

CHAPTER : WHY THE NOVEL MATTERS

Questions

Understanding the text

1. How does the novel reflect the wholeness of a life?
2. Why does the author consider the novels superior to philosophy, science and even poetry?
3. What does the author mean by 'Tremulation on ether' and the novel as a Tremulation?
4. What are the arguments presented in the essay against the denial of the body by spiritual thinkers?

Talking about the text

1. The interest in a novel springs from the reaction of characters to circumstances. It is more important for characters to be true to themselves (integrity) than to what is expected of them (consistency) (A foolish consistency is the hobgoblin of little Minds – Emerson).
2. 'The novel is the one bright book of life'. 'Books are not life'. Discuss the distinction between the two statements. Recall Ruskin's definition of 'What is a good book' in woven words class XI.

Appreciation

1. Certain catch phrases are recurrently used as pegs to hang the author thoughts throughout the essay. List these and discuss how they serve to achieve the argumentative force of the essay.
2. the language of argument is intense and succeeds in convincing The Reader through rhetorical devices identify the devices used by the author to achieve this force.

Answer

Understanding the text

1. According to the author, the novel reflects the wholeness of human beings' life by helping humans to get an insight about their life. The novels are encompassed by the characters. Characters are the soul players in a novel just like a human being in reality. As, In the novel, the characters always just not stick to only one trait being bad or being good but they constantly evolve. On the basis of their characters, the novel is alive completely. The novel allows its reader to have a proper understanding of every character in detail not by just showing one side not the other. It doesn't show what is absolutely wrong or right but it shows all good deeds and flaws of the characters because what is right today has the chances to be wrong tomorrow. It helps the human to know whether they are just walking the corpses or are alive in a true manner.
2. According to the author, the novel is the bright and true book of life. Philosophy, poetry, or science fiction are just a piece of life, not the whole life. They are just tremulation on the part of either. On the other hand, the novel provides wholeness of life. It helps the human to know whether they are just walking the corpses or are alive In a true manner. Thus, make the whole human alive tremble. Other books like poetry, philosophy, and science fiction concentrate on soul, mind, or the anatomical part but the novel reflects the whole life. The novel affects the whole life of a man and makes it alive rather than just nurture growth in one direction.

3. The author means by 'tremulation on ether' to most of the books like philosophy, science-fiction, or poetry to just the pieces of life because these are like news or messages which man can read or listen. These do not affect the whole human alive. They just feel pity or happy about reading or listening to it for some time. But they can't identify or relate themselves with it. On the other hand, novels provide the wholeness of life. The novel as a tremulations reflect the whole life. It provides a multi-dimensional view of the character without marking the absolute right or absolute wrong. It doesn't show only one side of the character but all the good deeds and flaws of them that definitely helps the reader to comprehend what is right or wrong for them that must be avoided. Man can grow well by molding decisions of the important moments of his life as the novel helps to get an instinct about life. It helps man and woman to have an insight of the full play of life without actually having the experience.
4. Lawrence says that the body is just like vessels containing the soul or spirit in it. People are just limited to the body who overlook the significance of the body because one day the body will be discarded just like an empty bottle of wine. Life is most significant and being alive is the most amazing thing. For the philosopher, only thoughts of the mind-matter but that are themselves actually dead. Same with the Saints as they treat their body as a thing which is meant to be a sacrifice. But these are just the pieces of life as they act as messages or news that isn't alive and are just meant to be read and listen as

tremulation on the ether. Novels are the tremulation which help human to get an instinct about life.

Talking about the text

1. Characters are the backbone of any novel. All the things that novel comprises of the like storyline, events, or plot all revolve around the characters. So, It is very important for the characters to be themselves in a true sense i.e to maintain their integrity instead of being consistent. If the characters remain consistent or aren't justifying their integrity then they are considered as flat characters and will lose their luster. In any novel, one can see two characters i.e flat and round characters. Flat characters are the characters that do not change over time or are not affected by the changes happening around i.e being consistent throughout the plot. If by just sticking on 'what should be done' instead of justifying the character trait in a true manner and the novel will remain just a straight line. On the other hand, Round characters are the characters that not always stick to being bad or good. They keep on changing and developing themselves that keeps the reader to stay tuned with the novel throughout and helps them to comprehend and appreciate the motive of the storyline.
2. Author mentioned that 'The novel is a bright book of life'. By saying that he means that novel provides man the wholeness of life. It helps the human to get an instinct about life. The novel portrays the insight of life play through the story and events that help one to understand and learn the real aspects of life.

One can mold his/her important decisions of life and understand what needs to be done or avoided without actually experience them. But the author also posts a reminder that it is not a life on real bases, it is just the real-life portraying of the events. It is just meant to guide the important aspects of the life. This line of the author took us in a flashback to what Ruskin had said in 'What is a good book?'. The Ruskin bond meant by saying this the good book is underlying with some deep meaning in between the line that a good author wants to say that is necessary and crucial for the reader to read in order to understand the meaning of the lines.

Appreciation

1. Some of the catchphrases are:
 - a) **Body:** The author explains that the body is important by saying that paradise is present at every part of the body, not just the soul or mind that spiritual thinkers mumble. Furthermore, he also explained that everyone's man-alive ends with the body. So, the body is the ultimate phase of being in a learning mode.
 - b) **Spirit:** According to the author the body is a vessel that contains the spirit, mind, and soul. And after a person dies it is just discarded like an empty wine bottle. So, the body is important but the spirit is a misconception or unrealistic. Spirit is the unreal part which is enough for a man if he trusts it to get him into ambiguity. It make a person make assumptions and imagination that have no relation to the real world.

- c) **Man alive:** Opposite to spirit which is a misleading concept. Being alive is a realistic concept. Anything good or bad only happens when a man is alive.
- d) **Tremulation:** Tremulations are the talks that saints do by saying that body is a thing which is meant for sacrifices and philosophers on man-alive, paradise, nirvana, or after-life are just the thoughts of their mind that they think may influence for a change but are themselves actually dead.
- e) **Change:** The only constant.

2. Here, is the list of rhetorical devices used to intensify the language of argument.

- **Allusion:** The mention of the Bible a great and true novel that brings brightness to live.

- **Amplification:** Catchphrases that are kept on using in a repeating manner like body, spirit, man-alive, and tremulation.

- **Metonymy:** By saying that books 'The novel is the one bright book of life'.