

## Metafiction

- ✦ The term 'metafiction' was coined in 1970 by William H. Gass in his book *Fiction and the Figures of Life*.
- ✦ Metafiction became particularly prominent in the 1960s
- ✦ Style of prose narrative-associated with postmodern prose
- ✦ A self-conscious literary style-a self-aware narrator infuses their perspective into the text to create a fictional work that comments on fiction
- ✦ Attention is directed to the process of fictive composition
- ✦ The narrator or characters are aware that they are part of a work of fiction
- ✦ Eg: a novel about a novelist writing a novel
- ✦ Defies the traditional notion of realistic narration established in the genre of novel
- ✦ Involves a departure from standard narrative conventions
- ✦ Literary theories, such as deconstruction and the death of the author, contributed to this new style of writing
- ✦ Most important stimuli for innovation were the cultural changes evident at this time.
- ✦ The main purpose of metafiction is to highlight the dichotomy between the real world and the fictional world of a novel.
- ✦ It uses parody, subvert expectations, and reveal truths to offer a view of the human condition.
- ✦ Attempts to break the fourth wall-between writer and reader blurs the lines between real life and fiction

Eg:

*The Life and Opinions of Tristram Shandy, Gentleman*  
*French Lieutenant's Woman* by John Fowles

## Intertextuality

- ✦ A word coined in late 1960s by philosopher **Julia Kristeva** in her analysis of Bakhtin's concepts Dialogism and Carnival
- ✦ Part of structuralist poststructuralist deliberations
- ✦ individual texts are inescapably related to other texts
- ✦ The term is used to signify the multiple ways in which any one literary text is made up of other texts, by means of its implicit or explicit allusions, citations
- ✦ In Kristeva's formulation, any text is an "intertext" — the site of an intersection of numberless texts and existing only through its relation with other texts.

The concept of intertextuality defuses the traditional humanist notion of the text as a self-contained, autonomous entity in the view that it is but a weave" of codes from other texts or discourses such as that of history, social conditions, philosophy, theology and so on.

## Pastiche

- ✚ commonly refers to the mixing of genres
- ✚ work may include elements like metafiction and temporal distortion.
- ✚ combine, or "paste" together, multiple elements
- ✚ a combination of multiple genres to create a unique narrative
- ✚ combines science fiction, detective fiction
- ✚ combine's detective fiction, fairy tales, and science fiction
- ✚ A text made from other texts

## Magic Realism

- ✚ In the 1920s originally applied to the school of surrealist German Painters.
- ✚ Chiefly a Latin-American narrative strategy
- ✚ Later used to describe the prose fiction of **Jorge Luis Borges** in Argentina, **Gabriel Garcia Marquez** in Columbia, **Isabel Allende** in Chile, **Gunter Grass** in Germany , **Italo Calvino** in Italy and **John Fowls** and **Salman Rushdie** in England
- ✚ Matter-of-fact inclusion of fantastic or mythical elements into seemingly realistic fiction.
- ✚ The term *magic realism* is a relatively recent designation, first applied in the 1940s by Cuban novelist Alejo Carpentier, who recognized this characteristic in much Latin-American literature.

## Minimalism

- ✚ Minimalism is an artistic style in postmodern writing.
- ✚ Minimalist writings represent the most essential and basic in writing.
- ✚ Brevity in language, structure and narration adds to the complexity of the work.
- ✚ No decorated language or meaningless detailing.
- ✚ Minimal details provided more space for reader imagination.
- ✚ Origin of minimalism is in the twentieth century imagist poets like Ezra Pound, Stephen Crane and William Carlos Williams.
- ✚ Major practitioners of Minimalism

Samuel Beckett

Robert Coover

John Barth

Raymond Carver

## Hyperreality

- ✦ coined by French sociologist **Jean Baudrillard** in *Simulacra and Simulation*
- ✦ closely linked to his idea of *Simulacrum*
- ✦ the contemporary world is a simulacrum, where reality has been replaced by false images, to such an extent that one cannot distinguish between the real and the unreal.
- ✦ what passes for reality is a network of images and signs without an external referent, such that what is represented is representation itself.
- ✦ hyperreality goes further than confusing or blending the 'real' with the symbol which represents it
- ✦ it involves creating a symbol or set of signifiers which represent something that does not actually exist, like Santa Claus
- ✦ Hyperreality is the inability of consciousness to distinguish reality from a simulation of reality, especially in technologically advanced societies.
- ✦ Hyperreality tricks consciousness into detaching from any real emotional engagement, instead opting for artificial simulation, and endless reproductions of fundamentally empty appearance.

**Simulacrum -Something that replaces reality with its representation.**