

Approaches to teaching literature

Responding to literary texts

Aims

- to interact with culturally-rich content in Gujarati
- to enhance student's confidence and enjoyment in Gujarati
- to develop their reading skills and vocabulary in Gujarati
- to extend their critical and analytical thinking and writing

Analysis of literary texts rests on students' secure understanding of basic meaning.

- Students will need to have read the text in full
- Teachers will need to check students' completion of pre-reading

Aspects of literary text

1) Context

- How and why the text was first published
- Bio details of writer e.g. research life of writer and find 5 aspects that reflect the text
- Social and historical context e.g. short texts by author that have common features
- Literary context, other texts by same author

2) Plot and Structure

- How the text is built and organised by events
- How text complies with traditional structure
- Who is telling the story and from what point of view
- First and third person narration
- Relationship between truth and fiction, the tale and the teller, writer and narration

3) Form and Genre

- Use terminology to analyse aspects like 'scene', 'chapter', 'prologue' etc.
- Whether text within specific genre e.g. autobiography, thriller, romance, fiction etc.

4) Themes and issues

- Identify and analyse themes of text e.g. childhood, love, war, family life
- Central concerns and issues of writer e.g. focus on universal issue, cultural concern, personal

5) Language and Style

- Distinctive style e.g. descriptive, simple and sparse, dense and erudite
- Language techniques e.g. repetition, imagery, figurative language, alliteration etc.

6) Characters and relationships

- Discuss and write about characters in the text – Reactions based on reason than emotion
- Character closely tied to writer's themes

7) Reception and Interpretation

- Reception of text both in India and elsewhere
- Writing a review of text
- Study another version e.g. a film or play of the text
- Reading critical reviews