



Literature

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Abstract: Literature is broadly any collection of written work, but more specifically refers to writings considered art, like novels, poems, and plays, valued for their artistic, cultural, or intellectual merit and ability to convey human experience. It serves to record, preserve, and transmit knowledge, culture, and entertainment, often using heightened language and creative imagination, and can include oral traditions too. It's called literature because the word comes from the Latin littera, meaning "letter of the alphabet," evolving to signify "writing formed with letters" and knowledge from books, eventually encompassing creative and artistic writing that uses words to express human experience. The term broadly refers to any written text but also refers to high-quality works of imagination, poetry, and drama, including "oral literature" and "the literature of preliterate culture". Geoffrey Chaucer (/ˈtʃɔːsər/; c. 1343 – 25 October 1400), known as the Father of English literature, is widely considered the greatest English poet of the Middle Ages and was the first poet to be buried in Poets' Corner of Westminster Abbey. Literature helps us better understand our lives, ourselves, and the world around us. Encounters with literature develop the concepts of identification, imagination, and empathy. In our increasingly chaotic world, these skills matter deeply. It is broadly considered a body of written works including poetry, prose, and drama that are considered art forms. More narrowly, literature is the written record of human experiences, thoughts, and emotions through language that aims to interpret nature and life. Literature helps us to understand people, societies, events, culture. One of the chief purposes of literature is a means of exploring what it is to be human. It is also a way of communicating with others about a huge range of ideas and concerns. In short, literature evokes imaginative worlds through the conscious arrangement of words that tell a story. These stories are told through different genres, or types of literature, like novels, short stories, poetry, drama, and the essay. Each genre is associated with certain conventions.

Keywords: Literature is a vital, timeless medium that preserves history, fosters empathy, and expands intellectual horizons. It acts as a mirror to the human condition, helping readers understand complex emotions, diverse perspectives, and cultural contexts while enhancing vocabulary and critical thinking skills. It reduces isolation, encourages creativity, and sharpens analytical skills.