

****Main Features of Postmodern Literature****

1. ****Metafiction and Self-Reflexivity****
Postmodern literature frequently draws attention to its own artificiality, making the reader aware of the narrative as a construct. This self-reflexive technique is used to explore the nature of storytelling itself. Authors such as Kurt Vonnegut (**Slaughterhouse-Five**) and Julian Barnes (**Flaubert's Parrot**) employ metafiction to question the relationship between fiction and reality.

2. ****Intertextuality and Pastiche****
Postmodern writers often weave together various texts, genres, and cultural references, creating a dense tapestry of meaning. This blending, or pastiche, can include parody, homage, and even direct quotations from other works. Examples include Thomas Pynchon's **Gravity's Rainbow** and Angela Carter's **The Bloody Chamber**, where different texts and styles are fused to create new narratives.

3. ****Fragmentation and Non-Linear Narratives****
Postmodern literature frequently employs fragmented and non-linear structures, reflecting the chaotic and disjointed nature of modern life. This can manifest as multiple, overlapping narratives or disjointed timelines. Don DeLillo's **White Noise** and Graham Swift's **Waterland** are prime examples of this technique.

4. ****Playfulness, Irony, and Dark Humor****
A playful, ironic tone often pervades postmodern literature, subverting traditional literary forms and expectations. This can include absurdity, black humor, and a general irreverence towards established norms. Works like John Barth's **Lost in the Funhouse** and Martin Amis's **Money** exemplify this approach.

5. ****Unreliable Narrators and Moral Ambiguity****
The use of unreliable narrators is a hallmark of postmodern literature, challenging readers to question the truth of the narrative. This often ties into broader themes of moral ambiguity, where clear ethical judgments are difficult to make. Kazuo Ishiguro's **The Remains of the Day** and Bret Easton Ellis's **American Psycho** are examples where the narrators' perspectives are questionable.

9. ****Focus on the Everyday and the Marginalized****
Postmodern literature often shifts its focus to the mundane, the everyday, and the experiences of marginalized groups. By highlighting the ordinary or the overlooked, these works challenge dominant narratives and offer new perspectives. Zadie Smith's **White Teeth** and David Foster Wallace's **Infinite Jest** explore the lives of ordinary people in extraordinary detail.

8. ****Reinterpretation of History and Cultural Critique****
Postmodern literature frequently revisits historical events, not to present them as objective truths but to highlight their subjectivity and the multiplicity of perspectives. This approach is often tied to cultural critique, exploring issues of class, race, gender, and identity. Examples include Toni Morrison's **Beloved** and Ian McEwan's **Atonement**, where history is revisited and questioned.

7. ****Exploration of Hyperreality and Media Influence****
Influenced by the rise of media and technology, postmodern literature often explores the concept of hyperreality, where the line between reality and simulation becomes blurred. This theme is prevalent in the works of Don DeLillo (**White Noise**) and Jeanette Winterson (**Oranges Are Not the Only Fruit**), where the influence of media on perception and identity is a central concern.

6. ****Critique of Grand Narratives and Ideologies****
Postmodern literature is skeptical of overarching narratives, ideologies, and traditional values. It often seeks to deconstruct or undermine these "grand narratives," reflecting a broader cultural skepticism. This critique is evident in Salman Rushdie's **Midnight's Children** and Don DeLillo's **Underworld**, where historical and cultural narratives are questioned and reinterpreted.