



# Literature is a wellspring of thriving for this young generation

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English literature is a respiratory system where human beings can breathe through reading inspirational and instructional ideas and motifs. It's not only helpful for a fresh breath of ideas but also works as a mirror where all people especially young students can see their true identity. It helps them embark on their journey of learning, critical thinking, accepting other views, and personal development. It creates probabilities and good character traits to develop leadership qualities for the new generation. In this article, we will find how existing literature signifies some aspects and compelling forces that can effectively guide the younger generation in making wise decisions and actions.

English literature creates a stark potential in the young generation to see the world from different perspectives. Different people have different views and different purposes in this world. These views can fuel them to operate their decision making process<sup>1</sup> and this process leads them to do their own activities. If people do not think differently and do not do various things, the world cannot run at its own pace. This attitude incites young people to embrace this diversity of perspectives. In this pluralistic society, embracing cultural diversity enhances problem-solving abilities,<sup>2</sup> alternative ways to understand the world, and a wide range of solutions to complex issues. Critical thinking skills can help examine and combine ideas from different viewpoints to arrive at more comprehensive results. It also influences this young generation to have impartiality and objectivity in their speech, writing, and activities. A variety of points of view spark creativity and innovation in work, writing

and other activities that enhance them to communicate with their teacher, peers and others for lesson-related projects.

English literature is a catalyst for spiritual development, which triggers good characteristics in young people as a student. One of the most significant poems, "The Waste Land" <sup>3</sup> by T.S. Eliot is largely regarded as the central work of modernist poetry of the 20th century, expressing the thought of moral decay and the desolate state of modern people's lives. It also presents a moral awareness of the consequences of the decadence of ethics and moral principles in our lives and society. "A heap of broken images" is the phrase used in that poem to clearly describe the world that is fragmented and barren, like a desert with useless things. Another phrase, "Here is no water but only rock," <sup>4</sup> is a description of the condition of human beings devoid of life and growth, with only the harshness of rock remaining. These lines and phrases create recurring motifs of barrenness and dryness, symbolic of a world experiencing spiritual drought and fragmentation. "I will show fear in a handful of dust" and "The broken fingernails of dirty hands"<sup>5</sup> depict a profound sense of existential crisis and spiritual emptiness. These images suggest a degradation of the human spirit, where individuals are incapable of having a full physical existence devoid of spiritual elevation. Those phrases help us a lot to acquire good characteristics, which promotes young people to focus on work and not waste their time on useless, corrupting things

English literature helps this emerging generation see the story from a different perspective. One story, *The Great Gatsby*, lurks in the idea of the complete true love of a protagonist for a person and his determination to get his beloved by any means, but unfortunately, this craving for love brings emptiness to his life. My point is that if the protagonist, Jay Gatsby, didn't love Daisy, at least he would not face that immature death. If he was determined only about his works and achievements and loved a faithful person who at least gave importance to his mind but not wealth, then Gatsby would enjoy the immense pleasure of his successful life. That means, for me, Jay Gatsby will have a crucial aspiration for the students to take on the challenge to go ahead and fulfill his ambition.<sup>6</sup> Ambition to prosper in a career is a good inspiration for students. If we do not see this story just from the perspective of love and tragic ends, there are many other things that we can find in his emphatic character for learning. One of the most important things that I have learned is to DREAM BIG. Sometimes we just focus on love in our lives, ignoring our dreams, but we forget that when our dreams die, we die. One article from the

Daily Star <sup>7</sup> mentioned, “There is always a place for dreamers who don't quite realize their dreams. They let their dreams loose; let them fly up like helium-filled balloons into nothingness. Try not to be that person.” However, to fulfill his dream, Gatsby transforms himself from a destitute farm boy into a cultured, wealthy person. His unwavering dedication and ambition can motivate the students to pursue their dreams with persistence, regardless of obstacles. Gatsby faced numerous challenges; however, he was not afraid to accept those challenges, even risking his life to acquire wealth [as it was a part of his goal]. As challenges he faced societal rejection and reminders of his shabby past from another character, Tom Buchanan, but still he did not shake his ambition and remained in his goal. His extravagant mansion, lavish parties, and strong connection with wealthy and powerful people are the products of his hard work and self-reinvention, expressing the strength of his determination and the possibility of changing one's existence.

English literature has the ability to make us experience the true human nature. I feel that modern literature successfully uses narrative styles, structure, and context in a way that engages students' mind and emotions with the stories as it expresses people's mind and attitude of today's world. For example, *The Great Gatsby* shows the true human nature of a man. In the story, Gatsby did all he could to get Daisy, but unfortunately, she did not value Gatsby's love. In this world, many people do many things for their beloved person or any of their familiar people. But they did not get much respect from them, even; they were cheated and deprived of getting their deserving love from a special person. Another story, “*Metamorphosis*” by Franz Kafka, shows that people are deprived of getting love even from their parents just because of the unusual transformation. Franz Kafka's portrayal of Gregor Samsa in such a unique style shocks our mind and even leads us to cry, which creates a true realization about our own family. Not sometimes, but always, we depend on our family. We cannot trust others, even if we are betrayed by our beloved, but we can trust our family members and feel secure at home. However, Franz Kafka presents in his narrative exploration a total reflection of the alienation of the family members, guilt, and true human nature in a way that even family can show their conditional love and selfish mind to their blood relatives. The main character, Gregor Samsa,<sup>8</sup> awakens one morning to find himself transformed into a large insect-like creature. At first, his sister showed love and care for him. She feeds him and cleans his room, but at

the same time, she is frightened. Over time, her sympathy wanes. The liability of caring for Gregor becomes burdensome, especially as he becomes more insect-like and less human in behavior. Toward the end of the novel, Grete states that this insect-like creature cannot be their brother, and they have to escape themselves from him. This reflects her complete detachment from her brother. Gregor's parents' attitude and mind change as they see their son transformed into a bug or creepy-crawly. Before, they had a good relationship with their son, but as their son changed into an insect, they encountered him with fear, anxiety, and emotional detachment. Even they want to escape from their son, showing their true face and conditional love. This fictional story reflects the real-life situation of human nature and behavior. In a family, when the family members expect something from their own members, if the members fail to do it, then there is a change in their love and care for those members. In fact, metamorphosis happened not only in Gregor [when he changed into an insect-like creature], but also in his parents' care for him. How would you feel if someone you deeply cared about changed drastically? By thinking this, my body hair stands up. Metamorphosis happens not only in our physical appearance but could also happen in our work, abilities, and thinking, which can impact positive or negative outcomes. If it is positive, then it is fine, but if it is negative, we see that it creates detachment from society, even from one's own blood relatives.

Modern literature frequently challenges societal conventions and questions established belief systems. Such antagonistic views toward societal norms can be both thrilling and disturbing, leading to spirited debates and deeper reflections on one's own convictions. "To Kill a Mockingbird" by Harper Lee stands for enlightenment with valiant social commentary, addressing issues of racism, morality, and social justice in the American South. A bold social commentary on the racial injustice prevalent in the South can be found in Atticus Finch's words during Tom Robinson's trial:

"Our courts have their faults, as does any human institution, but in this country our courts are the great levellers, and in our courts all men are created equal." <sup>9</sup>

Here, Atticus spotlights the ideal that the American justice system is supposed to validate: equality for all. Yet society is not following that rule. As we see from the story, Tom Robinson, a black man, is being judged not

by the facts of the case but by the color of his skin. Through this, Harper Lee boldly critiques the fundamental racism issue that is present in society and the justice system. which makes discrimination give them a piercing feeling. But Finch stands for them, seeking justice and showing his moral courage. He knows if he stands against social rules and supports those black people, there will be a great negative consequence waiting for him. But still, he shows his courage and expresses those bold societal comments, which can make youth very thrilled. Also, English literature is not just about entertainment; it can build strong leadership skills. By reading that story, the students can realize that not only rich people or people of socially high status will get a chance to receive favor, but justice and the right to stay well are open to all. English literature is a catalyst that influences young adults to reach out to destitute students to help them understand English.



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Therefore, for the personal growth and awakening responsibility of the young generation, English literature plays an important role in their lives. It is the torch through which they can see not only the nature of society but also the solution to any complex problem.

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