

Middletown Thrall Library's Reference Department Presents

REDISCOVERING LITERATURE

Art, beauty, truth, the love of language, to hear unforgettable eloquence, witness awe-inspiring visions, to feel passion, experience purpose, to be inspired and awakened to new realities, to be delighted, surprised, to embark on incredible odysseys, to accompany heroes on epic quests, to dare to imagine and wonder "what if..."

These are a few of the many reasons we read and celebrate the exceptional quality of writing known as literature.

Literature represents much of the very best of humanity's writings, and it is not by any accident that, after bestsellers and sensationalized books have faded from memory, literature continues to thrive and remain intensely relevant to contemporary human conditions.

Literature's stories and texts survive the fires of time.

This is why for decades and centuries - long after their authors have gone silent - the writings of Dante, Shakespeare, and Austen, among so many other vital voices, will continue to captivate readers and comment upon life.

Literature has innumerable qualities and purposes and can open doors to unique situations and worlds which are never wholly removed from our own.

Literature introduces us to memorable characters who often have something in common with us or people we know, and those portraits and portrayals can speak directly to the many questions and challenges we individually or collectively face today.

Through literature we can discover new meanings, locate and begin to cross bridges between seemingly distant or dissimilar persons, places, things, and thoughts.

Literature remains relevant and essential because it relates as it conveys and carries us beyond ourselves and our world - metaphorically and literally - so that we might experience fresh perspectives, receive challenges to our knowledge and sensibilities, reach new understandings, perhaps even attain wisdom, through such things as poetry, plays, novels, short stories, memoirs, and all the other literary forms.

Through literature we have such amazing opportunities to rediscover ourselves, our world, a universe of thought, feeling, and insights waiting to be revealed anew to - and through each of us - and all because of a few well-chosen words which can speak volumes and clearly across languages, cultures, entire generations, and well beyond most boundaries.

In reading and interpreting literature we help to keep it alive, thriving, pertinent, personally interpretive and interesting. In doing this, we renew its promise, participating in it, influencing it in small or major ways, and ultimately help to preserve it for those readers yet to follow and recommence this most incredible journey of endless perceptions and revelations.

Middletown Thrall Library cordially invites you to begin or continue your personal journey into literature at the library or through our online guide:

www.thrall.org/literature