“God not only has language, *he is language* or at least one way of describing Him, or an aspect of Him is to call Him the Word”

God Created the world by “Word” redeemed the world by the Word, Jesus Christ

When you read a book, a “sub creator” made it, they “spoke” the words creating a fictitious place with fake people.

1. Why is the creativity of the literary artist important to the Christian?
   1. Just as God created the world out of darkness and chaos, literary artist creates their world out of darkness and chaos
2. Why are literary representations of the Fall important to the Christian?
   1. Sometimes we allow the fall to show in our behavior and attitude to others, other times we allow the divine image of God to show through
3. Why are literary depictions of Redemption important to the Christian?
4. Why is literature that employs the images of Pentecost important to the Christian?

Note:

Having a “fairy tell” can often show us sides of ourselves and others that we might never notice, a mother might realize she is ignoring her children based on the mother in the book. A co worker may realize he is rude and ignorant based on the artist’s rendition of a rude and ignorant coworker.

In the same way, these stories can help children explore the world and see things differently, perhaps mood changes, why they want to hurt people, etc.

God created things by *naming* them

“First, the literary artist’s creativity often helps to overcome our chaos and to restore us in some sense to an Edenic order. Second, the creativity of the literary artist helps us to realize the divinely created image in each of us. And third, creative literature may be viewed as a continuation of the divine commission to use language to name, or identify, the true nature of ourselves and the universe around us”

Accurately naming something has power, IE naming an animal or bug. Or naming great qualities in people has power! Using people’s names also is great, and not giving them wrong names. Identifying people as something they are not has major consequences.

The enemy twists words we know are true and makes us question it. IE “did God *really* say”

Literary artists can often picture a common scenario we face but are unaware and let us see it from a different angle. IE Othello and Lago deceiving Othello into killing his wife and himself

Great literature is shown not only by the potential to do great things, but also the potential to do terrible things

Even evil people have good qualities, and great people have tragic flaws

**What should we read**

Read only great art, poor written fiction is not worth time. Is it beneficial or merely entertainment?

Art can transform the abstract into concrete, is it easier to “imagine” God, or to study the **WORD** of God, Jesus who came in flesh. God is, in a sense, abstract, we where allowed to learn about a concrete, part of the God trinity to better get to know Him. IE “my love is like a red rose” Saying this you have given your abstract idea a concrete, worldly item to describe it. Giving them an image of your love, along with characteristics about your love, soft, fragrance, beauty, even thorns! This is why analogies are so important

**What should we not read?**

The answer to this is simple, yet complicated, will the read cause us to stumble? If so, **DON’T READ IT**

**Benefits of reading**

Words being used as concrete stories are powerful tools to minister

Stories like the prodigal son hit much harder than comments like “God accepts us even if we go astray” because we can see a real word example of a father’s love for his children in correlation to the Father’s love for us!

Jesus was not a theologian, he was God who told stories!

Even comedies such as the fool who had a donkey for a head, was eventually transformed back into his normal self, we also where a baboon with a donkey head, then we where redeemed into our original image, HIM!

Our life in Christ can be portrayed as a comedy, comedies often begin low and rise, tragedies often begin high and end low. We started high, lived life without Christ and ended at our lowest, we were then redeemed through Christ and the comedy started, ultimately ending in a joyous wedding between us and Christ!

In the end dimes, a sharp two-edged sword will come from the Word of God, words have power!