B A First Year

English Optional Semester-I

HENGCT- 11001: Understanding Literature

Unit: I Introduction

1.1- Defining Literature:

Any written material is called Literature. It gives information. But all written material does not give aesthetic pleasure. Traditionally literature means imaginative writing. So, our intention is to understand literature properly. It is a form of human expression.

Literature has intellectual value. It uses language, style and themes. It consists of various genres, forms and styles. It includes poetry, drama, fiction and non-fiction.

It is creative writing. It has artistic value. It is relative to society. It records, preserves, transmits and entertains society. It plays a social, psychological, spiritual, cultural and political role. Presently, it includes oral writing also.

Definition -

The term 'Literature' is derived from the Latin word 'Littera'. It means a letter or an alphabet. It means the use of letters or writing. It includes orally sung texts. In modern times, literature is called creative writing. There are many definitions of literature. A few are as follows:

- Merriam-Webster's collegiate Dictionary:

  "Literature means writings having excellence of form or expression and expressing ideas of permanent or universal interest."

- According to Emerson:

  "Literature is a record of the best thought."

- W. H. Hudson:

  "Literature is an expression of life through the medium of language."

Literature has artistic, intellectual and cultural value. It has certain features:

1. **Aesthetic Appeal-** Literature appreciated nature. It deals with beauty. So, it has aesthetic appeal.
2. **Language Play-** Literature is written in language. Language consists in poetic devices, images and symbolism.
3. **Themes and Messages -** Literature deals with themes, ideas, ideologies, human views, and human experiences and so on. Such writing gives message to the reader.
4. **Style and Tone-** There are many styles in language. The tone of the speaker also changes the meaning. The voice quality also gives different meaning to the language.
5. **Cultural Significance-** Literature reflects challenges cultural beliefs, value and attitudes.
6. **Enduring Value-** Literature is timeless. It remains relevant for many ages. It sustains impact to many generations.

Literature is written in different forms, genres, styles, themes and purpose. They can be exampled following:

- **Form**: Novel, Short, Story, Poetry, Play, Essay, etc.
- **Genre**: Romance, Science, fiction, Mystery, Historical fiction, etc.
- **Style**: Realism, Surrealism, Magical Realism, etc.
- **Theme**: Love, Identity, Morality, Social justice, etc.
- **Purpose**: To entertain, Educate, Persuade or inspire, etc.

Literature was written in ancient period. It was written in Egypt and Sumerian. It was written around 4th millennium BC. It was in written or oral form. In the medieval and modern period many books are written. Printing technology helped to flourish written material. The examples of literature are the Iliad, the Odyssey, the Ramayana, and the Mahabharata and so on.

Literature is a part of human culture. It is rich and diverse. It offers a window to human experiences, culture and creativity. It reflects and shapes our understanding of the world.

1.2- Literature and Society:

Literature is the mirror of the society. The social and individual experiences are stored in literature. It has many forms and genres. Like social mind, it is real and imaginative. Society stands on many institutions. The institutions are educational, law, administration, cultural and so on. These institutions work hand in hand. They have their own norms and values. These institutions have the patterns of relationship. They share common beliefs, values, ideals, ideologies and so on.

Literature starts with human civilization. Human beings have formed society. There were aims and objectives in forming human society. The social values, beliefs, ideas and ideologies are stored in literature. Hence society and literature are inseparable. Both are interdependent.

Literature has a power to educate the society. It deals with social issues and challenges. Those issues and challenges are answered by the thinkers. By the way, we mention value system. In this way, literature stores cultural heritage and historical events. It saves language and cultural identify. It saves our understanding of the world. It teaches us values, beliefs, customs. So, society and literature are deeply intertwined. Literature reflects society. Both literature and society reflect and influence each other. Literature preserves events, experiences and memories. Sometimes literature and society are blamed. Sometimes social violence is banned. The literature supporting violence is also banned.

Literature and political institute go opposite. Some literary pieces criticize political institution. Such criticism goes against political institution. So, politicians dislike it.

Many charges are labeled against literature and society. Sometimes literary pieces are banned. They are threat to social piece. Sometimes they create threat to government. For example, Salman Rushdie's ‘The satanic verses’ and Taslima Nasrin's ‘Lajja’ are banned. Many flims are banned in India and abroad.

Sometimes literature is also banned due to its language. In India Tulsidas's Ram Charit Manas was looked down upon by the pundits of Varanasi. They disallowed the text. Only the pundits were using Sanskrit

language. Sanskrit was the medium of literary and religion expression. In Europe, literature written in native languages is not given good position. The literature written in Greek and Latin languages is the given prime importance. During the mediaeval era, many writers started writing in native languages. People accepted these writers very eagerly. Bacon wrote initially in Latin language. Then he translated into English.

In this way, it appears that society acts like backup for culture and tradition. It reflects upon the inhabitants. It shares certain similarities. Literature combines facts and fiction. It presents subjects like alienation, assimilation and transformation in society. It reflects historical, political, social, religious and cultural issues.

1.3. Reformative Role of Literature:

Literature reforms society. It challenges established a norms, customs and promotes changes. It is an effective tool for social reforms. History witnesses that literature has forced the government, society and religious institutions to change customs practices and beliefs. In USA, the sentimental literature played a key role during the Civil War period. In Victorian Times, English literature formed social opinions about slavery, women's liberation and prison reform literature questions social norms. It criticizes cultural values and beliefs and practices. It raises awareness in society. It throws light on social issues injustice and inequalities. Literature inspires empathy. It encourages understanding of society.

It encourages understanding and connects it with different experience is Literature challenges oppressive systems. It confronts power structures, discrimination and marginalization. It imagines possibilities for more just and equitable society. Literature gives voice to the marginalized. It gives voice to the poor, underrepresented community. It encourages critical thinking. It promotes reflections and analyses, empathy and self awareness.

Literature has changed a society significantly. It has made the government to form laws in the interest of women upliftment and empowerment of the poor. It has made the government to ban child labour. It compelled the authorities to stop exploitation of girls and poor people.

B A First Year

English Optional Semester-I

HENGCT- 11001: Understanding Literature

2.1- Defining Essay:

Today essay is recognized as a literary genre. It took a long time to attain this glory. It fills very large place in modern literature. It is interesting to study its origin, beginning, development and so on.

Origin of the Essay:

The origin of essay is found in Roman literature. Cicero and Seneca wrote Epistles. It is a form of essay. Bacon is the father of English essay. He has admitted that the word essay is late but the thing is ancient. The French writer, Montaigne used the word 'Essais' for the first time. It is a derived from French to English. It means an attempt or effort. It is an attempt of elucidation of the subject.

Many critics have tried to define essay. But very few have given successful definition of it. Yet these definitions are very vague. They are too narrow. Some definitions are given below:

1. "An essay is a loose sally of the mind, an irregular, undigested peace, not a regular and orderly performance." Dr Johnson.
2. "Essay is a work of prose art or the after- dinner monologue of an interesting and well informed man." Saintsbury
3. "The true essay is essentially personal. It belongs to the literature of self-expression and dissertation may be objective, the essay is subjective." W H Hudson
4. "Essay he is a genuine expression of an original personality- an artful and enduring kind of talk" J. B. Priestley.
5. "A good essay is more than a novel, a poem, a play or a treatise. It is personality translated into print between the lines must gleam attractive features or we remain cold." E. V. Lucas

These definitions are unsatisfactory, vague and incomplete. Essays are written on various subjects. Any topic can be dealt with an essay. This, the term essay is used for all manners and source of composition. It is used even for poetic composition also. Alexander Pope called his two long poems as essay. They are Essay on Man and Essay on Criticism. Locks writes a long philosophical essay. It's name is 'Essay Concerning Human Understanding.' Thus, such definitions are unsatisfactory. So, these definitions are incomplete. The essay can be defined not by its manner but by its matter. So, it is fruitful to examine the chief characteristics of essay:

The critics and writers of the essay have accepted the following features of essay:

1. The essay is a prose composition, brief, short or of moderate length.
2. The essayist can express himself in pithy and condensed language.
3. The essay is incomplete.
4. The essayist does not say all that is to be said on the subject.
5. The essayist writes only on those aspects of the subject that he considers the most significant and leaves out the rest.
6. It is personal in nature.
7. It expresses the personal likes send dislikes, prejudices and predilections of the essayist.

2.2: Types of English Essay-

Bacon is regarded as the father of the English essay. He used the word essay firstly in English. His volume of Essays published in 1597. It was "the first work of prose composition in this genre. Bacon had admitted that the word 'essay' is late but the thing is ancient. Ancient Roman writer Seneca's Epistles are but essays. In England the Elizabethan writers like Thomas Lodge, John Lyly and Greene wrote essays. The study of the 'essay' form indicates, 'the essay as a literary form is more easily distinguished by its manner than by its matter.'

a). Huge Walker's Division of Essays: -

Huge Walker remarks,

> 'Apparently, there is no subject, from the stars to the dust-heap and from the amoeba to man, which may not be dealt with an Essay'.

He divides essays into two classes:

1. Essays par excellence (i.e. in the highest degree),
2. The short, incomplete essays.

The incomplete essay treats a subject only in outline. It handles only a branch or a division of some greater theme. The theme is from any department of human thought. It may not be scientific or philosophical, historical or critical. The historical essay is an incomplete history. The philosophical essay might expand into a treatise. But there are essays more strictly a special literary form. Lamb's essays are the best examples in English. These essays are not treatises. They are complete in themselves.

b). Aphoristic Essay:

Bacon is the chief exponent of this kind of essay. His essay is of the Aphoristic kind. They are often a string of aphorisms or maxims, loosely connected together. Conjunctions and connectives are usually missing in them. The thought is closely packed. An entire paragraph is often condensed into a single sentence. There is remarkable brilliance of phrasing. Sentence after sentence, heavy with thought, follows each other in quick succession. They are easy to memorize. Tennyson said:

> "There is more wisdom compressed into that small volume than into any other books of the same size that I know. Bacon is always stately and magnificent. He regarded the essay as, "a receptacle of detached thoughts."

He called them "dispersed meditations'. He was an extremely busy man. He was in the habit of jotting down his experiences and his views on man and life. So, Bacon defined his essay as, 'counsels civil and moral.' His purpose was not to preach ideal morality. He gives valuable guidance on a variety of subjects. The subjects are drawn from day to day affairs of practical life. These

counsels are conveyed in short, crisp and sentences. They can be read like aphorisms. They are like chapters in Aristotle's Ethics and Republic. Thus, Bacon's essays are of the aphoristic kind. His essays are regarded as the 'confidential chat' of a philosopher. Bacon's example was followed by William Cornwallis. His essays appeared in 1600. Robert Johnson gave Essaies in 1601. Cornwallis used the essay 'as a painter's boy a board.'

C. The Character-Writers:

It was developed in the early 17th century. The writers sketched some particular human type. The essays were modeled after the Greek Philosopher Theophratus and the Roman Seneca. They portrayed various types of humanity with acuteness, humour, and satirical touches. The important writers among them were Joseph Hall (1574-1656), Sir Thomas Overbury (1581-1613) and John Earle, (1601-1657). In the 'character-essay, there is no self-portrayal, or it is not like the Baconian essay. It imitated the style and spirit of Sir Thmoas Browne and Abraham Cowley. The character-sketches are often very minute and humorous. Overbury is more concrete and vivid. His characters are short and pithy. They reveal considerable knowledge and insight into human-nature. His essays are the fore-runners of Sir Roger. The character-writers exercised a profound influence on the essay of Addison and Steele.

D. The Critical Essay:

A critical-essay is an attempt at literary criticism. Dryden introduced it in the Restoration Age (1660-1700). He is the fore-runner of the critical-essay. His innumerable prefaces and dedications are in the nature of critical essay. The best known among them is The Essay of Dramatic Poesy. His critical essays entitled him the honour of 'The Father of English Criticism'. Dryden's contribution led to the development of the middle style of English prose. The style is more suited to miscellaneous purpose. His style is remarkably free from mannerisms. Its main characteristics are lucidity, ease and grace. He gave up the long-waded, cumbrous sentences of the earlier prose writers. He used simple straightforward, vigorous mode of expressing his meaning. Thus, Dryden introduced a new variety in the Restoration Age. The periodical or the social essay is one of the important kinds of essay. It took birth and died too in the 18th century.

2.3: Introduction to Major Essayist:

The social or periodical essay took the birth in the early 18th century. It aimed at social reform. It was first published in the periodical press. Addison and Steele were pioneers in the field.

Aim and Name of Periodical Essay:

It is called 'periodical' because it appeared in the journals and magazines. It appeared periodically in the 18th century. It is called 'a social essay'. Its aim was public rather than private. Its object was social reformation. Its aim was to inform the mind. It gives delight to the reader. It aimed at refining the taste and tone. It helps to refine the cultural and moral outlook. It was the literature of the middle classes. It has all the features of journalism. It has a wider appeal, a large coverage, brevity and precision. It has simple and chaste language. It has delicate tone and elegant style. It aimed to amuse and to improve. They deal with the varied aspects of the social life.

Rise and Popularity of Periodical Essay:

There are many reasons of rise and popularity of the periodical essay. It was a very popular form of literature. It was the mirror of the Augustan Age in England. There are some reasons of rise and popularity of it- the growth of reading public, rise of the middle classes, the rise of the two political parties (Whig and Tory), the rise of the coffee-houses as centers of social and political life, the need of social reform, etc. The essay was a social chronicler. It gave the people what they wanted. Lightness and brevity were its two major popularizing factors. It appealed to the lovers of literature and criticism. It also appealed to men interested in manners, fashions and recreation. It appealed very well to women also. It covered all accounts of gallantry pleasure like entertainment, poetry, learning, foreign and domestic news. Lastly, the periodical essay became popular due to the chaste style of its contributors: They used simple and everyday language.

The periodical essay began in the year 1709. The first periodical essay appeared in The Tattler on April 12. The contributors of the periodical essay were men of contrasted characters and temperaments. Many writers contributed

occasionally or regularly to periodicals. Prominent writers are Addison, Steele, Swift, Pope, Dr. Johnson and Goldsmith.

Contribution of Addison and Steele Joseph Addison (1672-1791) and Sir Richard Steele (1672-1729):

They were the originators of the periodical essay. *The Tatler* was founded by Steele. *The Spectator* was founded by Steele and Addison. *The Spectator* began on March 1, 1711. It ran till December 20, 1714. 635 essays were published in it. Of these Addison wrote 274 and Steele 240. The remaining 121 were contributed by various friends. The characters of Steele and Addison were curiously contrasted. The purpose of writing of Steele and Addison was ethical. They tried to reform society. The medium of reform was the periodical essay. They wrote to censor the manners and morals of the age. They attacked the frivolities of the female sex. They did this work in a gentle good-humoured manner. They made the people laugh at their own follies. So they could get rid of them. Addison wrote eighteen articles on Paradise Lost. He helped the English readers to have better appreciation of Milton and his book. They presented actual men moving amid red scenes. They were taking part in various incidents. Both Addison and Steele were great masters of prose. Both wrote in a clear, lucid, simple and effective style.

Contribution of Goldsmith:

Oliver Goldsmith (1728-1774) followed Addison. He contributed largely to the *Bee*. He wrote series of essays entitled the Chinese Letters in the Bee. These essays were published in a book form under the title **The Citizens of the World.** The characters of Oliver Goldsmith are remarkable for simplicity, grace and kindly humour. For example the characters of 'Beau Tibbs' and 'Man in Black' are as great classics as Addison and Steele's Sir Roger De Coverley. His comments on English society are simple and shrewd. They reflect the charm of his personality. His humour is all pervading, typical and artless. Thus Goldsmith's periodical essay made him one of the great essayists of England.

Contribution of Swift, Fielding and Dr. Johnson:

Jonathan Swift (1667-1745) was a contemporary of Addison and Steele. He was the great satirist of his age. He was pamphleteer. His **Gulliver's Travels** and **The Tale of Tub** are satires and allegories. His **Journal to**

Stell is an excellent commentary on contemporary characters and political events. Henry Fielding (1707-1754) contributed to a number of periodicals. His essays are slip-shod. They show signs of haste and carelessness. However, when Fielding wanted, he could write very well. His numerous prefaces and critical articles appended to his novels are in the nature of essays. They show his greatness as the essayist. Dr. Samuel Johnson (1709- 1748) wrote essays for **the Rambler**. They appeared twice weekly. Again he wrote in the **Idler** on every Saturday for some period. He also contributed to the **Adventurer** and other periodicals. His essays show all his manly good sense and command of majestic language. But his style is too heavy and ponderous to suit the essay form.

The Reviewers:

In the beginning of the 19th century, the periodical newspaper gave place to the critical journal It was commonly called the Review. It had little concern with social and personal topics. Its main content was literary and other criticism. Even it gave ample space to political criticism. The most important of these reviews were **The Edinburgh Review, the Quarterly Review, Blackwood's Mangazine, the London Magazine and Fraser's Magazine'**. They are of special importance in the history of the essay. They have been pre-eminently the medium of the essay. **The Edingurbh Review** was edited by Francis Jeffre. It was a Whig organ. The Quarterly Review was edited by William Gifford. It was a Tory organ. These periodicals were playing supreme role in the literary world. They attracted the best talent. Southey, Scott and Haztlit, had contributed to these papers significantly.

Macaulay and Carlyle.

While discussing the role played by the reviews, Saintsbury says:

> "Edinburgh and Quarterly Review had literary ability. They were the headquarters of serious discussion on politics, literature, religion, philosophy, and things in general. But, they were no fantastic or fictitious kind of writing.

The Magazine played rather wider role. It was of a miscellany kind.In It, we find every kind of composition, creative, critical informative, entertaining. Christopher Horth, J. G. Luckhard, Thomas de Quincey, Lamb, Coleridge, Thackeray, Carlyle, Leigh Hunt and Hazlitt were the contributors of the

different magazines published at the time.

Charles Lamb (1775-1838) is called the prince of English essayists. He takes the reader into his confidence. He conceals nothing from him. In his **Essay of Elia** (1823) and **Last Essays** he reveals his personality. He talks intimately to the readers about himself. He interpreted with great insight and human sympathy. He crowded human life of joys and sorrows. Thus, Charels Lamb belongs to the category of personal essayists.

William Hazlitt (1778-1830) is one of the best essayists of the 19th century. His essays are autobiographical. His essays are the reflection of his personality outspoken, straightforward and frank. His Miscellaneous Essays are autobiographical. They frankly tell about his temperament, his prejudice, his enthusiasm and his limitations.

Thomas de Quincey (1785-1859) was frankly personal. His best essays are autobiographical in nature. He wrote about himself and his friends, life in general, art, literature, philosophy and religion. His autobiographical sketches Confessions of an English Opium Eater are the most personal.

In short, subjective and objective essays have been written in the modern age. The 20th century proved a fertile ground for the development of the essay. The countless periodicals, journals, magazines and dailies of our times gave scope to the essay. E. V. Lucas, Robert Lynd, G. K. Chesterton, Birrel, A. G. Gardiner, Max Beerbhom, Hilaire Belloc and J. B. Priestly are only a few of the most important essayists of the modern era. The modern essay is personal and chatty. It lays bare the criticism of life. The essayists propagate views on various aspects of life. The style of the modern essayists is simple and dignified.

Unit 3: Genres of Literature

3.1 **Defining Novella**

The novella as a literary genre began to develop during early renaissance. Giovanni Boccaccio authored of ***Decameron***. *It* contains 100 tales. Those are narrated by seven men and three women. It was published in 1353. This form was later practiced by princes of France Marguerite de Navarre. Her ***Heptameron*** contains seventy-two original French tales. The Italian genre novella grew out of a rich tradition of medieval narrative forms. The Italian novella influenced many later writers, including Shakespeare. The novella influenced the development of the short story and the novel throughout Europe. In the late 19th century Henry James was one of the first English language critics. He used the term novella for a story. It was longer and more complex than a short story. But it was shorter than a novel.

A novella is a narrative prose fictional work. The term novella comes from the Italian word 'Novellae.' It means new. It was applied to the much shorter stories found in writings of Boccaccio's Decameron. Novella is a fictional tale in prose. It usually contains a single event or chain of events. There are surprising turning points. Joseph Conrad's *Heart of Darkness*, George Orwell's *Animal farm*, Ernest Hemingway's *Old Man and The Sea*, R.L. Stevenson's *A Strange Case of Mr. Jekill and Dr. Hyde*, John Steinbeck's *Of Mice and Men*, Franz Kafka's *The Metamorphosis*, Albert Camus's *The Srangers*, U.R. Ananthmurthay's *Sanskara* William Golding's *Lord of the Flies* are some of the finest examples of Novella. Henry James and D.H. Laurence also practiced the form of novella.

Characteristics of Novella:

A novella features less conflict than a novel. Yet it is more complicated one than a short story. The conflicts also take more time to develop than in a short story. It may or may not be divided into chapters. White space is often used to divide the sections. It is not common in short story. Novellas are intended to finish reading in a single sitting, like short story. So,, it produces a single effect on the reader. General characteristic of

novella can be given as follow:

1. It is a narrative work of fiction.
2. It is written in prose rather than in metrical form like poetry.
3. It has less conflict, concise and compressed subplots than a full-length novel.
4. It can't be divided into chapters.
5. Generally, it has a length between 60-120 pages.
6. Word count is between 17,500 and 40,000 words.
7. Usually focuses on a single plotline.
8. Mainly focuses on one (or a few) chief character(s).
9. It may be read in one or two sittings.
10. Can be published digitally as well as in print.

3.2. Types of Novella:

Like novels and short stories, novellas can be written in a variety of styles. It based on a range of subject matter or themes. There are very few prominent examples of novellas.

- **Novella**: *Strange Case of Mr. Jekill and Dr. Hyde* by Robert Louis Stevenson is the best example of gothic novella. The Gothic element in the novella is represented through duel personality in a single character. This is revealed to the reader It given by the horrifying transformation of Dr. Jekyll into the atavistic murderer Mr. Hyde. The transformation is brought through the fear of regression. Both men are revealed to be the same person.

- **Science Fiction**: *The Time Machine* by H. G. Wells is the notable example of Science fiction novella. In the novella, Wells applies Darwinian Theory of evolution to man as well as in characters in the fiction. With a scientific perspective, Wells' Time Traveler considers the aspects of evolution. It consequently results in the degeneration of human species.' It's split into two humanoid remnants.

- **Political Satire:** Animal Farm by George Orwell is best example of political allegory. Manor Farm is allegorical of Russia. The farmer Mr. Jones is the Russian Czar. Old Major stands for either Karl Marx or Vladimir Lenin. The pig named Snowball represents the intellectual revolutionary Leon Trotsky. Napoleon stands for Stalin. The dogs are his secret police. It has also focused upon the plights of common man in the search of ideal state at the hands of its leader.

3.2 Introduction to Major Novellas

a. The Old Man and the Sea - Ernest Hemingway.

2. *The Old Man and the Sea*, one of the finest heroic novellas, is written by Ernest Hemingway. He was the American short story writer and novelist. He was the first published in 1952. Hemingway was awarded with the Pulitzer Prize. It was Hemingway's last major work. These are one of the enduring works of American fiction. He was also awarded with the Nobel Prize for Literature in 1954. The Old Man and The Sea is a parable-novella about man's struggle against nature. It is a story of friendship between Santiago and his friend Manolin. Santiago is an old Cuban fisherman. It has gone deep into the sea for eighty-four days. But he couldn't catch a fish. Manolinis is a teenage boy. He is Santiago's friend. He used to go out to sea with Santiago to learn fishing. His parents stopped him to go with Santiago as he was not getting a fish.
    i. On eighty-fifth day, Santiago sets out on a journey far into the sea. He hooks a massive fish named Marlin. It is bigger than his skiff. It is his life's greatest catch of fish. He was unable to pull the fish. The fish began to pull the boat with an old man. Fish pulls the boat for two days and two nights. The fish tires on the third day. Santiago manages to pull the Marlin and kill with harpoon. Marlin's blood spreads into the sea water. Many sharks and other fish attack on Marlin. To bring back the fish to shore, he has to fight with sharks, hunger and fatigue.
    ii. The novel is one of the classics of its generation. The plot of the novel is set in Cuba, Havana. Hemingway's quotes 'Man is not made for defeat. A man can be destroyed but not defeated.' It reflects the themes of courage, pride and determination, power of endurance, success and perseverance. The Sea, Lions, Marlin and the Sharks are the major symbols. They represent different themes of the novella. It is a tragic adventure story. It enjoys near perfection of structure, restraint of treatment, and evocative simplicity of style.

3. Animal Farm by George Orwell

George Orwell is a social critic. The purpose of his writing is to present social problems. George Orwell's Animal Farm is published in 1954. It is a satire on communism and totalitarianism in beast fable form on

revolutionary and post-revolutionary Russia. The animals of Mr. Jones farm assemble in a barn. Old Major, a 12-year boar, describes a dream about a world. All animals live free from the tyranny of their human masters and dies. As Mr. Jones forgets to feed the animals, they plot a rebellion against Mr. Jones. The revolution takes place and Mr. Jones is expelled from the farm. Snowball and Napoleon emerge as leaders. Manor Farm is renamed as Animal Farm. The seven commandments of Animalism were painted on the barn wall. The seven commandments were-

- Whatever goes upon two legs is an enemy.
- Whatever goes upon four legs, or has wings, is a friend.
- No animal shall wear clothes.
- No animal shall sleep in a bed.
- No animal shall drink alcohol.
- No animal shall kill any other animal.
- All animals are equal.

However, the pigs become corrupted by power and a new tyranny replaces the old. They are led by Napoleon. Here, Orwell is attacking the Russian way of ruling over the people. The ultimate commandment runs 'All animal are equal but some animals are more equal than others.' Napoleon changes the name of the farm back to Manor Farm. Napoleon represents Stalin. Snowball represents idealist Trotsky. Old Major makes other animals aware about their rights, represents Karl Marx and Mr. Jones exploits the animals denotes Tsar Nicholas II.

The novelist argues that power corrupts the ruler. Exploitation is possible only where common people are unaware of their rights. When they realize their rights, revolution happens and with great valor the revolutionaries succeed, then starts the conflict between the two forces to rule the state; one of them defeats the other and the victorious enjoys power. Instead of establishing those ideals which propelled the revolution, the new ruler follows the traditional path of enjoying luxurious and later on becomes more corrupt than the former ruler. *Animal Farm* also tells the same story. This is one of the greatest anti-utopian novellas that reflect a portrayal of the Russian Revolution and satire on Soviet Russia and totalitarianism.

4. The Heart of Darkness- Joseph Conrad

Joseph Conrad is a novelist and short story writer. His short novel The Heart of Darkness is the most discussed texts in postcolonial literary studies. It was published in a book form in 1902. The Heart of Darkness tells a story within a story. The story begins with Marlow. He is the

protagonist of the novella. He narrates his experiences. These experiences took place on Congo River in Africa. Marlow's story begins in the city of Europe called 'sepulchral.' The company is an unnamed organization. It is running a colonial enterprise in the Belgian Congo. It appoints him as a captain of the river steamer.

Marlow exposed to the evils of imperialism. He sees the greed of the ivory traders. He also sees the brutal exploitations of the natives. They suffer terribly from overwork and ill treatment at the hands of the Belgium Company's agents. Marlow hears that Mr. Kurtz is very sick and admitted in the very heart of ivory country. He is company's most successful agent. Marlow sets out by steamboat in search of mysterious Mr. Kurtz. While going, his boat was attacked by tribesmen. In it, his friend Helmsman is killed. The other agents hope that he will not recover. They are jealous of Kurtz's success. It becomes clear that Marlow's arrival at the Inner Station is being deliberately delayed.

At the Inner Station Marlow meets to Russian sailor. He tells Marlow about Kurtz's brilliance and the semi-divine power. He exercises over the natives. Hence, Kurtz has become a God-like figure to the natives. He has used his knowledge and his gun to reign over this dark kingdom. At the end, Kurtz dies by uttering his last words: 'The horror! The horror!' Marlow returns with two packages to deliver- first Kurtz's report for the Society for Suppression of Savage Custom and second some letters to his fiancé. When Kurtz's fiancé asks what his words were, Marlow lies that he died with her name on his lips. Marlow's story ends there.

Heart of Darkness is a semiautobiographical novella. Like his protagonist Marlow, Conrad's career as a merchant marine took him to the Congo River. He was profoundly affected by the human depravity. He witnessed it on his boat tour of European colonialism in Africa.

5. Lord of the Flies- William Golding:

William Golding is a British novelist and schoolteacher. He wrote the novel Lord of Flies. It is his first novel published in 1954. It is the most acclaimed and highly influential novel. It deals with a recurrent theme of his fiction. It is the conflict between humanity's innate barbarism and the civilizing influence of reason. It is a story of a group of English schoolboys. An aeroplane carrying them crashes. The pilot of the plain dies. The boys are survived. They are trapped on an uninhabited island. Novel begins on the island. The boys, Ralph, Piggy, Jack and Simon, free from the rules of civilization and society. They attempt to set up a democratically run society under the leadership of Ralph and Piggy. But they fail. The savagery rules under the dictator Jack. Some boys behave peacefully. They work together to maintain order. They achieve common

goals. Others rebel and seek only anarchy and violence.

Ralph proposes that they should build a fire on the mountain. It could signal their presence to any passing ship. But Jack is not concerned over long term issues of survival. Piggy wears glasses with his intelligence. Glasses are used for lighting fire. One day a ship passes nearby but fire was died out. Piggy blames Jack. Jack hits Piggy. One lens of his glass breaks down. Ralph is concerned by Jack's behavior. Hence he reminds boys fire is the most important thing. It has to be built on top of the mountain. At night, a parachute falls down the island. A pilot dies. Next morning, the twins Sam and Eric were kindling the fire. They see the flapping parachute and believe it to be a beast. Jack wants to be chief. So he takes his team to castle rock and be chief there. Hunters kill a pig. Jack smears blood on Maurice's face. They cut off head of beast and leave it on a stake as offering to the beast.

Jack bribes other boys with meat and fun. Piggy, Simon, Sam and Eric joins him except Ralph. Ralph and Jack argue over who will be chief. One day, Simon rushes to tell the boys about dead pilot. The boys think he is the beast and kill him. Ralph and Piggy discuss over Simon's murder. They took part in the murder. They try to justify that it happened out of fear and instinct. Being the chief, Jack tied up a boy and instills fear in the other boys. He warns them about the beast and intruders. Jack wants to steal the fire from other. So, he steals Piggy's glasses at night. Ralph and other boys appeal to Jack as civilized people. But he refuses to listen them. Roger tips a rock on Piggy. He falls down and dies. Jack declares himself as a chief. Boys have become savages. So Ralph runs away. Boys hunt for Ralph. They set forest on the fire in order to smoke him out. But Ralph hides and reaches to the beach. There he finds a naval officer. Officer thinks the boys are playing. He scolds them for not behaving like a responsible, civilized Britishers. Boys prepare to leave. Ralph weeps for the death of Piggy.

Much of the novel is allegorical. The characters and objects in the novel have symbolic significance. It conveys the novel's central themes and ideas. The story of group boys has larger implications. It explores problems and questions universal to the human experience.

6. **Samskara - U. R. Ananthamurthy**

U. R. Ananthamurthy was an Indian writer and critic in Kannada Language. He was awarded by Jnanpith award in 1994. He was also honoured by India's third highest civilian award 'Padma Bhushan' in 1998. He has authored more than a dozen books in Kannada language. Among them five are novels. Most of them have been translated into many Indian and European languages. 'Samskara: A Rite for a Dead Man' is a short novel. It is originally written

in Kannada language. It is published in 1965. The word Samskara has multiple meanings: rituals, rites of Passage, and transformation as well as death rites. This is one of the acknowledged masterpieces of modern literature. It is translated into English by Indian English poet, playwright and translator A. K. Ramanujan. The novella is set in Indian small village of Durvaspura. It tells the story of Naranappa. He belongs to India's upper class Brahmin community. He dies by fever unexpectedly at the beginning of the novel and leaves his community confusion. When he was alive, he leaves his wife for women of lower caste, eats meats and drinks alcohol. He shows disrespect towards Brahmin tradition. His death creates chaos, as the other Brahmins are uncertain how to handle his funeral.

Praneshacharya is a member of Brahmin community. He is highly regarded for his study and deep knowledge about Brahmin tradition. He has been given a task to make a final decision about Naranappa's Final rites. Chandri belongs to the lower class. She is lover of Naranappa. She offers her jewellery to Praneshacharya to get Naranappa proper cremation. Because of class conflict, they reject the death rites for Naranappa. Chandri feels great sadness and she pays to a Muslim fishmonger to steal the body and cremate it.

Samskara is considered as masterpiece of modern world literature. The novel was widely read and revived by critics. It deals with the themes of Class Conflict, Desire of lust, Greed for money, Faith, Devotion, Community and Mortality. Naranappa's corpse, Chandri's jewellery and Hypocrisy are the symbols which persist throughout the novel. It is rich in allegory. It is a powerful tale of caste system in India. It is very much relevant even in the present times.

7. Of Mice and Men- John Steinbeck

John Steinbeck is American writers of the 20th century. He is widely known for his masterpiece of writing, Pulitzer Prize winning novel is The Grapes of Wrath (1939). He won Nobel Prize for literature in 1962. He has been called as 'a giant of American letters'.'

Of Mice and men is a tragic tale of George Milton and Lennie Small. They are two displaced migrants. They are ranch workers. They move from one place to another place in California in search of new job opportunities. They move during the great depression in the United States. The title of the novella is taken from the poem of Scottish poet Robert Burns' 'To Mouse'

Steinbeck saw a parallel between the struggle of the mouse and the struggles of the workers. They are desperate to achieve some measures of material

prosperity. They ultimately fail due to circumstances beyond their control. At the same, he saw the American dream as a futile. It is impossible quest for most farm workers. George Milton and Lennie Small are the only two characters in the novella. They are explained in detail. The novella opens with Childhood friends George and Lennie. They are two migrant workers. They seek work in the agricultural field of California. During the depression, they try to fulfill their dream of a piece of land and a home. George is intelligent man with a dream of saving enough money to buy land. Lennie is physically strong man but unable to understand how to behave with others. He doesn't know his own strength. Dreams, loneliness, alienation, struggle for existence and companionship are the major themes of the novella.

8. The Strange Case of Dr. Jekyll and Mr. Hyde- Robert Louis Stevenson

Robert Louis Stevenson was a Scottish novelist, essayist, short story writer, travel writer and poet. He was a qualified advocate. But he earned his living as a writer. He was chronically afflicted with tuberculosis. He was dabbled with various psychotropic drugs such as alcohol, cannabis and o p i u m.

The Strange Case of Dr. Jekyll and Mr. Hyde is published in 1886. It is a terror-mystery novella. It is an allegory of the good and evil selves in man. It appealed even to people to whom novels were taboo. It was the best seller of the day. It went to the four corners of the earth and made Stevenson's fortune and fame secure.

The Strange Case of Dr. Jekyll and Mr. Hyde is an important gothic detective fiction. It is the prominent example of Victorian fiction. The central theme of the novella is duality along with good and bad, pure and evil, right and wrong, joy and despair. Stevenson presents that no human has capacity to be completely good or completely bad. The novella explores how the magnificent city London becomes darker and mysterious location. The powerful city of London embodied the freedom. Solitude is required for the antagonist of the play. The names Jekyll and Hyde have become synonymous with multiple personality.

Dr. Jekyll is a good man. He is much admired in his profession. Mr. Hyde is evil. He is a murderer. He tramples upon a small girl. She happens to be in his way. The comparison is not merely between good and evil but between evolution and degeneration. The novella is not strange at all. It deals with the everyday plight of ordinary temptations and the familiar effects of the sins they lead to. But though the sins may be familiar, we seldom behold them face-to-

face.

The Strange Case of Dr. Jekyll and Mr. Hyde can be seen at various levels. The story talks about the concept of good and evil. It exists in all of us. At another level, it is a critique on the hypocrisy and double standards of the society. It is also an interesting study into the mind of the author and into the theories of dualism. Finally, it can be seen as a remarkable study into human psychology that presaged the structural theories as detailed by Freud.

9. Notes from Underground- Fyodor Dostoevsky

Fyodor Dostoevsky was a Russian novelist, short story writer, essayist and journalist. He is considered as one of the greatest in the world literature. He explores human conditions in the troubled political, social and spiritual atmosphere. Famous novels like *Crime and Punishmen*, *The Idiot*, *Demons* and *the Brothers Karamazov*, etc are his highly influential masterpieces. His *Notes from Underground* is a novella. It is considered as one of the first works of existentialist literature. It was first published in 1864. This novella is a fictional memoir. It is written by unnamed narrator. He lives as recluse under the streets of St. Petersburg. He describes his life and thoughts in a series of disjointed fragments. It is a profound exploration of existential despair and the contradictions of human nature. The narrator speaks in first person narrative. He describes his own thoughts and feelings. He narrates events that happened sixteen years before in his life.

This novella is structured in two parts. In the first part narrator gives detailed look at mature personality of Underground man. In the second part we get a story from his youth. It is an insight into his psychological background. It explores the themes of alienation; complexities of human nature, artificiality of Russian culture, reason and rationality.

10.The Metamorphosis- Franz Kafka

Franz Kafka was a prolific novelist and short story writer. He was a German language writer. He is considered as one of the major figures of the 20th century. He is best known for his novels like *The Trial, Amerika and The Castle*. He wrote novella **The Metamorphosis** in 1921**.** He was twenty-nine years old that time. The Metamorphosis is an allegorical novella. It is about what happens when its protagonist Gregor Samsa transforms into a bug. It deals with the themes of alienation, anxiety, the power of change, guilt and absurdity of life.