The decline of literature indicates the decline of a nation.   
[Johann Wolfgang von Goethe](http://www.brainyquote.com/quotes/quotes/j/johannwolf162790.html)

Literature is news that stays news.

[Ezra Pound](http://www.brainyquote.com/quotes/quotes/e/ezrapound106459.html)

Literature becomes the living memory of a nation.   
[Aleksandr Solzhenitsyn](http://www.brainyquote.com/quotes/quotes/a/aleksandrs405287.html)

The object of Literature is to instruct, to animate, or to amuse.   
[George Henry Lewes](http://www.brainyquote.com/quotes/quotes/g/georgehenr287457.html)

Without literature my life would be miserable.   
[Naguib Mahfouz](http://www.brainyquote.com/quotes/quotes/n/naguibmahf365346.html)

Literature represents a people and a culture.

[anon](http://www.brainyquote.com/quotes/quotes/e/ezrapound106459.html)

While thought exists, words are alive and literature becomes an escape, not from, but into living.  
Cyril Connolly

It takes a great deal of history to produce a little literature.  
- **Henry James**

Great literature is simply language charged with meaning to the utmost possible degree.  
- **Ezra Pound**

I hold that a writer who does not passionately believe in the perfectibility of man has no dedication nor any membership in literature.

**John Steinbeck**