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DEPARTMENT OF ENGLISH LITERATURE

REFERAT



DONE BY: 1-"D" group

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LITERATURE

Plan:

- 1. What is literature?*
- 2. Why do we read literature?*
- 3. The purpose of literature.*
- 4. The world's greatest writer and poet-
William Shakespeare.*
- 5. Conclusion.*

LITERATURE

"The difficulty of literature is not to write, but to write what you mean; not to affect your reader, but to affect him precisely as you wish."-- Robert Louis Stevenson



Literature is a term used to describe written or spoken material. Broadly speaking, "literature" is used to describe anything from creative writing to more technical or scientific works, but the term is most commonly used to refer to works of the creative imagination, including works of poetry, drama, fiction, and nonfiction.

Why do we read literature?

Literature represents a language or a people: culture and tradition. But, literature is more important than just a historical or cultural artifact.

Literature introduces us to new worlds of experience. We learn about books and literature; we enjoy the comedies and the tragedies of poems, stories, and plays; and we may even grow and evolve through our literary journey with books.

Ultimately, we may discover meaning in literature by looking at what the author says and how he/she says it. We may interpret the author's message. In academic circles, this decoding of the text is often carried out through the use of literary theory, using a mythological, sociological, psychological, historical, or other approach.

Whatever critical paradigm we use to discuss and analyze literature, there is still an artistic quality to the works. Literature is important to us because it speaks to us, it is universal, and it affects us. Even when it is ugly, literature is beautiful.

Attempting to define what is literature presents a challenge among scholars, literary enthusiasts, and genre experts that exists as an annotation in the margins of the literary world. Literature cannot be given a specific and absolute definition that the aforementioned can all agree upon because, in the broadest sense, literature is the art of the written word in any language; and art, of course, is subjective.

Most people, when they hear the word literature, understand what it means. They might have taken a literature course in college, and know at least one piece of work from Mark Twain, Jane Austen, Charles Dickens, or Anton Chekhov. Even a business man could argue that an executive summary written by Bill Gates would qualify as literature. A Jack Kerouac inspired poet could argue that the sticky note of instructions Gates gives to his assistant on how to type up the executive summary is literature. In other words, defining what is literature is arguably determined by the reader of any written text who deems it so. In order for readers to make such a determination, however; it is necessary to have a few criteria.

The purpose of literature, as with any art form, is to inform and entertain the reader with themes relative to the past, present, and future of all aspects of life, and this can be achieved by the author who has:

- written text
- with word choice, metaphors & similes, symbol & irony, tone & rhythm, and narrative form
- belonging to a genre (fiction, poetry, and drama)
- intended by the author to imply theme(s)
- and read to infer the author's theme(s)

Literature is written works which employ basic literary criteria that affects a reader so as to provide an interpretation of an authors implications.

William Shakespeare.



William Shakespeare is regarded as the greatest writer and poet ever known in the English language who authored world's greatest poems, drama and sonnets. The bard, who remains an icon in the literary world, wrote over 38 plays, 154 sonnets and several poems and most of his works are still performed all over the world. Having started with comedies and histories,

Shakespeare earned name for raising the genres to the heights of creativity and classiness. His major works are considered to be the culmination of art of tragedy, romance and comedy in his era and is still emulated by the writers that came after him. In his later career Shakespeare wrote poems which set the best mixture of love, passion, procreation, romance, time and death. His greatness lies in the fact that several plays and poems written by him, along with his other works are widely performed and translated into almost every existing language till date.

Shakespeare's major writing consist poems, sonnets and plays representing a rainbow of human emotions and nature. Tragic and tragicomedies remained the centre of this writing throughout career and proved to be dominant factor in his success. His famous tragic play Romeo and Juliet in 1599, which ended with the fateful end of Julius Caesar, was a legendry success and remains so till this day. Othello, another masterpiece in this league, has been translated into several languages and has been adopted into movies. He later moved on to tragicomedies and romances and authored poems such as A Lover's Complaint and The Phoenix and the Turtle which reflect the finest example of love, sexual passion, procreation, romance, time and death.

Used literature:

1. *“World literature today” newspaper.*
2. *Literary Theory by Terry Eagleton.*
3. *“What is literature?” by Patrick Galloway.*
4. *“Literature” by Michael Meyer.*
5. *William Shakespeare’s biography.*