

# Myth Literature And The African World

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in the value of literature rafe mcgregor employs a unique approach the combination of philosophical work on value theory and critical work on the relationship between form and content to present a new argument for and defence of literary humanism he argues that literature has value for art for culture and for humanity in short that it matters unlike most contemporary defenders of literary value the author s strategy does not involve arguing that literature is good as a means to one of the various ends that matter to human beings it is not that literature necessarily makes us cleverer more sensitive more virtuous more creative or just generally better people nor is it true that there is a necessary relation between literature and edification clarification cultural critique catharsis or therapy rather than offer an argument that forges a tenuous link between literature and truth or literature and virtue or literature and the sacred this book analyses the non derivative sui generic value characteristic of literature and demonstrates why that matters as an end in itself

why does literature matter what is its human value historical approaches to literature have for several decades prevailed over the idea that literary works can deepen our understanding of fundamental questions of existence this book re affirms literature s existential value by developing a new critical vocabulary for thinking about literature s human meaningfulness it puts this vocabulary into practice through close reading of a wide range of texts from the second wakefield shepherds play to mohsin hamid s the reluctant fundamentalist individual chapters discuss literature s engagement of the emotions literature s humanisation of history literature s treatment of universals and particulars the depth of reflection provoked by literary works literature as a special kind of seeing and framing the question at the heart of the volume of why literature matters makes this book relevant to all students and professors of literature

seminar paper from the year 2021 in the subject english language and literature studies literature grade 1 3 university of potsdam institut für anglistik und amerikanistik course why literature language english abstract it is this paper s aim and purpose to argue against a decline of literature from a metaphysical perspective emphasizing the social dimension on the basis of rita felski s modes of textual engagement to attempt such reasoning it will at first be introduced an own definition of literature the main focus will be put on rather psychological and metaphysical approaches to literature from rita felski daniel albright and derek attridge their approaches to literature will be discussed to be able to deduce an own definition of literature that is appropriate to answer this paper s main question of what the potential of literature and also its value can be in the

21st century to do this the felski s four modes of textual engagement recognition enchantment knowledge and shock will be taken a closer look at

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