

## BREAKING LITERATURE BARRIERS

By:

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Literature is a body of written works such as plays, poems, short stories, and novels that embodies a society's cultures and traditions. More than the stories, most literature has deep and lasting impressions since it depicts the lives and experiences of the ancient people in a particular group. It is a mirror that reflects the past as a way to further understand today's world.

In the current curriculum mandated by the Department of Education, literary works are a vital part. From classical works worldwide to the various literature that sprung in the early times of the ancient Filipinos up to the contemporary works are being discussed in the classroom setting. Since literature requires a lot of readings, students tend to find it uninteresting and boring; the short attention span of learners nowadays has been a challenge in teaching it.

The use of the cultural model teaching literature has been stressed out by Clandfield (2017). Through this, learners will be able to connect their daily experiences to the text, given that it is well-suited to the context of the society they live in. She also said that the cultural model will examine the social, political, and historical background of a text, literary movements, and genres. There is no specific language work done on a text and this approach tends to be teacher-centered. Clandfield (2017) also added the language model which aims to be more learner-centered. The main focus of this approach is the grammar and vocabulary in the text and the students will try to search for the meanings of the words present. With such, the students will be able to interpret the text and helps learners to study and read literature competently.

But the personal growth model can be considered the most effective approach to teaching literature because it arouses the interest of the students to be part of the discussion and appreciate the given text. It allows an interaction between the reader and the text because the readers will derive opinions and insights about the text based on their life experiences and how they can relate to the text.

Lastly, literature circles can also be used as a technique in teaching literature wherein the students will form respective groups to discuss a particular text given by the teacher. In the group, the members will share their views and how they interpret the text. Through this, they will work together as a group to come up with an analysis of the text.

Teaching literature comes with a lot of challenges: the learners, the given text to be discussed, the teachers, as well as the teaching strategies, all contribute to the learning and appreciation of the literary works. Nevertheless, these obstacles are not insurmountable; appropriate strategies and approaches, combined with a passion for teaching, are paramount to overcoming such barriers.

*References:*

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