

Kafka: Rich and Ambiguous

Modernism Defined through these characteristics

- a) Rejection of Traditional themes (i.e. love) instead they focused broken lives and the inability to commit.
- b) A focus on alienated individuals rather than heroes
- c) Frequent themes of impermanence and change (i.e. nothing is permanent)
- d) Instead of directly relating emotions and ideas, they used understatements and irony to reveal these concepts.
- e) Symbols and images are used to suggest meaning rather than statements that explain meaning.
- f) The use of stream-of-consciousness technique to show both inside and outside the characters

Expressionism (early 1900's Germany) through these characteristics

- a) Individual is more important than the situation that causes a response
- b) Inner reality
- c) Thoughts and feelings more important than objective reality
- d) Symbolic rather than realistic characters
- e) Exaggeration and distortion: very intense feeling, relating to the psyche
- f) Relate to Van Gogh

Surrealism (early 1900's France) through these characteristics

- a) Super realism
- b) Power of imagination
- c) Dreams versus conscious control
- d) Depiction of objects as they could never appear in reality
- e) Surprising juxtaposition
- f) Underlying madness/ darkness of the mind – relate to Salvador Dali

Freudism through these characteristics

- a) Every human action influenced by the unconscious mind
- b) Early experiences have a profound effect on the formation of the unconscious
- c) Wishes cause guilt
- d) Unconscious need to be punished
- e) Anxiety

Existentialism (early 1800's- WWII) through these characteristics

- a) Absence of the Divine
- b) Existence preceded essence: People are created by their experiences
- c) People are free to make their own moral choices
- d) Moral choices create meaning
- e) Angst
- f) Nothingness and alienation
- g) Absurdity