

J. M. J.
OUR LADY OF VICTORY SCHOOL
10th GRADE LITERATURE

LITERATURE

10

Grade Ten

- BY WHAT AUTHORITY – Robert Hugh Benson
- THE BALLAD OF THE WHITE HORSE – by G. K. Chesterton
- THE RED BADGE OF COURAGE – by Stephen Crane
- THE LANCES OF LYNWOOD – by Charlotte M. Yonge

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AIDS TO UNDERSTANDING LITERATURE

LITERARY ELEMENTS

Literature can generally be described in terms of the four traditional literary elements: **character, plot, setting, and theme**. You will come to see that novels (historical fiction) are generally richer in these elements than biographies are, the latter relying predominantly on actual events from the life of the individual, and being limited to factual accounts. The historical fiction, on the other hand, can be manipulated and embellished to create a more suspenseful story line, with dialogue contrived to construct and lead characters. This is not to say that biographies are less exciting, simply that they are written differently from novels.

Every author uses these four elements in developing the entire story, with the **plot** defined in literary circles as “the causal sequence of action,” or the series of inter-related causes and effects (results). More simply, the plot is the main story-line, with all the little ups and downs along the way toward a main climax and ultimate ending of the story. If graphed, it would look like a jagged, upward sloping line (defining the “conflict” or “suspense” of the novel), which drops off dramatically with the climax. As the line drops off, we have what is referred to as the “resolution” of the conflict, which is generally the ending.

One of the ways an author varies the suspense of a novel is by introducing various kinds of **characters**. Authors can choose from type (stereotypical) characters, or individual characters, with the latter being superior, generally speaking, for a more suspenseful novel. Additionally, characters can be either static (un-changing) or developing, as well as parallel or contrasting. (In the parable of the Prodigal Son, for instance, the Father is static, while the returning son is a developing character. For an example of contrasting characters, we can see the parable of the Pharisee and the Publican.) There are both main and secondary characters, with recognizable traits.

Many people think that a story’s **setting** is nothing more than its geographic location and perhaps the era in which it takes place. In actuality, setting is that essential aspect of a story which includes place, time, and circumstances. But it is still more than that. A good author such as Charles Dickens can re-create with his words, not just the appearance of people and things of the time period, but their speech and mindset, as well. Such an author can transport the reader across time and space.

The **theme** of a story is its main point. What is the author trying to say? Is there a lesson in the story? What is the common thread which runs through the story?

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BOOK REPORT OUTLINE AND GUIDE

Most people read books because someone has recommended them. Try to write your book report in such a manner that it will arouse interest in that book. Tell just enough to give others a desire to read the same book. Do not tell so much that you “take the edge off” the story.

Here are some points to remember in writing a good book review:

1. Name the title, author, illustrator, publisher
2. Tell where the story takes place
3. Tell a little about the main characters in the story
4. Skeleton of the story
5. Classify the book (mystery, historical, biography, autobiography, etc.)
6. Evaluation of the book

Paragraph 1 – Introduce your book.

Give the following in one or more sentences:

1. Title of the book
2. Author’ (or editor’s) full name
3. Publisher and year of copyright
4. Number of pages

Paragraph 2 – Tell the gist of the story.

Give the following in at least five sentences:

1. The setting (country, place)
2. The time (when, such as the century, etc.)
3. The kind of story (adventure, biography, mystery, family life, etc.)
4. The characters (perhaps more than one sentence)
5. The summary of the plot (no details, only a sentence or two)

Paragraph 3 – Evaluate the book.

Give the following in at least four sentences:

1. Why it was or was not well-written
2. Why it was or was not true-to-life
3. Why you liked or did not like it (Consider elements of humor, suspense, description, etc.)
4. Your rating of the book (Explain your choice of “excellent”, “good”, “fair”, “poor”, etc.)

Paragraph 4 – Tell the memory that lingers.

Give the following in at least two sentences:

1. What ideas about life and the world did you gain from reading the book?
 2. What suggestion did the book give you to help you in your own life experience?
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Assignments: Weeks 1 and 2

Student's Name _____

By What Authority, by Robert Hugh Benson

Answer questions, and in a separate notebook, make notes of main characters and how they are involved in the story. Also, make special note of main events, settings, plot changes and theme and how the author uses these elements to keep the interest of the reader. These notes will be of great help when writing your book report which is due in week nineteen.

Week 1 – **Read Part I, Chapters I, II, III and IV, pp. 1-50, *By What Authority*.**

1. What is the setting of the story?
2. What were some of the characteristics of Sir Nicholas and his family?
3. What were some of the characteristics of the Norris family?
4. Explain the difference between Isabel's and Anthony's lives. How serious was their religion to them and how did it make them different?
5. While in London, what did Isabel realize about her faith?
6. Who was the Queen of England at the time? What did Anthony feel she represented?
7. Does Hubert's faith seem as important or vital to him as Isabel's is to her?
8. Was Isabel shocked by Mary Corbet? Did she approve of her?
9. What did Mary Corbet like about Isabel?

Time _____ **Send graded paper to school.** Grade _____

Week 2 – **Read Part I, Chapters V, VI and VII, pp. 51-89, *By What Authority*.**

1. What did the Bull of the Holy Father consist of?
2. What was happening in different countries because of the Bull of the Holy Father?
3. What was Mr. Dent realizing about the new religion and the old?
4. How does Msgr. Benson try to portray the confusion of Mr. Dent when the magistrates are planning to raid the Maxwell home? How does his style in writing change?

Time _____ **Send grade to school.** Grade _____

For use by OLVS tutor only: Literature - Week 1 ____ Week 2____