

Samuel Richardson



CLASSE 4
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S. Richardson's LIFE



- He only attended the Common School-Learning (low education)
- He worked as apprentice in a printer's shop and later opened a printing shop of his own.
- He married a first time, but his wife and his 6 children died
- He married a second time, and only 4 of his 6 children survived.
- At the age of 51 he wrote his first novel, *PAMELA*, which was a success.

WORKS



- After *Pamela*, he wrote 2 more EPISTOLARY NOVELS.
- His works are:
 - 1) *Pamela, or Virtue Rewarded* (1740-2)
 - 2) *Clarissa, or The History of a young lady* (1747-8)
 - 3) *The History of Sir Charles Grandison* (1753).

Pamela was a 'bestseller': everybody read it and there was a 'Pamela obsession' → objects with her story

PAMELA: THE PLOT



INTRO

Pamela Andrews is 15 years old and is a maidservant. The son of the household (house owner), **Mr. B**, is attracted to her and tries to seduce her, but she refuses him to protect her virtue.

PART 1

Pamela writes letters to her parents speaking about her moral problems and asking for advice.



PART 2

Mr B. abducts and imprisons her in his country house. Pamela keeps writing letters but she doesn't know if her parents will receive her letters.

She keeps resisting Mr. B., who finally asks her to marry him and she accepts.

The marriage is the REWARD for Pamela's virtue (in fact the subtitle of this work is '*Virtue rewarded*'). In fact she obtains a SOCIAL POSITION that was only for women of upper classes.

EPISTOLARY NOVEL



- Pamela was written in the form of an EPISTOLARY novel, i.e. a series of letters written by the protagonist (some also by her parents).
- This form allows the writer to express the character's **INNER WORLD** and **THOUGHTS** at the time of the actions.
 - However, Pamela is full of **ACTION** and **DIALOGUE**.

The aims of the book



1. To amuse and entertain
2. To teach → moralising aim

The moralising nature is linked to the PURITAN middle-class idea of a REWARD for VIRTUE and a PUNISHMENT for SINS.

However, some readers saw Pamela as a woman who was trying to obtain a higher status by marrying a nobleman (for example Fielding parodied *Pamela* in *Shamela*).

MODERN novel & PSYCHOLOGICAL characterisation



- In Pamela there is a DEEP psychological analysis which is not present in the previous novels, for example in DEFOE's.
- Pamela has a world of feelings and Richardson describes them with great sensitivity.
- He is the pioneer in the field of characterisation.

The characters: PAMELA



- PAMELA is an unusual heroine:
- She works to earn her living.
- She rebels against the social attitude of the time.

- In novels it was unusual to have an ordinary person as the protagonist. They were queens and ladies.
- Lower classes were described with irony, Richardson describes her seriously.

- Pamela is a ROUND character: i.e. a complex character which has a DEVELOPMENT or a change and shows different aspects of his/her personality.

The characters: MR. B.



Mr. B is also a round character.

He adopts different roles:

1. Aristocratic
2. Friendly vs. arrogant
3. Overbearing vs. sweet
4. Rational vs. impulsive

At the end of the novel, he starts feeling ADMIRATION and LOVE for Pamela. Their feelings change and they marry.