

WOMEN WRITERS IN ENGLISH LITURATURE

MUHAMMADXOLIQOVA SARVINOZ BOBOMUROD QIZI

2-year bachelor at Chirchik University

Abstract: *In this article I have given some information about the great English women writers. This article features some of Britain's best-known writers and provides extensive coverage of their inimitable works.*

Key words: *Writers, literature, women, novel, poem, friends, readers, portraits, library, travel, London, relationship.*

Women writers were somewhat rare in Britain when they first appeared in the early 18th century, when the novel was establishing itself as the dominant literary form in England. At that time there was an ideology of sensibility and benevolence. Women played an active role in the development of fiction, which is not surprising since they were the main readers. Her inspiration came from life in towns and villages, her experiences while traveling, love and marriage, religion and education. The idea of a novel comes from Europe, where "novel" comes from the Italian word "novella," meaning "new." One of the principal founders was Aphra Behn (1640-89), who was born in Canterbury and died in London. This Restoration-era woman was one of the first English women to earn an income as a writer, and she broke cultural barriers and created a leading role in literature for generations of other writers. I accomplished it. She married a Dutch merchant in London who died the same year, and she is said to have spied for Charles II in Antwerp and traveled to Suriname, where she met African slave leaders. He was the inspiration for his 1688 Oroonoko, an antislavery critique influenced by feminism and postcolonialism. This book is considered to be one of his first abolitionist and humanist novels printed in English, and also the first anti-slavery novel. At the time, she was known as a poet, playwright, and London satirist. She incorporated female pleasure and sexuality into her poetry, which was very radical

for her time and caused much criticism during her lifetime and after her death. Her poem "Disappointment" is a comical depiction of male impotence from a woman's point of view, and is completely outrageous for its time.

Virginia Woolf wrote about her in her famous book *A Room of One's Own*: "All women should come together to lay flowers at Aphra Behn's grave in Westminster Abbey, which is in a most scandalous but perfectly appropriate location, because She earned the right to speak her mind." Her grave is not included in the Poets' Corner, but is located in the east cloister near the stairs to the church.

Left: Engraving by Aphra Behn from a lost portrait by John Reilly (public domain). Right: Aphra Behn's tomb in Westminster Abbey, London (Wikimedia Commons) A century after Vane appeared Charlotte Lennox (1730-1804), who was born in Gibraltar and died in London. Her father was a Scottish captain in the British Army and she spent her childhood in England and New York. She was shocked by her life in her colony. She was a friend of Lady Isabella Finch in London and published her volume of poems in 1747, dedicated to her. The work was based on themes such as female friendship and independence. When she got married, she earned money by pretending to have her own income. She was very friends with Samuel Johnson, who she considered superior to her other literary friends because he tried to write professionally rather than anonymously. His patronage protected her reputation in print. She was low-class, moody, and ridiculously self-confident, making her unpopular with the Bluestocking Society, who criticized her especially for her housekeeping. Her most successful novel was *The Adventures of Arabella or The Female Quixote*, which was translated and sold on the continent. In 1753, her first work of literary criticism, *Shakespeare Illustrated*, was published. Separated from her husband, she depended on the support of the Literary Fund, and she died leaving her destitute. The only authenticated image of Jane Austen is a small pencil and watercolor sketch of her sister Cassandra, on display at the National Portrait Gallery in London. (Image is public domain) Jane Austen (1775-1817) was the first writer to give the novel a

decidedly modern character through her depiction of ordinary people in their daily lives. She said Austen was a great comic ironist and one of the greatest social observers of English writing, with southern England as the center of the world. She was educated at Brasenose College, Oxford, and Abbey School, Reading, and lived in Bath, Southampton, London, Brighton, Lyme Regis, Steventon, and Chawton (where she was) at the height of her fame in the mid-18th century., spent the holidays. She was born on the happiest day). And Winchester, where she died. Her novels continue to fascinate people today and have been made into films many times.

Left: Portrait of Mary Shelley by Richard Rothwell. Right: John Opie's portrait of Mary Wollstonecraft, Shelley's mother. Both portraits are on display at the National Portrait Gallery in London. Mary Shelley (1797-1851) was born in London. Her mother was the famous feminist Mary Wollstonecraft, who was also a writer and author of *A Vindication of the Rights of Woman* (1792), who died shortly after her birth. She was bought by her father. Her father's family entertained notable guests during her childhood, including the poets Wordsworth and Coleridge, and furthered their education in his extensive library. She eloped with Percy Bysshe Shelley, who was already married, in 1814. He then married in 1816 after his wife committed suicide. They were traveling through Europe in financial difficulties and were staying in Switzerland with some friends when Lord Byron suggested they all write a horror novel. Mary wrote *Frankenstein, or the Modern Prometheus*, which became her most famous novel and was initially published anonymously. Widowed at the age of 24, she had to work hard to support herself and her son, even writing her novels and promoting her husband's poetry. She died of cancer at the age of 53 in London. Howarth in West Yorkshire was home to three sisters who wrote some of the most important novels in the English language. This dark gray village was home to Charlotte (1816-1855), Emily (1818-1848) and Anne (1820-49) Brontë in the mid-19th century. These three lonely, intelligent and resourceful sisters lived a disappointing life of miserable solitude, but they were still emblematic and passionate, including the

character of Heathcliff, the darkest soul in English literature. I could write a violent novel. They did not publish under their real names, but used male pen names. Their home, the parsonage, is now a museum, where you can still experience the solitude of the wilderness. Many of the settings are drawn from real life, allowing pilgrims to walk in their footsteps - the schools they attended, the houses where they worked as tutors, the homes of friends - and explore the wild Bronte Country. It has charm. The latest film about the lives of these talented sisters is *To Walk Invisible* (see preview below). A contemporary who also used a male pen name was Mary Ann Evans (1819-80), who published as George Eliot. Born in Chilvers Coton, on the Warwickshire estate of her father's employer, she wrote about the countryside and industrial areas of central England from the First Reform Act of 1832 to the Second Reform Act. She is one of the leading writers of the Victorian era. She settled in London, where she worked for three years as editor of the *Westminster Review* in 1851, where she achieved brilliant success. She had many radical journalist friends, and as a writer she developed the psychoanalytical methods characteristic of modern fiction. Her famous novels include *The Mill on the Floss* and *Middlemarch*. She was once full of religious zeal, but education changed her. For almost 25 years she was the wife of the prolific journalist George Henry Lewis, who he separated from her unfaithful wife without divorcing her - encouraging her genius. He was also the one who took her to Europe. Her relationship with him led to her being shunned by her family and friends, but the popularity of her novels brought her social recognition in her later years. After his death in 1878, she established a scholarship in his name at Cambridge, and at the age of 61 she married a 40-year-old banker who died in London the same year. She is buried in Highgate Cemetery. Elizabeth Gaskell (1818-65) was bought by her aunt in Knutsford, Cheshire, the small village that inspired her *Wives and Daughters*, *Cranford* and *Hollingford*. She married in 1832 and moved to Manchester, a centre of great political change and radical activity. She observed social tensions and incorporated them into novels such as *Mary Barton*, which had a profound impact on readers and sparked widespread debate

about the terrible poverty of workers in the industrial centres of the North. Her sympathy for their plight not only shocked the national conscience, but also attracted the attention of Charles Dickens, who offered to publish her work in his magazine. These diverse stories made her a popular author. She was an active humanitarian and used her novels to convey her message about the need for social improvement and the need to understand and improve attitudes between classes and towards women. Her novels were well researched and she took care to recreate the Nordic dialect. Today, she is considered one of the most respected British Victorian novelists.

Beatrix Potter (1866-1943) is one of the most popular children's book authors of all time. She purchased Hilltop Farm in the Lake District, married and focused her attention on conserving Lake District farms and land, and became passionate about local conservation issues. She was a smart and forward-thinking businesswoman. When she died, she left 4,000 hectares of land and her 14 working farms to the National Her Trust to use and maintain for her prosperity.

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