



P2P E-Learning Italia
by USA Student Advisors

English Literature:
From the Victorian Age
to the XXI century
Joseph Conrad



His Life (1857-1924)

- He was born in what it is Ukraine today from Polish parents
- Father was an activist, writer, and translator. He was arrested
- His mother died when he was 11
- He loved the sea
- He left for France not to fight in the Russian army
- There he started his life at sea
- He travelled a lot, and he took inspiration for his books
- He travelled to Congo-> Heart of Darkness
- He attempted suicide
- He married an English woman

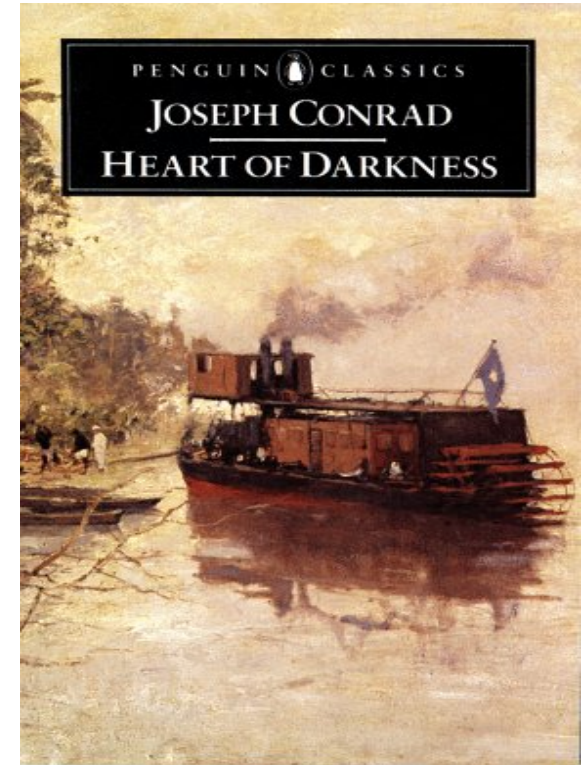


Main Characteristics

- He is considered an early modernist
- Imperialism and colonialism
- Human Psyche
- He spoke Polish and French, but he decided to write in English
- Always question morality → he puts into question obvious sets of values
- Colonial writer → What it is to live in the colonies.

Heart of darkness: 1902, Plot

- Main character: Marlow, a sailor
- Riverboat captain for a company that organizes trade in Congo
- Trip to Congo-> brutality of the company
- Description of the majestic jungles-> vast darkness
- Mission: to arrive at Kurtz's inner station because Kurtz is ill
- When they arrive they discover that Kurtz has become a god among the natives, he is very ill
- Marlow affirms that he has gone mad
- Kurtz before dying gives to Marlow different papers and a report he had written on how to civilize the savages: "Exterminate all the Brutes"
- His last words: The Horror, The Horror
- Marlow visits Kurtz's fiancée



Themes: Imperialism

- European colonization
- Civilize other countries
- Criticizes colonialism
- Describes brutal treatment of population
- Hypocrisy
- No moral substance



Themes: Madness-Wilderness

- Mental disintegration
- Trip into darkness-> into the inner self/ into the wilderness
- Subconscious
- Africa/Congo → wilderness
- Linked to imperialism
- Free from constraints of society-> find out who we really are
- Kurtz → He wasn't mad before his life in Congo

Themes: Madness- Wilderness Quotes

- “But the **wilderness** had found him out early, and had taken on him a terrible vengeance for the fantastic invasion. **I think it had whispered to him things about himself which he did not know**, things of which he had no conception till he took counsel with this great solitude--and the whisper had proved irresistibly fascinating.”
- “You should have heard him say, ‘My ivory.’ Oh yes, I heard him. ‘My Intended, my ivory, my station, my river, my--’ everything belonged to him”
- “Going up that river was like **traveling back to the earliest beginnings of the world**, when vegetation rioted on the earth and the big trees were kings”



Themes: Madness- Wilderness Quotes

- “They would have been even more impressive, those heads on stakes, if their faces had not been turned to the house [...] **I want you to understand that there was nothing exactly profitable in those heads being there.** They only showed that Mr. Kurtz lacked restraint in the gratification of his various lusts, that there was something wanting in him”



Themes: Imperialism Quotes

- “The word ‘ivory’ rang in the air, was whispered, was sighed. **You would think they were praying to it.** A taint of imbecile rapacity blew through it all, like a **whiff from some corpse.** By Jove! I’ve never seen anything so unreal in my life. And outside, the silent wilderness surrounding this cleared speck on the earth struck me as something great and invincible, like evil or truth, waiting patiently for the passing away of this fantastic invasion.”
 - Decaying corpse-> imperialism brings to death
 - Ivory has become an object of worship



P2P E-Learning Italia



un ringraziamento speciale ai nostri supporters



3d0 · proud to be
a web agency

Instagram: @p2p.elearning.italia
Facebook: @P2P E-Learning Italia
LinkedIn: P2P E-Learning Italia
Youtube: P2P E-Learning Italia