

Realism Civil War - 1900's



- “Real” -ism.
- Attempt to **replicate the true nature of reality**.
- The strength of novels and short stories rest upon **the strengths of its characters**, rather than plot.
- Characters are **psychologically complicated** with **conflicting impulses** and **motivations**.
- Heavily informed by **journalistic techniques** such as **objectivity** and **fidelity to the facts**.

- Informed by advances in **human psychology**.
- Concerned with **inner workings of the mind** and the **delicate play of emotions**.
- People as not simply good or bad.
- Overriding concern is **character**.
- **Motivations, interests, desires and fears. Changes in mood, in perceptions, in opinions and ideas constitute turning points or climaxes (rather than plot).**
- **Reality as unknowable, uncertain, and ever-shifting.**

Important: Subject focus slowly moved from dominantly elitist, **upperclass to lower classes**, bringing characters such as **slaves and the poor** into the “**privileged**” content of The Novel.

Q: What is meant by the “‘privileged’ content of The Novel”?