

Literary Response Paper

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Literary Response Paper

English 12

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Literature has always had a tremendous affect on the world, as it still does today and always will have this affect in the future. The language of today's literature is less complex than it has been in the past. Shakespeare for example wrote in a very complex English prose in which much time and effort is put into understanding it. You must be a true hardworking scholar to comprehend all that is said in great works of art like Hamlet. This is why studying literature in the 21st century is very difficult, though it has been studied by many students, professors and even movie directors because they are excellent examples of classic literature at it's finest. Though studying literature in the 21st has been proven to be significantly difficult it is extremely important to our every day society.

Literature is extremely important for a variety of reasons, one being to fulfill our imagination. Most of our imagination comes from reading or hearing stories. True wonder and excitement can be found within the language of a story or novel and not just in the plot itself. It is known that biographers take away that excitement while trying to pick apart and explain that literature. This takes away the magic of reading and figuring out the meaning yourself which you can find in the language, "True mystery and excitement, the true source of illumination, the place that hidden keys can actually be found: the astonishing language" (Preface xi). Since old literature is hard for many people in the 21st century to understand we need resources and extra help to understand there condensed meanings. People of the 21st century need help to comprehend past literature as stated in the Preface, "I want to bring you closer to some of the genuinely exciting contentions over the work, how to best read, speak and act it" (Preface xii). People in the 21st century do








not understand old literature enough to be able to read or speak it properly, which is why there are many experts who specialize in Shakespeare and old English.

Many people in the 21st century do not appreciate the great literature that was once written. Most of the old literature was about discovering the earth, finding answers on what stars were and where did we come from, all questions that we put into answers or theories through literature. Writers and poets used this expressive art to explain the unexplained. 8 Poets, who saw the ordered universe as a place where everything but the human spirit was explained. And it was the inexplicable human spirit, the ferocity of emotions, the play of sentiment and the unexplored regions of the passions that began to fascinate the poets" (Shelley 382). A word was created, called the sublime, which in literature is the unknown factor, the mystery that intrigues the reader. Wordsworth observed that the sublime was the key to any good literature, to interest and scare the reader. He also says, "This was a means by which a person could get in touch with himself and the world around him, as well as with the Almighty" (Shelley 386). 9 This is true that people are able to discover and learn from literature and that is why literature is so important. Especially since in the 21st century there are so many distractions with technology. Perhaps it would be safe to say that technology could help us to understand the themes and language of this complex literature.




Today, it is true that the 21st century great works of literature are not appreciated as greatly as they used to be. It is important that we continue to study them in school, so we can grow and learn to appreciate these great works of art. These works although old still have many contemporary themes love, hate, good, evil, family relationships, and war which can be compared with society today and many of the authors of our generation. 10

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-  4. no colon necessary
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