

Introducing Literature As a Mirror to Society

Fundamentals



What and Why ?

- Literature is said to be a **mirror of the society** of its times. It is in written form as Poetry, Prose, and Drama that **depict emotions or narrate a story** depicting important features of society.
- **Technology has extended** the domain of **literature to cinema**. Cinema is also a medium for 'story telling', but through a audio- visual dimension.

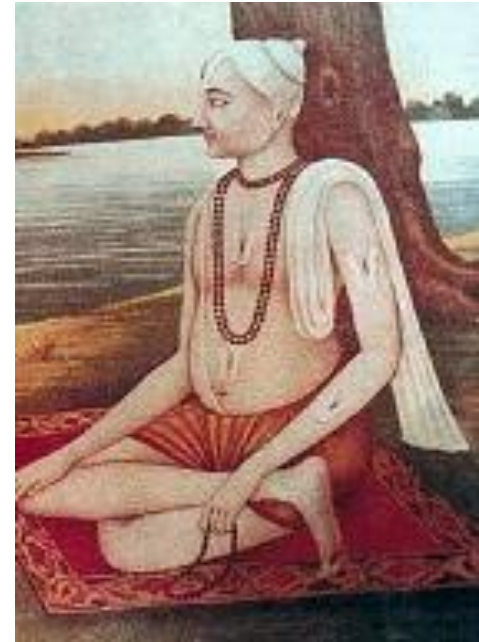


Why? continued

Literature helps us to know **the minds of the poets** and life of their times through their **works**.

Devotion to the Creator / ***Bhakti Rasa*** – best depicted by ***Sant Tulsidas*** in his Epic ***Shri Ramcharitra Manas***

Care and concern of elders for their children - ***Vaatsalya Rasa*** best depicted by ***Sant Surdas***



Emotions or 'Rasa' in Life as per Indian Classical works

- Peace of mind / *Shant Rasa* – *Shrimad Bhagvat Geeta*
- Laughter / *Haasya Rasa*
- Romance and Love / *Shringar Rasa* – *Kavi Kalidas*
- Valour and bravery / *Vira* / *Vibhatsya Rasa*
- Surprise - *Aashcharya*
- Pain and Sorrow / *Karun Rasa*
- Greed / *Lalach*
- Loneliness / *Viraha Rasa*
- Anger or *Raudra Rasa* including Jealousy or *Eersha*
- Fear called *Bheet* or *Bheebhatsya Rasa*

Colours used in Literature

- White - rejects all other colours
- Red
- Orange
- Yellow
- Green
- Blue
- Violet
- Purple
- Grey - is the cloudy sky to view the Rainbow
- Black - absorbs all other colours



7 Rainbow colours



Five Human Senses and Seven Tastes

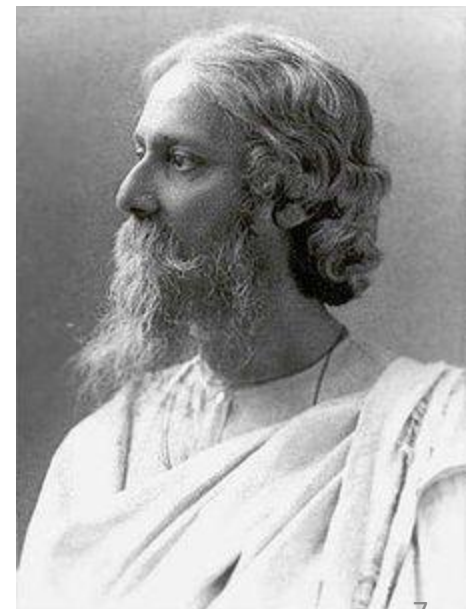
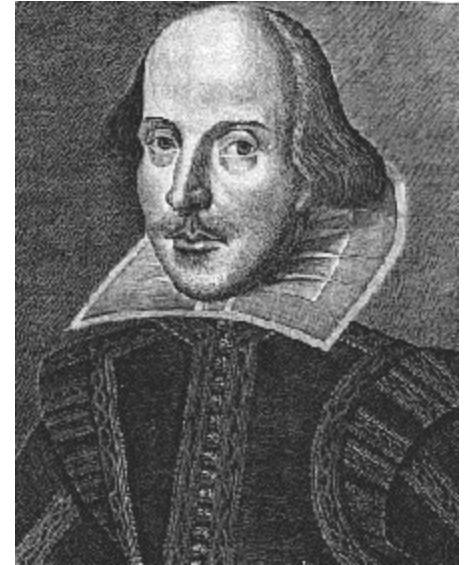
- Sight
 - Bitter
 - Flat or *Pheeka*
- Smell
 - Salty
 - Sour
- Taste
 - Sweet
- Touch
 - Salty
 - Sour
- Hearing

Common threads in the Literature of all languages

Literary writings attempt to depict the entire range of ten **human emotions**, the ten **colours** and the five **senses**.

The **higher** the **number** of **emotions** covered the **richer** is the **literary work**.

The **best** **Literary works** in the world **depicts** **all emotions**, sensory feelings and colours of human experience.



Primary, Secondary and Tertiary emotions as per Western concept

1. **Love** : includes Affection, Adoration, fondness, liking, attraction, caring, tenderness, compassion, sentimentality, Arousal, desire, lust, passion, infatuation, Longing
2. **Joy** : includes Cheerfulness, Amusement, bliss, gaiety, glee, jolliness, joviality, delight, enjoyment, gladness, happiness, jubilation, elation, satisfaction, ecstasy, euphoria, Zest, Enthusiasm, zeal, excitement, thrill, exhilaration Contentment, pleasure, Pride, triumph Optimism Eagerness, hope, optimism Enthralment, rapture , Relief.
3. **Surprise** Amazement, surprise, astonishment.
4. **Fear** Horror, Alarm, shock, fear, fright, horror, terror, panic, hysteria, mortification, Nervousness, Anxiety, nervousness, tenseness, uneasiness, apprehension, worry, distress, dread.

Primary, Secondary and Tertiary emotions

5. **Anger** Irritation Aggravation, irritation, agitation, annoyance, grouchiness, grumpiness Exasperation, frustration Rage Anger, rage, outrage, fury, wrath, hostility, ferocity, bitterness, hate, loathing, scorn, spite, vengefulness, dislike, resentment Disgust revulsion, contempt Envy jealousy Torment
6. **Sadness** Suffering Agony, suffering, hurt, anguish Sadness depression, despair, hopelessness, gloom, glumness, unhappiness, grief, sorrow, woe, misery, melancholy disappointment, dismay, disappointment, displeasure, shame guilt, regret, remorse , neglect , alienation, isolation, neglect, loneliness, rejection, homesickness, defeat, dejection, insecurity, embarrassment, humiliation, insult ,sympathy, pity

Raw material for Literature, Painting , Music, Art and Architecture

- The 25 **components** of 10 colour, 10 emotions / 'Rasa', and 5 senses, **are the raw material** for
- Literature,
- Painting,
- Music,

They are **similar to the alphabets** for learning any language, and **the seven basic notes** in music.

Three Major Literary Forms

1. **POETRY:** conveys **heartfelt emotions in a highly concentrated form**, as if they are immortal and universal across time and space. Its thoughts are structured as 'couplets' (2 lines) or as stanzas (3 to 8 lines)
 - **Emotions** in a poem are **more intense and deep**. They touch the heart of whoever reads or hears it.
 - A poet attempts **to provides a new** and deeper **meaning to day to day things**, events or happenings, that appear as ordinary to others. He /She presents ordinary things as unique and extraordinary.

Examples of Poems

“I WANDERED lonely as a cloud
That floats on high o’er vales and hills,
When all at once I saw a crowd,
 A host of golden daffodils;
Beside the lake, beneath the trees,
Fluttering and dancing in the breeze.

Extract from ‘Daffodils’ by William Wordsworth

“ Tiger ! Tiger! burning bright
In the forest of the night,
What immortal hand or eye
Could frame thy fearful symmetry?”

Extract from ‘Tiger’ by William Blake

2. DRAMA

- **DRAMA** or a 'Play', is a form in which a story is developed, through conversation between two or more characters, called 'dialogue'.
- Drama is meant to be **enacted on stage**.
- The Greeks are said to have developed this form and given its '**Rules of Five Unities**' - Unity of Time, Place, Action, Character and Narrative.
- In a good drama, many unexpected 'dramatic' changes occur. '**Dramatic**' means a '**sudden change of events that is not expected**' by the audience, at the time.

Speech based Dialogues from Drama

- **Brutus** : “hear me for my cause” , “not that I loved Caesar less, but that I loved Rome more”.
‘believe me for mine honour’– ‘censure me in your wisdom’- that Caesar was valiant , I honour him: but as he was ambitious I slew him.”
- **Antony** : “The evil that men do lives after them; The good is oft interred with their bones; So let it be with Caesar’.

Extracts from ‘Julius Caesar’ by William Shakespeare

3. PROSE

- Compared to poetry and drama, the emotional content of **Prose is less intense**.
- **'Empathy'** is the key ability of a poet or dramatist or a prose writer, to feel as others would feel.
- The structure of Prose is **organized in paragraphs**, while that of Poems is in stanzas, or verses, or couplets, while Drama is arranged in 'Acts'. Therefore, we have 'One Act Plays' also.

Examples of Prose

- “Good words are worth much, and cost little” - Herbert
- “If you should put even a little on a little, and do it often enough, - soon this too would become big” - Homer
- “Truth exists, only lies are invented”. George Braque.
- “The unfinished is nothing”. – Henri F. Ameil

