The Importance of Studying Literature in the 21st Century

by Natalie Bumstead

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Throughout secondary school education in Canada, it is required for every student to take an English course annually until graduation. The English curriculum requires students to study famous past and current literature. Some students disagree with this regulation for a variety of reasons, one that many do not plan on following through with careers in English, so they therefore think studying English every year is unnecessary. I on the other hand, differ from that opinion as I think that it is imperative to study the basics of literature, with obvious benefits. Secondary education's purpose is to lay the foundation of a variety of subjects and provide every student with basic knowledge, one of these subjects being literature. By analyzing literature it has been proven to not only extend our knowledge on certain topics but also broaden our personality and outlook on life. Being knowledgeable and literate also i we a person's life style and health by a wide margin. Therefore, studying past and current literature throughout elementary and secondary school is imperative because it improves the overall quality of one's life.

On a day-to-day basis, knowledge of multiple subjects is required to perform various common tasks. This is why children are required to attend school and develop a strong foundation of a variety of topics. It is required to be taught literature throughout secondary school because understanding literature also provides knowledge and skills important for everyday life, such as **terms** so f society, the ability to reflect and react, and communication, both verbal and written. The more one is able to comprehend what they have learned through literature, the more of an indication of advancement through knowledge in other fields of life is evident. I think this basic knowledge of different topics is extremely important in shaping a person's life and developing their personality, making it essential to be taught literature all throughout secondary school.

Analyzing literature gives one the ability to develop new ideas and perspectives, enabling the reader to interpret varying situations differently than they may have originally perceived. By studying a piece of literature, a variety of emotions are brought out and a person's knowledge is broadened. Overall this increase in knowledge has been proven to expand one's personality.

For the first time in history there is now scientific evidence that reading fiction has psychological benefits...What you're doing when you're reading fiction is you're allowing yourself to become another person for a short period of time... It loosens up your personality, your rigidities."

🛡 Kornell

When reading a piece of literature from a certain time period or culture, the reader is able to expand their knowledge on those subjects. Literature itself is an integral part of history and culture, which has grown and developed into our culture and society today. Shakespeare's work has widely improved our knowledge of here are: "Small changes can make large differences in meaning and numerous differences in meaning... the resolution-or irresolution- of which can mean all the difference in the world to how we view from of the foundational works of Western culture."(Rossembaum xiv) Therefore, I believe that it is imperative to study literature in class, to give young minds of the 21st century the chance to develop a greater personality and knowledge of culture, history, as well as the chance to reflect on perspectives other than their own, making them grow as an individual.

Being literate is a significant factor that greatly affects one's quality of life, and education and literacy are important influences on one's health due to the fact that they impact many other health determinants. For example, "literacy can influence health both directly (eg. medication use, safety practices) and indirectly through services, lifestyles, income, work environments, and stress levels" (Potter, Perry 7). When one has a better education and knowledge of literacy, they are likely to have increased job opportunities and more secure incomes. Canada is known to be one of the most successful and developed countries, one reason **produe to their** advanced education program, which provides every citizen with a basic foundation of many general topics, giving them the ability to develop skills and apply them in everyday life.

Literature is an important part of our past as well as our future, and due to the amount of benefits of having the foundation of this knowledge or to study literature prior to post secondary education. Secondary education was created to make students gain knowledge of basic subjects that they are able to apply in everyday life. The study of literature has been proven to have psychological benefits and further develop one's personality. Lastly, being literate helps one maintain and improve quality of life. Due to all of these benefits, I personally think that literature should be studied throughout ones education, because these advantages are extremely significant in one's life. Vigrks Cited Page

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FINAL GRADE

32/100

GENERAL COMMENTS

PAGE 1 PAGE 3. use "is"

4. do you have any evidence to back up this statement?

5. vague, be specific.

PAGE 2

■ 6. integrate quotation

🛒 7. (Kornell pg #)

8. provide context, who is writing this and why?

9. which two foundational works?

PAGE 3

10. "being due to" is redundant

🗊 11. it is important

🗊 12. who is "their"?

PAGE 4

13. no under. just write: Works Cited