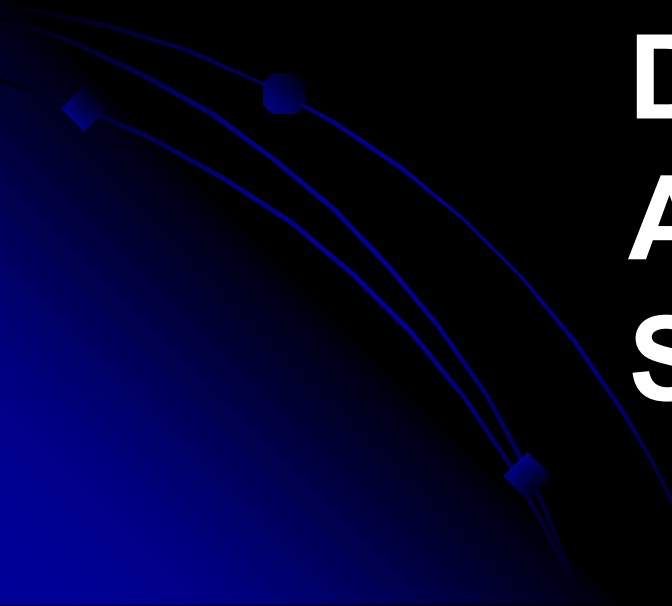
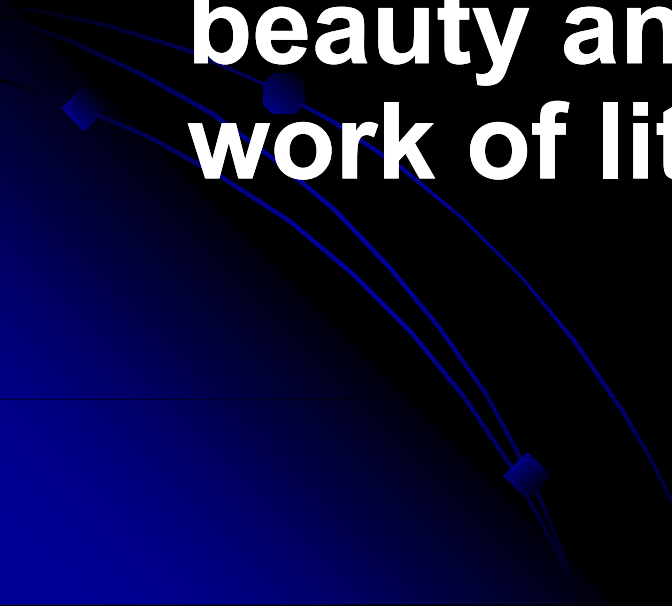


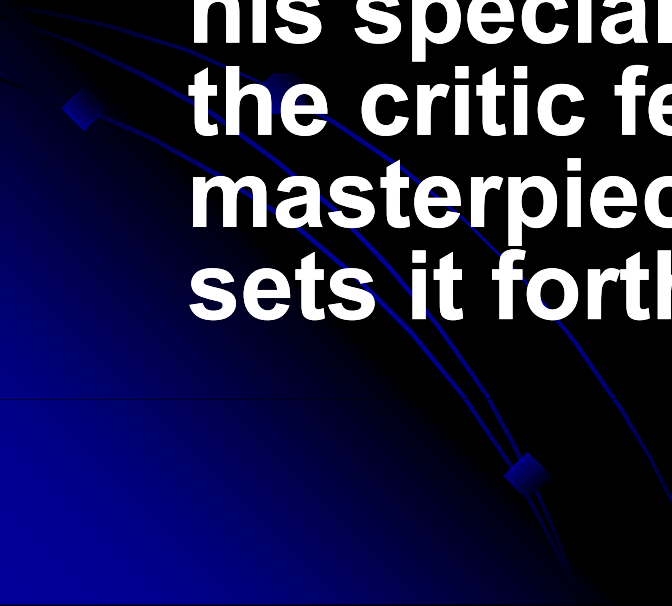
Literary Theory and Criticism



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Literary Criticism

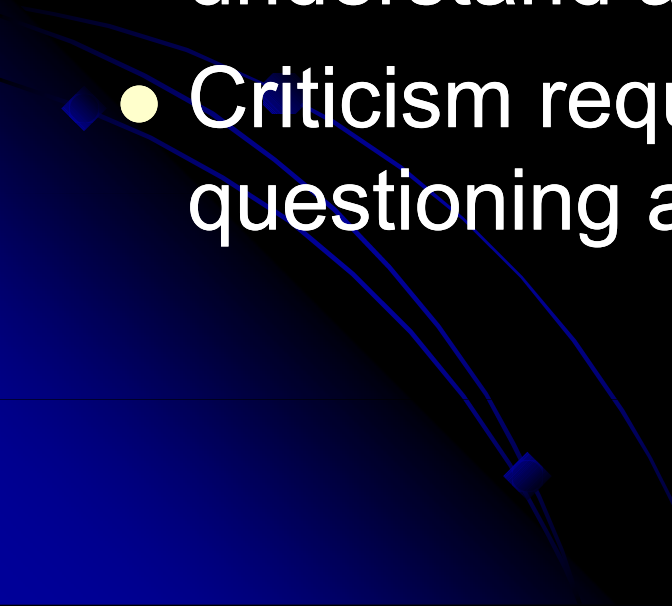
- **Criticism is a kind of bridge between the author and the reader. It brings home to the reader the outer and inner beauty and significance of a work of literature.**
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- **Walter Pater says, “ Criticism is the art of interpreting art. It serves as an intermediary between the author and the reader by explaining the one to the other. By his special aptitude and training, the critic feels the virtue of a masterpiece, disengages it and sets it forth.**
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Literature: 1. Haphazardly as a layman.

2. methodically as a trained man.

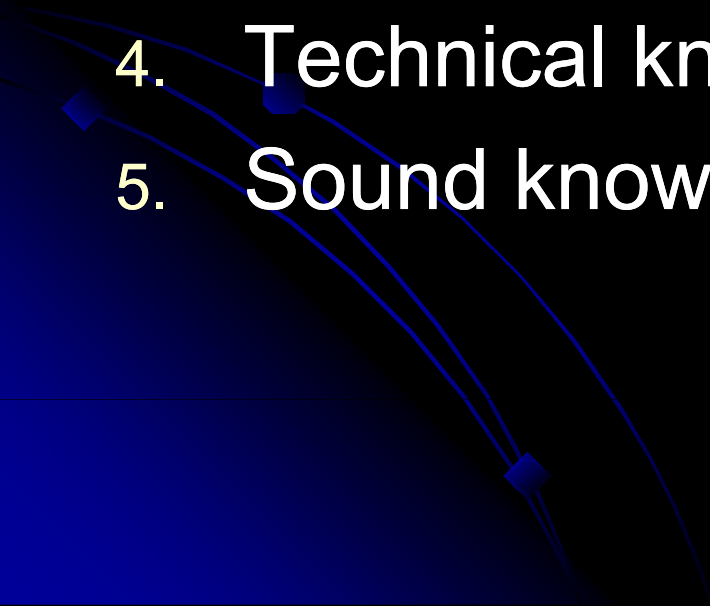
- A critic is an ideal reader.
- To him (critic) no work of art is good or bad, enjoyable, meaningful or meaningless, unless he has subjected it to a thorough examination.
- Criticism – born of questioning.
- It was only when renaissance encouraged interrogation and free inquiry that it began to be examined critically.

- Today nothing is sacrosanct to criticism. It subjects everything to the closest scrutiny. Its approach is that of science, a disinterested application to its subject to understand and interpret it fully.
 - Criticism requires an atmosphere in which questioning and inquiry are freely allowed.
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The Principal types or schools of criticism

1. Legislative criticism
 2. Aesthetic criticism
 3. Descriptive criticism
 4. Historical criticism
 5. Impressionistic criticism
 6. Psychological criticism
 7. Sociological criticism
 8. Archetypal criticism
 9. Inductive criticism
 10. Comparative criticism
 11. Textual criticism
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Qualifications of a critic:


1. A great scholar.
 2. Aesthetic sense.
 3. Disinterested impartiality.
 4. Technical knowledge.
 5. Sound knowledge about life.
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Creation and criticism:

Literature depends on life but criticism depends on literature.

The main function of literature is to provide us with vivid imagination of significant experiences of life.

Criticism directs the writers to use their creative talents in a better and more enlightened manner.



I) The Greek Masters:

1. Plato

2. Aristotle

II) The Roman Classicists:

1. Horace

2. Quintilian


3. Longinus



III) The Elizabethan Critics:

1. Stephen Gosson
2. Philip Sidney
3. Ben Jonson

IV) The Neoclassical critics

1. John Dryden
 2. Joseph Addison
 3. Alexander Pope
 4. Dr. Johnson
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v) The Romantic Critics

William Wordsworth

S.T. Coleridge

P.B. Shelley

VI) The Victorian critics

Matthew Arnold

Walter Pater

VII) The critics of the modern age:

T.S. Eliot

I.A. Richards

F.R. Leavis