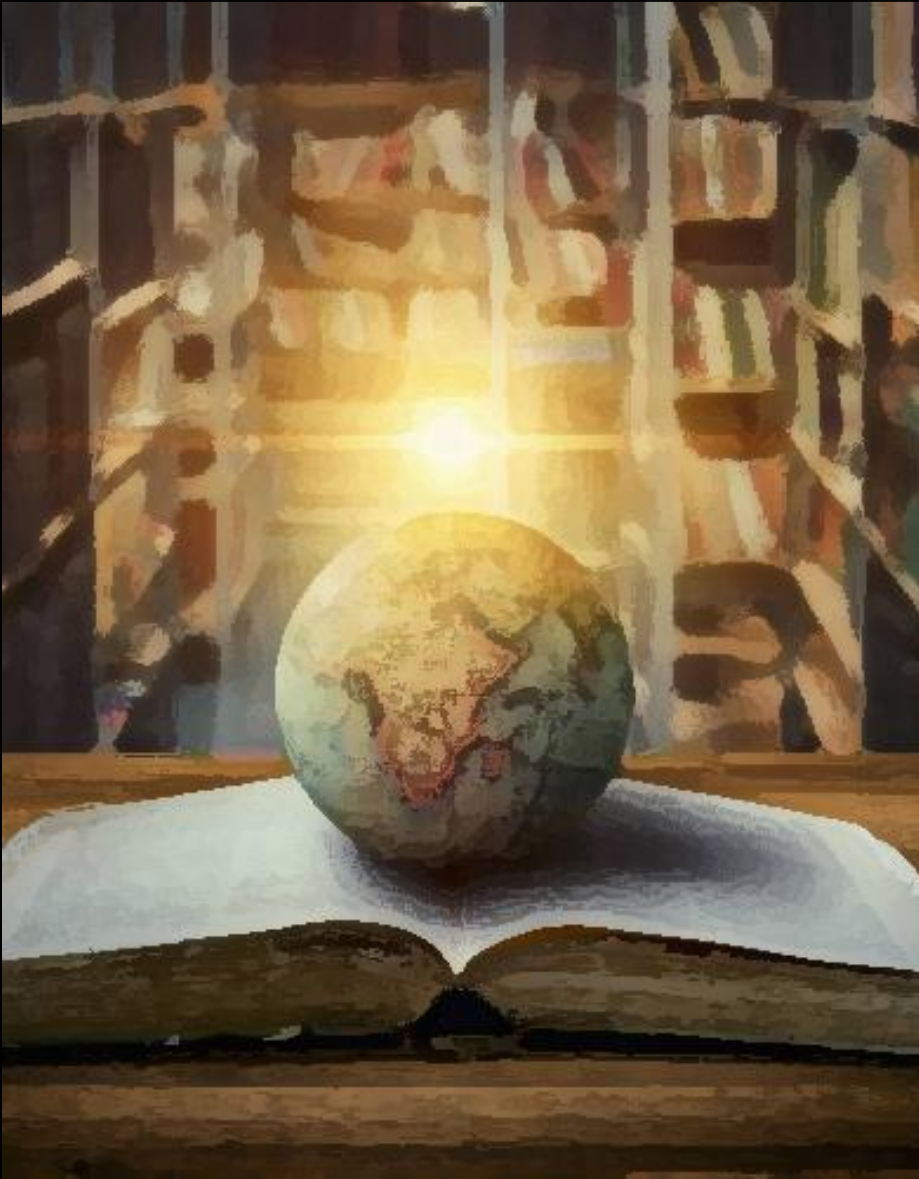


## UNIT 1 Defining Moments Fiction Connection

A STEM school

**FROEBEL**  
BILINGUAL SCHOOL

Home of the Space Generation



# WHAT IS LITERATURE?

WITH  
**JIM SOTO**



Let's watch a video!

*"Beneath the rule of men entirely great, the pen is mightier than the sword."*

- G K Chesterton



As individuals who have already been in Middle school for a while, you have acquainted yourselves, at least, with some of the basic elements of literature. But since this is a new course it is important to be mindful of some older concepts in order to have a good grasp on the up coming material.

A golden Greek letter Omega symbol (Ω) is positioned in the upper left corner of the slide.

A red Hebrew letter Het (ח) is positioned in the upper right corner of the slide.

If we look at this question from an etymological stand point literature literally means "acquaintance with letters" (from the Latin *littera* meaning "an individual written character [letter]").

A golden Chinese character 真 (zhēn) is positioned in the lower left corner of the slide.

A golden Arabic word حبرج (ḥabrij) is positioned in the lower right corner of the slide.

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The term has generally come to identify a **collection of texts or works of art**, which in our Western culture are mainly prose, both fiction and non-fiction, drama and poetry. But, is that all?



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No. In much, if not all of the world, texts can be oral as well, and include such types as epic, legend, myth, ballad, plus other forms of oral poetry, and folktale. These shall be discussed at another time.


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# ARE READING AND LITERATURE THE SAME THING?

Absolutely not, they are different. If reading can be defined as a transaction that takes place in the mind between the reader and symbols in the environment, literature has to do with the existentialist analysis, interpretation, and application of said transaction.





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# WHY IS LITERATURE IMPORTANT?

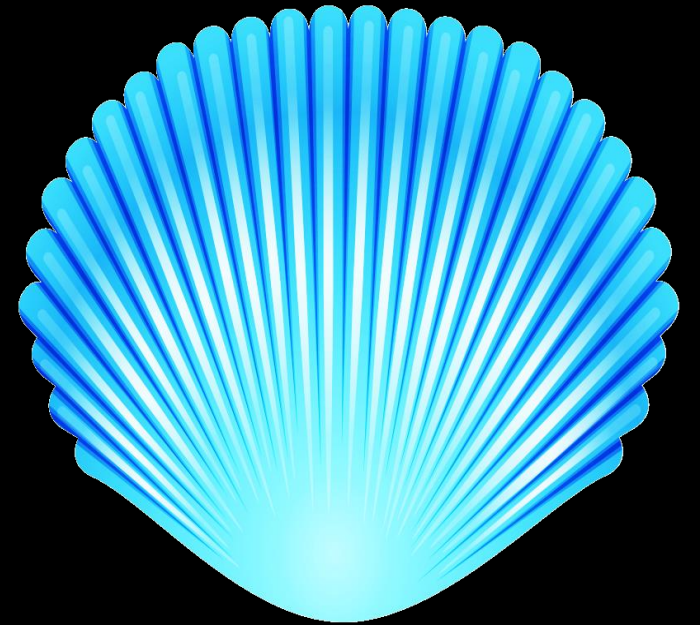
1. Because of its artistic quality
2. Because of its suggestiveness
3. Because of its permanence



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## THE ARTISTIC QUALITY...

All art is the expression of life in forms of truth and beauty or in another word which exist in this world and which go unnoticed until brought to our attention by some sensitive human soul, same like the delicate curves of the shell reflects sounds and harmonies too faint to be otherwise noticed.






In the same pleasing, surprising way,  
all artistic work must be a kind of  
revelation it should suggest some  
hidden truth and/or beauty to the  
human senses.



## THE SUGGESTIVE QUALITY...

Another significant quality of literature is its suggestiveness, its appeal to our emotions and imagination rather to our intellect. This quality is the one that affects us more intimately because it takes aim at our heart and our senses.



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## THE PERMANENT QUALITY...

A last, but not least characteristic of literature, is arising itself directly from the other two and that is permanence. This is the most transcendental quality since it allows the literary work to overcome the boundaries of time and space.



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# LITERATURE...

Literature preserves the ideals of a people.





Of great importance among these ideals are love, faith, duty, friendship, freedom, and reverence which are the elements of human life most worthy of preservation and celebration.

# LITERATURE IS...



the expression of life in words of truth and beauty...





it is the written record of man's spirit of  
his thoughts,



written record of man's spirit of his  
emotions,



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is the written record of man's dreams  
and aspirations.

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It is the history and only the history of the human soul having characteristics of its artistic quality, its suggestiveness and its permanent qualities which will never fade.






## LET US RECAP BY STATING THAT...


Literature preserves the great ideals of humanity of which the most important are love, faith, duty, friendship, freedom and reverence which are the part of life and the most worthy of preservation.

Lastly, we can say Literature is the expression of life in words of truth and beauty, it is the written record of man's spirit of his thoughts, emotions, aspirations, it is the history of the human soul having characteristics of its artistic quality, its suggestiveness and its permanent qualities which will never fade.





# ASSESSMENT

1. Are only the worthy ideals of humanity preserved in literature or are other aspects of the human experience also preserved?
  2. What literary characteristics are in your opinion of more importance; artistic quality, suggestiveness, or permanence
- 

*"I find television very educating. Every time somebody turns on the set, I go into the other room and read a book."*

**-Groucho Marx**



**Jim Soto © 2022**