Modernity in Context

Antiquity, Modernity, and Postmodernity

Pre-modernity; Antiquity
- History revered:
  - Individual behavior should be dominated by tradition.
  - “Rule of the dead.”
- Truth emerges from doing things the way they’ve always been done.
- Status is a given—cannot be changed by individuals.

Modernity
- Forward looking:
  - Rejection of tradition in favor of reason & science.
  - Rationality creates order, leading to “progress”
- Truth is conveyed by experts.
- Individuals are active agents of change:
  - Determine their own fate
  - Determine their own status

Tikki Tikki Tembo
- Example of “modern” thinking

Postmodernity
- “Progress” is a myth.
- Truth is relative, subjective.
- Power resides in every individual.
  - Individuals driven by “grand narratives” (institutionalized values)…
  - But individuals can recognize & resist these.

The Stinky Cheese Man and Other Fairly Stupid Tales
- An example of post-modernity