

## **Effective Methods of Studying the Works of Guy De Maupassant**

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**Abstract.** *The study of classical literature plays an important role in developing students' analytical thinking, cultural awareness, and language competence. The works of Guy de Maupassant, a prominent French writer of the 19th century, are widely studied in world literature due to their realistic style, deep psychological insight, and concise narrative structure. This article discusses effective methods for studying Maupassant's literary works in educational settings. It analyzes interactive teaching approaches, textual analysis, comparative literature methods, and modern digital tools that can enhance students' understanding of his stories and literary techniques. The study also highlights the importance of contextual and critical analysis in improving students' comprehension of classical literature.*

**Key words:** *literature teaching, Guy de Maupassant, short story analysis, literary education, teaching methods, world literature.*

### **Introduction**

The study of world literature is an essential part of modern education. Literary works help students develop critical thinking skills, broaden their cultural perspectives, and improve language proficiency. Among the influential writers of world literature, Guy de Maupassant occupies a special place due to his mastery of the short story genre[1].

Maupassant's works are characterized by realism, psychological depth, and unexpected endings. His stories reflect social realities, human emotions, and moral conflicts. Because of these features, his works are frequently included in literature curricula in universities and secondary schools[2].

However, teaching classical literature effectively requires appropriate pedagogical methods. Traditional lecture-based approaches are often insufficient to fully engage students or to reveal the deeper meanings of literary texts. Therefore, modern educational practice emphasizes interactive, analytical, and student-centered teaching methods[3].

### **Methodology**

The purpose of this article is to examine effective methods for studying Maupassant's works and to explore how these methods can improve students' understanding and appreciation of literature.

The literary heritage of Guy de Maupassant is significant for the development of the short story genre. His narratives are known for their simplicity, clarity, and powerful emotional impact. Stories such as *The Necklace* and *Boule de Suif* demonstrate his ability to portray complex human experiences in a concise form[4].

Studying Maupassant's works allows students to explore various literary themes, including social inequality, human ambition, morality, and irony. His stories also provide valuable material for analyzing narrative structure, character development, and stylistic techniques[5].

Furthermore, Maupassant's works reflect the cultural and social context of 19th-century France. By studying his literature, students gain insight into historical events, social norms, and cultural values

of that period. This interdisciplinary perspective enhances students' understanding of both literature and history[6].

## **Result and Discussion**

### **Textual Analysis Method**

Textual analysis is one of the most effective methods for studying literary works. In this approach, students examine specific elements of a text, such as themes, characters, symbols, and narrative techniques[7].

For example, while analyzing *The Necklace*, students can explore the themes of vanity, social ambition, and irony. Teachers may guide students to identify key passages that illustrate these themes and discuss how the author uses language and narrative structure to convey meaning[8].

Textual analysis helps students develop close reading skills and encourages them to interpret literary texts critically.

### **Comparative Literature Method**

The comparative literature method involves analyzing a literary work in relation to other texts or authors. This approach allows students to identify similarities and differences in themes, style, and narrative techniques[9].

For instance, Maupassant's short stories can be compared with works by Anton Chekhov, another master of the short story genre. Both writers focus on everyday life and human psychology, yet their narrative styles differ significantly.

Comparative analysis encourages students to think critically about literary traditions and to recognize the diversity of literary expression[10].

### **Interactive Discussion Method**

Interactive discussions are an effective way to engage students in the learning process. Instead of passively listening to lectures, students participate in conversations about literary themes, characters, and moral dilemmas[11].

Teachers may ask open-ended questions such as:

- What motivates the main character's actions?
- How does the story reflect social values?
- What message does the author convey through the ending?

Such discussions help students develop communication skills and deepen their understanding of literary texts[12].

Creative teaching methods can make literature lessons more engaging and memorable. Role-playing activities, for example, allow students to act out scenes from Maupassant's stories.

By performing characters' roles, students can better understand their emotions, motivations, and conflicts. Creative tasks such as rewriting the ending of a story or composing a diary entry from a character's perspective also stimulate imagination and critical thinking[13].

These activities encourage students to connect emotionally with literary texts and to explore different interpretations.

Modern technology offers new opportunities for studying literature. Digital platforms, multimedia presentations, and online discussions can make literary analysis more interactive and accessible.

Teachers can use digital resources such as online libraries, video lectures, and collaborative learning platforms to enhance students' engagement. For example, students may analyze a story using digital annotation tools or participate in online debates about literary themes[14].

The integration of technology into literature education helps create a dynamic learning environment and supports independent learning.

Despite the richness of Maupassant's literature, students may encounter certain difficulties when studying his works. One challenge is the cultural and historical distance between modern readers and the social context of 19th-century France.

Another challenge is the complexity of literary interpretation. Some students may struggle to understand symbolic meanings or subtle irony present in Maupassant's stories.

To overcome these difficulties, teachers should provide background information about the historical context and guide students through the process of literary analysis. Using interactive teaching methods can also help students become more actively involved in the learning process[15].

## Conclusion

The works of Guy de Maupassant remain an important part of world literature and literary education. His short stories provide valuable material for studying narrative techniques, social themes, and human psychology.

Effective teaching methods—such as textual analysis, comparative literature, interactive discussions, creative activities, and digital tools—can significantly enhance students' understanding of his works. These approaches encourage critical thinking, improve analytical skills, and foster a deeper appreciation of classical literature.

In conclusion, the successful study of Maupassant's works depends not only on the quality of the literary texts but also on the teaching methods used to explore them. By applying modern pedagogical approaches, educators can make classical literature more engaging and meaningful for contemporary students.

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