

A CLOCKWORK ORANGE

by

Anthony Burgess

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Anthony Burgess

- Born, John Burgess Wilson, in Manchester, England on February 25, 1917.
- Raised in a Catholic family. His sister, Muriel, and mother, Elizabeth, died in a influenza epidemic a year after his birth. Their death had a profound effect on his life and work.
- Educated at Xavier College and The University of Manchester with a degree in English Literature in 1940.



- Served in the Army Medical Corps and the Army Education Corps from 1940-1946. Director of the marching band. Music played a important role in his life.
- Married his wife, Llewela Jones in 1942.
- Started his career as a novelist and a teacher. After collapsing while teaching and suffering from a suspected brain tumor. Burgess's writing career sparked in order to provide financial stability for him and his wife.
- Wrote A Clockwork Orange in 1962.
- Stantley Kubric's A Clockwork Orange was released in 1971.



- Burgess wrote on under pseudonym Joseph Kell later in his writing career.
- Burgess's wife died in 1968 due to liver failure.
- Burgess later remarried an Italian linguist and translator named Liliana.
- Burgess was a prolific writer, critic and composer.
- Burgess dies of lung cancer on November 22, 1993.



Characters

- Alex
- Minister of Interior
- Prison Chaplain
- Dr. Brodsky and Dr. Branom
- Dim and Georgie
- P.R. Deltoid
- Pete



Language

- Nadsat
 - desensitization
- Alienation
 - temporary
- Influences
 - Russian
 - Cockney



Nadsat Example

- "These grahzny sodding veshches that come out of my gulliver ... and my plott," I said, "that's what it is."

"Quaint," said Dr. Brodsky, like smiling, "the dialect of the tribe. Do you know anything of its provenance, Branom?"

"Odd bits of old rhyming slang," said Dr. Branom, who did not look quite so much like a friend any more. "A bit of gipsy talk, too. But most of the roots are Slav. Propaganda. Subliminal penetration." (page 114)



Alex's Britain vs Russia

- Totalitarian State
 - Regulation of every aspect of life
 - Propaganda
 - State terrorism
 - Title
 - Only wind-up toys



Pavlov's Experiment and Discovery

- Pavlov's famous experiment = dog is trained to salivate when a bell rings
 - How ?
1. Pavlov introduces a neutral stimulus (such as a bell) . The stimulus does not result in an overt behavior response from the object under investigation (the dog).
 2. He then introduces a conditioned stimulus = something significant that evokes a reflexive response (such as the meat).
 3. When the conditioned stimulus (once the neutral stimulus) is repeatedly paired with the unconditioned stimulus (bell + meat), eventually the two stimuli become associated.
 4. The object under investigation (the dog) begins to produce a behavioral response to the conditioned stimulus (salivation). This resulted in a **CONDITIONED RESPONSE**



Relevance

- During WWII governments were desperate to keep control over their people.
- Example: the Japanese used the method of classical conditioning to bring soldiers and/or captives to associate violence with pleasure.
- They made their fellow soldiers cheer as they killed one or two Chinese soldiers while their peers watched. These soldiers were then treated to the best sake and meal they had had in the last couple months and they began to classically condition their soldiers to commit atrocious violence and associate it with pleasure.
- This resulted in their soldiers not only taking pleasure in violence, but also motivated them to kill more.
- In *A Clockwork Orange*, Alexi s strapped to a chair and forced to watch violent movies while he is injected with a drug that nauseates him. Although he shows obvious signs of enjoying violence earlier in the novel, the medication which causes him to feel nauseated makes him gag as he watches the violent scenes .
- Unconditioned stimulus = violent scenes and opera music
- Unconditioned response = Alex enjoys violence
- Conditioned stimulus = injection of medication that made him nauseated.
- Conditioned Response = Alex gets sick at the sound of opera music and violence, and he is unable to defend himself against violence.
- In this novel, Burgess uses the title and the consequences Alex endures to suggest that people are mechanically responsive.
- Like an orange –full of life
- Like a clock- repetitive and controlled by the dominant powers.