



The Motley Medley of Variegated Literary Characters

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ABSTRACT

Literature across the ages has its fair share of actors. Creations of their masters, they are lent an identity of their own. The more famous of their kind, imbued with flesh and blood, assume proportions of greatness, rival the stature of their creators. Sherlock Holmes, Atticus Finch and Jean Valjean to cite a few, are such stellar characters inhabiting the realm of literature. They shine on in the firmament long after Arthur Conan Doyle, Harper Lee and Victor Hugo would have possibly passed into oblivion. Occasionally, there comes into our orbit, a setting where several of them, including real personalities make a combined entry, flitting in and out as in a play. Though the very idea is preposterous, invoking mixed feelings of grandeur and incredulity, such spoof films capture the zeitgeist as well as redefine how life resonates with basic human tendencies and fallacies, and applicable across centuries and decades.

It is the express intention of the paper to explore the variegated characters, their mannerisms, quintessential behaviour, political leanings, the imprint of their societal effect the general trends of life around them and how these characters shaped the world around them. It has been a largely successful attempt in perceiving their subtle human foibles intertwined with that of their compatriots. The presence of the large population has brought to focus the esoteric drama, fire and ecstasy surrounding them.

Keywords: Parody films, Spoofs, Zeitgeist, Film appreciation, literary characters

Introduction

The theatrical world has liberally employed parody films aka spoof films to great success. They have buttressed the innate strength of the characters. Some of these are 'Sherlock Holmes baffled' (1900), 'The Little train robbery' (1905), 'Dr.Pyckle and Mr.Pryde' (1925), 'Austin Powers: The Spy who Shagged me' (1989), 'Kung Pow! Enter the Fist' (2002) and 'Meet the Spartans' (2008).

However, for sheer scale of size, one painted on an equally fantastic canvas, an incredible setting that comes to mind is the 'The league of extraordinary gentlemen', a superhero film based on a comic strip series by Alan Moore published in 1999. Though being a passable film receiving unfavourable reviews, it went on to become a financial success, grossing over US\$170 million worldwide in theatres, and earning rental revenue of \$48 million and DVD sales of \$36 million, against its \$78 million budget.

It starred Naseeruddin Shah as the iconic Captain Nemo leading a group of vigilantes on board the submarine, Nautilus. It may be called to mind that Captain Nemo was the central figure in Jules Verne's Twenty Thousand Leagues under the Sea. Their ideology was based on a Justice League, akin to the creations of Edgar Wallace (The Four just men, The mind of J.G.Reeder, etc.).

The genre of films having plots centred on vigilantes include *The Adventures of Robin Hood* (1938), *Walking Tall* (1973), *Mad Max* (1979) and its sequels, *Kill Bill* (2003) and its sequels.

Captain Nemo is revealed to be Prince Dakkar, the Hindu Raja of the Kingdom of Bundelkund in the Indian state of Uttar Pradesh. Following the 1857 Indian Rebellion, in which he lost his family and country, he became bitterly opposed to the British Empire. He devoted himself to scientific studies and constructed the *Nautilus*; a sophisticated submarine. He and his supporters sailed the oceans, fighting injustice, particularly imperialism. They survive by plundering gold bullion from shipwrecks all across the world. Nemo, like many other Indian princes of the time, had his education in Europe. He speaks French, English, Latin, and German fluently. On board the *Nautilus*, on Lincoln Island in the South Pacific, he is reported to have died of old age.

There are approximately one hundred and seventy-four characters embedded in the cast, of whom forty-five are listed here in an approximately chronological order of their period of creation or existence. Of these, seven of them relate to real characters and hence do not have a literary reference.



Literature review

	Character	Literary reference	Author	Year	Native to
1	Nero			37	Italy
2	King Arthur			400	England
3	Scheherazade	Thousand and One Nights		600	Iran
4	Sindbad	Sindbad the Sailor		786	Iraq
5	Charlemagne			814	Germany
6	Thor	God - German mythology		1000	Norway
7	Dante Alighieri	Divine Comedy	Dante Alighieri	1321	Italy
8	Leonardo da Vinci	The Da Vinci Code	Dan Brown	1452	Italy
9	Prospero	The Tempest	William Shakespeare	1610	Caribbean
10	Caliban	The Tempest	William Shakespeare	1610	England
11	Don Quixote	Don Quixote de la Mancha	Miguel Cervantes	1612	Spain
12	Christian	The Pilgrim's Progress	John Bunyan	1678	Global

13	Napoleon Bonaparte			1769	France
14	Frankenstein	Frankenstein	Mary Shelley	1818	England
15	Ishmael	Moby Dick	Herman Melville	1851	Ireland
16	Nikola Tesla			1856	USA
17	Abraham Lincoln			1861	USA
18	Jean Valjean	Les Misérables	Victor Hugo	1862	France
19	Alice	Alice's Adventures in Wonderland	Lewis Carroll	1865	England
20	Captain Nemo	Twenty thousand leagues under the sea	Jules Verne	1872	France
21	Phileas Fogg	Around the World in Eighty Days	Jules Verne	1873	France
22	Winston Churchill			1874	England
23	Tom Sawyer	The Adventures of Tom Sawyer	Mark Twain	1876	USA
24	Judah Ben-Hur	Ben-Hur: A Tale of the Christ	Lew Wallace	1880	Palestine
25	Long John Silver	Treasure Island	Robert Louis Stevenson	1883	Scotland
26	Allan Quatermain	King Solomon's Mines	H. Rider Haggard	1885	England
27	Dr. Henry Jekyll	The strange case of Dr. Jekyll and Mr. Hyde	Robert Louis Stevenson	1886	England
28	Edward Hyde	The strange case of Dr. Jekyll and Mr. Hyde	Robert Louis Stevenson	1886	England
29	Sherlock Holmes	A Study in Scarlet	Sir Arthur Conan Doyle	1887	England
30	Mycroft Holmes	The Greek Interpreter	Sir Arthur Conan Doyle	1887	England
31	Prof. James Moriarty	The final problem	Sir Arthur Conan Doyle	1887	England
32	Col. Sebastian Moran	Adventure of the empty house	Arthur Conan Doyle	1887	England
33	Jack the Ripper			1888	England
34	Dorian Gray	The Picture of Dorian Gray	Oscar Wilde	1890	England
35	Count Dracula	Dracula	Bram Stoker	1897	Romania
36	Mina Harker	Dracula	Bram Stoker	1897	Romania
37	Adrian Griffin.	The Invisible Man	H G Wells	1897	Australia
38	Tarzan	Tarzan of the Apes	Edgar Rice Burroughs	1912	Africa
39	Fu Manchu	The Insidious Dr.Fu Manchu	Sax Rohmer	1913	England
40	Richard Hannay	The Thirty-Nine Steps	John Buchan	1915	Scotland
41	Jeeves	Extricating Young Gussie	P. G. Wodehouse	1915	England

42	Doctor John Doolittle	The story of Doctor John Doolittle	Hugh Lofting	1920	USA
43	Bertram Wooster	Extricating Young Gussie	P. G. Wodehouse	1922	England
44	Lord Voldemort	Harry Potter series	J.K. Rowling	2001	England
45	Harry Potter	Harry Potter series	J.K. Rowling	2001	England

Hypothesis

The inclusion of diverse and culturally varied literary characters enriches the depiction of society, enabling a more thorough examination of cultural themes and identities in literature by capturing the intricacies and nuances inherent in different cultural backgrounds. In addition, the existence of such a broad pantheon of characters within the narrative enhances reader engagement by positively impacting their capacity to connect with various perspectives and experiences. The transformation of character archetypes in literature mirrors societal shifts throughout history, as diverse characters adjust to and shape cultural changes in values, norms, and expectations.

It is interesting to note the myriad play of characters and explore the charm of their roles while flitting around the vast canvas of their mundane activities, religion, life, sensation, skulduggery, crime, politics, war and almost everything in between. Sport is one aspect which has seemingly been left out. They have truly transcended both time and space. All of them resonate with innate foibles, natural human tendencies, idiosyncrasies and fallacies, which are applicable ages centuries and aeons. The creators of these characters captured the world around them in a fashion that was universally true for their society and transported to any other part of the world. In their limited way, the creators of these titanic characters ensured that their sentiments would be transported by their creations into the baser or nobler instincts of the characters. Obviously, the personal background of the creators bears serious thought. The suffixed numerics indicate the serial number of the entries in the table. For instance, Mark Twain (23), who might have found himself at odds with his gritty stint as a miner, surmounted great odds to his writing ambitions. This is mirrored in Tom Sawyer's life, who is gregarious and does have a prejudged notion about anyone or anything and **yet gets into and out of trouble. In the same way, Arthur Conan Doyle's background led to adding previously unimaginable layers to Sherlock Holmes and his legion.** That is possibly why recent interpretations of their works have struck a chord.

Why some works become timeless lies in how they capture the zeitgeist as well as redefine it and other common elements in these classics. One could also look at the current world scenario especially Afghanistan or how the media is reporting present-day racial issues in the United States to juxtapose 'The Man Who Would Be King' and 'To Kill a Mockingbird' to sum up the piece.

Discussion

A brief enumeration of the more interesting ones follows.

Emperor Nero is described by Heinz-Jürgen Beste and Henner von Hesbergas (2013) as a tyrannical, self-indulgent and debauched. Roman sources offer overwhelmingly negative assessments of his personality and reign. The reference to his fiddling while Rome burned is a relevant point. "Let them hate me, so long as they fear me." is attributed to him.

Though modern historians generally agree that King Arthur is not historical, he is credited to be a legendary ruler who led the defence of England against the Saxon invaders. Excalibur (his sword), the Holy Grail and the Knights of the Round Table are quintessential legends. Jubb (2014) observes the resurgence in the present century of the legend in literature and its adaptations for theatre, film, television, comics and other media. "In the truest sense, freedom cannot be bestowed; it must be achieved." is a signature quote attributed to him.

Scheherazade figures in *One Thousand and One Nights*, a collection of Middle Eastern folk tales compiled in Arabic and set in the Middle Ages. Eroticism and sexuality are a major theme within the Arabian Nights. King Shahryar, after discovering that during his absence, his wife has been regularly unfaithful, kills her and those with whom she had betrayed him. Loathing all womankind, he continues to marry and kill a new wife. His vizier has two daughters, Scheherazade and Dunyazad. The elder, Scheherazade, having devised a scheme to save herself and others, insists on being married to the king. Each evening she tells a story, leaving it incomplete and promising to finish it the following night. Robert Irwin (2004), himself a good raconteur, observes that the stories are so entertaining, and the king so eager to hear the end, that he puts off her execution from day to day and finally abandons his cruel plan. "In every story, there lies a tapestry of wisdom, woven with threads of courage, cunning, and compassion" forms a testament to the enduring words of Scheherazade.

Sindbad is the hero of *The Thousand and One Nights* who recounts his adventures on seven voyages. He is marooned or shipwrecked after he sets sail from Basra (Iraq) with merchandise. Sindbad is able to survive the terrible dangers he encounters by a combination of resourcefulness and luck and returns home with a fortune. This is

corroborated by De Kosnik, A (2015) where he narrates Sindbad's movement from prosperity to loss, experienced during a voyage filled with adventure, and back to prosperity, achieved when he returns home, is repeated in the structure of each tale. "Embrace the horizon, for beyond each wave lies a tale of resilience and discovery. In the odyssey of life, let courage be your compass, and the open sea your greatest teacher." – A quote by the great mariner.

Charlemagne aka Charles I was the first emperor of the Romans. Jinty Nelson (2014) notes the distinguishing **mark of Charlemagne's reign to respond creatively to the new forces impinging on society. His was an imposing physical presence blessed with extraordinary energy, personal courage, and an iron will. Charlemagne's credo** - "To have another language is to possess a second soul."

Thor is represented by MacCath (2016) as a great warrior represented as a red-bearded, middle-aged man of enormous strength, an implacable foe to the harmful race of giants but benevolent toward mankind. The hammer wielding god is associated with lightning, thunder, storms, sacred groves and trees, strength, the protection of mankind and fertility. "As thunder echoes through the sky, let the strength of one's heart resonate with the power that lies within. In every storm, find the courage to wield your own lightning." – a Thor-inspired quote.

Dante Alighieri Italian poet, prose writer, literary theorist, moral philosopher, and political thinker is best known for the monumental epic poem 'The Divine Comedy'. It is a landmark in Italian literature and among the greatest works of all medieval European literature. Dante Alighieri uses an allegory, taking the form of a journey **through hell, purgatory, and paradise. Katie Francom (2017) reflects the Dante's representation of the three tiers of the Christian afterlife: purgatory, heaven and hell as a philosophical Christian vision of mankind's eternal fate. "In his will is our peace."** sums up the thinker.

Leonardo da Vinci, Italian painter, draftsman, sculptor, architect, and engineer whose skill and intelligence, perhaps more than that of any other figure, epitomized the Renaissance movement. Walter Isaacson (2019) reveals the spirit of scientific inquiry **and a mechanical inventiveness in da Vinci's notebooks that were centuries ahead of the master's time. "Simplicity is the ultimate sophistication."** forms a great quote by the master.

Prospero is a fictitious character who appears in William Shakespeare's play *The Tempest* as the protagonist. He is the rightful Duke of Milan, whose usurping brother, Antonio, had sent him out to sea with his three-year-old daughter Miranda to die twelve years before the play begins on a rotten carcass of a boat. Prospero and Miranda had escaped to a small island, where they were exiled. He learnt sorcery from books and uses it to protect Miranda and control the other characters while on the island. Caliban is a creature who is half human and half monster. After his island becomes occupied by Prospero and Miranda, Caliban is forced into slavery. He is the only human inhabitant of **the island. Moez Marrouchi (2020) explains Prospero's harsh treatment of Caliban** by claiming that after initially befriending him, Caliban attempted to rape Miranda. Caliban agrees to obey Prospero again. "We are such stuff as dreams are made on, and our little life is rounded with a sleep." quotes - Prospero in "*The Tempest*," Act 4, Scene 1.

Don Quixote from *La Mancha*, Spain, a voracious reader of chivalric romances decides to become a knight-errant to revive chivalry and serve his nation. He recruits a simple farmer employs Sancho Panza as his squire, who often employs a unique, earthy wit in dealing with Don Quixote's rhetorical monologues on knighthood, already considered old-fashioned at that period. Ismail Serageldin (2017) believes that Cervantes uses the presumed madness as a device, a way of showing that idealism is unrealistic, and that those who firmly believe in their dreams have a difficult time adjusting to the ugliness and injustice of the world., and the touch of cruelty that we find in many of the adventures, is reminiscent of how social reality treats many of the dreamers in our midst. Miguel de Cervantes buttresses his thinking with a pithy quote "When life itself seems lunatic, who knows where madness lies?"

Christian is the central character of the 'Pilgrim's Progress' by John Bunyan. Christian represents just one profound aspect of the human experience: the search for religious truth. He is an everyman character, and the plot centres on his journey from his **hometown, the 'City of Destruction' (this world), to the 'Celestial City' (that which is to come).** Dwelling on several allegories, Marcus Nordlund (1918) projects Christian into the next century where the journey is yet thornier. "I will stay in mine own house, nor will I, with the hole and patch of conscience, commit idolatry **and forsake the Lord."** sums up Christian's way of thinking. Napoleon Bonaparte was a French military and political leader who dramatically rose to prominence at the onset of the French Revolution. He led several successful campaigns from the front during the Revolutionary Wars. Bonaparte built a large empire that ruled over continental Europe before its final collapse in 1815. Ranked among greatest commanders in history, his wars and campaigns are studied at military schools worldwide. Added to this, he remains one of the most celebrated and controversial political **figures in human history. Zakia Sultana (2017) chronicles the extensive impact of Napoleon's extensive impact on the** modern world, bringing liberal reforms to the numerous territories that he conquered and controlled. This caused the implementation of fundamental liberal policies in France and throughout Western Europe. "Courage isn't having the strength to go on—it is going on when you don't have strength." is credited to the little emperor.

Frankenstein is a fictional character who appeared in Mary Shelley's novel of the same name. Victor Frankenstein builds the creature in his laboratory through an ambiguous method based on a scientific principle he discovered. It is described as tall and terribly hideous, but emotional. The monster attempts to fit into human society but is shunned, which leads him to seek revenge against Frankenstein. Badalament (2006) has narrated the iconic spread of Frankenstein's monster in popular culture. This has been featured in various forms of media, including films,

television series and video games. "I ought to be thy Adam, but I am rather the fallen angel..." is the despondent **Frankenstein's lament**.

Ishmael is a character in Herman Melville's *Moby-Dick* who sails in a whaling ship. Both Ahab and Ishmael are fascinated by the whale; with vastly diverse points of view. While Captain Ahab is rather staid in thinking, Ishmael's world view is constantly in flux as new insights and realizations occur during the narrative. Sharma (2015) has **gained insight several of Herman Melville's novels, including 'Moby Dick' laid bare. "There's nothing fundamentally wrong with people. Given a story to enact that puts them in accord with the world, they will live in accord with the world."** is attributed to the intrepid sailor.

Nikola Tesla inventor and engineer who discovered the rotating magnetic field, the basis of most alternating-current. "The present is theirs; the future, for which I really worked, is mine" has endured the goals of like-minded inventors, the world over.

Abraham Lincoln was an American lawyer and statesman who served as the 16th president of the United States. Lincoln led the nation through the American Civil War and succeeded in preserving the Union, abolishing slavery, bolstering the federal government, and modernizing the U.S. economy. His Gettysburg Address appealed to nationalistic, republican, egalitarian, libertarian, and democratic sentiments. Lincoln is remembered as a martyr and hero of the United States and is consistently ranked as one of the greatest presidents in American history. "Nearly all men can stand adversity, but if you want to test a man's character, give him power." - the mark of the statesman.

Jean Valjean is the protagonist of Victor Hugo's novel *Les Misérables*. The story depicts the character's long struggle to lead a normal life after serving a prison sentence for stealing bread to feed his sister's children during a time of economic depression and various attempts to escape from prison. After imprisonment, he is released on parole with papers that brand him as a former convict. He is unable to find work or housing for many days until a bishop invites Valjean into his home to spend the night. In the middle of the night, he tries to sneak off with silver **candlesticks, the only piece of wealth in the bishop's home. He is accosted by policemen, but the bishop covers for Valjean, saying he gave the silver as a gift. The bishop then tells Valjean to use this silver to become an honest man. Rather than castigating him, the bishop gives Jean Valjean the opportunity to realize his own worth and potential for excellence. "To love or have loved, that is enough. Ask nothing further. There is no other pearl to be found in the dark folds of life."** - Jean Valjean

Alice is the protagonist of *Alice's Adventures in Wonderland* authored by Lewis Carroll. She falls through a rabbit hole into a fantasy world of anthropomorphic creatures. Auerbach (1973) makes a reference to a prime example of the literary nonsense genre. "Curiouser and curiouser!" - a sterling quote.

Captain Nemo is a mysterious figure, also described as the son of an East Indian Raja. A scientific visionary, he roams the depths of the seas in his submarine, the *Nautilus*. The captain is consumed by a hunger for vengeance and hatred of imperialism as **exemplified by the British Empire. He figures in the 'League of Extraordinary Gentlemen', the film that inspired this publication. "The sea is everything. It covers seven tenths of the terrestrial globe. Its breath is pure and healthy. It is an immense desert, where man is never lonely, for he feels life stirring on all sides."** - his enduring quote.

Daniel Donaldson and Olaf Kuhlke (2009) narrate a gripping sketch of Phileas Fogg who makes a wager of £20,000 with the members of London's Reform Club that he can circumnavigate the world in 80 days or less. He sets out with his French servant Jean Passepartout to win the wager, unaware that he is being followed by a detective named Fix, who suspects Fogg of having robbed the Bank of England. After several adventures, Fogg is initially being at the impression that he had lost the wager. Subsequently, on account of having crossed the Pacific Ocean from west to east, they had actually gained a day when they crossed the International Date Line, it is discovered that they have not missed the deadline after all and thus won the wager. "I have a deposit of twenty thousand at Baring's which I will willingly risk upon it." - a telling line by the intrepid traveler.

Winston Churchill was a British statesman who twice served as the Prime Minister of the United Kingdom. He **is best known for his wartime leadership as Prime Minister. His quote in 1948 at Oslo "We must always be ready to make sacrifices for the great causes; only in that way shall we live to keep our souls alive."** reflects his deeply ingrained conviction to the service of the motherland.

Tom Sawyer is a boy growing up along the Mississippi River, in the town of St. Petersburg, with his friend Huckleberry Finn with whom he has several adventures. Aravindan (2018) makes a telling commentary of the protagonist and his laid-back life coupled with the simple joys of youth. He embodies the unalloyed spirit of freedom and **camaraderie in a world made light with friendship and innocence. He muses "Work consists of whatever a body is obliged to do. Play consists of whatever a body is not obliged to do."**

Judah Ben-Hur is a fictional character and the title character from Lew Wallace's 1880 novel *Ben-Hur: A Tale of the Christ*. The book and the film traces his adventures and struggle against the Roman Empire as he tries to restore honour to his family's name after being falsely accused of attacking the Roman governor. Judah encounters Jesus Christ and becomes a Christian. Judah Ben-Hur is a Jewish prince of Jerusalem who is descended from a royal family

of Judaea, enslaved by the Romans and freed by Quintus Arrius, a Roman warship commander, who also adopts Judah as his son. Storey (2015) tellingly links Judah Ben-Hur's **transformation through his encounters with Jesus to his** ultimate change in his perspective on life – realizing that forgiveness is more important than revenge. "I swear to dedicate my life to the destruction of the man who has taken everything from me." - a telling line from Judah Ben-Hur.

Long John Silver is a cunning and opportunistic pirate who was an ex-quartermaster. Although treacherous and willing to change sides at any time to further his own interests, Silver has compensating virtues. Despite his disability of having only one leg, he is physically courageous, as when holding his ground against five murderous seamen with only Jim, a boy in his teens, to back him. Jia Yan-yan (2017) has affirmed the continuing popularity of the Treasure Island in the adventure genre among readers of all age groups. "Them that die'll be the lucky ones." – The line from the swashbuckling adventurer.

Alan Quartermain is an English-born professional big game hunter and occasional trader living in Africa. He prefers to spend most of his life in the African hinterlands, where he grew up under the care of his widower father, a Christian missionary. His nocturnal habits and keen instincts aid him in his tracking abilities and skill in marksmanship. Burrow (2012) has made an elaborate assessment of the great outdoors and its impact upon avid naturalists.

Dr. Henry Jekyll is a kind and respected English doctor who has repressed evil urges inside him. In an attempt to mask it, he develops a serum that he believes will effectively counter his dark side. Instead, Jekyll transforms into Edward Hyde, the physical and mental manifestation of his evil personality. This process happens more regularly until Jekyll becomes unable to control the instants of the transformations. Edward Hyde, the alter ego of Dr. Henry Jekyll, turns to violence and finally murder while in the throes of transformation. This effect and its rising trend has been articulated by Simon Bacon (2014) articulated in several strata of society. "I learned to recognize the thorough and primitive duality of man." Sums up the duo.

Sherlock Holmes is a fictional detective created by British author Sir Arthur Conan Doyle. He is known for his observation, deduction, forensic science, and logical reasoning that borders on the fantastic, which he employs when investigating cases for a wide variety of clients, including Scotland Yard. Allison Carey (2015), Rosemary Jann (1990) and Abin Chakraborty (2015) have explored the nuances of this Victorian-age genius and his prodigious exploits in tackling crime. Holmes is often accompanied in his adventures by his friend, biographer and partner-in-crime Dr. John H. Watson. "Once you eliminate the impossible, whatever remains, no matter how improbable, must be the truth." – is attributed to the great detective.

Together with Sherlock Holmes, there is his alter ego, Mycroft Holmes. He is the elder brother of the detective Sherlock Holmes. A government official and a founding member of the Diogenes Club, Mycroft is described as having abilities of deduction and knowledge exceeding even those of his brother, Sherlock, though his effectiveness is handicapped by his averseness to fieldwork.

Prof. James Moriarty is a fictional character who first appeared in the Sherlock Holmes short story 'The Final Problem'. Moriarty is a Machiavellian, consulting criminal mastermind who does not commit crimes himself but uses his intelligence and network of resources to provide criminals with strategies for their crimes and sometimes protection from the law, for a fee. This criminal mastermind is considered to be Sherlock Holmes' archenemy and is chronicled by Allison Carey (2015) and Ross Davies (2018).

Col. Sebastian Moran, a henchman of Professor James Moriarty, is used solely for assassinations that require a peculiar skill with the rifle. Moran is credited with raw courage, as chronicled by tracking a wounded tiger in a North Indian. He is also a card-sharp, adept with deceit in card games. Moran was involved in a sniper killing attempt on **Sherlock Holmes and yet again in 'The Final Problem' (set in 1891) by rolling boulders upon him from a cliff.**

Jack the Ripper was an unidentified serial killer active in the largely impoverished areas in London in 1888. Attacks ascribed to Jack the Ripper typically involved female prostitutes who lived and worked in the slums of the East End of London. Their throats were cut prior to abdominal mutilations. The removal of internal organs from some victims led to proposals that their killer had some anatomical or surgical knowledge. The notorious murders were never solved, capturing public imagination to the present day. The Ripper has several similarities in several other countries. Walkowitz (1982) has analysed the phenomenon of violence by males ascribed to male superiority. "I give my love to all my friends and foes alike, for they are all one and the same to me."

Dorian Gray, a libertine, is depicted in the novel of the same name by Oscar Wilde. The narrative revolves around a portrait of Dorian Gray by Basil Hallward, an artist impressed and infatuated by Dorian's beauty. Gray takes the view that beauty and sensual fulfilment are the only things worth pursuing in life. Realizing that his beauty is bound to age, he sell his soul to the devil, to ensure that the portrait will age and fade, while he continues to stay young and impressionable. Oates, J.C. (1980) and Jean Nounadonde (2017) describe his pursuits of a charmed life with varied immoral experiences while all the while, the portrait ages and records every one of his sins. "The only way to get rid of temptation is to yield to it." philosophies Dorian.

Count Dracula is an undead, centuries-old vampire, and a Transylvanian nobleman who claims to be descended from Attila the Hun. He inhabits a decaying castle in the Carpathian Mountains in Central Europe. Dracula is handsome and charismatic, with a veneer of aristocratic charm. He is able to turn others into vampires by biting them and infecting them with the vampiric disease.

Mina Harker is part of the group intent on destroying Dracula. However, she falls prey to his machinations and is forced to aid him in his activities. Several adventures later, Dracula is destroyed and Mina is freed from her spell.

Griffin, also known as the Invisible Man, is a fictional character who first appeared as the protagonist of the H. G. Wells science fiction novel *'The Invisible Man'*. Griffin is a scientist whose research in optics and experiments into changing the human body's refractive index to that of air results in him becoming invisible. After becoming invisible, he wraps his head in bandages and dons a pair of goggles or glasses in order to enable others to see him. Unable to reverse the invisibility process, he descends into insanity and becomes a criminal.

Tarzan John Clayton II, Viscount Greystoke aka Tarzan is a fictional character created by Edgar Rice Burroughs. He is a child of the jungle and raised in the African jungle by apes. He later experiences civilization, only to reject it and return to the wild as a heroic adventurer. The character has been variously depicted as by Nora Hadi Q. Alseed (2013) as being articulate and sophisticated, and as a noble savage with limited language skills such as in the films featuring Johnny Weissmuller, the famous swimmer.

Dr. Fu-Manchu, a fictional character, is the hero-villain of novels and short stories by Sax Rohmer. He is a Chinese criminal genius and head of the Si-Fan, an international criminal organization. The character also appeared in silent and sound films, radio, and comic strips. Fu Manchu made his first appearance in the short story *'The Zayat Kiss'*, in the *Story-Teller* (1912). He also figured in various films including *'The face of Fu-Manchu'* (1965), *'The brides of Fu-Manchu'* (1966), *'The vengeance of Fu Manchu'* (1967), *'The blood of Fu Manchu'* (1968) and many more as traced by De Kosnik (2015). Incidentally, Fu-Manchu also starred in a Peter Sellers spoof, *'The Fiendish plot'* (1980). "The wheels of Fate have revolved and brought you into my hands." – the cavalier statement of Fu Manchu.

Major-General Sir Richard Hannay is a fictional character created by Scottish novelist John Buchan and further made popular by the 1935 Alfred Hitchcock film *'The 39 Steps'*. He first served as an intelligence officer at Delagoa Bay, Mozambique, in the Boer war (1899–1902). However, he is called back to the Secret Service to hunt a dangerous German spy during the decisive period of the First World War (1914-1918). In the course of the *'The Thirty-nine steps'*, Richard Hannay has two conflicting objectives: his active objective is to clear his name of murder, while his passive objective is to find romantic love. Will Bligh (2018) has artfully essayed the several impersonations carried out by Hannay in the course of the film.

Jeeves a.k.a Reginald Jeeves is a fictional character in a series of comic short stories and novels by English author P. G. Wodehouse. Jeeves is the highly competent valet of a wealthy and idle young Londoner, Bertie Wooster. First appearing in print in 1915, Jeeves continued to feature in Wodehouse's work until 1974. The name 'Jeeves' and the character of Jeeves have come to be thought of as the quintessential name and nature of a manservant, inspiring many similar characters as well as an Internet search engine. Armenuhi Martirosya (2015) has explored various linguistic idioms effected by Jeeves in the course of his conversation with his employer. "I endeavor to give satisfaction, sir."-summing up Jeeves.

Doctor John Doolittle is the central character of a series of children's books by Hugh Lofting starting in 1920. The physician shuns human patients in favor of animals, with whom he can speak in their own languages. He later becomes a naturalist, using his abilities to speak with animals to better understand nature and the history of the world. The stories are set in early Victorian England, where he lives in the fictional English village of Puddleby-on-the-Marsh, Wiltshire, England.

Bertram Wilberforce Wooster is a fictional character in the comic; Jeeves stories created by British author P. G. Wodehouse. An amiable English gentleman and one of the 'idle rich', Bertie appears alongside his valet, Jeeves, whose intelligence manages to save Bertie or one of his friends from numerous awkward situations. Bertie is the narrator and central figure of most of the Jeeves short stories and novels. He figures in an analysis by Kelly Oman. (2014).

Lord Voldemort and Harry Potter are fictional characters in J. K. Rowling's series of Harry Potter novels. They first appear in *'Harry Potter and the Philosopher's Stone'*. Lord Voldemort, the aristocrat and antagonistic, appears either in person or in flashbacks in each book. He attempts to murder the boy, Harry Potter, but instead kills his parents; Lily and James Potter, and leaves Harry with a scar on his head in the shape of a lightning bolt. Other witches and wizards dare not take Voldemort's name; rather refer to him with such monikers as 'You-Know-Who', 'He Who Must Not Be Named', or 'The Dark Lord'. Both Voldemort and Harry Potter are dwelt at in some length by Zhou Shuya (2020). "There is no good and evil, there is only power and those too weak to seek it."- attributed to the dark prince.

Harry Potter is a boy wizard and protagonist created by British author J.K. Rowling. His coming-of-age exploits were the subject of nine enormously popular novels (1997–2018), which were adapted into eight fantasy films (2001–2011). He was first introduced in the novel *'Harry Potter and the Philosopher's Stone'* (1997), as an orphan mistreated by his guardian aunt and uncle and their son. On his 11th birthday Harry discovers that his parents were a witch and a wizard and that he, a wizard himself, has been invited to attend Hogwarts School of Witchcraft and Wizardry. He also learns that his parents had not perished in a car accident, as told him by his aunt and uncle, but that they instead had been murdered by an evil wizard named Voldemort. Harry Potter, according to a prophecy has 'the power to vanquish the Dark Lord'. Harry was the only person to have ever survived an attack by Voldemort. Zhou Shuya. (2020)

has largely concentrated on the fantastic legerdemain effected both by the antagonistic and the protagonist. "It does not do to dwell on dreams and forget to live." -His philosophy.

Conclusions

It is intended to draw a pen sketch of the characters that form the cast of this wonderful saga. Thus, their exploits are considered in context to the social and political climates of their homelands. These reflect the eventful changes in their lives and changes in the prevailing social milieu, the emergence of sociological, political, industrial, pastoral factors and the close proximity of the authors are taken in the literary context. Their feats range from the period 37 B.C to 2001 A.D. They inhabited eighteen countries/continents; ranging from Africa, Australia, the Caribbean, England, France, Germany, India, Iran, Iraq, Ireland, Italy, Norway, Palestine, Romania, Scotland, Spain and the USA. One other character, Christian (12) seems to have had a global reach. Curiously, most of the prevalent issues of these countries mentioned above are dealt with by these characters in great detail.

In the pantheon of enduring literary characters, Tarzan (38) speaks from a particular place and time, and on the basis of his individual history and culture. Several African countries are beset by poverty, limited education, ill health, violence, hunger, sustainable agriculture, nutrition, food security, low economic growth rate, lawlessness, all of which, except sustainable agriculture, were embodied by this character. His DNA rests on the premise that the **clever white man can bring order to the 'dark continent' through his own brand of clearly delineated, culturally specific morality**. Admittedly, Tarzan was a racist product of an equally racist time that was eclipsed by the civil rights movement and the breakdown of the British Empire.

The Caribbean's most challenging social issues include crime, poverty, healthcare, education and unemployment. Addressing these issues contributes to the development of an adequate social safety net, reducing poverty and increasing the standard of living of the native populace. Some of these have been touched upon by **Prospero in 'The Tempest'**. This work is predictably political, displacing the personal intrigues of the seventeenth century original for a discourse of class struggle and social upheaval. However, it is to be remembered that back in 1611, when the book was made, English settlements did not exist in the Caribbean, and the English had only landed in North America a few years earlier.

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