

An Introduction to literature: Poetry

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**First Stage
First Course
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First Lecture

The meaning and the value of literature.

What is Literature?

It is an art in which words play an important role. Plays, novels, and poetry are all beautiful works of art.

Literature is an art in which language or words have a most significant function. Arts include, besides literature, some other things, such as: music, painting, modeling, etc.,. The artists who want to create a beautiful work of art must have their special tools. In literature, to create beautiful works of art, such as a poem, a novel, a play or a short story, the artist's work by words. Literature may be divided into various branches: poetry, novel, drama, essay, biography, autobiography, etc.... Good literature is that literature in which words are employed effectively, they should be well-chosen and strong in their emotional or intellectual appeal. Good literature is very enriching, it educates the minds and hearts and exposes the reader to lofty ideas and ideals. It opens one's eyes to the deep meaning of life.

The Meaning of literature:

Literature is the art of words. Basil Worsfold defined literature in his 'Judgment of Literature' as "the brain of humanity' and the record of people's past experiences ".A body of written works. The name has traditionally been applied to those imaginative works of poetry and prose distinguished by the intentions of their authors and the perceived aesthetic excellence of their execution.

The value of literature:

Literature is an interpretation of life. Since writers see things in a different way than other people do, they interpret what they see in life through literature.

How words are used in literature

Words in literature are used in two different ways: artistic (connotation) and non-artistic (denotation).

What is connotation?

It is the associations that the word has gained through constant use. It appeals to the feelings, for example, a flower could mean love or beauty and mother is associated with security and warmth.

What is denotation?

It is the meaning of the word in the dictionary (lexical meaning). It appeals to the brain, for example, a flower means a plant in dictionary, and mother is the female parent of an animal.