

Pop Quiz



Taking Quizzes

- Write your full name (first and last) at the top of the page.
- full sentences are not required.
- If you did not complete the reading, submit a blank copy.

Marking Quizzes

- Do not mark the quiz of a friend.
- Write “Marked by” and your full name at the bottom of the page.
- Write the person’s score out of 10 at the top of the page.

“At Home” day

... she came to the conclusion that her circle of friends was a very dull one, and that no one who was a bit nice ever called on her At Home day....

Evelyn Sharp. “The Other Anna.” 1897.

MRS HIGGINS [*dismayed*] Henry! [*scolding him*] What are you doing here to-day? It is my At Home day; you promised not to come.

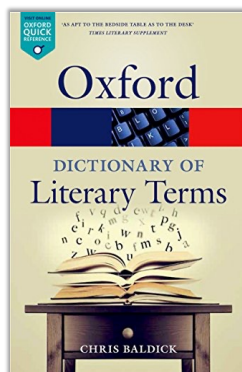
G.B. Shaw. *Pygmalion*. 1913.

... the people next door are very grand. They... have an “At Home” day, and people come in cabs.

Edith Nesbit. *The Story of the Treasure Seekers*. 1899.

- a social custom in Victorian Britain in which women of gentle status would receive visitors on a specific day of the week
- “calling cards” would indicate when she would be “at home.” It was considered impolite to visit on any other day, or to visit without having received a card
- went out of fashion with the invention of the telephone and the onset of the First World War (*Wikipedia*)

comedy of manners



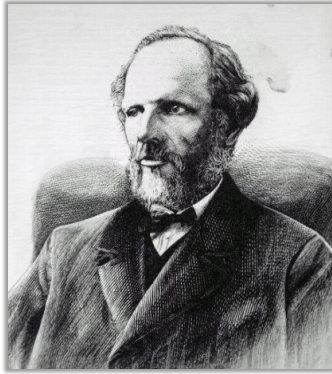
- a kind of comedy representing the complex and sophisticated code of behaviour current in fashionable circles of society, where appearances count for more than true moral character
- plots usually revolve around lust, greed, self-interest, decorous pretensions, etc., which is often rewarded rather than punished
- usually deploys elegant verbal wit and repartee (e.g., Oscar Wilde) (Baldick 68)

Robertson Davies

In a weak-minded moment last autumn I agreed to serve as judge of some undergraduate writing; today my Fate overtook me and I had to spend two or three hours reading ambitious pieces of all kinds—poetry, criticism, short stories and what-not. I am a wretched judge of such things, for I am capricious, irresponsible, unmethodical, utterly without conscience.... Anyway, I wasn’t interested in any of the stuff I read. The right people to judge such contests are sober, keen-minded fellows ... not whirligigs like me. At last I put all the manuscripts on the floor, whirled round three times, and shook my fountain pen over the heap; the manuscripts with the biggest blots on them received prizes, the rest got nothing. I do not defend this method of judging; I merely explain it. I also recommend it to university professors and teachers who have a lot of troublesome papers to mark.

Robertson Davies. “A System of Marking.” *The Table Talk of Samuel Marchbanks*, Clarke Irwin, 1949.

Charles Heavyside (1816-1876)



- born in Huddersfield, England; immigrated to Montreal in 1853
- became a reporter for two Montreal newspapers
- a pious Victorian, published several long poems on religious themes
- wrote two dramas—*Saul* (1857-59) and *Count Filippo* (1860)—as well as an unsuccessful novel
- admired by Sir John A Macdonald and American poet Henry W. Longfellow (*The Canadian Encyclopedia*)

“The Great American Novel”

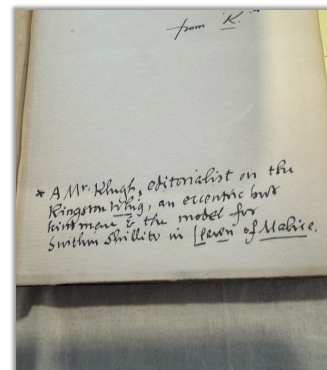
candidates

- Melville, *Moby-Dick* (1851)
 - Stowe, *Uncle Tom’s Cabin* (1852)
 - Alcott, *Little Women* (1868)
 - Twain, *Huckleberry Finn* (1994)
 - Fitzgerald, *Great Gatsby* (1925)
 - Salinger, *Catcher in the Rye* (1951)
 - Ellison, *Invisible Man* (1952)
 - Lee, *To Kill a Mockingbird* (1960)
 - Morrison, *Beloved* (1987)
 - Wallace, *Infinite Jest* (1996)
- term coined by American Civil War novelist John William De Forest (1826-1906)
 - used to describe a novel thought to embody the essence and democratic character of the United States
 - coincided with calls for a national American literature during the American Civil War to distinguish it from British literature
 - abbreviated “GAN” by Henry James in 1880 (*Wikipedia*)

Canadian Literature as an Academic Discipline

- **19th C:** British literature and the Classics were taught almost exclusively in Canadian schools and universities
- **1900s-1910s:** token efforts were undertaken in the form of “Am-Can,” which usually favoured the American-literature component
- **1920s-1930s:** small numbers of non-credit, half-credit, and special-interest courses started to be offered at various universities
- **1946:** first full-fledged, upper-level, and fully accredited course in Canadian literature was offered at the University of Saskatchewan
- **1947:** establishment of first postgraduate studies programme in Canadian literature at the University of Toronto
- **1950s-1960s:** Canadian literature programmes established at many universities, explosion of publications (*The Canadian Encyclopedia*)

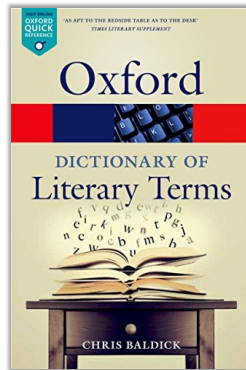
Davies, *Leaven of Malice*



A Mr Klugh, editorialist on the Kingston *Whig*, an eccentric but kind man, and the model for Swithin Shillito in *Leaven of Malice*.

Robertson Davies. Inscription. *A Treasury of English Prose*, edited by Logan Pearsall Smith, Constable, 1919, flyleaf.

epiphany



- the insight gained when one suddenly understands the essence of something or sees something for what it is
- a “Eureka” moment, an instantaneous discovery or revelatory experience that imparts new insight or realization
- Greek for *manifestation*, originally referred to the Christian festival commemorating the manifestation of Christ to the Magi, celebrated on 6 January (Baldick 121-22)

Queen's University Official Statement of Copyright: *This material is copyrighted and is for the sole use of students registered in courses at Queen's University. This material shall not be distributed or disseminated to anyone other than students registered in courses at Queen's University. Failure to abide by these conditions is a breach of copyright, and may also constitute a breach of academic integrity under the University Senate's Academic Integrity Policy Statement.*