

WHY WE SHOULD READ LITERATURE

by Renée Pierre

It is arguable that reading is the most important thing that we learn how to do. As we currently face difficult times with a global pandemic, it is important for us to remain as optimistic as possible whilst keeping ourselves busy, which can be encouraged by reading literature!

Literature is an everlasting piece of art used to not only entertain readers, but as a way to retain and retell parts of history from a variety of viewpoints. It signifies who we are as people and allows us to understand a writer's emotions and feelings as they take us through a journey of their mind through a first, second, or third-person perspective.

ENTERTAINMENT

There is an ideal genre for everyone out there, and whether your preferences lie in classical literature, poetry, history, coming of age stories, narratives, myth, or romance novels, there is something out there to seize your interests and imagination. It can be beneficial to put your mobile phone away, open a book, and replenish your spirit for a little while!

HISTORY

Literature is an important way for us to delve deep into the past. Every single piece of literature has been written with a purpose and centres around a specific time period in history from when it was written, allowing us to witness events that happened long ago. With one simple read from authors such as Charles Dickens, we can learn about the difficulties faced in Victorian England such as their flawed system of education, the huge gaps in social class, labourers, and the impact of the Industrial Revolution.

AN ESCAPE

Purposely or not, reading literature is a way to avoid our current troubles. We open up a book in our hands and place ourselves into someone else's world, forgetting our lives and reading those of others. A well-written piece of literature can teleport us into different realms and act as a distraction from the present.

PERCY BYSSHE SHELLEY ONCE SAID...

"A man, to be greatly good, must imagine intensely and comprehensively; he must put himself in the place of another and of many others; the pains and pleasures of his species must become his own. The great instrument of moral good is the imagination."