

# Literature

“pieces of writing that are valued as works of art, especially novels, plays and poems (in contrast to technical books and newspapers, magazines, etc.)”

Wehmeier, Sally et al., eds. *Oxford Advanced Learner's Dictionary of Current English*, 7<sup>th</sup> ed. Oxford: Oxford University Press, 2005, 898.

“written material such as poetry, novels, essays, etc., esp. works of imagination characterized by excellence of style and expression and by themes of general or enduring interest.”

Sinclair, J.M. et al., eds. *Collins English Dictionary*, 3<sup>rd</sup> ed. Glasgow: HarperCollins Publishers, 1995, 909.

“A vague term which usually denotes works which belong to major genres: epic, drama, lyric, novel, short story, ode. If we describe something as ‘literature’, as opposed to anything else, the term carries with it qualitative connotations which imply that the work in question has superior qualities; that is well above the ordinary run of written works. For example: ‘George Eliot’s novels are literature, whereas Fleming’s Bond books are unquestionably not.’”

Cuddon, J.A. *The Penguin Dictionary of Literary Terms and Literary Theory*, 3<sup>rd</sup> ed. London: Penguin Books, 1991, 505-6.

A classic is a classic not because it conforms to certain structural rules, or fits certain definitions (of which its author had quite probably never heard). It is classic because of a certain eternal and irrepressible freshness.

Wharton, Edith (1862-1937)

Literature is “some work in which the greatest powers of the mind are displayed, in which the most thorough knowledge of human nature, the happiest delineation of its varieties, the liveliest effusions of wit and humour are conveyed to the world in the best chosen language.”

Austen, Jane. *Northanger Abbey*. London: Penguin Books, 2003, 36-7.