

Chapter 1 : London In Literature Quiz | 15 Questions

London in Literature. A list of books about or set (either wholly or in part) in London. Of interest to anyone from proud Londoners like myself who wish to learn more.

Originally part of the British Museum, the Library moved to its current location on Euston Road in , transferring its collection to the 1. With more than million items in its collection, including manuscripts that date back 4, years, the British Library is the second largest library in the world, behind the Library of Congress. Shakespeare is also rumored to have frequented this pub, though this is largely speculation due to its proximity to the Globe. The original Globe caught fire in during a performance of Henry VIII and was rebuilt the following year, before the Puritans shuttered it in For a true Shakespearean experience today, view a performance from the pit , the standing-room space directly in front of the stage; this season, the Globe is staging Antony and Cleopatra, Julius Caesar, King Lear, and The Comedy of Errors, as well as other non-Shakespeare productions. Alternatively, take a tour of the theatre. The house also hosts a variety of literary events , as well as guided walks around the neighborhood. Henry Francis Clay, Charles Dickens, Thomas Hardy, Rudyard Kipling, Laurence Olivier, Edmund Spenser, and Alfred Tennyson are all interred here, and there are also several monuments commemorating famous writers whose remains are elsewhere, most notably Shakespeare, who is buried in Stratford-upon-Avon. After you take a picture with a Hogwarts scarf of your choice, head to the gift shop around the corner to stock up on Harry Potter souvenirs and trinkets. Legend has it that Welsh poet Dylan Thomas used to give out poetry written on beer mats to any woman who asked while drinking here. Pictures on the walls honor past regulars at the Fitzroy and while the crowd today is less literary than during the midth century, the locals still lend this pub an authentic vibe. The cemetery has been referenced in several modern films, TV shows, and novels, and gained prominence in the s due to rumored supernatural activity on the premises. Note that access to the West Cemetery is only allowed on an accompanied tour. Dickens lived in the Bloomsbury area near this shop and is said to have visited on multiple occasions. Stop in for a bit of history or to pick up a pair of shoes. This rickety Fleet Street pub is still a great place to grab a pint and relax in the historic atmosphere. Schlaier, via Wikimedia Commons [Public domain] Bloomsbury A neighborhood steeped in literary history, Bloomsbury is an easy place to while away an afternoon exploring its quiet streets. Yeats, Charles Dickens, T. Eliot, and Bram Stoker all lived in the area at one point. Keep an eye out for the blue plaques marking important historical spots as you stroll around the neighborhood, or take a guided literary walking tour of Bloomsbury. Though he died in Paris, Wilde spent much of his life in the English capital and wrote many of his famous works while living there.

Chapter 2 : 10 of the Best Poems about London | Interesting Literature

12 Literary Spots In London That Every Book Lover Needs To Visit. A guide to the best (and mostly free) places to channel some of the city's greatest writers and celebrate their works.

A The City is London. B The City within London. There is an enormous gulf between reality and perception whenever the City of London is discussed. On the one hand the City is seen by many as the economic power house of the UK economy, contributing around 10 percent of national income, making its preservation a key focus of government policy whatever the political persuasion of the party in power. On the other hand the City is seen as little more than a giant casino whose very existence threatens the economy in which it is located and undermines the political, social and even moral fabric of Britain. This polarisation has long existed and remains a puzzle despite the research that has been conducted over many years and the publications that have resulted. It might have been expected that a compromise position would have emerged that recognised the merits of both perspectives. One major reason why that has not happened is because the City of London means different things to different people. At one level the City of London is a physical place. Originally the City of London was all of London but over many centuries the population expanded far beyond the confines of what been a Roman city. This transformation of the City of London, and its implications, has long been recognised. In the middle of the 19th century the eminent Victorian historian, Thomas Babbington Macauley, contrasted the City of London in his own day with what it had been two centuries before, in the mid 17th century. In such abodes, under the last Stuarts, the heads of the great firms lived splendidly and hospitably. To their dwelling place they were bound by the strongest ties of interest and affection The whole character of the City has, since that time, undergone a complete change. At present the bankers, the merchants, and the chief shopkeepers repair thither on six mornings of every week for the transaction of business but they reside in other quarters of the metropolis, or at suburban country seats surrounded by shrubberies and flower gardens. This revolution in private habits has produced a political revolution of no small importance. The City is no longer regarded by the wealthiest traders with that attachment which everyman naturally feels for his home. It is no longer associated in their minds with domestic affections and endearments. The fireside, the nursery, the social table, the quiet bed are not there. Lombard Street and Threadneedle Street are merely places where men toil and accumulate. They go elsewhere to enjoy and to expend. As the City ceased to be a community in which people lived and toiled it became identified with those who worked there, whether they were great merchant princes and eminent merchant bankers travelling in by carriage and train from the South and West or the humble clerks arriving on foot and omnibus from the East and North. The latter were too much of a mass to be identified as specific individuals whereas Rothschild was known to all because of his wealth and power. As a result it was Rothschild who personified the City in the first three-quarters of the 19th century. However, as these eminent bankers disappeared from the City none appeared to command the power and wealth that they had possessed. There places were taken by joint-stock companies with such names as the Midland Bank managed by Edward Holden who was an employee not an owner. The result was an identity crisis for the City in the late 19th century. Out of that emerged the City of today, defined not by the space it occupied or the individuals whose business was located there but the particular activities they pursued. No longer was it necessary to identify particular people as long as the business that they undertook possessed an identify of their own, such as a banker or broker, or the place in which they worked could collectively represent them, as with the Bank of England or the Stock Exchange. It was over the course of the century, beginning with the end of the Napoleonic Wars in and the outbreak of the First World War in , that the City of London experienced this transition from Place to Pursuit with an interlude of People in between. It is Pursuit that has left the most lasting legacy, as the City of today operates far beyond its physical boundaries, even within London, and none of those prominent in its affairs possess the near mystical powers attributed to a Rothschild in the early Victorian age. Nevertheless, it is this confusion between Place, People and Pursuit that continues to make it difficult, if not impossible, to reach a balanced verdict on the role played by the City of London within British economic, political and social life. How is it possible to protest against a pursuit which it neither localised nor

confined to a few but is both global and undertaken by the many? As a result their protest was against global capitalism in general and bankers in particular. Until the Second World War the City of London was also the leading international commercial centre, including shipping, but that element of its recent history is often ignored in favour of a focus on its purely financial activities. This had risen to , by the mid s, but even then it was only Today the figure is around ,, or What the City of London has exhibited over the centuries is an amazing capacity to re-invent itself time and again. After the Second World War the need for global commercial centres declined, as the business that they were responsible for became internalised within multinational corporations and government agencies. What physical trading of commodities that remained switched to locations offering light regulation and low taxation, such as Switzerland and, later Singapore. Faced with that challenge the City of London had no option but to change, which it did by building on its existing strength in banking and finance. However, that is a rare exception and one that came from the pen of a foreigner who had the benefit of seeing the City of London from outside. In contrast, the use of novels reveal that the City of London rarely commanded the respect of the resident British population, especially as it became identified through the personification of those who worked there and then by the activities centred on the use of money alone. Novels provide a glimpse of the opinions of contemporaries which cannot be captured from facts and figures. Novels are also powerful opinion formers capable of generating perceptions that last over successive generations. However, as a source for historians novels must be treated with a great deal of care. Novelists writing about the City based their work on personal experience, evidence provided by friends and relatives, and the information and views expressed in contemporary newspapers and other media. They then added in their own prejudices, biases and opinions. Novelists also had to meet the practical requirements of producing a work of fiction and responding to the demands of the book buying public. A novel is not a factual report but a literary creation produced in the expectation of sale, and so must be treated as such. The novel is a product of the imagination conditioned by the world in which the writer lived. As such the City of London appealed to writers as a physical location because of the scale, intensity and nature of what took place there, which was beyond the ability of most to comprehend in detail. The City of London also contained individuals who made ideal characters for a novel because of the power they wielded, the wealth they possessed, and the interesting and varied lives that they were able to lead. Finally, the constant buying and selling, that was the hallmark of the City of London, provided writers with material that could be used to dramatic effect as fortunes were made and lost with huge consequences for all involved. Place Between and the residential population of the City of London fell from around , to 20, In contrast, the working population rose from around , in to , in The City of London Day Census: Report, The process that was taking place was evident in many urban areas, as the pressure on the available land in central business districts drove people to live further afield and commute to work on daily basis. Accompanying this exodus of the residential population in the City of London was a re-ordering of the activities that took place there, with the gradual loss of much manufacturing and shopping as well. What was left was an increasingly focussed commercial and financial centre that operated at the wholesale rather than the retail level. By the s the City of London was already becoming a remote and curious place to those who visited it. Centred in the heart of the metropolis, with its innumerable capacities for commercial pursuits, it presents at first sight, to a stranger, a most mysterious and unfathomable labyrinth of lanes and alleys, streets and courts, of lanes thronged with bustling multitude, whose various occupations, though uniting in one grand whole, seem to have no direct association with each other. Morrier Evans, *City Men and city Manners*, For those trying to describe the City of London as a place at the beginning of the 20th century the task was even more difficult, as it was a place to which people travelled to in the morning and then left in the evening. Beavan, *Imperial London*, Many novelists writing in the mid 19th century continued to regard the City as a real community with an identity shaped by those who both lived and worked there. The result is a relatively balanced view of the City that recognised both its faults and its merits. The City is getting its living "the West-End but enjoying its pleasure. Mrs Gore was also impressed by the City of London as a place at that time. One novelist who stuck to writing about the City of London as a Place was Charlotte Riddell, clearly impressed by its size and diversity. Even in she continued to eulogise about the City as a place. A place of churches, houses, streets, lanes, bridges of old

as well as recent developments like the Cannon Street railway terminus and new wharves and warehouses. By then the City was beginning to lose its identity as a Place where people interacted with each other at all levels and in different ways. Instead, writers increasingly focussed not upon the City but wrote instead about the East or West End of London, the growing suburbs or the world of country houses, as that was where people actually lived their lives. One of those was Walter Besant, whose interest was the East End. Another was Conan Doyle whose fiction rarely strayed into the City though much had a London location. It is the only thing which ever comes between us. Increasingly even novelists recognised that the City was where men went to work in the morning leaving their wives and family alone during the day, and so switched to locations containing these mixed communities, whether they were rich and poor. The City became a Central Business District devoid of the human interest that attracted writers and so they abandoned it when it was that type of material that their novels required. People That did not mean that the City of London was now wholly ignored by novelists because it contained other elements that fed their imaginations, especially the activities of the most prominent of those who worked there. None were more prominent than the Rothschilds. These were German Jews who, originating in Frankfurt, created in the early 19th century a European wide merchant banking dynasty with branches not only in the City of London but also Paris, Vienna and Naples as well as their place of origin. They became extraordinarily powerful and wealthy, as Reeves noted in *It has become a household word synonymous with unbounded riches, and is as familiar to the ears of the struggling artisan as to those of the banker or trader. The Financial Rulers of Nations*, Lord Byron was one of the first to utilise the Rothschilds in his fiction. *Jew Rothschild*, and his fellow-Christian, Baring. His lead was then followed by novelists who largely ignored the others who populated the City, including the vast army of clerks, the huge variety of brokers and agents, and the numerous merchants. Such people were largely anonymous and all lacked the combination of power, wealth and fame possessed by the Rothschilds. They were also the model for Charles Lever in his novel. Similarly, for Trollope, writing in the mid s. As the original Rothschild dynasty faded from the scene one of the legacies they left was the belief that City financiers were largely Jewish, and this became a prominent feature of the popular fiction in the late 19th and early 20th century. Mason, *The Turnstile*, ; and Wallstein. Within the City there were always a number of prominent Jews, such as Barney Barnato in the s, whose presence lent credence to a belief that Jewish financiers dominated the financial world. To Rider Haggard, writing in , City people could all be classed as one. Rider Haggard, *The Yellow God: An Idol of Africa*, Increasingly these stereotypes of Jewish financiers were based not on real people such as the Rothschilds, or later figures like Barney Barnato, but on the myth that City financiers were largely Jews and often of foreign origin.

Chapter 3 : London in Literature

London Bridge is mentioned in London Bridge is falling down. Oranges and Lemons mentions several London Churches. Pop Goes the Weasel one version refers to the Eagle pub on the City Road.

Chance and happenstance are central tenants of life in any city. But they play a particularly important role in literary depictions of London. Coincidence, though, is not the only way writers set London apart from other settings. In particular, portrayals of the city have tended to focus on the darker side of urban life – including crime, vice and instability. Often coincidence and confusion intertwine. Because, you see, everything is connected to everything else. If it is not a cell, it is a labyrinth in which few people find their way. They are lost souls. And the London described in literature was not, in the 18th and 19th Centuries, the kind of city you would want to get lost in. The streets were very narrow and muddy, and the air was impregnated with filthy odours [€] Covered ways and yards, which here and there diverged from the main street, disclosed little knots of houses, where drunken men and women were positively wallowing in filth. Both Dr Jekyll and Dorian Gray have hidden, uncivilised sides that appear at night and link them with specific, insalubrious parts of town – Gray with the East End and Jekyll or should I say Hyde with the backstreets of Soho. By the beginning of the 20th Century, modern London was characterised as a scene of disorientation and insecurity. In literary London, maintaining the public-private boundary is a common concern. In the city, without the space of a roomy country house, social life flourished outside the home. Taverns, clubs and that particular 18th-Century invention, the coffee-house, became community focal points. View image of Georgian houses in London Credit: Couples come to talk or cry quietly on the benches. In the 20th Century – Saturday aside – literary London went multicultural. The first work to depict the lives of ordinary colonial immigrants was in Although the immigrants hope to make better lives for themselves, they face racism and hardship. View image of Multicultural London mural Credit: And how does a writer combine the stories of individual lives with a portrait of the metropolis as a whole? Novelists writing about London are always looking for cohesion to unite the various strands of their plot. A chance encounter might lead to terrible consequences, and a misheard word bring unintended good fortune. An impromptu answer to a sudden question might cause death. There is a story about London for everyone. This story is a part of BBC Britain – a new series focused on exploring this extraordinary island, one story at a time. Readers outside of the UK can see every BBC Britain story by heading to the Britain homepage ; you also can see our latest stories by following us on Facebook and Twitter.

Chapter 4 : Category:London literature - Wikipedia

In literary London, maintaining the public-private boundary is a common concern. In the city, without the space of a roomy country house, social life flourished outside the home.

Chapter 5 : London in Literature - How many have you read?

Bryn Mawr College Library Special Collections. Books on London. London in Literature. Bibliography. Beginning with The Workes of Beniamin Jonson of the first collected edition of his plays--the Books on London collection is rich in literary reflections on the British metropolis.

Chapter 6 : 10 of the best books set in London | Travel | The Guardian

The final word on the City of London's place in Literature should, perhaps, go to the poet, Lord Byron. 'O Gold! I still prefer thee unto paper, which makes bank credit like a bank of vapour.' (Lord Byron, Don Juan, /23).

Chapter 7 : London in Literature Quiz

The British Library. What better place to begin a literary tour of London than at a library? Originally part of the British Museum, the Library moved to its current location on Euston Road in

Chapter 8 : London Literary Society

London in Literature This module considers the theme of London in English literature. Both the city and the literature it has inspired will be material for our study; we will go out and about, as well as discussing the city on the page.

Chapter 9 : Short course - London in Literature: Gothic, Decadent, Modern | Goldsmiths, University of London

Can you match the author to the books that feature the city of London? Test your knowledge on this literature quiz to see how you do and compare your score to others. London in Literature Quiz.