

Third Year Noah Scolard has contributed this discursive essay on the value of literature, and how it can shape and positively affect the minds of young readers.

This piece really caught our eye due to the writer's clear passion for the subject. We hope you enjoy it!

The Writer's Block Editorial Team

'The Value of Literature'

by Noah Scolard

In the complicated society we live in today, many items are claimed to be of great value, such as extravagant sports cars and luxurious houses. However, taking into account the direction in which we, as a race, are headed, it is important to not lose sight of what really matters. Letting this point influence my opinion, I feel that one area of accomplishment that holds true value is literature. From the books of Browne to the poems of Plath, literature offers us a reliable source of escape and freedom from this terrifying, transient world we live in.

One form of literature that I can very much appreciate is plays. The way a playwright can portray such complex and twisting plots on a stage is marvellous. It has always been of great interest and fascination to me. For instance, how Shakespeare managed to show the guilt and paranoia of Macbeth after the murder of King Duncan intrigues me intensely. Shakespeare, however also had the skill to illustrate the mix and incorporation of romance and conflict in the play Romeo and Juliet.' Even today, over four hundred years after being written, plays such as these are still talked about. This shows the influence of plays on our lives.

Another main type of literature is books. Books can be used simply for some fun, light reading or intense hard-core sessions of delving into a fictional world. Either way, books have a special ability to captivate one for hours on end. Whether it be through comedy, horror, or mystery, you often find yourself forming a real and meaningful bond with the characters. This can sometimes lead to sadder moments, on a personal level later on in a story. I have often found myself welling up due to certain moments in a story. Books can also improve vocabulary and serve an educational purpose, especially for children. They can provide them with role models to look up to and characters to sympathise with.

The final form of literature I am would like to discuss is poetry. I believe that poems are some of the most satisfactory pieces of writing on an auditory level. When implemented well, rhyme can really enhance the gorgeous sound created by the vocabulary and rhythm used. The combination of rhythm, rhyme and imagery employed by poets such as Robert Frost and Seamus Heaney make their work stand

out. Indeed, I loved how Frost managed to capture both a metaphorical and literal meaning in his poem 'The Road Not Taken.' This piece of writing depicts how 'deep' poems can be, when intended to be. This is why poems are such a vital part of literature.

All in all, I truly believe from the bottom of my heart that we cannot let the eminence of literature fade away. It shall remain one of the only things we can turn to when in need of a break from this conflicted, war-devastated planet we live in. Literature plays a vast part in our lives and who we are as people. We cannot afford to forget the effort authors put in to create this great language, and we cannot afford to forget the importance of literature.