LITERARY CRITICISM

Definition and Origin

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Origin and Meaning of Literary Criticism

- The word, Criticism evolved from the Greek term, kritikos, which means “judgement”.

- In this sense, literary criticism means judgement of literature.

- It focuses on the study and evaluation of literature.
Literary criticism is the experience of close reading and evaluation and explication of individual works”. (Waugh)
It is the explanation and clarification of works of art.

It is the art of evaluation and classification. (It evaluates and classifies literature.)

It helps us to classify literature by genre.

It answers the questions like what is literature?, what is it about? and such others.
“Criticism is the art or act of estimating the quality of literary or artistic work by an analysis of its merits and defects”. (Quoted by K. R. Srinivasa Iyengar in his *The Adventure of Criticism*)

- It means literary criticism assesses the quality of a work of art by considering its merits and demerits.
- It evaluates the works of literature by following the rules and principles of criticism given by the masters.
Conti …

Literary criticism

judging
defining
classifying
analyzing
interpreting
evaluating

the art of

works of art or literature.
In conclusion, literary criticism is an act of measuring works of literature.

It is a work of judging, analyzing, interpreting and evaluating works of literature impartially.

The ultimate aim of literary criticism is to give the best judgement and to spread the best that is hidden in the works of literature.
References:

Thank You