

**Literature of great Britain and America
as a course in higher education establishment**

English Literature course in higher education in Ukraine at English language departments unfortunately is usually considered to be a minor course. Each year the number of hours assigned for this course is reduced. Teachers find themselves in such conditions when they must give students a lot of materials during of short course. In this situation they need more improved strategies of teaching literature. The method when one student answered a question at the seminar is no longer effective. The course of English literature should be seen not only as the one which develops students' knowledge of literature and culture of English speaking world, but it also must develop their knowledge of language and of course their critical thinking. In this case one of the best ways to achieve the goal is to provide discussion of the text when all students participate in it. But there are still some moments which should be taken into consideration by a teacher. When having a discussion of the literary work, teacher should ask students which have disputable points. Then students start to be interested in the subject of the discussion and prove their points of view to each other. Problem solving questions can make the discussion dynamic. Moreover, students have to prove their points by providing necessary quotations from the text which is studied. In this way students are taught to be argumentative. Students also should remember that discussion of the text is not a retelling, but it is the way to find out the reasons of things described by the writer. So while discussing a plot of the novel, teacher should not ask questions like 'What happened?' or 'What did the hero do?...' On the contrary, questions must be: 'Why it happened?' or 'Why did he do that?' etc.

The participants of such discussions would be less cognizant of the views of certain critics, but they would also be far better readers with a more active and independent approach to literary texts. It will help them to develop and practise their critical and analytical skills, which are necessary for a highly educated person.