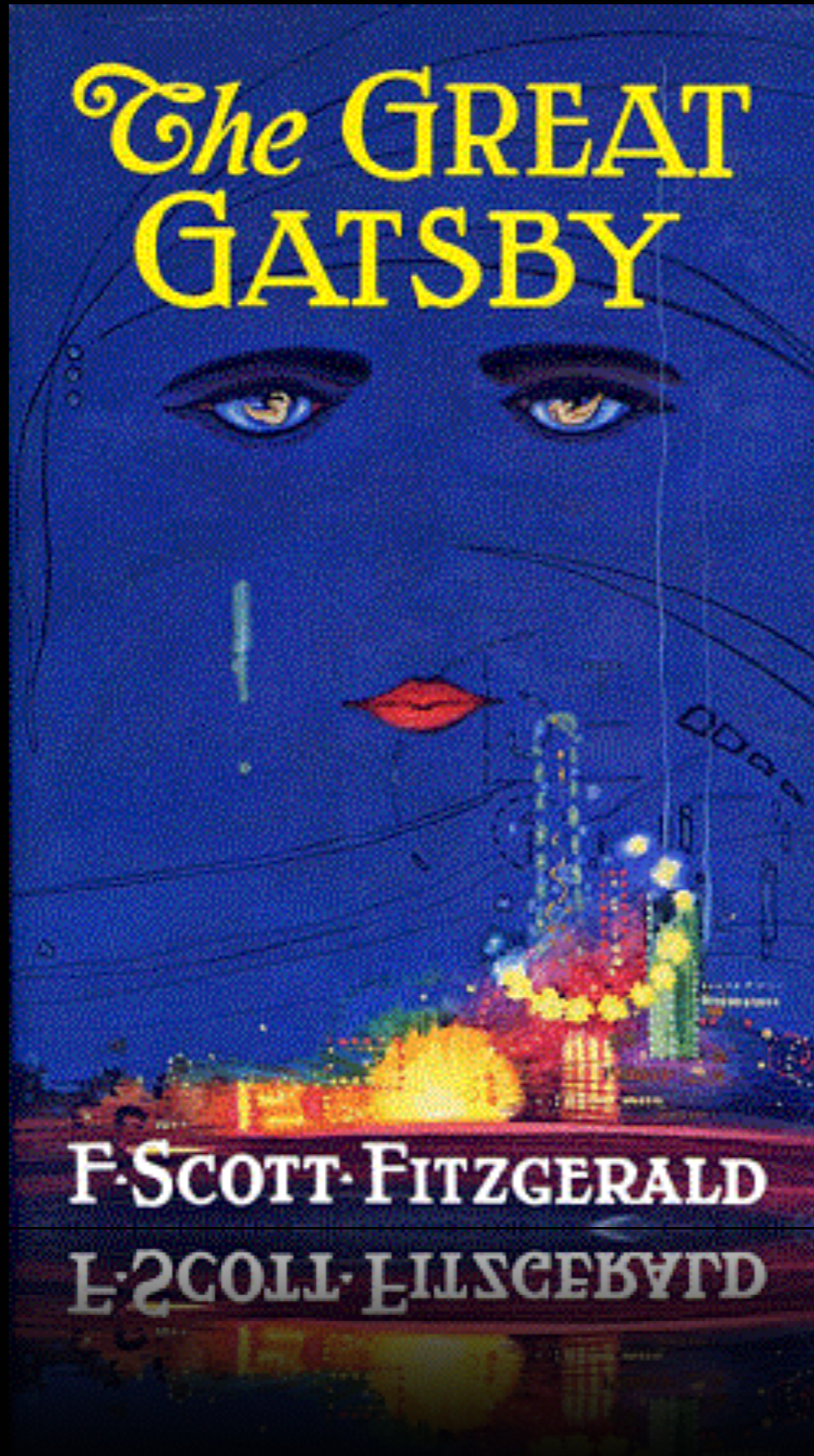




The Roaring  
Twenties:  
Popular Culture

# Writers of the 1920s



- Writer F. Scott Fitzgerald coined the phrase "Jazz Age" to describe the 1920s
- Fitzgerald wrote *Paradise Lost* and *The Great Gatsby*
- *The Great Gatsby* reflected the emptiness of New York elite society

# Writers of the 1920s



Edith Warton

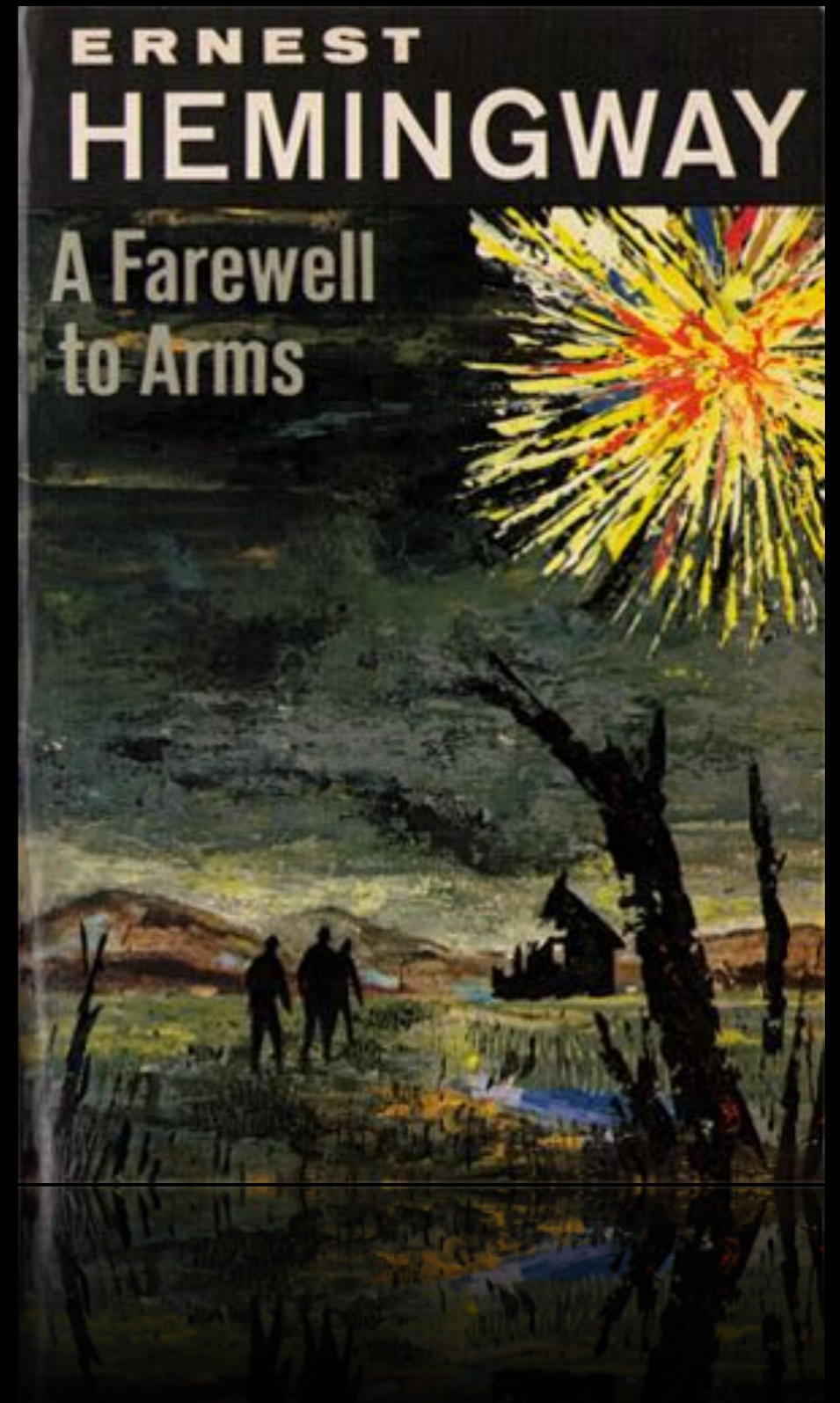
- Edith Warton's *Age of Innocence* dramatized the clash between traditional and modern values
- Willa Cather celebrated the simple, dignified lives of immigrant farmers in Nebraska in *My Antonia*



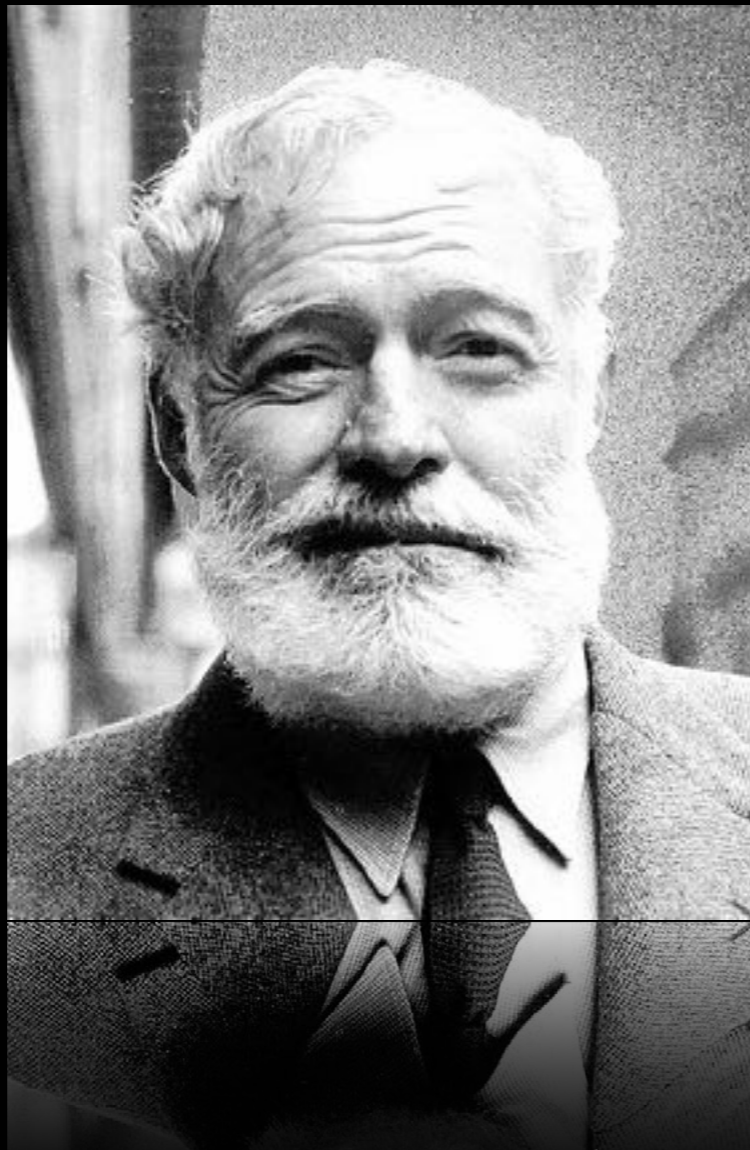
Willa Cather

# Writers of the 1920s

- Ernest Hemingway, wounded in WWI became one of the best known authors of the era
- In his novels, *The Sun Also Rises* and *A Farewell to Arms*, he criticized the glorification of war
- His simple, straightforward style of writing set the literary standard



# The Lost Generation

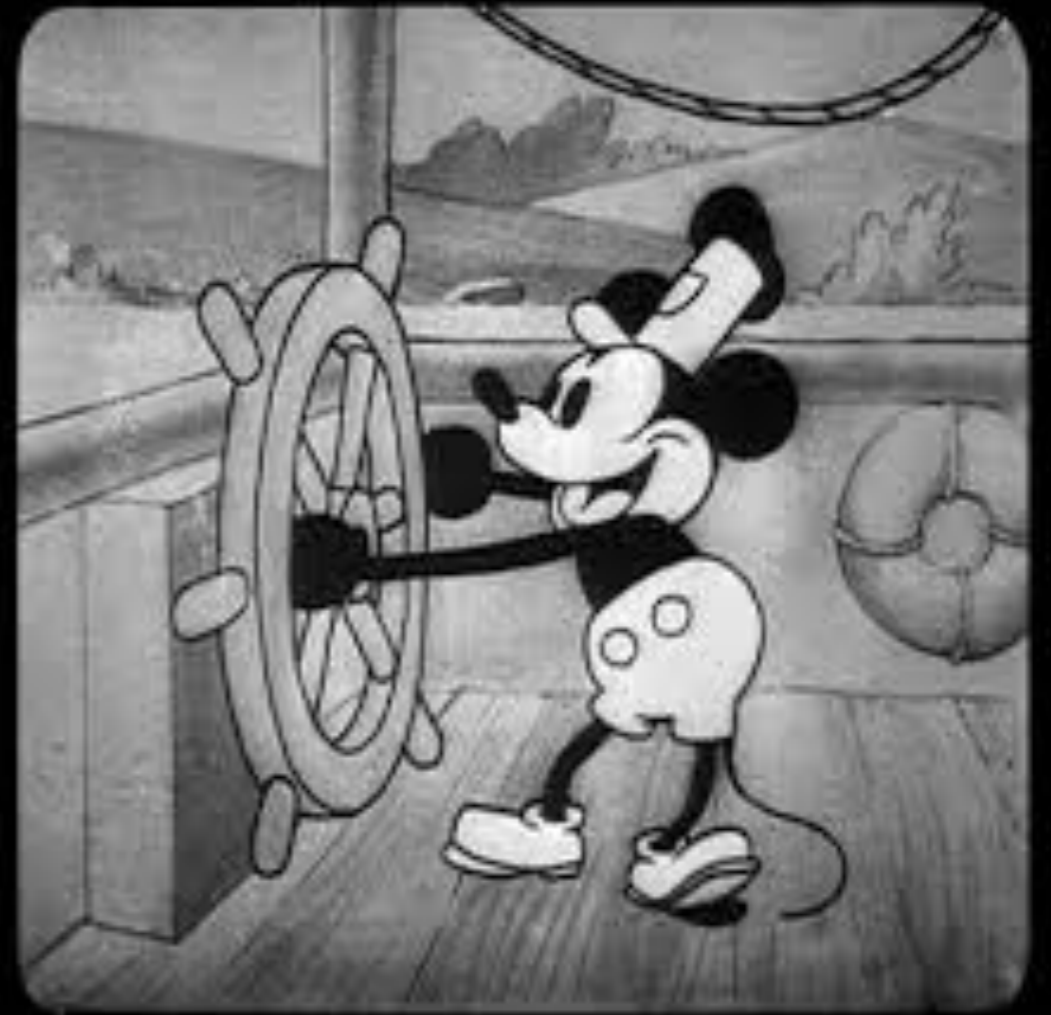


- Some writers such as Hemingway and John Dos Passos were so soured by American culture that they chose to settle in Europe
- In Paris, they formed a group that one writer called "The Lost Generation"



# Entertainment & Arts

- Even before sound, movies offered a means of escape through romance and comedy
- First sound movies: *Jazz Singer* (1927)
- First animated with sound: *Steamboat Willie* (1928)
- By 1930, millions of Americans went to the movies each week

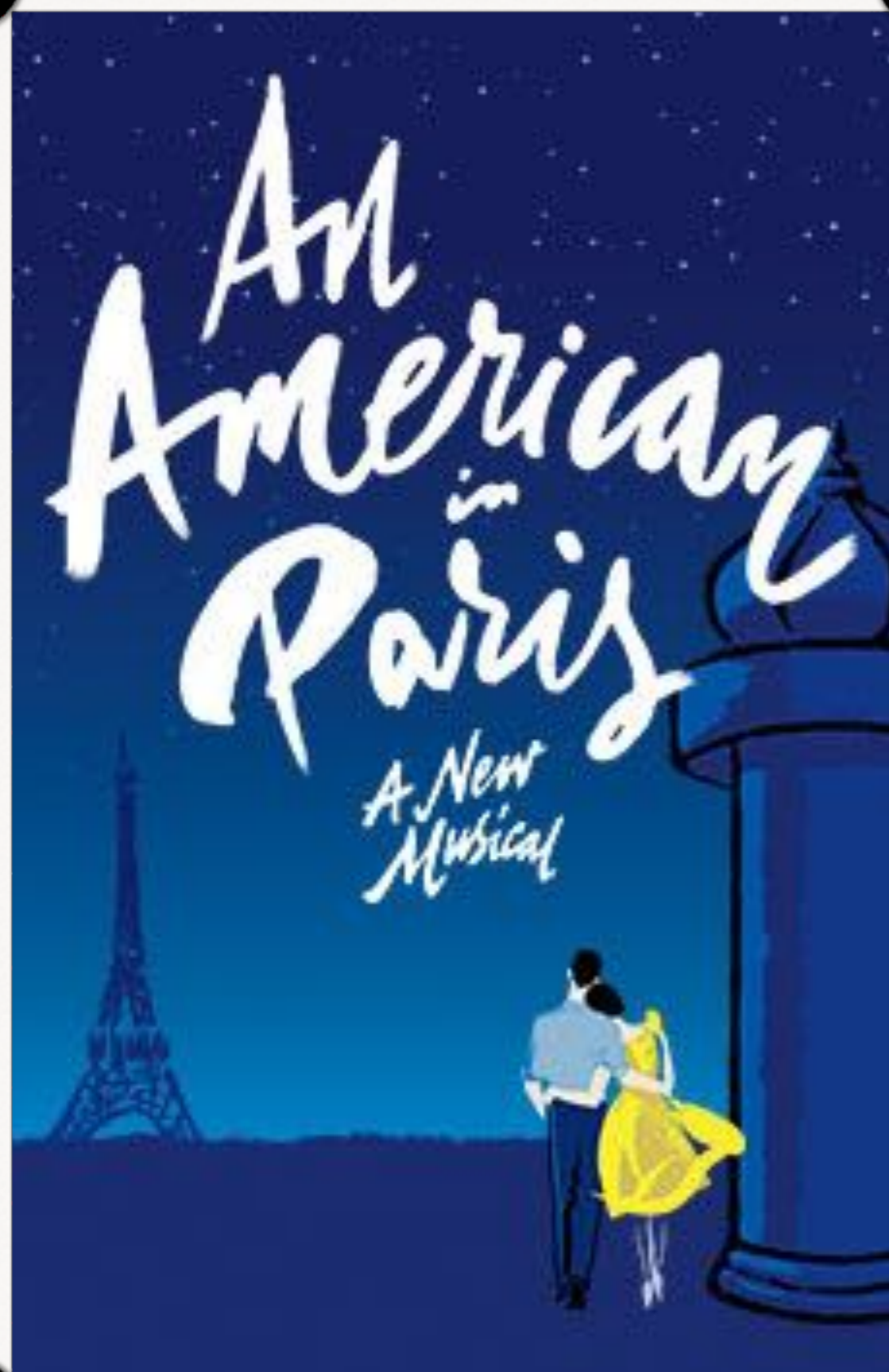


Walt Disney's animated *Steamboat Willie* marked the debut of Mickey Mouse. It was a seven minute long black and white cartoon.

# George Gershwin

- *An American in Paris*, orchestral composition written in 1928
- In 1951, the music inspired a movie-musical starring Gene Kelly
- *An American in Paris* officially opened on Broadway on April 12, 2015 & closed January 1, 2017







# George Gershwin



*Rhapsody in Blue*, George Gershwin  
1924

# George Gershwin

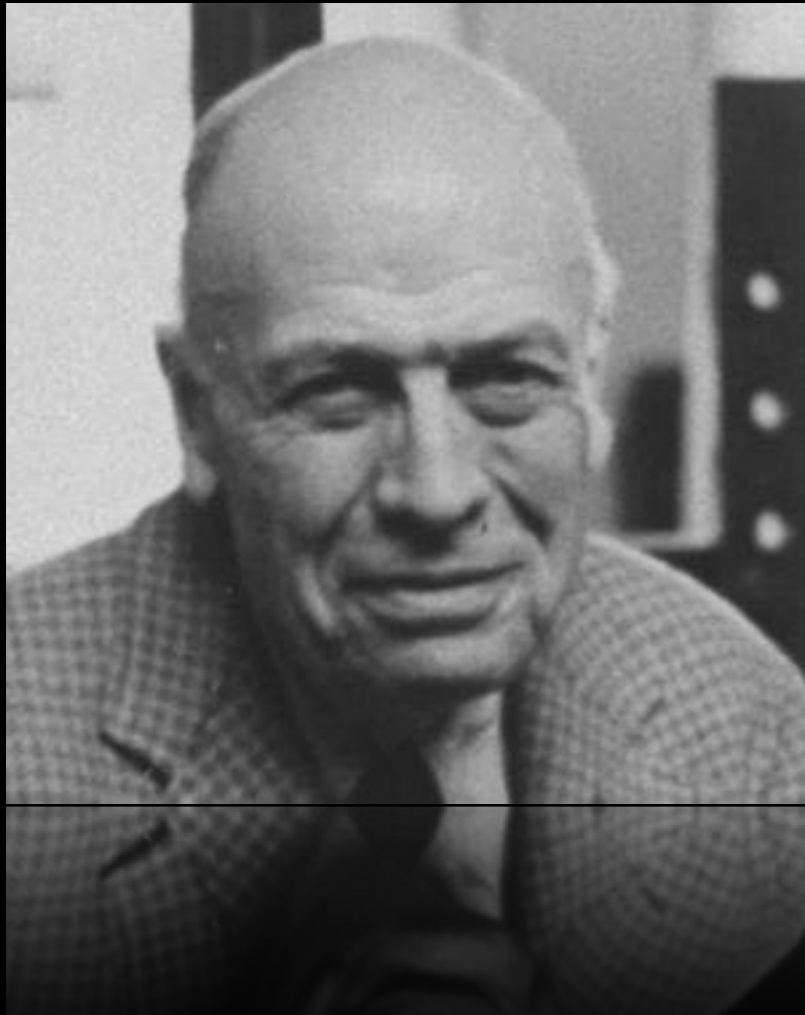
*"It was on the train, with its steely rhythms, its rattle-ty bang. And there I suddenly heard, and even saw on paper, the complete construction of the Rhapsody, from beginning to end. I heard it as a sort of musical kaleidoscope of America, of our vast melting pot, of our unduplicated national pep, of our metropolitan madness."*

# Rhapsody in Blue

- What do you **hear**? Describe the sounds, instruments, styles and rhythms of *Rhapsody in Blue*.
- Who are the **characters**? What do they do? What do they want? How does this characterize the dreams of Americans during the 1920s?
- How does the animation depict the **urban life** of the 1920s? What do you notice about life in the city?



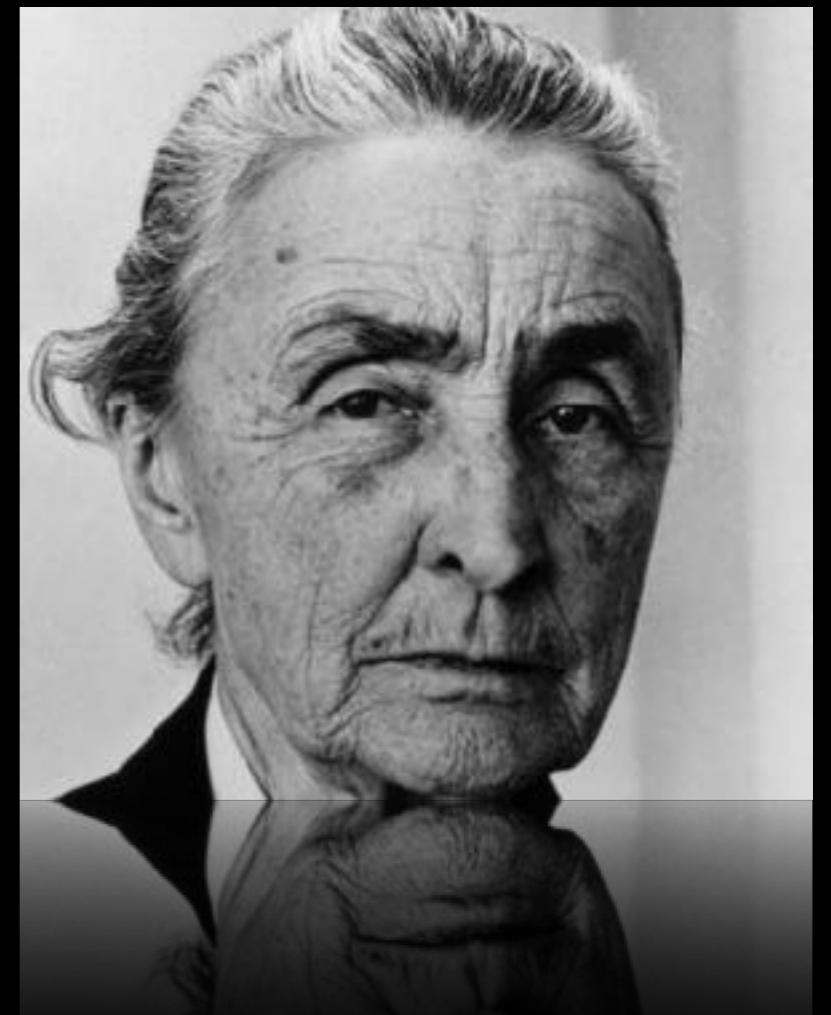
# Music & Art



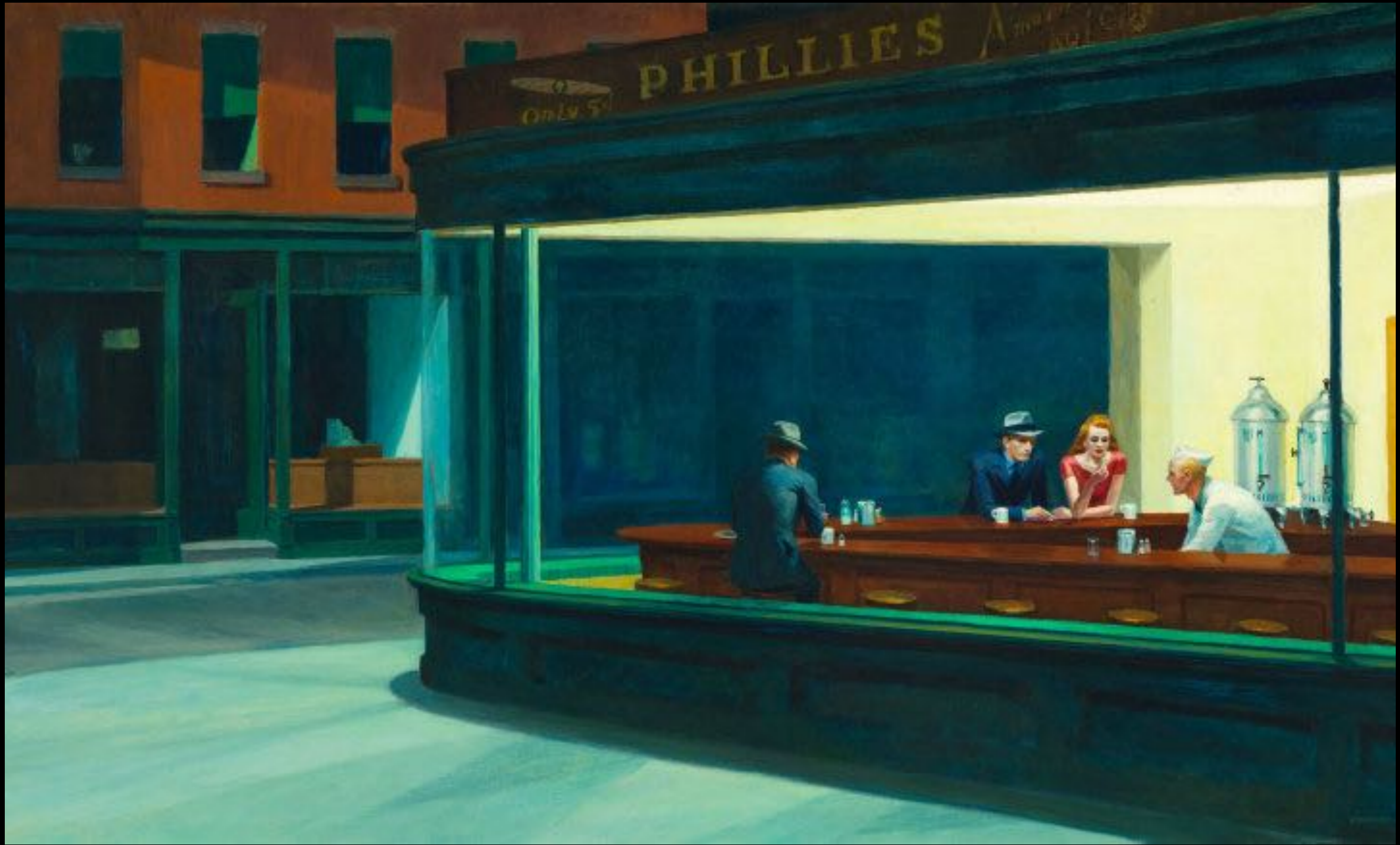
- Painters like Edward Hopper depicted the loneliness of American life



- Famed composer George Gershwin merged traditional elements with American Jazz



- Georgia O'Keeffe captured the grandeur of New York using intensely colored canvases



*Nighthawks*, Edward Hopper  
1942



*Automat*, Edward Hopper  
1927



*Chop Suey,*  
Edward Hopper  
1929

# Georgia O'Keeffe



*The Shelton with  
Sunspots,  
1926*



*New York City with  
Moon,  
1925*



*Radiator Building,  
Night, New York,  
1927*