

## POWERPOINT PRESENTATION # 1 (For Eighth Grade)

### AN INTRODUCTION TO THE LITERATURE COURSE

It literally means "acquaintance with letters" (from the Latin *littera* meaning "an individual written character (letter)"). The term has generally come to identify a collection of texts or works of art, which are mainly prose, both fiction and non-fiction, drama and poetry.

If reading can be defined as a transaction that takes place in the mind between the reader and symbols in the environment, literature has to do with the existentialist analysis, interpretation, and application of said transaction.

The three important elements of literature are:

1. Because of its *artistic quality*
2. Because of its *suggestiveness*
3. Because of its *permanence*

1. Artistic quality of literature - All art is the expression of life's truth and beauty. It is that which exists in this world and remains unnoticed until brought to our attention by some sensitive human soul same like the delicate curves of the shell reflects sounds and harmonies too faint to be otherwise noticed.

In the same pleasing, surprising way, all artistic work must be a kind of revelation it should suggest some hidden truth and/or beauty to the human senses.

2. Another significant quality of literature is its suggestiveness, its appeal to our emotions and imagination rather to our intellect. This quality is the one that affects us more intimately because it takes aim at our heart and our senses.

3. A last, but not least characteristic of literature, is arising itself directly from the other two and that is permanence. This is the most transcendental quality since it allows the literary work to overcome the boundaries of limited human existence.

Literature preserves the ideals of a people.

Among these ideals are: love, faith, duty, friendship, freedom, and reverence which are the elements of human life most worthy of preservation.

the expression of life in words of truth and beauty...

it is the written record of man's spirit of his thoughts,  
is the written record of man's spirit of his emotions,  
is the written record of man's spirit of his aspirations.

It is the history and only the history of the human soul having characteristics of its artistic quality, its suggestiveness and its permanent qualities which will never fade.

- Let us recap by stating that...

Literature preserves the ideals of a people and these ideal are love, faith, duty, friendship, freedom and reverence which are the part of human life most worthy of preservation. Lastly in summary we can say Literature is the expression of life in words of truth and beauty, it is the written record of man's spirit of his thoughts, emotions, aspirations, it is the history of the human soul having characteristics of its artistic quality, its suggestiveness and its permanent qualities which will never fade.

- Answer the following questions for a group discussion:

1. Are only the worthy ideals of humanity preserved in literature or are other aspects of the human experience also preserved?
2. What literary characteristics are in your opinion of more importance; artistic quality, suggestiveness, or permanence?

### **Homework for the next session**

1. Write\* a 100 words paper defining and elaborating on the term : genre.

\*No typing allowed.