

Why we watch movies knowing its fiction?

Stories connect to you on a human ground.
We can get engrossed in the experiences.

We forget our own experiences at that time.
Boundary b/w fiction & reality is obliterated.
That's why it is an aesthetic experience.

2 major objectives of literature -

We read for ① Pleasure

② Meanings ↑ (to seek meanings) } different but similar.

They fulfill each other. } (co-related)

It needs to make sense to you.

Scientific / Technical Writing
Literary Writing

Technical Writing

Objective explanation

→ Driven by Reason (No personal prejudices)

formal language

lang. is used at level of denotation

Literary Writing

Subjective exploration

→ Driven by personal feelings & emotions

creative

Story telling

language is used at the level of connotation, connotation.

Literary Writing - Many layers, many interpretations
of meanings.
Connotation
→ makes it interesting, fulfilling sense of curiosity
of audience

Different forms of Literary Writing -

Poems (Poetry) → Ballads / Sonnets / Lyric / Epic

Plays (Drama) → Tragedy / Comedy T. C.

Short story / Novel

Memoir

Autobiography

Script

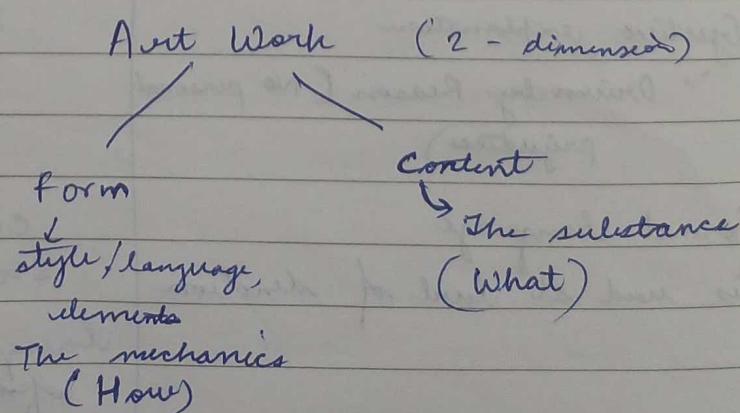
Letter writing / Diary

Writers need to follow conventions of different forms of writing.

Literary Devices / Figures of speech / Tropes - metaphor etc.

Reading liter. the lines

Interpretation is the process of reaching to the depth of meaning.

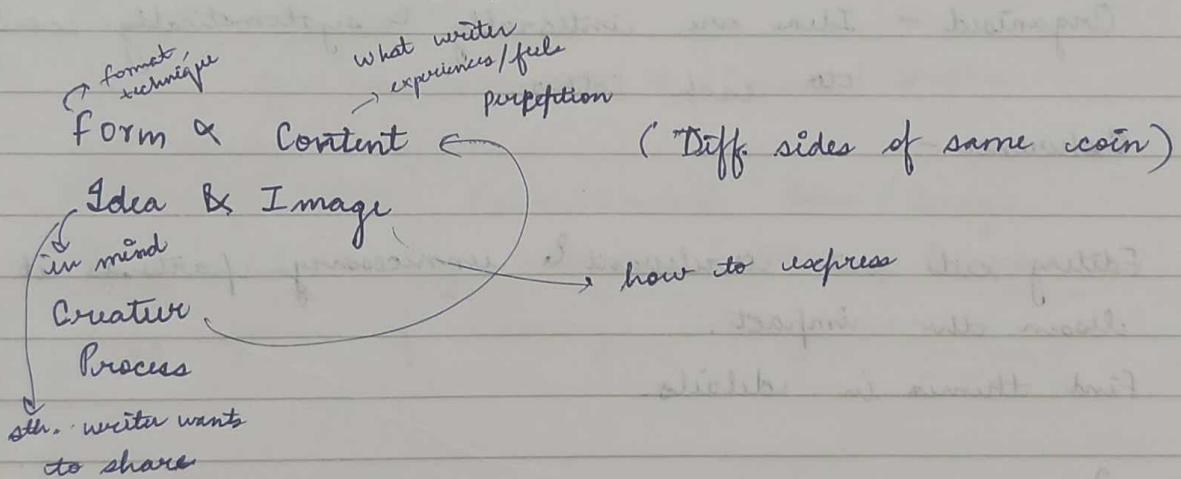


- We learned diff. forms of Literary Writing because -
- ① Aesthetic qualities - Qualities of literary work.
 - ↳ Literary qualities, cinematic qualities, etc. painting qualities etc.
 - ↳ Artists use such techniques & conventions to make it aesthetic.
- Aesthetic devices & qualities are integral to the meaning.

Analyse aesthetic qualities for interpretation.

Meaning is manifested in the overall artistry of the work of art using aesthetic techniques & devices.

Technicalities of language,



Aesthetics - branch of philosophy dealing with beauty.

Interpretation -

- Interpretation is a complex process. (because we have to interpret many layers & humanistic nature of writer)

Inclusive interpretation - Involving all angles

- It is the process of examining the details of work of literature in order to make sense of them.

John Ellis : " 'Interpretation' is a hypothesis about the most general organisational coherence of all the elements that form a literary text. This organisation & coherence emerges from a 'synthesis' between a work's themes & its details."
form & content

Interpreter is always trying to reach the best meaning. (There is no correct meaning).

Writers have their own perceptions / prejudices about a topic. (Different people made movies on Gandhi in different forms.)

Organised - Ideas are integrally & systematically connected to each other.

Cohherence -

Editing cuts out irrelevant & unnecessary parts as it can lessen the impact.

Find themes in details.

• Functionalism:-

William James
Jane Roland
Functionalists

Functionalism is a psychological philosophy according to which mind is a fundamental functional tool that allows us to adapt to our environment.

All our actions and behaviour can be termed as survival mechanism including our physical needs.

Topics covered -

- Aesthetic Pleasure
- Concept of Meaning in Lit / Cinema / Theatre
- Interpretation - Process
- Relationship b/w Form / Content, Idea / Image
- Purpose of Reading Literature / Watching Cinema
- Diff. forms of literary writing

Difference b/w. Real World Crime & Literary / Cinematic Crime
Scene -

R.W. Crime

non-scripted
just an act
criminal doesn't want to disclose

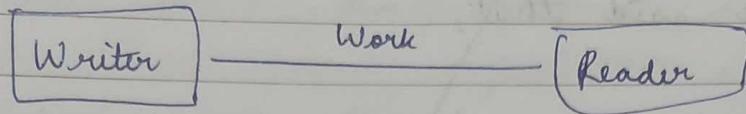
C.W. Crime Characters

writer wants audience to communicate with audience
scripted
express yourself
Indirect / Implicit communication
using diff. kind of devices

Cinema -

Crime same
communicate
indirect

Loop -



Process of Interpretation -

When you go for interpreting a work -
Read the book

- 1) Get to the facts & details straight.
(plot, characters, motives, intentions, setting)
Can't read for pleasure (Can't be passive).
- 1) When you go for int
→ Language of poetry is more unified & complex
→ Most hybrid form of literary art.
Highest form

Fiction - Written acc to your convenience

Writers with complex symbolic writings -

T. S. Eliot

V. S. Naipaul

Amitabh Ghosh

James Joyce

Virginia Woolf

- 2) Connect the work with yourself. (Connect to your experience)
(relate) (Redo the process) emotionally

Read some passages again.

Connect human situations with even contemporary work.
For

Eg. - Why is Gandhi still relevant today?

Raise diff. questions to connect.

3) Develop a hypothesis as you read.

- Have a POV / perspective.

Develop your own theory / opinions on sto.

Summarize this work

Theme of this work → Plot, the elements of sto work

Theme of Merchant of Venice is greed etc.

Eg - Themes for poster making / article writing

4) Write as you Read

- Perception changes after some time when the book / movie is over. (You'll be out of the literary experience) → It's hard to revise it.
Jot down the thoughts

Story - (Simplest Form of Literature Work)

Story is a narration of an event in a chronological order.

For cinema & drama, the chronological order of events is changed, for introducing curiosity.

Story
connected events
Direct connection

Narration of events

Drama
Plot
cause - effect

Indirect connection

Arrangement of events - Plot construction
Plotting - makes it interesting
co-relation

Elements of fiction writing - Plot

Q. Analyse a work based on its plot construction.

→ Aristotle - Poetics

Principles of Tragedy

Plot should be ~~be~~ complex.

2 elements to be interest of viewer -

1) Reversal of situation

2) Recognition of truth
twist
btw. climax & end.

Climax - complexity of plot is at its max.

→ Concept of Organic Unity in plot construction -

other small stories incorporated with the main story. (running parallel)

→ makes atmosphere light when plot is heavy.

Minor Plot supports major plot

Importance of major plot is shown by minor plot.

Characterization

Minor characters add variety, support main characters

Main character's character is revealed by how he interacts/responds with other people.

for exposition & glorification

Plot - Action / Events / Act / What happens in the narrative

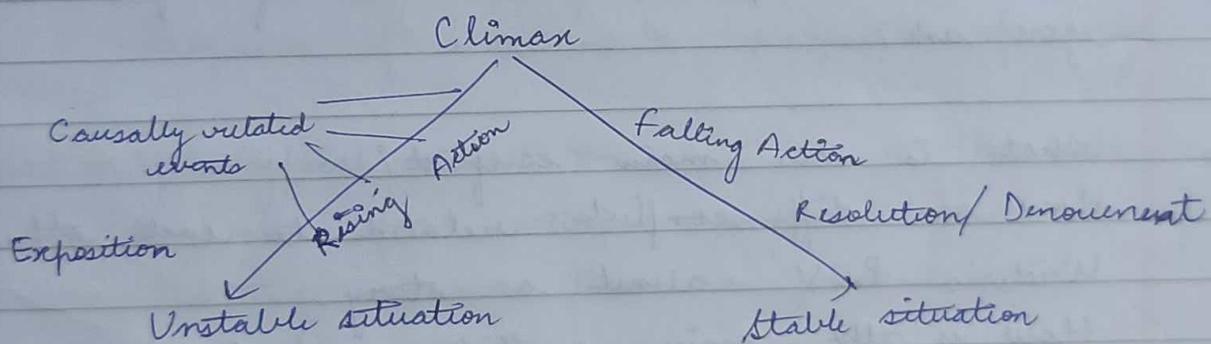
Building of relationship between Events. (causal relationship)
→ Cause & effect

Plot construction -

Writers arrange events in a special ^{particular} structure/pattern.

- ↳ select events very carefully
- ↳ establish causal relationship b/w. events
- ↳ & enlighten these events, (with conflict contradiction) lively.

Plot - Plot is a pattern of carefully selected, causally related events that contains conflict.



Gustave Freytag Pyramid

→ German critic who propounded this pyramid in 1800.

Conflict -

Two types of conflicts -

- 1) External conflict → arguments, physical action sometimes, disagreements
- 2) Internal conflict → psychological, emotional conflict b/w. good & bad etc.

Writer decides which conflict will be predominant.

Acc to Aristotle, mental conflict is more impressive & challenging.

Character is the agent to for these conflicts.

The forces in a conflict are usually embodied by characters.

Protagonist

Anatagonist

Can also be events, environment etc.

As an interpreter, what kind of questions can you ask?

What is the main conflict?

How are diff. conflicts related to each other

Writer's POV about a story.

How is the main conflict resolved.

Characterization -

Characters are people in narrative.

Characterization is author's presentation & development of characters.

→ Can be non-human.

The ~~to~~ performance was flat

Charles Dickens → Great Addict

→ Has mostly flat characters.

classmate

Data

Page

According to E. M. Forster, there are 2 kinds of characters -

Audience will be more engaged with round characters.

Add to meaning

Writers involve round characters because these characters with evolve & transform and story will progress.

Progression of characters & progression of story

flat - stereotypical characters

A person of a particular profession, particular age acting in a particular manner.

flat - 2 D , easily recognizable.

no novelty, no recognition

eg. - characters in TKSS .

Characterization should look sensible & realistically grounded.
relatable

There should not be a sudden change in some particular character.

CLASSmate
Date _____
Page _____

Nature corresponds to function & function — to nature
Our character corresponds to our action & vice-versa

Function & Nature of Literary or Cinematic Writing -

Nature -

Creative

complex / subjective / pleasurable

→ coz it deals with human emotions.

complexity of human predicament



person who does not deserve that bad, gets to face it.

divine justice

no logic

Function -

Entertainment

Thought provoking

Knowledge

Literature as Communication (when you want to express)

Generating money

Bring a social change — Protest writing,
propaganda literature

Eg. — Tamas by Bhisham Sahani

Premchand — writes on social ^{human} change

↓
Ethical considerations / Morality

↓
in Epic poetry

In → Another imp. element of literature (after Plot & Characterization)

Theme:

Theme is the central idea that the fiction depicts.
^{running}
^{centralized}

Elements - greed

Sometimes theme is not superficially visible,
→ is deeply rooted

Cultural assimilation - combination of culture
Ambiguity, Hybridity
American society

Assimilate

Nameake - Nostalgia, Cultural assimilation
→ how is it depicted in movies

food talk in lit fiction → shows they are missing
→ related to culture (drawing a reference, creating connection).

One dominant theme, other parallel themes.

Q There are 2 things, subject & theme.

→ The subject is what the work is about.

The subject may be stated in a word or phrase.

Eg. - The subject of William Blake's poetry Red Red Rose
is love.

→ Theme is what the work says about the subject.

Eg. - Subject - love, Theme - Love is constant / Love changes
depends on P.O.V

The statement of a work's theme requires a complete sentence or sentences.

→ because POV needs to be specified.

Subject - Jealousy

Theme -

→ should show your purpose
↓
needs a one or more sentences.

A work's theme must apply / appeal ^{particular} to the people outside that work.

Other people should also relate / connect.

Theme ~~of~~ has general application & universal appeal.

Type -

Individual & Universal

→ Theme connects / relevant to the larger humanity
general emotion

Identity basis of all such youngsters living in that particular environment.

Relate to you in
Universal element / appeal.

See Anchal's copy

contradictory themes possible.

→ There may be several possible, even contradictory themes in a work.

Universal element

+ hyperbole

Work -

→ There may be so many contradictory or incompletely developed ideas in a work that it seems impossible to say for sure, what the work means.

The subject & themes of works can rarely be accounted for completely, even when the author says what the work means, we cannot exclude other possibilities.

Themes may represent an intellectual dilemma, rather than a message, that mostly solve the dilemma.

G.B. Shaw
→ intellectual dilemma
problematic plays

Messaging in an implied way.
How does literature teach?

Girish Karnad
Tuglaq → theatre artist & writer

On His Blindness — John Milton
sonnet by

"They also serve who only stand & wait".

Theme must deal with some kind of
intellectual dilemma

CLASSEmate
Date _____
Page _____

One strategy for discovering a work's theme is
to apply F.A.Q about areas of human
experience, such as the following -

- 1) Human nature
- 2) The nature of society
Eg: orthodox, patriarchal etc.
White Tiger
commercially evolving society
- 3) Human freedom.
- 4) Ethics
*→ how does that work represents moral & ethical
conflicts.*

• Setting:

Setting includes several closely related aspects of a
work of fiction. The first dimension in setting
is physical environment or physical / sensory
work of fiction.

The next dimension is the time in which
the action takes place. And the social
environment of the characters is also a dimension.
*namely that the last dimension of the setting is atmosphere (effect
of setting).*

Eg - Leo Tolstoy → War & Peace

3 kinds of time in a fiction:

- 1) At what period in history does the action takes place. (Especially in periodic movies).
- 2) How long does it take for the action to occur? (Indicates importance).
- 3) How is the passage of time perceived by the character?
 ↗ if its running or slowed down.
 (shows how the character responds)

Time may seem to move very slowly or very fast depending on character's state of mind.

This recognition of how a character perceives time, helps us to understand the character's internal conflict & attitude.

Bondini Movie - Bimal Roy

Her time in prison is depicted as lengthy & the character perceived it lengthy.

Writer's slow down the pace on purpose

Charlotte Bronte - Jane Eyre

Novel is a collection of highly charged, intensely felt moments in Jane's life, that seem to last far longer than they actually do.

Date _____
Page _____

Social Environment -

→ motivates the character to behave the way it does
manners, rituals, culture, etiquettes, codes of conduct etc.

Mannerism

Observing people's behaviour, mannerisms

→ to understand why a character behaves the way it does
For writer, what does he want to show the character & society like.

Ambivalent *

When you refer to ^{sth.} just ~~not~~ refer to ~~sth.~~ it.

Atmosphere -

Atmosphere refers to the emotional reaction that we & the characters have to the setting of a work. (Many times, it's apparent, many times not)

Eg. - Atmosphere is gloomy,

→ background music, lighting

Point of view -

→ perception

POV is the author's relationship to his or her fictional world
specially to the mind of the characters.

In short POV is the position from which
story is told or narrated.

3 idiots - From Farhan's POV

associating

Omniscient POV

In Mahabharat, time tells the story

Joseph Andrews

Hawthorne's - American Novelist

→ The Scarlet Letter - very popular fiction
from ^{an} omniscient POV

→ Limited omniscient POV -
knows everything abt. 1 or 2 characters.

→ First person POV - Himself telling the story.
David Copperfield, Charles Dickens

→ Objective POV/Dramatic POV - More restricted.
Writers & authors don't enter mind of characters.
Whatever is visible, is known to the narrator.
info source - whatever they are speaking about.

Melodramatic - more dramatic than required.

→ Irony -
contrast Irony shows the contrast -
btw.
1) contrast btw. what is & what seems to be.
2) btw. what is & what ought to be
3) btw. what is & what one wishes to be.
4) btw. what is & what one expects to be.

→ Incongruity :

is the method of irony.

Inappropriateness / Imbalance

In dramas,

Opposites comes suddenly together so that
the disparity is obvious to the reader,^{view}
^{discriminating}

Diff. kind of irony -

diff. b/w. actuality & reality.

1) Verbal irony

- contradiction

most commonly used.

In verbal irony people say the opposite
of what they mean.

Eg - In comedy shows etc.

→ through tone of voice, expression
of face.

→ Understatement

→ meadow / hounds reality

→ Overstatement

→ exaggerate

Verbal irony is more impactive than a blank
statement of the truth.

It requires mental agility on part of writer.
→ wit

Sarcasm is more bitter & destructive form of irony.
→ harmful

Irony is mild representation of opposites.

2) Situational Irony -

what most people think

In S. Irony, the situation differs from what common sense indicates, it will be as ought to be.

Eg. - Having all the knowledge in the world, still Dronacharya was answered in Drupadi's

Eg. - An innocent looking person, turns out all evil.

Scarlett Lector

→ character is depicted as very spine & he hides his adultery.

S. Irony results from what most people think or expect.

3) Attitudinal Irony -

results from one individual ^{what} thinks / expects.

In A. Irony, an individual thinks that the reality is one way but in fact it is the other way round.

Eg. - Naïve characters

4) Dramatic Irony -

D. Irony occurs in a play when a character says or hears sth. that means more to the audience than to the character.
audience knows more than character

Eg. - audience knows when the character is boasting
Macbeth Monologues - Soliloquy Soliloquies
Shakespeare

High sounding monologues of Ravan, Macbeth etc.

so that audience knows what the character is thinking.

so many ironies manifested in life

↳ present in representation of life.

Why is irony imp. for interpreter -

to understand depth of work

implication of author behind these words

Mughazam - show reign of Akbar through close story of his son

Dilemma

comments on sense of justice of Akbar.
evokes emotional appeal

Irony in Manzhi

- Symbol -

It represents sth. else

In general -

place, person, belief etc.

A symbol is sth. that represents sth. else.

In literature -

A symbol is an object that has meaning beyond itself.

Roses = symbol (tangible) perceptible

The object is concrete & the meanings are abstract
Not tangible

Thumper → Interpreter of
Liberi

wound
Maladies

Melodies - collection of stories

limitations/problems in human life

Zakhm → Mahesh Bhatt's auto-biography movie

pain & agony difference

pricking you all the time

Symbols however are not metaphors.

→ direct reference
clear abstraction

They are not analogies that
clarify abstractions.

→ Analogy of metaphor
is clear.

There are 2 kinds of symbols -

1) Public / Conventional symbols - in a particular country
society, culture, some symbols are commonly known eg - cross

2) Private / Personal symbols -

→ at personal level

unique ; for a particular individual

Work F. Scott Fitzgerald -
The Great Gatsby - Path b/w NY & countryside is called Valley of ashes
valley of ashes - by author.

He associated this particular path with moral decay, meaninglessness, violent death.

prominence of handkerchief in Othello

fond of Gogol

Literary & scientific writing

② Nature & Function of Literature or Cinema

① Literary Writing ↗ Anything

Scientific & Technical Writing

③ Story & Plot (Organic unity, complex plot, synergy)

④ ↘ Relationship of parts to the whole

⑤ Character (Types) ^{what is}

⑥ Interpretation (steps)

⑦ Interpreting Fiction (elements like theme
Theme)

⑧ Setting

⑨ Irony

⑩ Symbol

⑪ POV

Objective questions

↳ also related to ^{debut novel of} ^{J.L.} *Namesake*

when it was first published

Read introduction

What type of Engine was Ashok?

first published in *New Yorker*

↳ as installments

published in 2003 as a full-fledged novel

Read abt. writer

What is name of collection of short stories by
Thumpa Lahiri