

Storytelling: Short Stories, Novels, Movies, and Television

WHY READ STORIES? WHY WATCH MOVIES?

Why storytelling is so important:

- It teaches us about being human:
 - Relationships
 - Empathy, Sympathy, Compassion
 - Actions and consequences
 - Coping with emotions
 - Nurturing needs and setting goals for wants
 - Success and failure
 - Leadership
 - The rise of the underdog

Why storytelling is so important:

- Stories being told are meant to be relatable so that we feel less alone. Stories teach us that we are much more alike than we are different.
- It shows us to see from other perspectives than our own:
 - How people fall in or out of love
 - How people deal with loss, and death
 - How people cope with all aspects of life
- Stories are meant to evoke feelings:
 - That will inspire
 - That will make us happy, or sad
 - That will surprise us, make us angry...

Themes were not invented; they were taken from human experiences.

Love	Hate	Revenge	Success	Failure	Friendship	Death
Peace	War	Mental Illness	Physical illness	Loss	Relationships	Greed
Joy	Bravery	Leadership	Goals	Karma	Good vs. Evil	Divinity
Beliefs	Philosophy	Honesty	Cowardice	Family	Survival	Rejection
Acceptance	Regret	Redemption	Helping	Selfishness	Selflessness	Hope
Deception	Growth	Understanding	Helplessness	Confidence	Power	Strength
Weakness	Vulnerability	Responsibility	Accountability	Loyalty	Discrimination	Prejudice

Entertainment:

Reading stories or watching them are also about entertaining its audience. All stories are looking to make people feel and react.

Genre (category)	Intended reaction (Audiences' expectations)
Comedy	laughter
Horror	challenging fears: fright + physical reactions: goosebumps, edge of your seat, surprising elements + mental reactions: predictions, paranoia, nightmares
Mystery	Inciting predictions and own resolutions, intrigue, provoking interest
Science Fiction	tapping into futuristic imagination – looking into theories and possibilities
Fantasy	opens the imagination to wonderful ideas, providing an escape from reality
Fiction (made-up stories based on reality)	relatability, understanding of human behaviour

Purposes

Literature	Film
Hobby	Outing - theatre
Exit from own reality	Exit from own reality
Social Aspect: Book Clubs, Discussions	Social Aspect: Watching with friends and family
Brain development	Appreciation for interpretation
Fuels imagination and inspiration	Fuels inspiration
Development of own interpretation	Visual Art
Incites anticipation of certain outcomes	Incites anticipation for certain outcomes
Based on real life	Based on literature
Builds critical thinking	Builds critical thinking
Life Lessons	Life Lessons
Informs on historical and mainstream references	Informs on historical and mainstream references