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RELATION OF LITERATURE TO LIFE

There is an intimate, deep, connection between literature and life. It is, in fact, life which is the subject matter of literature. Life provides the raw material on which literature imposes, establishes, an artistic form. Literature, as we defined in the previous section, is the communication of the writer's experience of life. But this connection between literature and life is not so simple as it seems. This problem has been discussed by some of the greatest literary critics of the world, and their conclusions have been sometimes contradictory.

Plato, the great Greek philosopher, was the first to give a serious thought to this problem—the relation of literature to life. In his discussions he referred mainly to poetry, but what he said about poetry can be equally applied to literature as a whole. He regarded poetry as a mere, small, "imitation" of life, and thus he condemned, disapproved, the poets. His opposition to poetry was based on his theory of knowledge. According to him, true reality consists, rests, in the *Ideas* of things, of which individual objects are but reflections or imitations. For example, when we say a *black dog*, a *good dog*, a *lame dog* etc., we are comparing the dog which we actually see with the *ideal* dog, our *idea* of the dog, which is the true, unchanging reality, while the dogs which we name as *black*, *good*, *lame* etc. are mere reflections and imitations of that reality. Thus the poet, who imitates those objects which are themselves imitations of reality, is obviously producing something, which is still further removed from ultimate reality. Plato developed this argument first with reference to the painter. Painting is an imitation of a specific object or group of objects, and if it is nothing but that, if reality lies not in individual objects but in general ideas or forms, then, from the point of view of the philosopher, whose main interest is in apprehending reality, the painter is not doing anything particularly valuable. Just as the painter only imitates what he sees and does not know how to make or to use what he sees (he could paint a bed, but not make it), so the poet imitates reality without necessarily understanding it. Poetry or literature as a whole is an imitation of imitation and thus twice removed from truth.

There is an obvious error in Plato's reasoning. Being too much of a philosopher and moralist, he could not see clearly the relation between literature and life. He is right when he says that the poet produces something which is less than reality it purports to represent, but he does not perceive that he also, creates something more than reality. This error was corrected by Plato's pupil, Aristotle. In his *Poetics* he undertook, took a charge, to examine the nature and qualities of imaginative literature with a view to demonstrating that it is true, and not false as Plato had shown it. He agreed with Plato that poetry is an imitation of reality, but according to him, this imitation is the objective representation of life in literature or, in other words, the imaginative reconstruction of life. Poetry is thus not connected with the outside world in the simple and direct fashion, form, supposed by Plato. The poet first derives an inspiration from the world by the power of his imagination; the art of poetry then imitates this imaginative inspiration in language. The art of poetry or literature as a whole exists to give shape and substance to a certain kind of imaginative impulse, thought; the existence of the art implies, signifies, the existence of the impulse. Now it is just possible to imagine life exactly as it is; but the exciting thing is to imagine life as it might be, and it is then that imagination becomes an impulse capable of inspiring poetry.

Relation Of Literature To Life

A Gutmann



Relation Of Literature To Life:

The Top Books of the Year Relation Of Literature To Life The year 2023 has witnessed a noteworthy surge in literary brilliance, with numerous compelling novels captivating the hearts of readers worldwide. Lets delve into the realm of top-selling books, exploring the engaging narratives that have captivated audiences this year. Relation Of Literature To Life : Colleen Hoover's "It Ends with Us" This heartfelt tale of love, loss, and resilience has gripped readers with its raw and emotional exploration of domestic abuse. Hoover expertly weaves a story of hope and healing, reminding us that even in the darkest of times, the human spirit can succeed. Relation Of Literature To Life : Taylor Jenkins Reids "The Seven Husbands of Evelyn Hugo" This intriguing historical fiction novel unravels the life of Evelyn Hugo, a Hollywood icon who defies expectations and societal norms to pursue her dreams. Reids compelling storytelling and compelling characters transport readers to a bygone era, immersing them in a world of glamour, ambition, and self-discovery. Discover the Magic : Delia Owens "Where the Crawdads Sing" This evocative coming-of-age story follows Kya Clark, a young woman who grows up alone in the marshes of North Carolina. Owens spins a tale of resilience, survival, and the transformative power of nature, entrancing readers with its evocative prose and mesmerizing setting. These top-selling novels represent just a fraction of the literary treasures that have emerged in 2023. Whether you seek tales of romance, adventure, or personal growth, the world of literature offers an abundance of captivating stories waiting to be discovered. The novel begins with Richard Papen, a bright but troubled young man, arriving at Hampden College. Richard is immediately drawn to the group of students who call themselves the Classics Club. The club is led by Henry Winter, a brilliant and charismatic young man. Henry is obsessed with Greek mythology and philosophy, and he quickly draws Richard into his world. The other members of the Classics Club are equally as fascinating. Bunny Corcoran is a wealthy and spoiled young man who is always looking for a good time. Charles Tavis is a quiet and reserved young man who is deeply in love with Henry. Camilla Macaulay is a beautiful and intelligent young woman who is drawn to the power and danger of the Classics Club. The students are all deeply in love with Morrow, and they are willing to do anything to please him. Morrow is a complex and mysterious figure, and he seems to be manipulating the students for his own purposes. As the students become more involved with Morrow, they begin to commit increasingly dangerous acts. The Secret History is a exceptional and gripping novel that will keep you speculating until the very end. The novel is a warning tale about the dangers of obsession and the power of evil.

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