



University of Tikrit
College of Education for Women
English Department

Subject

Why do we study literature?

Or What is the importance of studying literature?

1st Stage

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Definition of Literature

- a written and spoken literary work which is characterized by excellent style and expression with imaginative language and themes.
- The entire body of writing of a specific language and limited era with specific types of people.

Why do we study literature? Or What is the importance of studying literature?

- 1- Literature is a source of knowledge and information for the readers. It helps to educate ourselves, to learn more about other culture, heritages, and civilisation of the people via reading literature.
- 2- It is a mean of communication of thoughts and feelings to a wider world.(family, friends, and acquaintance). It breaks all the borders or barriers between the reader and literary work to share some fields of life.
- 3- It allows the reader escaping from our daily lives by sharing many different human experiences which we cannot usually experience.
- 4- It explores many topics upon the world by presenting cultural, traditional, historical, political, psychological, and sociological backgrounds to the readers. (social classes, economic conditional, political issues, love experiences).
- 5- It helps to understand the different styles of writing. We can attain the ultimate way of learning language throughout reading and analyzing literature.
- 6- It can stimulate your mind's imagination for many various subjects: word, perfection, colour, enjoyment, nature, technology.

Elements of the Novel:

What are required to write a novel.

1-Plot

Plot is the actual story around which the entire book is based. A plot should have a very clear beginning, middle and end- a The novel is propelled through its hundred or thousand pages by a device known as the story or plot. This is frequently conceived by the novelist in very simple terms, a mere nucleus, a jotting on an old envelope: for example, Charles Dickens' *Christmas Carol* (1843)

2-Character:

The characters are the individuals that the story is about. The inferior novelist tends to be preoccupied with plot; to the superior novelist the convolutions of the human personality, under the stress of artfully selected experience, are the chief fascination. Without character it was once accepted that there could be no fiction

If there's one thing every story needs, it's conflict. And while conflict takes many forms, some of literature's most beloved stories involve conflict in the classic form of the protagonist and antagonist.

The protagonist is the lead character of a story. The term derives from classical Greek drama, literally meaning "first actor." Though often referred to as the "hero" of the story, the protagonist isn't necessarily virtuous, and also may be just one of *many* protagonists.

The antagonist is the primary opponent of the protagonist, and the biggest obstacle standing between the main character and their goal. This term also derives from Greek: *anti*, meaning "against," and *agonist*, meaning actor.

Like the protagonist, the antagonist can take many different forms. From the traditional villain working alone, to a group of people, a force of nature, or even an intrinsic conflict, the one unifying factor of all antagonists is that they challenge the protagonist in some way. Let's venture over the dark side for a bit to see how antagonists can take shape, with the

four most common types of antagonists.

3- conflict:

The conflict is the struggle between opposing forces in the story. Conflict provides interest and suspense. Either between bad and good characters, man and nature or a psychological conflict.

4-Scene, or setting:

The setting is the location of action. The time and place of the action. The makeup and behaviour of fictional characters depend on their environment quite as much as on the personal dynamic with which their author endows them

5- Theme:

Theme is the central idea in the story or novel. What is the story all about is the subject of this tale. Which is the subject matter behind this work of art.

6-Narrative method and point of view

Where there is a story, there is a storyteller. Traditionally, the narrator of the epic and mock-epic alike acted as an intermediary between the characters and the reader; the method of Fielding is not very different from the method of Homer. Sometimes the narrator boldly imposed his own attitudes; always he assumed an omniscience that tended to reduce the characters to puppets and the action to a predetermined course with an end implicit in the beginning.

Kind of novel:

A few of the major types of novels the students might need to know about.

1-Romanticism

The Romantic movement in European literature is usually associated with those social and philosophical trends that prepared the way for the French Revolution, which began in 1789.

2-Picaresque

In Spain, the novel about the rogue or *pícaro* was a recognized form, and such English novels as Defoe's *The Fortunate Mistress* (1724) can be regarded as picaresque in the etymological sense.

3-Epistolary

The novels of Samuel Richardson arose out of his pedagogic vocation, which arose out of his trade of printer—the compilation of manuals of letter-writing technique for young ladies.

4-Pastoral

Fiction that presents rural life as an idyllic condition, with exquisitely clean shepherdesses and sheep immune to foot-rot, is of very ancient descent.