

DEFINITION OF LITERATURE

- ✓ Moody says that the existence of L originates from our inborn love of telling a story, of arranging words in pleasing patterns, of expressing in words some special aspect of our human experience.
L: fictitious, verbal, full of pleasure, about human life
- ✓ Robert Frost: L is a performance in words
- ✓ Dandier & Johnson: L is a verbal art (?)
- ✓ Barnet: L is anything written. This definition is too broad and too narrow as it includes books on math and excludes oral L.
L is a sort of make believe, it has the sense of fiction (?)
- ✓ Eagleton: many works of art are based on facts.
He exemplifies that the 17th century English Lit also includes the essays of Francis Bacon, the sermons of John Donne, and Bunyan's spiritual autobiography.
- ✓ L is something creative or imaginative. History, natural sciences are uncreative & unimaginative (???)
- ✓ L is the expression of beautiful thoughts & ideas in beautiful language. ----- What is beautiful?

- ✓ Horace (in his book *Ars Poetica*): The primary purpose of L is *dulce et utile* or to give profit or delight = to mix pleasure with useful precepts for life.
- ✓ Damono: L is a cultural production which is in a certain society & in a certain era regarded as L

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- ✓ Moody: the existence of L originates from our inborn love of telling a story, of arranging words in pleasing patterns, of expressing in words some special aspect of our human experience. He further says that "the writer of literature is not tied to fact in quite the same way as the historian, the economist, or the scientist".
- ✓ Robert Frost: L is a performance in words
- ✓ Danziger & Johnson: L is a verbal art.
- ✓ Barnet: L is anything written. L is a sort of make believe.
- ✓ Eagleton: many works of art are based on facts.
He exemplifies that the 17th century English Lit also includes the essays of Francis Bacon, the sermons of John Donne, and Bunyan's spiritual autobiography.
- ✓ L is something creative or imaginative. Does it mean that history, natural sciences are uncreative & unimaginative?
- ✓ L is anything written which has the power to move the reader's heart or to stir his/ her emotions.
- ✓ L is the expression of beautiful thoughts & ideas in beautiful language.
- ✓ Horace (in his book *Ars Poetica*): The primary purpose of L is *dulce et utile* or to give profit or delight = to mix pleasure with useful precepts for life.
- ✓ Damono: L is a cultural production which is in a certain society & in a certain era regarded as L.

Questions:

1. What are the specific characteristics of literature according to the definitions of literature mentioned above?
2. Which notion is worth considering according to your own opinion?
Explain your answers.