

Samuel Richardson

He didn't belong to the literary world. In fact he wrote his first novel when he was already 50. He was born in a poor family and worked in a printing shop. But in 1721 he married his master's daughter and started his own printing shop. His business prospered and he was asked to write models for letters since letters were the most common way of communication.

So he had the idea for "Pamela", his first epistolary novel followed by "Clarissa" and "Charles Grandison".

Richardson's works were "examples" models for letters and styles of life. In "Pamela" he wrote in the form of letter the adventures of a young woman (giving models for letters) and in his best work he portrayed the ideal gentleman.

This writer was a representative of the rising middle class: his novels and he conveyed the Puritan values of honesty, hard work, spirit of initiative and possibility of social mobility.

Pamela

It's an epistolary novel written in 1739. It's the story of a servant whose master tries to seduce Pamela, who embodies the moral code of Puritans, resists to him and finally has a honest marriage with him. She also portrays the values of middle class against the ones of aristocracy, represented by her master. In that period the social barrier between different classes was beginning to break down: rich middle class girls married with impoverished aristocrats.

The narrative technique (first person narration, epistolary form and direct dialogues) gives realism to the story and makes the characterisation of each character emerge from the story.