

HUMAN RIGHTS AND LITERATURE (1)

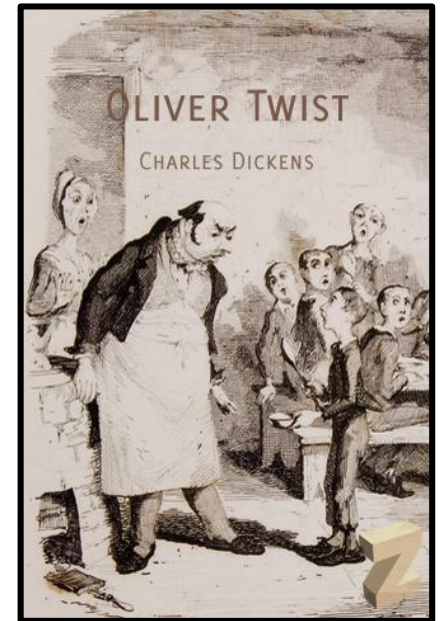
*“Literature can be as powerful as life itself. It can be like our prophecy. It can inspire us to change our world and give us the comfort, hope, passion and strength that we need in order to fight to create a better future for us, as well as all humanity. We just need to keep on reading and to allow the tremendous power of literature to enter our hearts and lead us to our own path”.
(from the foreword to “Freedom”).*

- Literature is fundamental. It is spreading **awarness of human rights**.
- It has the power to **affect and transform** people's minds through critical analysis of characters and social backgrounds.



HUMAN RIGHTS AND LITERATURE (2)

- It **motivates people** to take action against injustice.
- The two most representative literary forms of the struggle for human rights are
 - ✓ **the novel** ⇒ **C. Dickens**, Oliver Twist, 1839 and
 - ✓ **poetry** ⇒ **R. Browning**, My Last Duchess, 1842
- According to **H. Balzac**, the novel is “*the private history of nations*”.



Both **Poetry** and **Fiction**
reflect social change and enhance **critical thinking**.

HUMAN RIGHTS RELATED TO THE TEXTS ANALYSED (1)

Violated human right : Equality of man and woman.

“Everyone is entitled to all the rights and freedoms set forth in this Declaration, without distinction of any kind, such as...sex...” (art. 2 in UDHR)

Protected → the Universal Declaration of Human Rights: art. 1, art. 2, art. 3, art. 7 art. 16 in .

→ **The Constitution of the Italian Republic**: art. 3, art. 29, art. 37, art. 51.

- **R. Browning**, *My Last Duchess*, 1842 → *“Then all smiles stopped together.”*
- **C. Dickens**, *Mr. Bounderby* (from *Hard Times*), 1854 → *“ he thus took up a commanding position, from which to subdue Mrs. Gradgrind.”*
- **S. Rooney**, *Normal people*, 2018 → *“Alan lifts his arm and throws the bottle at her. It smashes behind her on the tiles.”*
- **J. Winterson**, *Frankissstein*, 2019 → *“Byron and Polidori explaining to me why the male principle is more active than the female principle.”*

Respected in:

Victorian philanthropy: Women's public participation in society increased in the 19th century through philanthropic work.

HUMAN RIGHTS RELATED TO THE TEXTS ANALYSED (2)

Violated human rights : Gender equality and personal freedom

“Everyone has the right to freedom of opinion and expression; this right includes freedom to hold opinions without interference...”

(UDHR, art. 19)

Protected in

- **The Universal Declaration of Human Rights**
art. 1, art. 2, art. 3, art. 5, art. 7, art. 19 in
- **The Constitution of the Italian Republic**
art. 2, art. 3, art. 13

J. Winterson, *Frankissstein*, 2019 → “You're in the wrong stall, sonny, eh? What are you? A fuckin' dyke?” - “I'm trans.”



HUMAN RIGHTS RELATED TO THE TEXTS ANALYSED (3)

Violated human rights: Child exploitation and right to education

“Everyone has the right to a standard of living adequate for the health and well-being of himself and of his family...” (art. 25 in the UDHR)

Protected in

→ **The Universal Declaration of Human rights:** art. 4, art. 24, art. 25, art. 26

→ **The Constitution of the Italian Republic:** art. 1, art. 34, art. 35, art. 36, art. 38

- **C. Dickens, *Oliver Twist*, 1839** : Oliver Twist is an orphan child exploited in a workhouse during the Victorian Age → *“Oliver Twist and his companions suffered the tortures of slow starvation for three months.”*
- **Workhouses:** where orphans, disabled, elderly, unmarried mothers, poor and sick people worked under horrible condition, starving and dying, with no respect for human rights and no education for children.