Contemporary Literature: 1940 to Present

New Perspectives

Read Pages 1092-1101 and answer the following questions.

1. World War II was a war like no other in the history of mankind. Who were some of the writers who experienced the war? What aspects of the war did they write about?

2. What was the Cold War? How did it start?

3. Other conflicts began occurring as a result of the Cold War influence. When did the Cold War end? List some of these conflicts that occurred during and after the Cold War.

4. Who were the key players in the Civil Right Movement? What is the Civil Rights act and when was it passed as law?

5. What are the many meanings to the American Dream?

6. Who were the “beatnik” poets and what did they write about?

7. List some of the more important writers and their works in Modern American Drama.

8. What is the modernist style when it comes to writing?

9. Give some examples of non-fiction (titles and authors) that arise out of the Modernist style.

10. Protest Literature was very important for the civil rights movement. List the influential writers, the works that they produced, as well as any awards that they may have received.

11. Contemporary Literature is also marked with talented writers from a variety of ethnic and cultural backgrounds. List some of these authors and the works that they produced.

12. What do many of these contemporary authors focus on with their literature?

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