

## How Does Literature Speak to Us?

Literature can be defined as a repetitively selective series of concretions revealing a value scale.

— Dr. Raymond Bartholomew

Bartholomew, a professor of literature, taught this definition to his students in the 1970s. The only print source I have found (unfortunately without crediting Bartholomew) is Timothy Beals, “Toward a Normative Theory of Literary Criticism” (graduate research essay, Western Michigan University, 1985), page 2.

What do you want me to do, say it again in different and less good words?

— Robert Frost

Quoted by Lawrence Raab in *Touchstone: American Poets on a Favorite Poem*, edited by Robert Pack and Jay Parini, Hanover: University Press of New England, 1996.

Art is a lie that makes us realize truth.

— Pablo Picasso

“Picasso Speaks,” *The Arts* (New York), May 1923, pages 315-326, reprinted as Pablo Picasso, “Statement,” *Theories of Modern Art: A Source Book by Artists and Critics*, edited by Herschel B. Chipp, Berkeley: University of California Press, 1968, page 264.

The news tells us what happened; the arts tell us what *happens*.

— Dr. Leland Ryken

Leland Ryken, *Windows to the World: Literature in Christian Perspective*, 2<sup>nd</sup> edition, Probe Books, 1990, page 62.

Some people seem to think that I began by asking myself how I could say something about Christianity to children; then fixed on the fairy tale as an instrument; then collected information about child-psychology and decided what age-group I’d write for; then drew up a list of basic Christian truths and hammered out ‘allegories’ to embody them. This is all pure moonshine. I couldn’t write in that way at all. Everything began with images; a faun carrying an umbrella, a queen on a sledge, a magnificent lion. At first there wasn’t even anything Christian about them; that element pushed itself in of its own accord.

— C. S. Lewis

C. S. Lewis, “Sometimes Fairy Stories May Say Best What’s to Be Said,” *On Stories and Other Essays on Literature*, edited by Walter Hooper, Harcourt Brace & Co., 1982, page 46.

A poem should not mean

But be.

— Archibald MacLeish

Archibald MacLeish, “Ars Poetica”