

**THE FRAGRANCE OF THE LITERATURE**

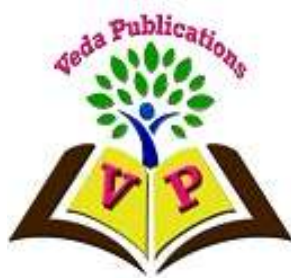
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"Literature is one of the most interesting and significant expressions of humanity."

-P. T. Barnum

Literature means a single body of written frameworks. Its originated from Latin root *litteratura* (*litteratura*) which means letter or handwriting. It's categorised into many forms like Fiction/Non-fiction, Poetry/Prose, Novel, Short-story, Drama. It's considered to be an art form which possess intellectual value. Based on interests, it may be in philosophical, historical, journalistic, scientific. Literature adds to reality, it does not simply describe it. It enriches the necessary competencies that daily life requires and provides; and in this respect, it irrigates the deserts that our lives have already become.



Keywords: *Literature, Humanity, Life.*

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Today, there are too many people who believe that literature is simply not important or underestimate its abilities to stand the test of time and give us great knowledge. There is a stigma in society that implies one who is more inclined toward science and math will somehow be more successful in life, and that one who is more passionate toward literature and other art forms will be destined to a life of low-paying jobs and unsatisfying careers. Somewhere along the line, the world has come to think that literature is insignificant. To me, however,

literature serves as a gateway to learning of the past and expanding my knowledge and understanding of the world. Here are just a few reasons why literature is important.

Books are the carriers of civilization. Without books, history is silent, literature dumb, science crippled, thought and speculation at a standstill.

The very essence of literature is the war between emotion and intellect, between life and death. When literature becomes too intellectual -



when it begins to ignore the passions, the emotions - it becomes sterile, silly, and actually without substance.

Every man's work, whether it be literature, or music or pictures or architecture or anything else, is always a portrait of himself. We humans are social and spiritual beings unlike animals. To instill the social and spiritual values, literature is a basic tool, I would say, without which our lives will be so materialistic and greedy. Value system is a must for every individual, community and country to be effective and success oriented. For the newer generations to know the history of their own place and other parts of the world, literature is the main source. In several countries, it has supported and inspired the downtrodden and labourers to unite and fight against the corrupt rulers. Literature is important in everyday life because it connects individuals with larger truths and ideas in a society.

Literary tradition is both oral and written. Civilizations that existed without a written language still managed to pass down their stories through oral telling. Many Native American cultures practice an oral literary tradition. The primary use of literature in ancient settings was to pass down customs, beliefs and traditions to the younger generations. In more recent centuries, literature has taken on a more comprehensive role of mirroring society in order for humans to study themselves and understand the underlying truths common to all people. For students, studying literature is a critical component in education, as it teaches students to see themselves reflected in art. This allows people to learn about life and truth. Literature also helps people to see life from the perspective of another. Identity-based literature teaches the reader what life is like for others, helping them to be more understanding and respectful of those around them. Literature expands our minds, helps our imagination fly like the eagle it is, Literature increases our vocabulary without our knowing it. Literature helps us in our waking life, gives us heroes, give us a catharsis, an escape, and sometimes a laugh. Literature is important because it gives writers a venue, and students a standard.

P.B. Shelley wrote,

“A man, to be greatly good, must imagine intensely and comprehensively; he must put himself in the place of another and of many others; the pains and pleasures of his species must become his own. The great instrument of moral good is the imagination.”

Literature teaches us how to live. Literature makes the reader visit places, experience events, meet people, listen to them, feel their joys and sufferings. It takes years to acquire so much wisdom that a single book of literary merit instills in a reader. Literature mirrors the society and its mannerisms. Because of Charles Dickens you can experience the Hard Times of the Victorian England without going through a detailed historical study. The fact-based education system, the fractured human relationships, the smokey polluted towns, the ill-effects of Industrial Revolution, the misery of labourers, the mercenary instincts of men and the flawed legal system of the land....this single book will give you an entire picture of the evils of Victorian English Society. Wordsworth's poetry makes you feel his aesthetic delight at the sight of Daffodils and the tranquility of the song sung by a Solitary Reaper. Similarly, Eliot makes you pity the spiritual barrenness of the world that has turned into Wasteland. Wilfred Owen forces you to think about the Insensibility of the state and people who glorify wars. Literature is a storehouse of all knowledge and wisdom. History, Political Studies, Philosophy, Science and all other forms of learning are part of literature, as Wordsworth puts it:

Poetry (and all literature by extension) is the breath and finer spirit of all knowledge...the poet binds together by passion and knowledge the vast empire of human society, as it is spread over the whole earth, and over all time.”

Studying human condition is not enough. One has to feel that condition in order to gain wisdom. Literature provides for a richer life. No other form of learning brings the enrichment that reading brings. Literature is the torch-bearer that has helped civilizations to overcome the darkness of savagery. In the absence of the great Ramayana, Mahabharata and the Vedas India would not have been called the Golden Bird (Sone ki chidiya). Similarly, what makes Greece the mother of European civilization is its great literature. Literature is an important part of the life of almost every individual. At present, our lives



are progressing at a very high speed and hence people hardly find time to relax. By studying literature, one can get a break from their hectic life. Literature also helps an individual to gain knowledge about a wide range of topics and also read the works of different authors. What is the importance of literature? You might as well ask about the importance of music or color. Literature is simply inside and all around us.

Literature is invaluable in teaching you how to think originally. Whether the literature is realistic, naturalistic, comedy, surrealistic, or any of the myriad other forms it can take, good literature twists existence, all the while leaving tendrils of imagery, character, and consequence that recreate a new, recognisable pattern out of its own distortion of the world. It helps you see patterns, structures, connections and truths that had been hidden in the literal world, disguised by the horror of evil or the horror of banality. No discipline, even the scientific method, does as much to teach us how to think by merging the complexity of life with the order of the universe. Literature is not something to put your mind into, literature is something only a heart can understand. One simply does not study literature, he changes in one way or another.

Literature, for me, is like a ray of hope in this dark world. It is an escape from the negativity of life. Literature has given me a new perspective and has drastically changed me as a person. When you read war literature, whether it is Walt Whitman, Alfred Tennyson or Sassoon, their words take you to another dimension. You can feel almost everything they have written. Virginia Woolf, feminism in her works reflects the quality of her thoughts, which this generation lacks.

When you read, even fiction, later in life you will remember that and that same situation can happen to you. Maybe not the same but can have same consequences. Also your vocabulary sounds much better. You have more topics to talk about with other people. You never have difficulties finding the right word. Now English is not my first language, so my vocabular isn't as good as it is in my first language. I still have a lot to read in English to achieve the same level I have in my own language. Sometimes I feel lonely, since many of my

friends read only for school purposes. They usually read as if someone is making them not out of enjoyment and entertainment. My advice is that you should read what you like and as much as you can; you'll feel way better and will be and appear much smarter to other people.

Literature is a mirror of the society. From edge of the world to barycentre of the life spin, all things are labeled in literature. Subject of feelings are prescribed in the form of stories, narrations, incidents, poetry are the adjective of literature which qualifies the conditions and act of the people.

Our actions lays the foundation for the future and this impact are uprooted in the literature. It sketch the naked faces of that animals, born as humans. It distinguish between the art of living and state of thoughts. To quote from Whitman, "O me! O life!... of the questions of these recurring; of the endless trains of the faithless... of cities filled with the foolish; what good amid these, O me, O life?" Answer. That you are here - that life exists, and identity; that the powerful play goes on and you may contribute a verse. That the powerful play *goes on* and you may contribute a verse.

Literature is the foundation of life. It places an emphasis on many topics from human tragedies to tales of the ever-popular search for love. While it is physically written in words, these words come alive in the imagination of the mind, and its ability to comprehend the complexity or simplicity of the text. Literature enables people to see through the lenses of others, and sometimes even inanimate objects; therefore, it becomes a looking glass into the world as others view it. It is a journey that is inscribed in pages, and powered by the imagination of the reader. Ultimately, literature has provided a gateway to teach the reader about life experiences from even the saddest stories to the most joyful ones that will touch their hearts. Literature helps us to inhabit minds unlike our own. As Lily Richard says in her comment, "Literature teaches people empathy."

It also provides us aesthetic pleasure with pattern recognition: the quest, the romance plot, the defeat of the monster, the rise and fall of the tragic hero. And let us not forget the pleasure of gorgeous, juicy words, as in Keats' "Ode to a Nightingale":

O, for a draught of vintage! that hath been



Cool'd a long age in the deep-delved earth,
Tasting of Flora and the country green,
Dance, and Provençal song, and sunburnt
mirth!

O for a beaker full of the warm South,
Full of the true, the blushful Hippocrene,
With beaded bubbles winking at the brim,
And purple-stained mouth;
That I might drink, and leave the world
unseen,
And with thee fade away into the forest dim

...

Literature grips us with its stories, its characters in conflict, its obstacles to overcome. Why else do we love Lord of the Rings and Game of Thrones?

All literature, whether it be poems, essays, novels, or short stories, helps us address human nature and conditions which affect all people. These may be the need for growth, doubts and fears of success and failure, the need for friends and family, the goodness of compassion and empathy, trust, or the realization of imperfection. We learn that imperfection is not always bad and that normal can be boring. We learn that life must be lived to the fullest. We need literature in order to connect with our own humanity. "WITHOUT LITERATURE, LIFE IS HELL"

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