



**TRINITY COLLEGE FOR WOMEN
NAMAKKAL**

PG AND RESEARCH DEPARTMENT OF ENGLISH

CORE-AMERICAN LITERATURE

21PEN06- EVEN SEMESTER

I M.A., ENGLISH LITERATURE

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INTRODUCTION ABOUT HENRY JAMES

- **BORN**

15 April 1843

New York City, U.S. Died 28

February 1916 (aged 72)

Chelsea, London, England

- **OCCUPATION**

Writer Citizenship American,
British Alma mater Harvard Law
School Period 1863–1916

- **NOTABLE WORKS**

The American

The Turn of the Screw

The Portrait of a Lady

What Maisie Knew

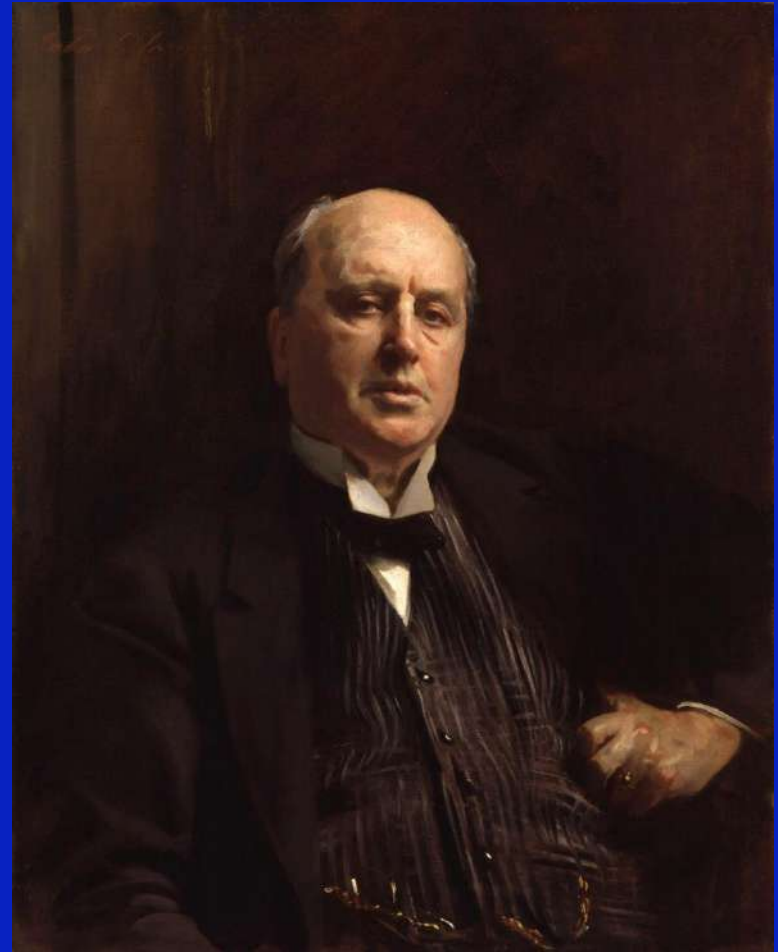
The Wings of the Dove

Daisy Miller

The Ambassadors

The Bostonians

Washington Square



- Henry James was one of the most prolific writers of the 19th century. His most famous works included
 - ❖ **The Portrait of a Lady (1881),**
 - ❖ **The Bostonians (1886),**
 - ❖ **and The Ambassadors (1903).**
- Many of his tales, including “The Figure in the Carpet” (1896) and The Turn of the Screw (1898), are still widely read.
- **Notable Works:** “Daisy Miller” “In the Cage”

ART OF FICTION

- Main arguments presented in the art of fiction
- These principles include the following:
 - **The novelist must write from experience,**
 - **Characters should be clearly outlined,**
 - The story is the most important element.
- A novel should have a conscious moral purpose.

Who is a true artist according to Henry James?

According to Henry James in “The Art of Fiction, A true artist

- **engages in discussion,**
- **experiment,**
- **curiosity, and exchange.**
- The artist is creative and willing to explore new ideas.

ANALYSIS OF THE PROSE

- The Art of Fiction, critical essay by Henry James, published in 1884 in Longman's Magazine. It was written as a rebuttal to "Fiction as One of the Fine Arts," a lecture given by Sir Walter Besant in 1884, and is a manifesto of literary realism that decries the popular demand for novels that are saturated with sentimentality or pessimism. It was published separately in 1885.

ANALYSIS OF THE PROSE

- In *The Art of Fiction*, James disagrees with Besant's assertions that plot is more important than characterization, that fiction must have a "conscious moral purpose," and that experience and observation outweigh imagination as creative tools. James argues against these restrictive rules for writing fiction, responding that "no good novel will ever proceed from a superficial mind."

What are the major concerns of the essay *The Art of Fiction* by Henry James?

Henry James detested looseness in fiction, felt the importance of amusement, championed the causes of the indirect approach, central intelligence, and international theme. He showed his concern for **'form for`form and order'**, authenticity and a new vision in which imagination and fiction could be mixed.

THANK YOU

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