

# Introduction to Literature

**Art** seeks value in the beauty of creation.

Artists' primary concern is to compose or produce works that are **unique**, that have **quality**, and that **last forever**.

- Art is free because an artist has the freedom to imagine.

Literature is considered **Art**.

**WHY?** Because it is created from an artist's artistic experience or feeling and delivered into many forms.

## ⦿ What is Literature?

Literature refers to pieces of work belonging to major branches/genres:

- Fiction: short stories and novels
- Non-Fiction: prose, biographies and autobiographies.
- Poetry: sonnets, ballads, songs, etc.
- Drama: theatrical plays.

## ◎ What is English Literature?

English Literature is not solely associated with a certain nation, but with texts that are written in the English language. It is important to know there is a difference between many kinds of literature such as:

- American Literature
- Irish Literature
- African-American Literature
- English Literature (British)

● Why do we read literature?

1- For pleasure.

2- To gain valuable experience from other people.

3- To gain knowledge.

4- For educational purposes.

Literature uses meaningful sounds we call words. Words are artistic because they appeal to our emotions.

◎ Readers of literature are divided into:

- 1- **Mature readers**: more experienced, not surprised by events in a piece of work.
- 2- **Immature readers**: less experienced, surprised by events which they are unable to predict.

**Expectations** of immature readers:

- 1- Happy Endings
- 2- Clear Message
- 3- Confirmation of what they expect to happen.

Usually immature readers sympathize with the hero in the pieces of work they read.