

Great Books- Timeless

Literature

- Collection of written works
- Preserved

Purpose- understanding how humans shaped

Literature- to entertain, imaginative/real life, & figurative language/symbolism

Non-Literature- factual, to inform, & formal/literal

Key Characteristics of Literature

- Artistic Expression- creative/language used
- Real Life/Human Life- happening in real life
- Universality- relate even if it's from another country
- Interpretability- perspective from diff. country

Great Ideas- themes (ex. revenge, love, justice, etc.)

Different genres of literature

1. Fiction- imagination
2. Non-fiction- real-life
3. Poetry- rhythm
4. Drama- for performance
 - comedy
 - tragedy

Literary Standards

- to assess if the literature is QUALITY
 - basis for something
1. Artistry - refers to the creative and skillful use of language, style, structure, and literary techniques.
 2. Spiritual Value - The ability of literature to inspire moral growth, uplift the spirit, and deepen a reader's understanding of life, faith, or human values.
 3. Permanence - The lasting relevance of a literary work. A piece has permanence if it remains meaningful and appreciated across generations.
 4. Universality - The quality that makes literature relatable to people from different cultures, places, and time periods because it deals with common human experiences and emotions.
 5. Suggestedness - The power of literature to imply deeper meanings beyond what is directly stated, encouraging readers to think, interpret, and reflect.

Confucius/Kung Fuzi – Chinese philosopher/political thinker

“The Analects” (Lunyu) create a harmonious society through ethics, education, and moral

The Analects by Confucius

Book 1 – we must apply in real life all the things we learned

2 main values emphasized in Book 1

1. **Respect** – respecting for elders
2. **Learning**- applying in practical/real life

Book 4

Values emphasized

- **Virtue**

Virtue person- calm and content

Without virtue- restless and unhappy

Book 15- about leading wisely

2 main values emphasized in Book 15

1. **Wisdom**
2. **Accountability**

Book 16

2 main values emphasized in Book 16

1. **Self-discipline**
2. **Education**

Literary Criticism about Pride and Prejudice

Theme

1. **First Impression**
2. **Social Status**
3. **Love**

Literary Criticism

- **process of analyzing certain literature**
- analysis, interpretation, and evaluation

1. Anthropological Literary Criticism

- studies literature as a product of **culture** (shared behavior of society)

Key Question:

What does this text reveal about the culture and society that produced it?

Culture of England

1. **Fixed Marriage**- preserving the wealth of family
2. **Wealthy Family**
3. **Gender Inequality**

This approach helps readers understand:

- how literature preserved cultural identity
- why characters behave according to social norms
- how text reinforces/questions societal values

2. Psychological Literary Criticism

- analyze literature by focusing on the **human mind**

Key Question:

What motivates the characters and how do their thoughts and emotions shape their actions?

Id- **satisfaction**

Ego- **balance**

Super ego- **conscience**

This approach helps readers to:

- Understand character development
- Analyze moral and emotional growth
- Connect literature to real human experiences

Analysis of Oedipus Rex using Metaphysics

Metaphysical Literary Criticism (how impactful the story of Oedipus Rex & self-discovery/existence)

- **analyses of concepts beyond the physical world, such as existence**

Questions: (when analyzing metaphysics)

1. Is identity something we create/something we discover?
2. Can a person escape what is already true?
3. Does knowledge liberate/destroy being?
4. Is suffering a consequence of action or existence itself?