

# Literature

## Realism

### Introduction :-

The realism art movement of the nineteenth century was a dramatic shift from the exotic and poetic Romanticism that dominated the art world in the decades prior.

### What is Realism?

Realism is a literary movement that represents reality by portraying mundane, everyday experiences as they are in real life.

## Definition :-

Realism or literary realism is an era of literary technique in which authors describe things as they are without embellishment or fantastical plot.

## History of Realism :-

Literary realism is part of the realist art movement that started in nineteenth-century FRANCE and lasted until the 20<sup>th</sup> century. It began as a reaction to eighteenth-century Romanticism and the rise of the bourgeois in Europe. Works of Romanticism were thought to be too exotic and to have lost touch with the real world.

The roots of literary realism lie in France where realist writers



published work of realism in novels and in serial form in newspapers. The earliest realist writers include Honore de Balzac, who infused his writing with complex characters and detailed observations about society.

### Importance of Realism in literature:-

Realism aimed to highlight the reality or the 'true nature of reality' in works of literature.

2. The aim of a text of literary realism is to portray real life as it is perceived around us.

3. Authors of realism particularly the realist novel use narrative techniques to convey what the characters or narrators believe to be unbiased, objective truths.

4. Realism is important in literature because it shows the everyday experiences of regular, usually middle or lower class people in a society.

### Characteristics | Tenets | themes | Elements of Realism:-

- o Realism attempts to describe life without romantic subjectivity and idealization - It focuses on actualities of life and truthful treats the common place characters of daily life.
- o Realism presents the truthful depiction of society. It presents the things like characters their circumstances their conditions and sufferings as they are. Realistic writers present society and issues connected with it.



- Realistic setting is another hallmark of Realism. Like in Charles Dickens "A Tale of Two Cities" setting in ENGLAND and FRANCE during the FRENCH Revolution.

Time & place of action are completely realistically presented in realistic piece of writings.

- Objectivity in characters is also a big characteristics of Realism where writers detached themselves from their subjectivity and adopted a pure objective look in their writings.

- In Realism, faithful representation of reality including the minute details of nature are important. It focuses on literary technique like symbolism - It presents reality by using symbolism -

- More importance given to the characterization is the hallmark of Realism. It has psychological analysis, exploration of moods, emotions, feelings, working of mind, soul and heart of characters.

### Types / Subgenres of Realism :-

There are several different types of Realism.

#### • Social Realism :-

Social realism focuses on the lives of the poor. These stories might describe their living conditions, jobs, relationships and dreams.

#### • Magical Realism :-

Magical realism is one of the best and most



interesting types of realism in that it combines reality with dream like, fantastical elements - The world is described as it is, but with additional elements that are not found in nature.

EXAMPLE :- "An example of magical realism is *Beloved* (1987) by Toni Morrison."

### • Socialist Realism:-

It is created by Joseph Stalin that celebrates the work and lives of the working classes - Some of the best-known novels are written in the Soviet Union after the Russian Revolution.

EXAMPLE: "Alexander The Young Guard (1946) is an example of socialist Realism."

## → Kitchen Sink Realism:-

Kitchen Sink Realism is related to social realism - It focuses specifically on working class British men who spend much of their time in pubs. The men in these novels work to make their dreams a reality in the wake of war.

EXAMPLE: "A famous example of kitchen sink realism is *Love on the Dole: a Tale of two cities* (1933) by Walter Greenwood."

## • Naturalism:-

Naturalism is a type of realism that shows how family, one's environment and social conditions shape one's character - It was influenced by Charles Darwin.



## Psychological Realism:-

Psychological realism focuses on the internal dialogue or thoughts and convictions of characters.

An Example of Psychological realism is the novel *A Portrait of a Lady* (1881) by Henry James.

## Notable Realist Authors:-

Some of the best-known realist writers are:-

- Mark Twain
- Stephen CRANE
- Daniel Defoe
- George Moore
- Jack London
- Henry James
- George Eliot
- Alexander POPE
- Thomas HARDY

## Examples of Realism:-

*Middlemarch* (George Eliot)  
*Call of the wild* (Jack London)  
*Story of an Hour* (Kate Chopin)