

Reading Part 1

Read the text and the statements. Some of these statements are true according to the text; some of them are false. Choose the correct answer True (T) or False (F) for each statement.

What is the object and method of art, and what is the source of its power? No form of art can compete with reality. Man's one method of artistic creation, is to half-shut his eyes against the dazzle and confusion of reality. Like arithmetic, the arts avert their eyes from the gross, chaotic, nature of real life, and instead regard the world from a certain viewpoint and through abstraction.

Literature, above all in the form of narrative, flees the direct challenge and pursues instead an independent and creative aim. So far as it imitates at all, it imitates not life but speech; not the facts of human destiny, but the emphasis and the suppressions with which the human actor tells of them. The real art that dealt with life directly was that of the earliest men, who told their stories round the campfire. Our literary art is of necessity occupied not so much in making stories true as in making them typical.

For the welter of impressions, all forcible but all differentiated, which life presents, it substitutes a certain artificial series of impressions, all aiming at the same effect, all chiming together like notes in music, or like the graduated shades of colour in a good picture. From all its chapters, pages and sentences, the well-written novel echoes and re-echoes its one creative and controlling thought.

Life is monstrous, infinite, illogical and abrupt; an ideal novel, in comparison, is neat, finite, rational and flowing. Life imposes by brute energy, like inarticulate thunder; art catches the ear like a melody artificially made by a discreet musician. A proposition of geometry does not compete with life; and this is an illuminating parallel for a work of art. Both are reasonable, both untrue to the crude fact. The novel as a work of art exists, not by its resemblances to life, which are material, in the way that a shoe must consist of leather, but by its immeasurable difference from life, a difference which is designed and significant, and is both the method and the meaning of the work.

1. The author states that direct speech is the most important aspect of a novel.
2. The writer mentions primitive storytelling as a contrast to modern literature.
3. Novels, according to the author, should include descriptions of colours and sounds.
4. A novelist, the writer believes, should impose a pattern on his material.
5. The author mentions geometry to show the great difference between the sciences and the arts.
