Introduction To English Literature Stage :First Lecture 4



Instructor :Dr. Mugdad

Guide to Literary Study

By by Leon T. DICKINSON

Part one

The Nature of Literary Study

4. The Literary Work in Relation to Other Literature .

It can be said that in order to understand the literary work may be deepened by seeing its place in literary history, by discovering its relation to other works written at the same time or in the same period, or by comparing it to other works of the same genre. Literary works are influenced by earlier works and in turn influence later works; they reflect literary fascinations. Literary history is a chronicle of literary events which seeks to show not only what happened but why it happened .For instance, the history of English literature, of American literature, for example- we have histories of particular periods (the Romantic period), of particular kinds at certain periods (the development of Elizabethan drama. A second way in which literary works are studied in relation to one another is by considering together the writings of a particular period- the early eighteenth century, the Romantic period, the decade in America following the First World war .A third way to study works in relation to one another is to bring into comparison works of a similar genre(poems of similar types, short stories, plays.