



## What is Literature:

Literature is an art in which language or words have a most significant function. Art includes, besides, Literature, many other things, such as music, painting, designing, modeling ....etc. The artists who want to create a beautiful work of art: a painting, a symphony, a house, a garden... must have their special tools or instruments. The painter needs a box of colors and a brush. The musician must have a musical instrument and so on. In literature, to create beautiful works of art, such as a poem, a novel, a short story or a play, the artist works by words.

Words are used for both literary and non - literary or scientific works. Both the artist and the scientist use words. The first uses them to create beauty, the second, to speak of facts. Literary works are those which appeal to the imagination, the sensations, the feelings - as well as to the intellect. In literary works the business of the artist is to create beauty both in its physical and spiritual meanings. It is his business to explore universal truths concerning nature and human nature using for his purpose the power and magic of words Non - literary works are those which appeal more strongly to the mind, the reason.

Literature has different branches, the most important of which are: poetry, novel and drama. Whatever is the form, if it is written in words that are effective, well-chosen, strong in their emotional, imaginative or intellectual appeal, the result would be good literature. If on the contrary, the choice of the words is ineffective and the emotions are false, the result would be bad literature. Good literature is undoubtedly very



## What is Poetry

It is difficult to give an exact or definite meaning of poetry because poetry could mean different things to different people. There have been many theories about poetry and definitions. The Concise Oxford Dictionary defines poetry as "the elevated expression of elevated thought or feeling in metrical form". Many writers and poets themselves have described poetry in various ways. "poetry is not the thing said, but a way of saying it" (A.E. Housman). "poetry is the language of the imagination and the passions" (William Hazitt). "poetry is the spontaneous overflow of powerful feelings" (William Wordsworth). "poetry is vital, fresh and surprising language" (James-Reeves). "poetry is the art by which feeling is conveyed by author to reader in metrical languages" (James.H.Smith). poetry is friend "to soothe the cares, and lift the thoughts of man" (John Keats). "poetry lifts the veil from the hidden beauty of the world and makes familiar objects be as if they were not familiar" (P.B.Shelley).

These theories or abstractions are beautifully said but we do not learn much about poetry from them. To know what poetry means we have to experience it as we experience any event. We have to feel it in our hearts and minds. We need to know its principles to see how it works, and the more we read of it, the better we understand and appreciate it. It is like looking at a finished work of art. We are impressed

### The poet

What is a poet? who is a poet? In the midst of a crowd can we point to one and say: he is a poet? Does a poet look different from other men? Does he have special features or characteristics? Is he born a poet, or does he become one? Does he need to study to become a poet, as an engineer who studies engineering or a doctor, medicine? It is difficult to say in clear terms what a poet is since he is a human being like other human beings, possessing many of their qualities; but a poet, more than others, is distinguished by certain qualifications.

The Poet, says Wordsworth, "is chiefly distinguished from other-men by a greater promptness to think and feel without external excitement... He is a man speaking to men; a man, it is true endowed with more lively sensibility, more enthusiasm and tenderness, who has a greater knowledge of human nature, and a more comprehensive soul, than are supposed to be common among mankind". To Shelley, "A poet is more delicately organized than other men, and sensible to pain and pleasure, both his own and that of others, unknown to them. Poets are the unacknowledged legislators of the world". In other words, the poet has a wide experience which enables him to speak of his and other people's experiences as well. He has a very sensitive mind that makes him see and feel things that an average person does not see or feel. Unlike other men, a poet has one highly developed characteristic, "the faculty to create and use language. He has a fine sense for music and form, selecting the proper pattern for his thought. Above all, the poet has a