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B.A. Undergraduate Sem II - Major/Minor/MDC  
Topic - European Literature

## Literature from the Renaissance

Renaissance art reflected a resurgence of interest in classical literature and individualistic expressions such as:

- (1) Praise of Folly (1509) by Desiderius Erasmus
- (2) Romeo and Juliet by William Shakespeare (1564-1616)
- (3) 'Don Quixote' by Miguel de Cervantes (1547-1616)
- (4) Paradise Lost (1667) by John Milton.

## The Enlightenment and Romanticism

There has been significant increase in the volume of printed material across Europe during the period of Enlightenment, resulting in greater emphasis over reason, individuality and education in society.

The era also remarked the advancement of science and philosophy. Some of the major texts of enlightenment were produced by profound thinkers like Hobbes, John Locke and Jacques Rousseau.

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## Realism:

The writers ignored idealisation in favour of a realistic, if sometime depressing portrayal of original life, realism has surpassed romanticism by the middle of the 19<sup>th</sup> century.

'Madam Bovary' written by Frenchman Gustave Flaubert (1821-1880) was first published in 1856 and is often regarded as the first work of this new literary trend. The work stood in stark contrast to the Romanticism and idealism of the romantic era since it ~~can~~ concentrated so much on unremarkable features and unhappiness of Madam Bovary's bourgeois life.

To be continued

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