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## Chapter 1:- Ways of studying Literature:-

- What is literature?

Acc. to

some:

↳ only those books which by reason of subject matter and their mode of treating it are of general human interest and have element of form and pleasure essentially.

- Knowledge + aesthetic satisfaction.

- Why do we care for literature?

- Because a great book grows directly out of life; in reading it we are brought into large, close & fresh relations with life.

- Lit. is vital record of what men have seen in life, what they have experienced of it, what they have thought and felt about it, which have immediate and most enduring interest for all of us.



Milton → A good book is the precious life-blood of a master spirit, embalmed and treasured up on purpose to a life beyond life.

\* A great book is born of the brain and heart of its author.

⇒ A good reader must first of all become, not scholars but good readers.

- Reading → a matter of close & sympathetic companionship.

\* Difference b/w an ordinary reader & student of lit:-

- Not that one enjoys reading and the other does not, but that one reads in a haphazard way while the other's reading is organized & acc. to a plan.

\* Over ways of approaching lit:-

① - Reading chronologically → in the order of their production.

↳ Not everything that a writer produces, but everything of significance.



(2) Understanding the author's personality by comparing and contrasting it with others. → Men who worked in the same field, took up the same subject, dealt with the same problems, wrote ~~or~~ under similar conditions etc.

\* Studying lit. by considering author's personal life.

- Learning more about the man than his work reveals to us.
- Seeing him in the social surroundings in which he lived, his daily conversations with his fellows, to know the chief facts of his outward history - ambitions, struggles, successes, failures -

- Not all biographies benefit us, only the judicious ones.

↳ The biography must not degenerate due to gossip.



\* Lit. lives by virtue of life which it embodies.

\* Lit. deals with the great drama of human life and action.

\* Man is a social animal and ~~too~~ is under a constant desire to impart others about it.

\* Various genres of lit are actually diff. channels through which man discharges himself of his sociality.

\* Impulses that produce literature:

- ① Personal experience of an individual.
- ② Experience of man as man.
- ③ Relations of individual with his fellows.
- ④ External world of nature and our relations with it.
- ⑤ Man's own efforts to create and express.

\* Lit. is the interpretation of life as life shapes itself in the mind of interpreter.