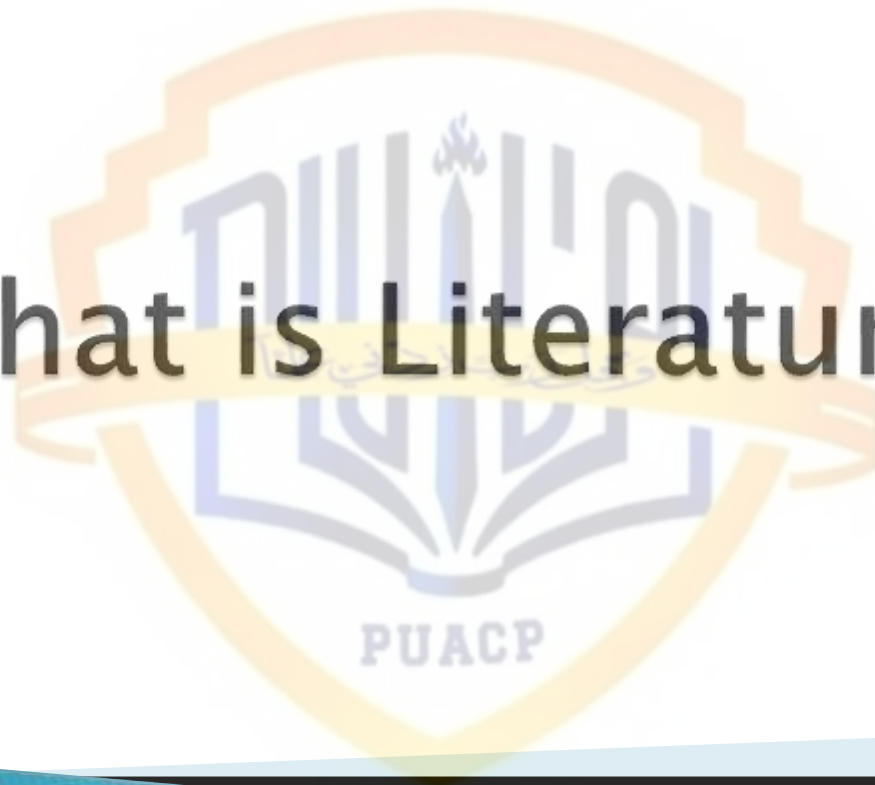


# What is Literature?



# Literature Vs. Text

- ▶ Literature: a form of text. **But**
- ▶ Every Text is not literature.
- ▶ "literature" is **a specific category of texts** with
- ▶ artistic,
- ▶ aesthetic,
- ▶ or imaginative **qualities**,
- ▶ typically valued for their cultural or intellectual significance.
- ▶ **Forms**
- ▶ Literature encompasses works such as **novels, poems, plays, and other forms** of writing that are often seen as expressive and crafted to evoke thought or emotion.

# Literature:

- ▶ literature **works** beyond basic communication; it often employs **figurative language, symbolism, and stylistic elements** that distinguish it from ordinary forms of writing.
- ▶ The **purpose** of literature, then, is not solely to inform but to provoke **reflection**, convey complex **ideas**, and engage **readers** on a **deeper level**.

# Text:

- ▶ “Text” includes any written or printed material, regardless of artistic or cultural intent.
- ▶ This includes everyday texts like **newspapers**, **advertisements**, letters, or instructional materials.
- ▶ It is **not** crafted for aesthetic or interpretive purposes.
- ▶ Texts serve primarily **functional roles**, focusing on practical **communication** or **information**.
- ▶ Unlike literature, which often invites **multiple interpretations**, **texts** are usually designed for clarity and directness, aiming to convey specific, accessible information to their audience.

# Main Difference

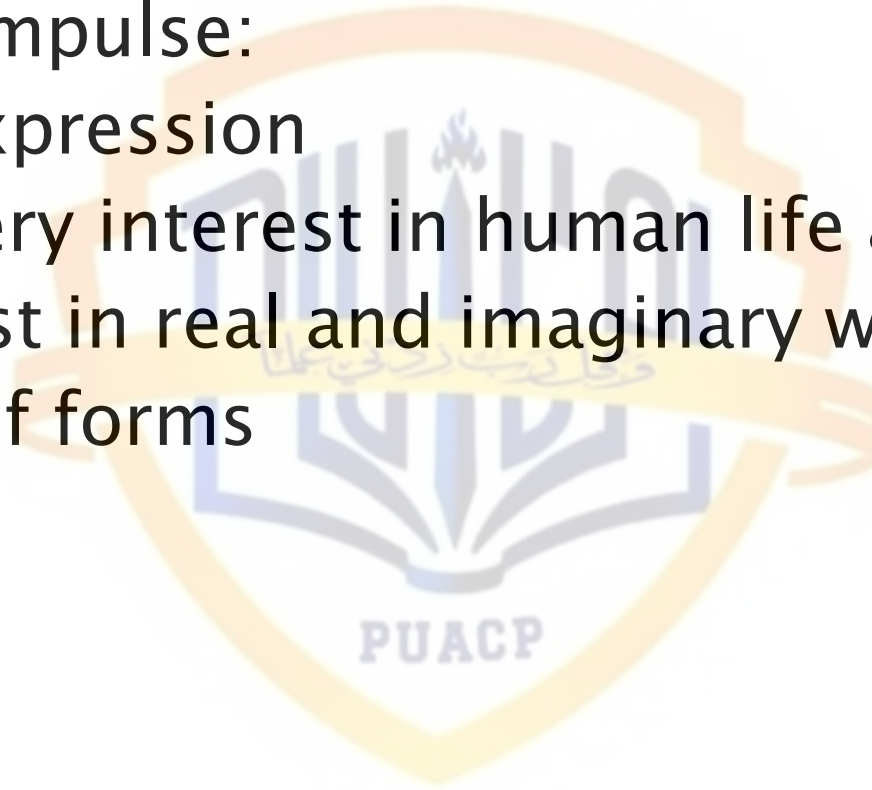
- ▶ Literature is seen as having layers of meaning, interpretative potential, and artistic merit, making it the subject of in-depth analysis in literary studies.
- ▶ Texts, however, are often studied in fields like linguistics or communication studies, where the focus is more on structure, function, and purpose rather than aesthetic or interpretive depth.

# How does W. H. Hudson view?

- ▶ “It is thus fundamentally **an expression** of life through the **medium** of language.”
- ▶ “Literature is a vital record of what men have seen in life, what they have experienced of it, what they have thought and felt about those **aspects** of it which have the most immediate and enduring **interest** for all of us.”

# What does originate Literature?

- ▶ Human impulse:
  - ▶ 1) Self expression
  - ▶ 2) The very interest in human life and actions
  - ▶ 3) Interest in real and imaginary world
  - ▶ 4) Love of forms





# The Themes of Literature:

- ▶ **Personal Experiences:**

- ▶ These are private, individual experiences—both outer and inner—that deal with the writer's own life. **Lyric poetry** often reflects these themes, where personal emotion and reflection dominate.

- ▶ **Universal Human Experiences:**

- ▶ Themes that transcend individual life and address the great existential questions of humanity, such as **life, death, sin, and destiny**. This is the literature that speaks to the human condition at large, often seen in **religious or philosophical works**.



# Themes:

- ▶ **Social Relations:**

- ▶ Literature that explores the individual's relationships with society and other people falls into this category. The **drama, novel, and social essays** often explore these dynamics, depicting the **struggles of individuals within broader societal contexts**.

- ▶ **Nature:**

- ▶ Some literature focuses on humanity's relationship with the natural world. Nature becomes a central theme, often in **poetry or descriptive prose**, where writers reflect on its beauty or destructive power.

# Themes:

- ▶ **Art and Literature:**

- ▶ Finally, some literature focuses on itself—works that deal with art, creativity, and the process of writing. These might include critical essays, artistic manifestos, or even metafiction that reflects on the nature of storytelling itself.

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# The Elements of Literature:

- ▶ **The Author's Contribution:** The author shapes this raw material into literary art using their intellect, emotions, imagination, and technical skill.
  - **Intellect:** The thought the writer brings to their subject.
  - **Emotion:** The feelings the subject evokes in the writer and the reader.
  - **Imagination:** The creative vision that brings the subject to life.
  - **Composition:** The technical mastery of structure, style, and form, ensuring the literature is coherent and aesthetically satisfying.