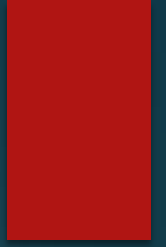




Lesson 1.14 Discourse & Text: Novels and Stories



Talk about Novels and Stories

- ▶ Do you like reading novels and stories? Why or why not?
- ▶ What is your favorite novel or story (or a movie based on a novel/story) ?

The Narrative Frameworks: China and West

- ▶ The narrative frameworks of both English and Chinese narratives are generally similar to each other in structure from ancient times except for a few differences.
- ▶ English narratives tend to emphasize originality and individuality, as well as logical reasoning and linear order for westerners tend to attach significance to clarity and logical consistency since Socrates and Aristotle.
- ▶ Meanwhile, Chinese people tend to write in a spiral, echoing the traditional yin-and-yang principle and five-element principle until the “May 4th of 1919” – since then Chinese opened their mind to accept westerner’s science and democracy (Liu, 2017).

Novels and stories _ samples

Gone with the Wind 《飘》 / 《乱世佳人》

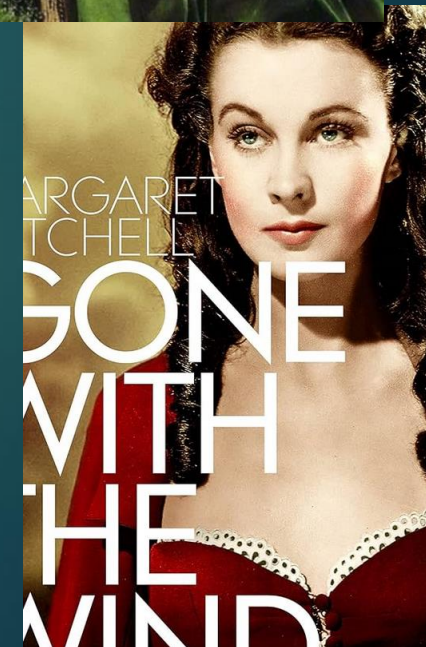
- ▶ **Gone with the Wind** is a novel by American writer Margaret Mitchell, first published in 1936. The story is set in Atlanta, Georgia, during the American Civil War and Reconstruction Era.
- ▶ It depicts the struggles of young Scarlett O'Hara, the spoiled daughter of a well-to-do plantation owner, who must use every means at her disposal to claw her way out of poverty.
- ▶ *Gone with the Wind* was popular with American readers from the outset and was the top American fiction bestseller in 1936 and 1937. As of 2014, a Harris poll found it to be the second favorite book of American readers, just behind the Bible.

▶ [https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Gone_with_the_Wind_\(novel\)](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Gone_with_the_Wind_(novel))



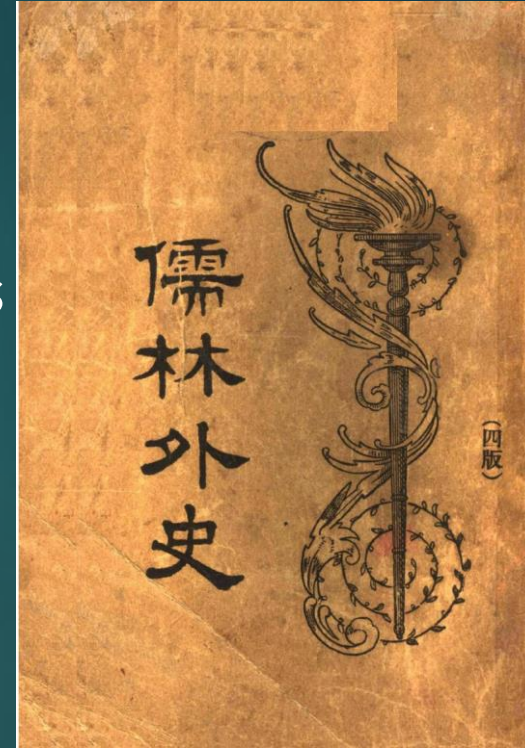
Excerpt

- ▶ Scarlett O'Hara was not beautiful, but men seldom realized it when caught by her charm as the Tarleton twins were.
- ▶ In her face were too sharply blended the delicate features of her mother, a Coast aristocrat of French descent, and the heavy ones of her florid Irish father.
- ▶ But it was an arresting face, pointed of chin, square of jaw. Her eyes were pale green without a touch of hazel, starred with bristly black lashes and slightly tilted at the ends.
- ▶ Above them, her thick black brows slanted upward, cutting a startling oblique line in her magnolia-white skin — that skin so prized by Southern women and so carefully guarded with bonnets, veils and mittens against hot Georgia suns.



The Scholars 《儒林外史》

- ▶ ***The Scholars*** also translated as ***The Unofficial History of the Scholars*** is a Chinese novel written by Wu Jingzi 吴敬梓 and published in 1750 during the Qing dynasty. It is considered one of the great "Classic Chinese Novels", and is distinguished for its unusual narrative structure and acerbic wit.
- ▶ Set in the Ming period, *The Scholars* describes and often satirizes academic scholars with the first and last chapters portray recluses.
- ▶ *The Scholars* was one of the first major novels to popularize a vernacular style now called *baihua*.
- ▶ [https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/The_Scholars_\(novel\)](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/The_Scholars_(novel))



References

- ▶ Liu, Y. (2017). Similarities and Differences of the Narrative Structure of Western and Chinese Short Narratives. *Journal of Arts & Humanities*, 6(4), 21-47. doi: <http://dx.doi.org/10.18533/journal.v6i4.1141>