

My favorite English writer

My favorite English writer is Antony Burgess. I think he is a genius! Because Antony Burgess is much more than a writer! He is a linguist, a journalist, a translator and even a composer!

Especially I want to mention his musical works. According to various sources, he composed from 175 to 250 music works, including librettos, operas and even screenplays. Once he said: "I wish people would think of me as a musician who writes novels, instead of a novelist who writes music on the side."

But, actually, Burgess remained as a great writer. Paradox, but Burgess began to write actively, when he has found that he have only a year left to live. Doctors diagnosed a terrible illness – a brain tumor. This is what I personally appreciate in this person – that he didn't give up, but spent the remaining time working. In just one year he published 5 novels («One hand clapping», «The doctor is sick», «The Wanting Seed», «The Worm and the Ring», «Inside Mr. Enderby»). Diagnose turned out wrong, but Burgess continued producing books. All in all he has published 57 books, among them more than 30 novels, and also stories, poems, TV scripts, biographies, literature books and literary studies, essays, two volumes of memoirs. Such literary fertility deserves respect.

I know some books of this writer, but my favorite one is «A Clockwork Orange». It is the most known Burgess novel. To my mind, it is also the best dystopia in the worldwide literature. In the center of the novel is 15-year-old Alex, the epitome of teenage aggression. Alex went to jail, went through the aversion therapy, that is in fact just simple brainwashing. Anyway, at the end he did his own choice, chose what life he wants to live. And he understands that robbery isn't what he wants in this life. He chooses family, wife and children.

Teenage aggression is the theme, that doesn't lose its sharpness over time. That's why 50 years later this novel still relevant. Bad news for society, good ones for the novel.

In this novel we can see the contrasting of man and society, good and evil - both in the world and in every person. All this is enclosed in a bright, unusual plot, and artificial language Nadsat, made up by Burgess himself, elegantly adorns it as a frame. Nadsat is a language, mixed up in two languages – Russian and English plus cockney slang. Burgess improved his knowledge of Russian when he was in Leningrad (by the way, he also spoken German, Italian, Spanish and Japanese). In a book we can find such words as «zubbj» instead of «teeth» and «tshai» for «tea».

The most important thing in any book is its idea. I believe that in ordinary book you can find an idea after reading a few chapters. In good one you'll find somewhere in the middle. In «A Clockwork Orange» you understand the real idea in the last two pages. This book is like a flower, bright at both sides, which at the end turn sharply, showing a completely new paint.

And the title itself hides something unusual in it. «A Clockwork Orange» - what can it mean? In some articles, Burgess wrote, that old «cockneys» used this word to name something strange and unusual. They said that these things are crook like Clockwork oranges. But, of course, we have to look closer, because the title contains more covert meaning. Burgess have lived 7 years in Malaysia, and, of course, he couldn't apply his knowledge of this language. So, in Malaysian word «orang» means «a human». Burgess explain it like when we free we all «oranges», but being a part of totalitarian society we all became just a mechanism – clockwork oranges. But, we'll come back to the idea of the novel and now we can interpret it like – everyone has his one destiny and everyone is his own owner. That's why no Ludovico vaccines wouldn't make a person be what others want, only himself has his own will.

I think that this novel has to be a part of the school list of books-to-be-read. I believe that this book can be interest for the majority of young adults. I mean, I don't think that everybody will like it, as I do, but I guess, that it will make them indifferent to all questions, that pointed out in this book.

For several years, I continue reading the works of this author. Depth of thoughts of this man amazes me, and because of it I find in his works more and more new ideas. For me Antony Burgess is an endless vessel of thoughts and views that I can learn by reading his books.