

# The Harlem Renaissance Fair

THE DATE OF THE FAIR

MODERNISM CHARACTERISTICS

# The “Mechanics” of Tuesday, 12/12

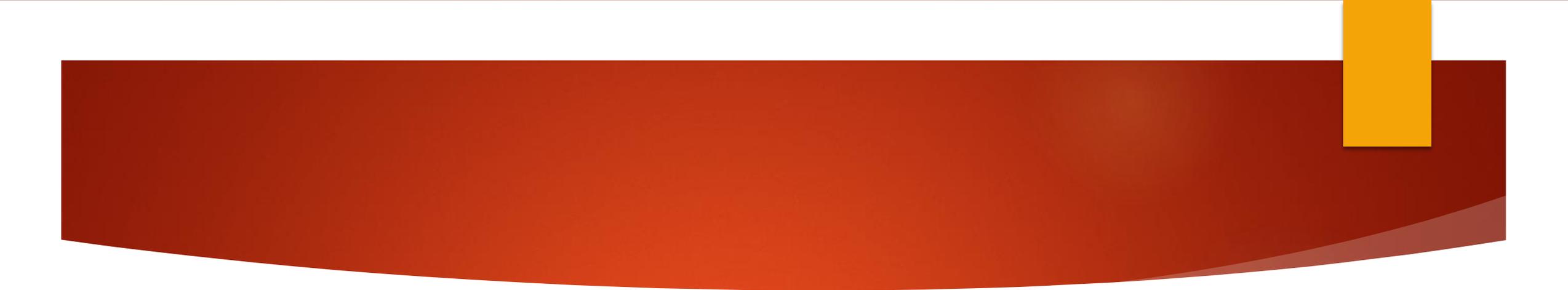
- ▶ You will set up your “exhibit” in the library and then leave it.
  - ▶ You will need to consider:
    - ▶ Visuals – make them easy to see and read.
    - ▶ Sound – put your music on a loop so you do not need to worry.
    - ▶ Technology – if you add a PPT, make it relevant, easy to follow, and something that can be understood no matter when the observer comes by to record notes.
      - ▶ I was thinking of pictures, examples of art, etc. – if you place your PPT on a loop as well, then observers will be able to see a few examples and then leave without missing major information.

# Once you set up...

- ▶ You will have a handout that will need to be completed as you visit the exhibits.
- ▶ This will be an individual activity, so there will be not need for conversations.
- ▶ Think museum'esque.

# Modernism information

- ▶ Evolved from Realism & Naturalism Movements and still influencing modern literature today.
- ▶ Marked by a strong and intentional break with tradition. This break includes a strong reaction against established religious, political, and social views. Questioning authority.
- ▶ **There is no absolute truth.** All things are relative and there is no way to know everything.
- ▶ Belief that the world is created in the act of perceiving it; that is, the world is what we say it is.
- ▶ Pessimism: finding meaning in the world in the wake of chaos. Idealism turns to cynicism.
- ▶ Loss of innocence is a key theme throughout many works during this time.
- ▶ Disillusionment sets in, particularly when discussing the American Dream.

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- ▶ Celebration of inner strength and the individual.
  - ▶ Disjointed timeframes; no longer sequential plots.
  - ▶ Narration through fragmented or multiple perspectives & viewpoints.
  - ▶ Characters are generally from lower or middle class.
  - ▶ The use of “stream-of-consciousness” emerges.
  - ▶ Poetry followed Walt Whitman by abandoning traditional forms in favor of free verse.
  - ▶ The unreliable narrator takes off. The anti-hero emerges.
  - ▶ Experimentation of form and genre.
  - ▶ Some authors abandon the use of decorative language, using blunt, straightforward diction and simple dialogue & sentences (Hemingway) but not all of them did.
  - ▶ A key idea of the Modernist Movement is EMANCIPATION.