

Student's name
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Course
Date



Why Literature

It is difficult to estimate the role of literature in people's lives. For some people, literature is entertainment. They spend a lot of time reading, and it helps them to prescind from reality. For somebody, literature is the art of word, the art to make up thoughts in such an order it would sound and look impressive and exciting. I belong to the category of literature admirers and agree with the general mood of the Chapter. Literature is supposed to touch the reader's soul, to make his or her heart beat faster. I agree with Rosen's assertion that this is incredible when a whole new fictional world with non-existent characters and events make people feel real emotions (Rosen 6).

The author of the first article says, that "literature is writing that has a purpose greater than entertainment" and that the festival of world literature is "a performance, but it is not the theater" (Robinson 1). The main purpose of literature is to unite people. If two people have read the same book, they have at least one mutual topic to discuss during the whole evening. Another important purpose of literature is to teach people. Except for general educative function, according to Oatley, people learn to understand the real life when reading (Rosen 7).

The author of the first article reflects on whether "the written word is as powerful as the spoken one" (Robinson 1). There are not many people who can speak eloquently without being prepared in advance, answer unpredictable questions in the most exquisite way. When you write, you have time to think, to compose your thoughts in sentences, and make

them look elegant and wise, make something useful out of a mess in your head. From this point of view, written word is even more powerful than the spoken one.

If I was asked to explain the meaning of the word “literature” to a stranger, I would define it as the art of word, the talent to choose the right words and put them in the necessary order on paper for the sake of beauty. Words in literature characterize the beauty of the world from the writer’s point of view.

For Leonard Rosen, “writing and reading stories is the only way to break free of loneliness and know another soul” (Rosen 10). He says that the purpose of his writing is to reach the reader’s consciousness, to share his story with the reader. However, he puts too much emphasis on this thought, considering literature to be the only world where two minds can meet. To my opinion, people can understand each other outside the fictional world if they turn to the principles of empathy. Rosen claims that people feel similar emotions when read, but this is true only for simple emotions, such as fear, anger, and joy, for example. If the author succeeds to get certain emotions from the reader, then the book will be popular and worth the author’s time. If the author reveals some difficult situations and thoughts, and there is some sort of ambiguity, people can have different opinions on it, and the most interesting part of discussion begins.

According to Rosen, sharing story, we share consciousness. We always read the same books with my close friend and when we discuss them, share our thoughts and feelings; both of us notice the similar fire in the eyes. This is what Rosen means by shared narratives. The books, especially fiction ones unite people, and we feel even closer than ever in these moments.

Some people do not pay tribute to fiction, preferring facts and plain truth, but fiction lets a person imagine, be creative, and develop.

Works Cited

Robinson, Roxana. "The Novelist and the Curious Cabbie." *The New York Times*. 3 June 2007. Web. 3 Mar. 2014. <http://www.nytimes.com/2007/06/03/nyregion/thecity/03fest.html?ref=thecity&_r=1&>.

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