

Neoclassical Period in English Literature: 1660-1800 Scavenger Hunt

Directions: On the first day of the hunt, each individual in the class will work by themselves to answer the following ten questions. On the second day, you will be put into a random group of four-five people. You will then discuss each question and come up with one joint answer sheet that reflects your group's best answers. The team with the best answers and highest score will receive a prize.

1. Find five characteristics of the Neoclassical Period in English Literature that are connected to the following five key words: Augustan, wit, heroic couplet, satire, reason. Explain each of the characteristics in your own words.
2. Learn about John Milton's epic poem *Paradise Lost*. What made so many people think of this poem as the greatest epic poem in the English language? What is the most persuasive argument that the serpent uses to convince Eve to eat the apple?
3. Find the name of the famous illustrator of Milton's *Paradise Lost*. Find an illustration that you particularly like and copy/paste it to your scavenger hunt answer sheet.
4. Discover the story line of Alexander Pope's famous mock epic "Rape of the Lock." Tell the story in your own words.
5. Why is "The Rape of the Lock" called a "mock epic"?
6. How many places did Gulliver visit in Jonathan Swift's famous satire called *Gulliver's Travels*? List the names of the places and what kind of people lived in each place.
7. Define the word "satire." In what way was *The Modest Proposal* a satire? What did Swift really want to see happen to solve the problem of poverty in Ireland?
8. Daniel Defoe is one of the first English novel writers. How did Defoe structure his novel *Robinson Crusoe*? What was it about?
9. The Neoclassical Period was also called the Age of Reason. It is also the age of decorum. What is decorum, and how does it apply to Neoclassicism?
10. Is decorum important today? Why or why not?