

Twentieth/ Twenty-First Centuries – Final Thoughts

- Authors' tone and style: pessimism, cynicism, address social/political/cultural issues. Reaction to/against the nineteenth century. Experiment in form and style: Sassoon, Yeats, Bennett, Rushdie
- Social issues: empire ("Britishness"), colonialism, race/racism, environmentalism, religion (Rhys)
- Issues: devotion and dedication to a cause/inflexibility and blind devotion to a cause; individual vs collective; definition of Englishness/cultural hybridity and identity; postmodernism: literary texts that resist closure, play with literary conventions, and use a pastiche of genres, concepts, and perspectives (e.g., "The Prophet's Hair")
- British literature encompasses literature from Britain and from the British colonies: how writers use language (what language?) and address identity, citizenship, and nationhood
- Genres of poetry and short fiction