Class : 11th

Subject : English

Chapter : 6(Essays)

Chapter Name : The Story

Q1 What do you understand of the three voices in response to the question ‘What does a novel do’?

Answer. In response to the question of ‘What does a novel do’, the first person gives a quick reply without giving a deep thought about it and looks at a novel as leisure, not as literature. The second response is aggressive and considers it inferior because it tells a story even though he enjoys it. The third response is mixed with regret and sadness because he knows the narration is made through a low level.

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Q2 What would you say are ‘the finer growths’ that the story supports in a novel?

Answer. ‘The Finer Growth” of the novel is the minute details that are added in the story to give a new dimension to it. The author introduces a subplot or a character to make it different from the rest and add a twist.

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Q3 How does Forster trace the human interest in the story to primitive times?

Answer. Forster believed story-telling was an old thing and is dated back to the Neolithic or maybe even Paleolithic Age. He is of the opinion that one judge from the skull of the Neanderthal that it heard stories. He believes that it was just an idle time and way to relax for

the early humans who came back after hunting. Only the suspense of the story held them after which they were so disinterested that they may have even killed a human being.

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Q4 Discuss the importance of time in the narration of a story.

Answer. Time is the most important thing in the story. The narration revolves around time, no story can be written without including time. Novels need a temporal balance in order to narrate chronologically what happened first and then the next.

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Q1 How does Forster use the analogy of Scheherazade to establish his point?

Answer. Forster takes the example of Scheherazade who married a king who executed all his wives after the first night. So Scheherazade told him a story every night and left at a point of suspense and hence the king didn't have her executed because he wanted to know what happened next. Forster says that this element of suspense is the only attraction of a story that keeps the reader or listener hooked to it.

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Q2 Taking off from Forster's references to Emily Bronte, Sterne and Proust, discuss the treatment of time in some of the novels you have read.

Answer. Over time, novels have creatively used the aspects of time. Most of the novels like To Kill a Mockingbird, The Alchemist, Pride, and Prejudice, etc. follow a chronological pattern, revealing the truth in time. However, some novels narrate the story going back and forth in time and thereby becoming a thriller. The elements of flashbacks are used at times. Some genres like dystopian novels are used in The Road in Cormac Mc Carthy that is totally narrated in plain tone but the end keeps hooked to the story.

Page : 187 , Block Name : Appreciation

Q1 What does a novel do?

Answer. Novel is fictional way of displaying different situations. Numerous genres of novels have emerged like historical, mystery, romance, fantasy, mythology, drama etc. However, when

E. M. Forster was writing the essay, the genres of novels were much limited. Different genres depict different plot.

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Q2 ‘Our daily life reflects a double allegiance to ‘the life in time’ and ‘the life by values’.

Answer. ‘The life in time’ refers to following a particular work routine. ‘The life by values’ means interest and values. Everyone has both of these lives even though the life by values is many times more important.

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Q3 The description of novels as organisms.

Answer. Novels are described as an organism because it grows on every page. It develops on the characters, the plot, the events, and the dialogues etc. paying attention to small details. Like an organism, it has various feelings and mood.

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Q1 ‘Qua story’: what does the word mean? Find other expressions using the word qua.

Answer. ‘Qua’ means ‘in the capacity of’ so, ‘qua story’ means ‘in the capacity of being a story’. Qua can also be used as a preposition meaning ‘as’ for example, the woman qua run the family.

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Q2 Study the Note to Aspects of the Novel given at the end. Discuss the features that mark the piece as a talk as distinguished from a critical essay.

Answer. The piece can be distinguished as talk by words like ‘I’, ‘You, ‘so to speak’, ‘only to imagine’ etc. which displease a reader. But these words, although informal talkative, provide effective pauses and improves expression in the sentences.

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Q3 Try rewriting the lecture as a formal essay and examine Forster's statement: '…since the novel is itself often colloquial, it may possibly withhold some of its secrets from the graver and grander streams of criticism'.

Answer. Forster's statement, 'since the novel is itself often colloquial, it may possibly withhold some of its secrets from the graver and grander streams of criticism' talks about how novel deals with the colloquial aspects of life and is written in a colloquial language so that it becomes available to people of different strata too.

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