**Modern Lit and the**

**Modern Age**

The Modern Age was a time characterized by *individualism*, *self promotion*, and *commercialism*. America had won WW1, and was excited to market itself (i.e. the citizens) as hot commodities. The result was a sense of *isolation* (a feeling of being alone) and *alienation* (a feeling that no one else was experiencing the same hardships, triumphs, etc as anyone else). As a result, the literature of the time reflected many of these same characteristics. Characters in the writings were often shallow, and frequently lacked true companionship. Material wealth was often considered more important than moral character. Often, an overwhelming sense of *cynicism* was present in the stories and the characters.

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| **Attribute** | **Novel / Description** | **Passage** |
| Individualism | EX 1) |  |
| EX 2) |  |
| Self Promotion | EX 1) |  |
| EX 2) |  |
| Commercialism | EX 1) |  |
| EX 2) |  |
| Isolation | EX 1) |  |
| EX 2) |  |
| Alienation | EX 1) The man and woman in *HLWE* do not understand one another, nor do they seem to truly want to know. The woman is more concerned with keeping her partner quiet about the “procedure” so that she will not have to talk about it, or really consider the decision she’s about to make. As a result, the man doesn’t understand the seriousness of the choice his partner is about to make. | …She was sitting at the table and smiled at him.    "Do you feel better?" he asked.   "I feel fine," she said. "There's nothing wrong with me. I feel fine." |
| EX 2) |  |
| Cynicism | EX 1) |  |
| EX 2) |  |