

E. M. Forster. *Aspects of the Novel*. New York: Harcourt, 1927.

Chapter Two: The Story

What is the fundamental aspect of the novel, according to Forster? (44)

What do good story-tellers (e.g. Scheherezade) do when they tell a story? (46)

Comparing the story to daily life: what two (types of) lives does he identify in his lecture that will bear significance on the story of the novel? (49)

What does the story do? And what does a good novel do? (49)

What does Forster say about time? Please finish the following sentences: (50-51)

“it is never possible for a novelist to; he must cling however lightly to the” (50)

“the basis of a novel is a, and a story is a narrative of events arranged in” (51)

Consider his criticism of the famous Scottish novelist Sir Walter Scott. (52-62)

Why is the opening sentence of Scott’s *The Antiquary* judged by Forster to be a good example of an opening sentence? What does the sentence do well in Forster’s view? (54)

Why is Scott’s *The Bride of Lammermoor* a successful story despite its sad storyline? (57)

What does Forster say about Scott’s treatment of *storyline* and *characters*? Which one is more important for Scott—again in Forster’s view? (61)

Earlier, what was Forster’s criticism of Scott’s treatment of characters in *The Antiquary*? (55)

Consider Forster’s criticism of Russian novelist Lev Tolstoy’s *War and Peace*. (63)

What is the relation of story to character in *War and Peace*? (63?)

What about the treatment of time in *War and Peace*? What significance does time have in the story? (63)

Forster claims that the story needs a *voice*. Why does the story need a voice? (64)

Please finish the following sentence:

“What the story does do [...] is to transform us(65)

What does the voice appeal to in us readers/listeners and how it does that? (66)

So far, Forster was describing 'life in time' in relation to the novel. What does he say about 'life by value' in relation to the novel? (65)

Finally, what is Forster view on time sequence? Can the time sequence of the novel be destroyed?