

Name  
Instructor  
Course  
12<sup>th</sup> November

**MLA Title Format**

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Context III

**Narrative Essay**

Films are a great way to portray an author's works as they provide visual context to the audience. The imagination that comes with reading is always on par, but sometimes, films are necessary to visualize what the readers or the audience have read in the books. Films may provide another kind of interpretation that books cannot. The most interesting part of the film "A.S. Byatt in Conversation with Tobias Döring" was when the speakers were discussing the importance of storytelling and the host read out a few lines from *The Winter's Tale*. The unique style of Shakespeare's storytelling was easier to understand once they start synthesizing the context of the play (British Council Literature Seminar). The other interesting aspect was when the Novelist A.S Byatt recited two speeches and one Sonnet and then synthesized the meaning behind it. It is a better way to understand the plays and Sonnets as one learns from experts in literature. The speakers also talked about how stories connect the past with the present and Shakespeare's stories usually have this connection. Even after reading a few of the excerpts from Shakespeare, I could not understand the meaning and before that, I used to read translation or analysis to get a better understanding of Shakespeare's play. However, this time after watching them discussing the storytelling and Shakespeare, I have got entirely a new interpretation of the author's work. It shows that films are also an important part of the literature as they provide the context that readers are missing because their understanding level is not on par with those people who have thoroughly studied literature and have a better understanding of the author's work. I liked the fact that storytelling also plays an important role in providing an interpretation or

context of the author's work, thus, allowing us to benefit from the films. This film was a great source of understanding the work of Shakespeare and how literature have the ability to form connections with present and the past.

I do not disagree with the interpretation of the author's work because I did not have the capability to understand the deeper meaning or context behind Shakespeare work. The speech made by Catherine of Aragon have emotions and reflects on the style of Shakespeare and how it is into the character. The sonnet, that the novelist Byatt recited, sounded different to me and I could really understand the meaning. I felt like it spoke out to me, and probably, so did the novelist, as she was deeply immersed in the recitation (British Council Literature Seminar). The opinions shared by the host and the novelist both were precise and to the point and provided a new perspective. I could say that they have clarified the concept of storytelling for me. Literature is deemed as a boring subject and most probably for those, who have never read a book or two. In short, story telling has also some kind of positive impact on the audience, because this is also one way where one could understand the context behind the Shakespeare work. I agree with the Novelist that poems from that era were often on the general topic, but when one digs deeper, one finds out that they were all death poems. Interpretation is necessary in order to fully understand the context of the novel or poem being discussed. It is fine if the author wants to leave interpretation up to the audience, but those interested in literature, and those who have no knowledge of literature might interpret in different meaning. I also like the ending part, where the speakers tried to give it a comical touch and honestly, I am moved by how well she articulated her view point.

Work Cited

British Council Literature Seminar. *A S Byatt in Conversation with Tobias Döring*. 2014.

*YouTube*, <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Py3U6UnWcNI>.

