

Study Questions on Henry James's *The Art of Fiction*

1. What is the background of Henry James and his essay *The Art of Fiction*?
2. How does James define the novel in *The Art of Fiction*?
3. What is James's main critique of Walter Besant's views on fiction?
4. Why does James argue that fiction is an art rather than a craft?
5. How does James compare fiction to painting?
6. What does James say about the role of experience in writing fiction?
7. How does James view the relationship between reality and fiction?
8. What does James say about the importance of character in fiction?
9. How does James address the question of morality in fiction?
10. What is James's view on the importance of style in fiction?
11. How does James define a "good" novel?
12. What does James mean by "freedom" in fiction?
13. How does James respond to the idea that novels should be "instructive"?
14. What is James's perspective on the novelist's imagination?
15. What is the lasting impact of *The Art of Fiction* on literary criticism?

Study Questions on Virginia Woolf's *Modern Fiction*

1. What is the background of Virginia Woolf and her essay *Modern Fiction*?
2. What is Woolf's main criticism of Edwardian novelists like H.G. Wells, Arnold Bennett, and John Galsworthy?
3. How does Woolf contrast modern fiction with traditional fiction?
4. What does Woolf mean by the term "materialists" in the essay?
5. What kind of fiction does Woolf support in *Modern Fiction*?
6. How does Woolf describe life in relation to fiction?
7. What does Woolf say about the role of the novelist?
8. Which Russian writer does Woolf praise in *Modern Fiction*, and why?
9. How does Woolf's argument connect with the modernist movement?
10. What is Woolf's view on the importance of realism in fiction?
11. How does Woolf believe fiction should reflect human consciousness?
12. What is Woolf's opinion on the future of fiction?
13. What does Woolf mean when she says, "Let us record the atoms as they fall upon the mind"?
14. How does Woolf's argument in *Modern Fiction* influence later writers?
15. What is the lasting impact of *Modern Fiction* on literary criticism?