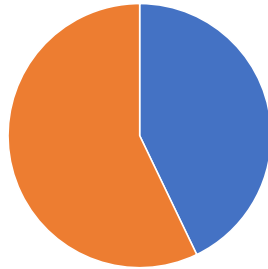


### Attendance Question

In your view, which Cavalier poem is more persuasive?

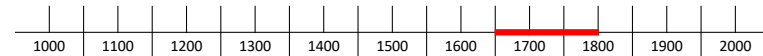


■ Herrick, "To the Virgins" (39) ■ Marvell, "To His Coy Mistress" (52)

### The Restoration and the Eighteenth Century (1660-1785)



- British Empire began an ambitious expansion, forging new trade relationships, participating in the transatlantic trade of enslaved people
- Charles II chartered the Royal Society of London for the Improving of Natural Knowledge, ushering in the Enlightenment
- loosening of legal restraints on print resulted in an explosion of new kinds of publications, diversification of print culture, the "public sphere"
- literary works of this period are marked by principles of neoclassicism and decorum; heroic couplet and blank verse predominated as forms
- novel was established for the first time as an influential form, written by men and women, all classes, different cultures
- age of satire: writers felt more willing and able to speak truth to power in creative, often searing fashion (NAEL B3-27)



### British Empire



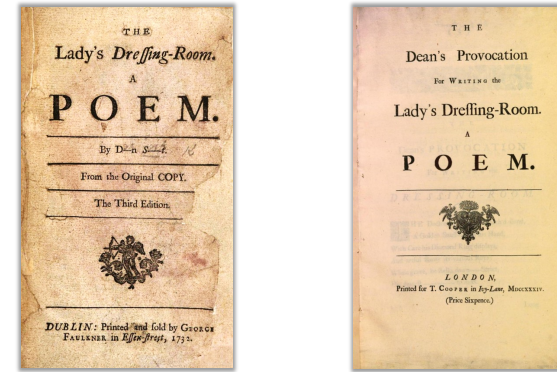
### Enlightenment

- general term applied to the movement of intellectual liberation that developed in Western Europe from the late 17thC to the late 18thC
- also known as the "Age of Reason," as its central idea was the need for and capacity of human reason to clear away ancient superstition, prejudice, dogma, injustice, etc.
- encouraged rational scientific inquiry, humanitarian tolerance, the idea of universal human rights
- in religion, usually involved sceptical rejection of superstition and dogma in favour of "Deism," a belief confined to universal doctrines supposed to be common to all religions (e.g., existence of a creator)
- Enlightenment advocates placed their faith in human progress through the propagation of rational principles
- important figures include Rousseau, Kant, Descartes, Newton, Voltaire, Wollstonecraft, Hume, among others (Baldick 117)

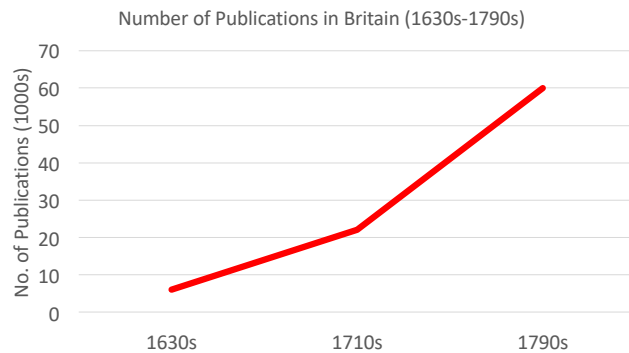
“Public Sphere”



“Public Sphere”



“Public Sphere”



neoclassicism

- the literary principle according to which the writing and criticism of poetry and drama were to be guided by rules and precedents derived from the best ancient Greek and Roman authors, which influenced English writing throughout the Restoration and 18thC period
- term also used to describe the characteristic worldview or value system of the “Age of Reason,” denoting a preference for rationality, clarity, restraint, order, and decorum
  - **decorum**: the idea that the style of a work must be appropriate to its subject matter, and that art must both delight and instruct
- the central assumption was that the ancients had achieved perfection, so the moderns’ chief task was to imitate them as closely as possible
- made use of Classical forms such as epic, tragedy, comedy, elegy, ode, epistle, eclogue, epigram, fable, satire, etc. (Baldick 240-41)

## heroic couplets vs blank verse

### heroic couplets

- a rhymed pair of iambic pentameter lines
- dominated poetry of the 18thC (Baldick 163)

x / x / x / x / x / /  
a x / x / x / x / x / /  
b x / x / x / x / x / /  
c x / x / x / x / x / /  
d x / x / x / x / x / /

### blank verse

- unrhymed lines of iambic pentameter
- used throughout the 16thC to the 18thC (Baldick 42)

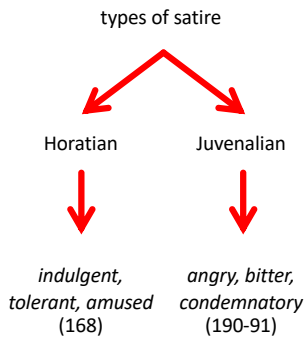
x / x / x / x / x / /  
a Thou knowest my praise of nature most sincere,  
x / x / x / x / x / /  
b And that my raptures are not conjured up  
x / x / x / x / x / /  
c To serve occasions of poetic pomp,  
x / x / x / x / x / /  
d But genuine, and art partner of them all.

—Cowper, *The Task* (1785)

## Rise of the Novel



## satire



- a mode of writing that exposes the failings of individuals, institutions, or societies to ridicule or scorn
- appeals to a shared sense of “normal” conduct from which vice and folly appear to stray
- can be *direct* or *indirect*
  - **direct**: the satirist directly addresses the reader
  - **indirect**: the reader draws their own conclusions based on characters’ actions (Baldick 322)

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