

Evaluating Literature

When evaluating a work of literature (or a work of art in general) you may wonder which criteria to apply. For a start, you could ask yourself the following questions:

1. Are you aesthetically satisfied? Was reading a pleasure?
2. Have you gained more insight into one or more fields of life? Can a person still learn something from the text, even if it was written rather a long time ago? Was there food for thought?
3. Is there a message that you would like to put into practice, do you feel you should do something after reading the text?
4. Was the text in any way original, in your opinion?
5. Was there anything missing that you expected to find?
6. On the whole, was this an interesting piece of literature, would you recommend it to others, would you give it away as a gift?