**Why do we study Literature?**

Watch the video: What is Literature for? <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=4RCFLobfqcw>

**6 Reasons Why Literature Is So Important  
*"Literature Is One Of The Most Interesting And Significant Expressions Of Humanity." -P. T. Barnum***

**1. Expanding horizons**

First and foremost, Literature opens our eyes and makes us see more than just what the front door shows. It helps us realize the wide world outside surrounding us. With this, we begin to learn, ask questions, and build our intuitions and instincts. **We expand our minds.**

**2. Building critical thinking skills**

Many of us learn what critical thinking is in our language arts classes. When we read, we learn to look between the lines. We are taught to find symbols, make connections, find themes, learn about characters. Reading expands these skills, and we begin to look at a sentence with a larger sense of detail and depth and realize the importance of hidden meanings so that we may come to a conclusion.

**3. A leap into the past**

History and Literature are entwined with each other. History is not just about power struggles, wars, names, and dates. It is about people who are products of their time, with their own lives. Today the world is nothing like it was in the 15th century; people have changed largely. Without Literature, we would not know about our past, our families, or previous generations.

**4. Appreciation for other cultures and beliefs**

Reading about history, anthropology, or religious studies provides a method of learning about cultures and beliefs other than our own. It allows you to understand and experience these other systems of living and other worlds. We get a view of the inside looking out, a personal view, and **insight into the minds and reasoning of someone else**. We can learn, understand, and appreciate it.

**5. Better writing skills**

When your eyes read the words in a book and take in its contents, do you ask yourself: How did this person imagine and write this? Well, many of those authors, poets, or playwrights used Literature to expand their writing.

**6. Addressing humanity**

All Literature, whether it be poems, essays, novels, or short stories, helps us address human nature and conditions which affect all people. These may be the need for growth, doubts, and fears of success and failure, the need for friends and family, the goodness of compassion and empathy, trust, or the realization of imperfection. We learn that imperfection is not always bad and that normal can be boring. We learn that life must be lived to the fullest. **We need Literature in order to connect with our own humanity.**

**Discuss:**

1. What comes to your mind when *you* think of Literature?

2. Do you consider reading literature useful? If so, why especially? (have a look at the reasons listed above)

3. Do you have a favourite book/story/poem? Has it taught you anything? If so, what?

4. Have you ever written a creative story or poem? Has writing it taught you anything? If so, what?