MODERNISM

Literature of the Lost Generation
Some Of you may be feeling a little confused about modernism.

You might be asking yourselves, “What are the characteristics of modernism?”

You are in the same mind frame of those alive in the early 20th century.

People began to question the world around themselves.

People felt the need to feel freedom from their reality and daily lives.
“The Lost Generation”

“You are all a Lost Generation.”

The lost generation was a term coined by Gertrude Stein to describe young American artists (mostly writers) who rejected American ideals in the 1920s and moved to Paris to live the bohemian lifestyle (party it up, live for today, because there may be no tomorrow).
The Lost Generation felt betrayed by their leaders, their culture, and their institutions.

They asked themselves “How could all this death and destruction have been allowed to happen?”

They felt helpless, and lost. They despaired for the future. Where once they had trusted, now they did not. It appeared that Good had lost the battle against Evil.
THE RISE OF MODERNISM

THE WRITERS

✦ Ernest Hemingway
✦ F. Scott Fitzgerald
✦ William Faulkner
✦ John Steinbeck
✦ Gertrude Stein
✦ T. S. Eliot
✦ E. E. Cummings
✦ Robert Frost
✦ Ezra Pound

Some Harlem Renaissance writers:
✦ Langston Hughes
✦ Zora Neale Hurston
✦ Countee Cullen
✦ Jean Toomer
✦ Richard Wright
✦ Nella Larsen
Characteristics of American Modernism

- Emphasis on **bold experimentation** in style and form, reflecting the fragmentation of society

- Rejection of traditional themes and subjects; poetry/stories were ambiguous (had ambiguity)

- **Unreliable narrators** and **fractured stories**

- **Loss of faith** in religion and society

- Sense of disillusionsment and **loss of faith** in the American Dream

- **New perspectives** are introduced