

# Literature and the Making of Choice



# Key Ideas

- ▶ Making choices are fundamental to our lives
- ▶ **On practical level** we choose friends, places to live, careers etc.
- ▶ **On a theoretical level** we struggle to make **moral and ethical choices** For example:
  - ↗ it is lawful but immoral
  - ↗ protest even if we put our lives at risk
  - ↗ should we tell the truth even if it hurts us or someone else?
- ▶ actions and responsibilities
- ▶ What choice or choices do you believe should be made? Why?
- ▶ How has literature portrayed Choice making and Decision making?
- ▶ William Shakespeare, Oscar Wilde, Becket and Robert Frost

# Making a choice and Making a

## Decision

- ▶ **Choice** has options or a mental picture of a fork in a path. It is about the opportunities we have i.e. the ability and the right to choose. One perceives from a number of options or two options to choose what our mindset perceives to be right or wrong choices.
- ▶ Choices has to do with free will that human beings are able to make choices freely with no pre-determination and having no constraints. freedom is the place of choice
- ▶ **Decisions** is the process of selecting that needs analysis and steps to eliminate options. It suggest having no alternatives. Decision making is a process that is conducted by will power having multiple choices sometimes. (The manager will power and making of choices and the admin the decisions )
- ▶ Making Decisions are bound to the choices and man is free to choose any of the two or more; then he goes through a process of selecting.

# Literature and the Making of Choice

- ▶ Literature cultivates and refines us and our choice and decision making (better being a child and fresh in life experience than an unconscious and ill-informed individual )
- ▶ Literature doesn't force one to make a choice. It presents a scene and leaves the reader to make a decision.
- ▶ We are free what to choose among the choices and make a decision but we are not free what consequences
- ▶ The literary texts define us to who we are through the representation of their fictional scenes and characters portraying the morality and immorality and the results of their choices.
- ▶ Literature doesn't interfere your decision making but rather portrays and describes the moment of making a choice regardless of being joyful or painful, having suffering or enjoying. The fictional character is set on stage and doesn't left alone. The consequences of his choices are portrayed and it's been clarified if the consequences extended where they lead him to.

# Literature and the Making of Choice

- ▶ Literature leaves the reader to trace the paths of consequences and doesn't engage us experimentally but experientially with the act; that is internally. Thus, it helps you experience, prison, loneliness, decision making and their consequences.
- ▶ Literature presents the characters experiences, feelings, mental states, and moral effects they have in the moments of making a choice. It presents us with the conflicts we have with our different psychological components.
- ▶ We only see the verbal decisions outside, literature digs deep it familiarizes us to ourselves in moments such as Hamlets, Hamlet hopes he were in the position of his father ...
- ▶ We are in a demanding conflict between our Internal factors (Logic, desire, free will, morality, psyche etc.) and external factor (culture, religion, money, power, ego etc.), literature refamiliarizes us to these concepts and the role of making a decision
- ▶ We finally become a product of our decision. History, biology and science all want us to make decisions based on external factors, literature wants us to make decisions based on internal factors as well.
- ▶ You are bound to your choices and obliged to make a choice.

# Literature, History and Science

- ▶ Psychology objectively and scientifically discusses human psyche and human choice. It separates choice from human touch experientially that it doesn't bring it to human experience level
- ▶ Psychology (like biology and physics) deals with human being objectively and as an object of study and inquiry
- ▶ Art is subjective and portrays man experientially and experimentally taking him through processes of thought, feelings, imaginations, worries, pain and pleasure and also fundamental life moments such as making choices and decisions.
- ▶ If psychology analytically processes one part of human psyche in a lab, literature presents that part in its lab (life experience) in accordance with other human components (personalities )
- ▶ Literature collectively presents the main components of choice and decision making: Man, Situation, Event, Time and place. There is Logic, Judgement, Desire, Deterministic inevitability.
- ▶ Philosophy presents ideas of infinite and finite matters of concern in human life. It presents the importance of harmony. Literature presents the conflicts accompany the accomplishments of harmony



# Literary Masterpieces

## Hamlet



## Macbeth



# Literary Masterpieces

Waiting for Godot



The Road Not Taken





The background features abstract, overlapping geometric shapes in various shades of green, ranging from light lime to dark forest green. These shapes are primarily located on the right side of the frame, creating a modern, layered effect. The rest of the background is plain white.

Thank You