poet
  - ❖ The Preface to *The Lyrical Ballads* as a poetic manifesto by William Wordsworth
    - The nature
    - Humble people
    - The importance of the language
  - I wandered lonely as a cloud
    - ♣ The poem structure and the figures of speech
    - The nature and natural setting
  - The Solitary Reaper
    - The poem structure and the figure of speech

- The nature and natural setting
- Samuel Taylor Coleridge's life
  - ❖ The Rime of the Ancient Mariner
    - The use of the ballad form and its features
    - The innovation of Coleridge in using the ballad form
  - ❖ It is an Ancient Mariner from The Rime of the Ancient Mariner
    - The three protagonists
    - The albratross as a Christian soul
    - Real and unreal elements.
    - Death and Life-in-Death
    - The sense of mystery
    - Medieval and oriental superstitions
    - Unnatural events and creature
- > Walt Whitman's life
  - ❖ One's-Self I sing from Leaves of Grass
    - The themes of freedom, identity, individuality, sexuality
  - Body and Soul from Leaves of Grass
    - The figures of man and woman
    - ♣ The figure of the poet

# O3. THE VICTORIAN AGE Historical background

- Queen Victoria and Victorianism
  - Positive and negative aspects of Victorian Age
  - ➤ Early Victorian Period (1832–1848): the Second Industrialisation
  - > Mid-Victorian Period (1848-1870): the Age of Improvement
  - Late Victorian Period (1870-1901): Exploding Contradictions
  - Social and Political Reforms
  - Chartism movement
  - The Industrial Revolution
  - ➤ Irish Question
  - > Women Question
  - > The growth of British Empire: Foreign Policy in India and Africa

#### Cultural and Literary background

- Victorian Compromise and the idea of respectability
- Social Class Structure: upper class, middle class, working class
- Victorian Family: the role of the father and mother
- Victorian Women and Children: rich vs. poor
- Child Labour
- Literary genres: Victorian novel; Victorian poetry; Victorian drama; Children's literature; American literature
- Movements: Realism; Naturalism; Aestheticism

#### 04. NOVELS IN THE VICTORIAN AGE: CHARLES DICKENS

- Charles Dickens's life and works
  - ♣ The setting of Dickens's novels: London and the workhouses
  - Dickens's character
  - Dickens's themes: family, childhood, poverty
  - Dickens's style
  - Oliver Twist
    - Children, poverty and the workhouses
  - ❖ Oliver asks for more extract from Oliver Twist
    - Children's condition in the workhouse
    - The problem of famine
  - Hard Times
    - Industrialisation
    - School system and education
    - The Utilitarianism
  - Coketown extract from Hard Times
    - The meaning of the name Coketown
    - The use of the senses: sight, hearing, smell
    - Biblical references
    - The monotony of life
  - ❖ A classroom definition of a horse extract from Hard Times
    - Utilitarism applied to schools
    - Humor and satire

#### **05. THE AESTHETIC MOVEMENT: OSCAR WILDE**

- Oscar Wilde
  - ❖ Life and works
  - The Aesthetic Movement
    - Art for the art's sake
    - Art and beauty
    - Walter Pater
    - The dandy vs. the bohemian
  - \* The Picture of Dorian Gray
    - Aesthetic ideals
    - Faust legend and the myth of Narcissus
  - ❖ Preface to The Picture of Dorian Grey
    - The Aestheticism
    - The figure of the artist
    - Art and beauty
  - The Studio extract from The Picture of Dorian Grey (lettura del testo in italiano)
    - The characters
    - ♣ The senses: smell and sight
    - The power of beauty

- ❖ A New Hedonism extract from The Picture of Dorian Grey (lettura del testo in italiano)
  - What is beauty?
  - ♣ The power of manipulation
  - The Myth of Faustus
- Dorian kills the portrait and himself extract from The Picture of Dorian Grey (lettura del testo in italiano)

#### 06. THE XX CENTURY

#### Historical background

- > Reforms
- > The Suffragettes
- > The First and Second World War
- ➤ Irish Question
- > The Declaration of Human Rights
- > Britain after the II World War: from the Sixties to nowadays
- > The Brexit
- > The USA from the Sixties to nowadays

#### Cultural and Literary background

- > The Advent of Modernism
- > Stream-of-Consciousness, direct and indirest interior monologue
- War Poets
- > The Theatre of Absurd

# 07. THE WAR POETS, THE FIRST AND SECOND WORLD WAR IN THE POETRY AND NOVEL

- Rupert Brooke's life and The Soldier
  - ♣ The sense of patriotism
- Wilfred Owen's life and Dulce et decorum est
  - ♣ The hypocrisy of patriotism
- Siegfried Sassoon's life and They
  - The hypocrisy of patriotism and authorities

#### 08. THE MODERN NOVELS: JAMES JOYCE AND VIRGIANIA WOOLF

- > James Joyce's life
  - The Dubliners
  - ♣ The structure of the book
  - Stream-of consciousness, free direct/indirect style
  - Paralysis, escape, epiphany
  - Eveline (lettura del testo in italiano)

- Paralysis, escape, epiphany, stream-of-consciousness
- Symbols: death, dust, names
- The Dead (lettura del testo in italiano)
  - Paralysis, escape, epiphany, stream-of-consciousness
  - Symbols: life and death, the snow, the names, the meaning of the journey westward
- Ulysses
  - The structure of the novel
  - Plot summary and characters
  - Stream-of-consciousness and interior monologue
  - The comparison with the Odyssey
- ❖ Yes I said yes I will yes from Ulysses (lettura del testo in italiano)
  - Molly's monologue and her stream of consciousness
- Virginia Woolf's life and works
  - ❖ Mrs Dalloway
    - Plot summary and characters
    - Stream-of-consciousness
    - The use of time
    - The isolation of the human being
  - She loved life, London, this moment of June from Mrs Dalloway (lettura del testo in italiano)
    - The beginning of the novel
    - ♣ The free indirect style

#### 09. THE THEATRE OF ABSURD: SAMUEL BECKET

- > Samuel Becket's life and works
  - Waiting for Godot
    - Plot summary and characters
    - **♣** The meaninglessness of language and human condition
    - ♣ The impossibility to communicate

### 10. THE DYSTOPIAN NOVEL AND GEORGE ORWELL

- George Orwell's life and works
  - Dystopian novel
    - Dystopia vs. Utopia
    - Dystopian characteristics, society and hero
  - Nineteen Eighty-four
    - Plot summary
    - ♣ Themes: alienation, isolation, control of individual lives and information, propaganda, totalitarism, the new technologies
  - ❖ Animal Farm

- Plot summary
- Themes: political aspects

## L'insegnante

Islanda de Martagane