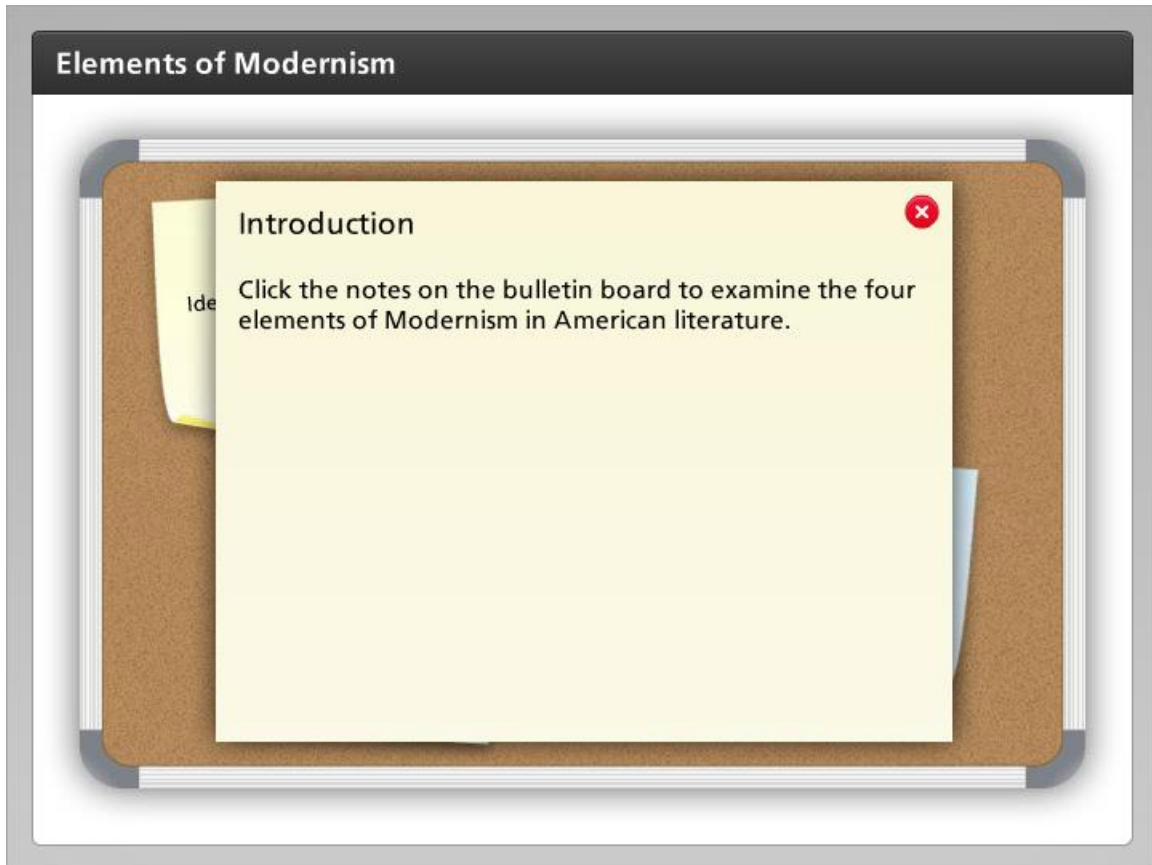


Module 8: Voices of Courage During Modernism

Topic 1 Content: Elements of Modernism

Introduction

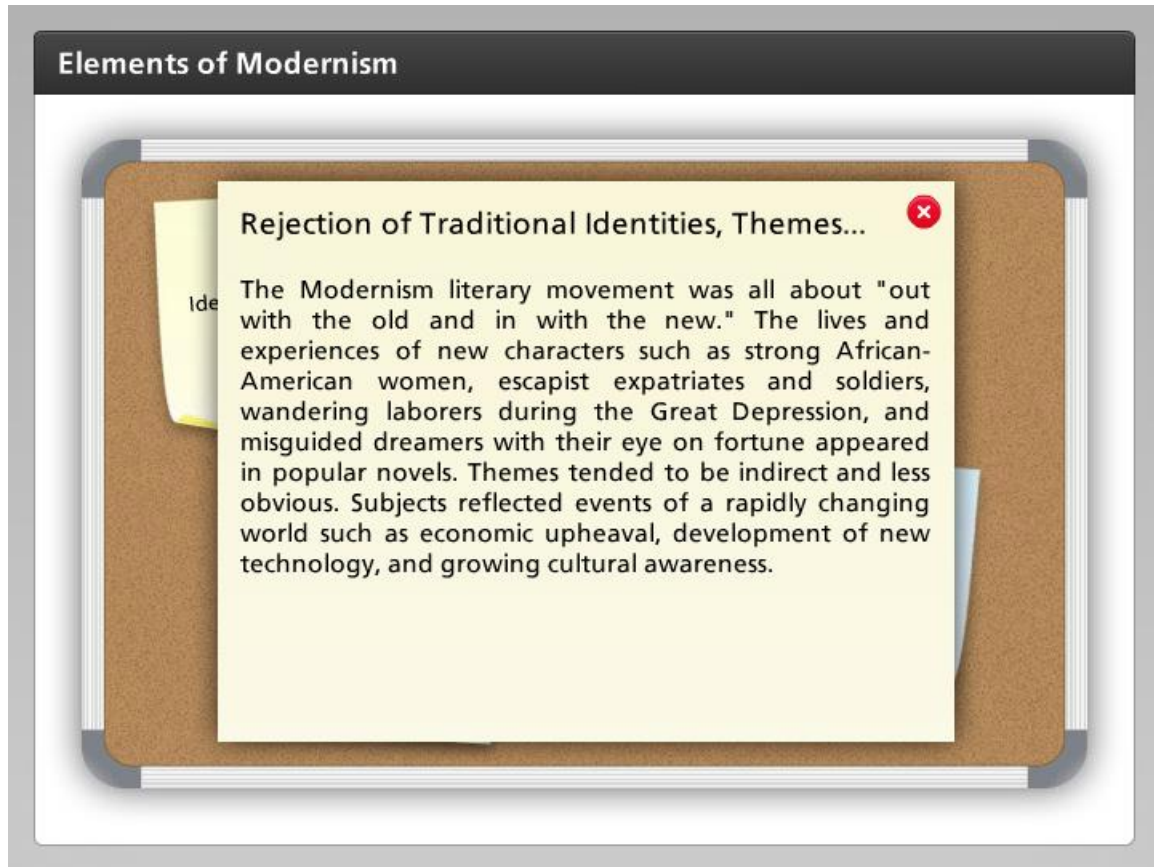


Click the notes on the bulletin board to examine the four elements of Modernism in American literature.

Module 8: Voices of Courage During Modernism

Topic 1 Content: Elements of Modernism

Rejection of Traditional Identities, Themes, and Subjects

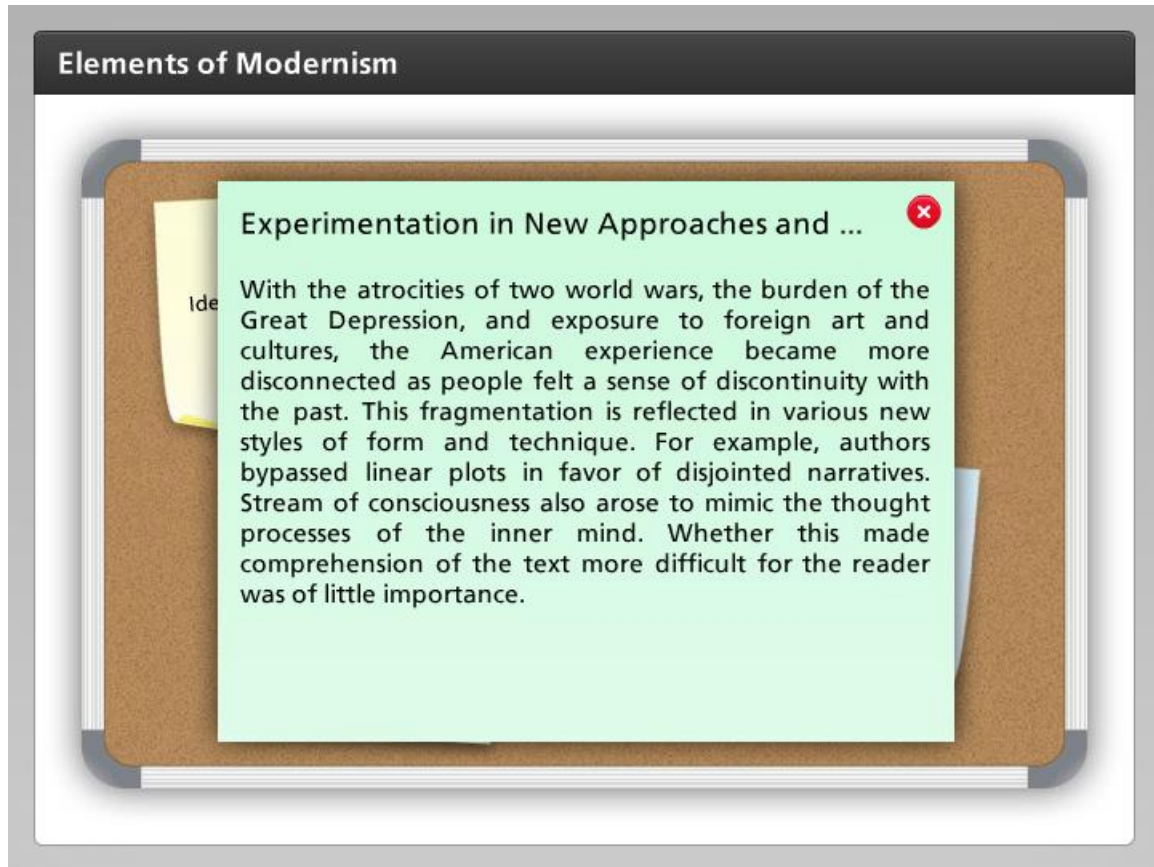


The Modernism literary movement was all about "out with the old and in with the new." The lives and experiences of new characters such as strong African American women, escapist expatriates and soldiers, wandering laborers during the Great Depression, and misguided dreamers with their eye on fortune appeared in popular novels. Themes tended to be indirect and less obvious. Subjects reflected events of a rapidly changing world such as economic upheaval, development of new technology, and growing cultural awareness.

Module 8: Voices of Courage During Modernism

Topic 1 Content: Elements of Modernism

Experimentation in New Approaches and Techniques



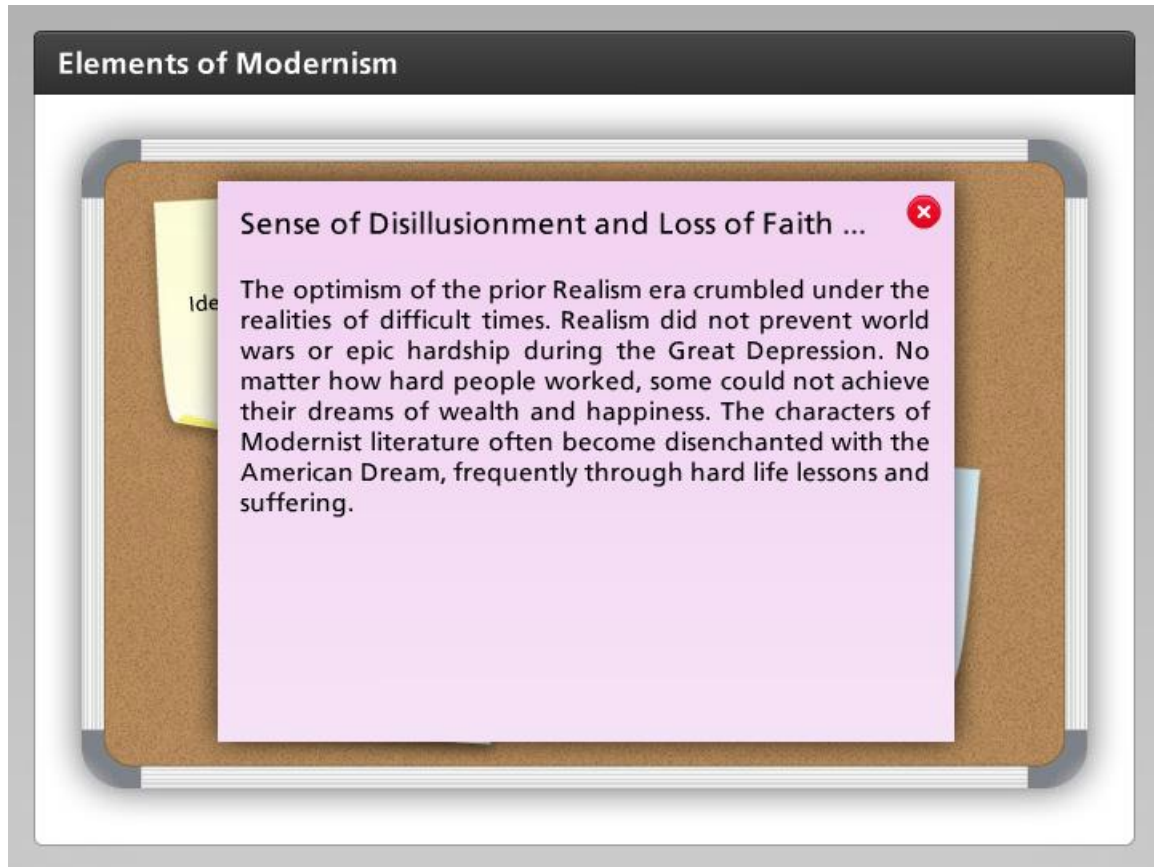
The image shows a digital interface with a dark grey header containing the text "Elements of Modernism". Below the header is a corkboard graphic. On the corkboard, there is a light green note with a red 'x' icon in the top right corner. The note is titled "Experimentation in New Approaches and ..." and contains the following text: "With the atrocities of two world wars, the burden of the Great Depression, and exposure to foreign art and cultures, the American experience became more disconnected as people felt a sense of discontinuity with the past. This fragmentation is reflected in various new styles of form and technique. For example, authors bypassed linear plots in favor of disjointed narratives. Stream of consciousness also arose to mimic the thought processes of the inner mind. Whether this made comprehension of the text more difficult for the reader was of little importance." There is also a small yellow sticky note on the left side of the corkboard with the word "Ide" visible.

With the atrocities of two world wars, the burden of the Great Depression, and exposure to foreign art and cultures, the American experience became more disconnected as people felt a sense of discontinuity with the past. This fragmentation is reflected in various new styles of form and technique. For example, authors bypassed linear plotlines in favor of disjointed narratives. Stream of consciousness also arose to mimic the thought processes of the inner mind. Whether this made comprehension of the text more difficult for the reader was of little importance.

Module 8: Voices of Courage During Modernism

Topic 1 Content: Elements of Modernism

Sense of Disillusionment and Loss of Faith in the American Dream



The optimism of the prior Realism era crumbled under the realities of difficult times. Realism did not prevent world wars or epic hardship during the Great Depression. No matter how hard people worked, some could not achieve their dreams of wealth and happiness. The characters of Modernist literature often become disenchanted with the American dream, frequently through hard life lessons and suffering.

Module 8: Voices of Courage During Modernism

Topic 1 Content: Elements of Modernism

Condemnation of the Moral Debasement of the Modern World

Elements of Modernism

Condemnation of the Moral Debasement ...

The death and destruction of a world war, intensified by developments in technology, revealed the dark side of the Modern age as countries redrew borders and people redefined humanity. The glittering city-dwellers during the Roaring Twenties pursued fortune and pleasure in an attempt to escape the atrocities of the recent world war only to confront emptiness and disappointment with the nation's economic collapse. During the Great Depression, desperation and cynicism often brought out the worst in people. Characters of Modernist literature rarely escape from their moral flaws without suffering consequences.

The death and destruction of a world war, intensified by developments in technology, revealed the dark side of the Modern age as countries redrew borders and people redefined humanity. The glittering city-dwellers during the Roaring Twenties pursued fortune and pleasure in an attempt to escape the atrocities of the recent world war only to confront emptiness and disappointment with the nation's economic collapse. During the Great Depression, desperation and cynicism often brought out the worst in people. Characters of Modernist literature rarely escape from their moral flaws without suffering consequences.