

## LITERATURE AND MORALITY IN THE SELECT WORKS OF ANNE TYLER AND GEORGE ORWELL

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### Abstract

*Morality is implicitly challenged in Literature. Both Anne Tyler and George Orwell evince great interest in the subject literature and morality. Literature presents reality, not just a mirror image. It goes beyond to highlight the complexities of human existence and the moral voice remains a steady, consistent factor. The vision of moral world has entered the human beings and became a part of their dreams and aspirations. A true art is moral. It seeks to improve life, not to debase it. Great Literature has a clear moral base. Moral vision has to be conveyed in the right form. Both used their intellectual powers to make their moral concerns appealing to the modern sensibility.*

Anne Tyler is one of the most prominent women writers among the contemporary Southern novelists in America. Tyler is regarded as one of the best novelists in contemporary literature. She is known for her quiet, subtle fiction that explores complex, dysfunctional family relationships and individuals' search for meaning and identity in a changing world. The fiction of Anne Tyler is both unique and extraordinary in contemporary American literature. It is unique because Tyler sounds like no one except herself in spite of admitted influence of other writers. And it is extraordinary for her calm indifference to prevailing literary fashions; she believes in her own difference which sets her work apart from that of the others.

Tyler's fiction invariably focuses on how a character lives and how he or she does indeed connect with the people that are near. It is indeed her ability to produce fiction that takes into account the wealth of enigmas surrounding every human being that makes her a significant American novelist. After all these interlocking lives that travel out into space on daring tangents are the stuff of fiction, as they are indeed the stuff of life – southern or otherwise.

Morality is an essential, innate aspect of the human struggle which is a vital component of life. Religious text such as the Bible argues that moral purity is an important part of why humankind exists in the first place. Most of the American search for a life – style that centres on the ethical

and the moral issues in an attempt to counter the prevailing commercial aspirations. Among the basic principles of Quakerism is the spiritual experience called the 'Inward light'. Everyman receives this light, whether he is a christian or not. The light manifests the love and grace of God toward all mankind. The Quaker's sense of inner oneness with the living Lord rejected the mediation of the priesthood between God and Man. They expected uncompromising honesty, simplicity of life, non-violence and justice from the followers. They were against slavery in America. They argued on moral issues and believed in single standard of conduct before God and man. They did not believe Sunday as the Lord's Day because they believed that every day was Lord's Day. They did not believe in Christmas because they thought that Christ is present in every living being. Friends opposed the church and their authority as they thought that it is not necessary to engage religious instruction. Thus Friends guided by the dictates of Inner Light, Produced men of strong, straight and serious temperament. With their spiritual ideals Quakers made a considerable impact on American life. Instead of pursuing the American dream of economic and social success, the Tylers led lives far more centered on ethical and moral issues and problems. Tyler traces her characters with great love and compassion. Her avoidance of violence is a unique feature for the peace – loving Quakers.