

My Favourite Author

or

My Favourite Writer

Essay No. 01

Books are great sources of knowledge for man. I am a lover of books. I spend most of my spare time reading. I like to read books on all branches of literature. But I love to read novels most of all. It helps me to learn new words and also help me to gain knowledge regarding the field of literature.

I began to read the novel at a very young age. I have read the novels written by R.K. Narayan, Mulkh Raj Anand, Khushwant Singh, Mrs. Nayantra Sehgal and Raja Rao. After reading books written by Indian writers in English, I have also read different English Novelists like Henry Fielding, Oliver Goldsmith, Jane Austen, Charles Dickens, Hardy and Somerset Maugham. I have also read a few American authors.

I have found these writers interesting in their own way. It is difficult for me to point out the merits and demerits of these writers. But I must say that Thomas Hardy is the writer whom I like most. My youthful mind has turned again and again to the novels of Hardy.

I started liking Thomas Hardy after reading his 'Tess'. I was all praise for the beautiful and innocent Tess who went through the difficulties of life in a heroic manner. After Tess, I read the 'Return of the Native'. This was followed by "Far from the Madding Crowd". 'The Mayor of Caster bridge' and 'Judge the Obscure'.

Hardy impressed me much. He has given me unforgettable characters. I felt interested in Hardy because of man's love for woman and woman's live for man. I also learnt from Hardy's novel that happiness in human life is very rare. I also learnt that man is a tool in the hands of fate. There is some unseen owner which is always working to destroy human happiness.

Nature also plays a very important role in the novels of Hardy. There is no divine spirit in the objects of nature. His description of landscapes is very beautiful. His rustic characters provide some fun to the reader. On the whole, Hardy gives the impression of a great novelist.

My Favourite Author: Rabindranath Tagore

I have read many books by different authors. But I like Shakespeare and John Bernard Shaw among English authors. 'Dinkar', Nirala and Tagore are my favourites among Indian authors. But I like Rabindranath Tagore most. He is one of the greatest poets in the world.

Rabindranath Tagore belongs to a very respectable family of Bengal. He was born on 7th May 1861 at Jorsanko in Calcutta. His father's name was Shri Devendranath Tagore. Rabindranath Tagore received elementary education at two schools of Calcutta. They were the oriental seminary and Calcutta Normal. Tagore sailed for England in 1871 for higher education. He joined the university college of London.

Tagore's family life was very sad. He was married in 1888. But his wife died in 1902. His second daughter died in 1904. Again his father passed away in 1907. These sad events in life made Tagore more and more religious.

Rabindranath was a great writer. He was the editor of several magazines. Tagore's Gitanjali is one of his best books. Some English poets like W. B. Yeats and Stopford Brook praised Tagore's Gitanjali. The poems combine the tender humanity with a deep religious touch. And the Nobel Prize was awarded to him by the Swedish Academy. Balka and Purabi are his great works. One of his greatest poetical dramas is Chitrangada. He also wrote some beautiful short stories.

Rabindranath was a great lover of India. He raised his voice against the Britishers. He fought the war for freedom through his writings. Tagore was a great educationist also. He founded the Vishwabharti in 1901. He wanted to make India home of culture and education. It has become of the famous university in the world.

But this great son of India died on 7th August 1941. Tagore is my favourite author. He was a writer, educationist, social reformer and patriot—all combined in one.

Rabindranath was a seer. He was born to rule the hearts of men and lead them from darkness to light, from ignorance to knowledge. His message had a universal appeal. He has taught us to love nature in the most intimate moods to be in the communion which has enriched the literature that he has given us. He brought nature and man most closely together. He preferred the modern ideas of freedom in education and contact with nature. No one in any quarter of the globe was there to whom freedom meant more in instruction in intimate contact with nature. He radiated his message to strive for freedom of speech and expression Rabindranath

too not only loved India with devotion but he was proud of her physical beauties. He said about his motherland "My country that is forever India, the country of my fathers the country of my children, my country has given me life and strength. I shall be born in India again. With all her poverty, misery and wretchedness, I love India best." He believed that mere patriotism was not enough. He inspired his countrymen that patriotism should be from the taint of narrow parochialism. We should place our love for mankind above all local attachments. He taught us to find the beauty of human relationship here and now, in the daily life of common people, Nationalism must lead to Internationalism. Man must love man wherever he is. It is with this ideal which he preached tirelessly. He founded Vishwa Bharti and made it the centre of international studies. The ideal of Vishwabharti is "Where the whole world becomes a nest."

Above all, was Rabindranath's love for children. He used to lose himself in joy when he taught little children. He was indeed a Gurudev, a great teacher on this earth. To more than a generation of Indians, he stands in the position of a great teacher who taught them to learn a beautiful language to the finer shades of poetic art. He opened up to us beauties of nature in a way that no one else did before. He has taught us. He depicted the infinite varieties of life for us and taught us to laugh and weep at them. He has given a philosophy of life that is sublime. He tried to raise the stature of self-respect in generation through inspiration. The one poem which inspires me is:

Where the mind is without tear and head is held high;

Where knowledge is free

Where the world has not been broken up into fragments by narrow domestic walls;

Where words come out from the depths of truth;

Where tireless striving stretches its arms towards perfection:

Where the clear stream of reason has not lost its way into the dreary desert sand of dead habit;

Where the mind is led forward by into ever-widening thought and action into that heaven of freedom, My Father, let my country awake.

Essay No. 03

My Favorite Author

Reading is slowly becoming a lost art. There are very few people left in this world who read books, and there are fewer still who read a book in order to know the author.

People who read books do so for different reasons. Some read books just to boast about them later. Others read them because books are a part of their academic course. While still others read books because they have to pass time. I feel proud to admit that I am one of those rare people who read books because they are fascinated by the person who has written them.

During the course of my reading books, I have come across many authors. Some like Homer or Dante or Rabindranath have stood the test of time and have remained favourites of people of all ages. Others like Alistair Maclean, Leon Uris, etc. have been favourites of only a particular section of the English speaking people. However, all those who are fond of tragedies in Hindi and English kinds of literature will definitely vouch for Munshi Prem Chand and Thomas Hardy.

I would like to discuss here the merits of Thomas Hardy. He is known for his delicacy, and beauty of language, which have made even the harshest realities of life readable. Unlike the other European writers especially the French, he has never used the coarse and harsh language in order to project the truth of everyday living. Nor are his novels full of expressions about the baser instincts of mankind, which had been the main contents of the novels of those years. Hardy has used his experiences in life to portray the feelings and ordeals of his characters. It is therefore not surprising that the novels of Hardy appear so true to life.

His understanding of the rural character has always stood him in good stead. His characters are so real to life that it is often difficult to think that they are a creation of his imagination. Life according to Hardy is a struggle of the individual human will power against the powers that rule the world. Hence the unparalleled description of tragedies of human life.

Women for Hardy were creatures who were easily swayed by love and other finer emotions of life. Therefore none of his women characters has ever been depicted as strong. She is very unlike men-folk. Lastly, nature is always at its best in Hardy's writing. Be it then, floods, famine or a time of bumper harvests. Such is his artistic expression that description and sequence of events almost flow as one in his novels.

Such is the greatness of Hardy.