Mimesis: The Representation Of Reality In Western Literature Erich Auerbach

Mimesis is a little over half a century old, and it is still an important work of literary criticism. It is one of the few books that have become classics in the field of literary study.

Mimesis is a work of literary history and criticism, and it is also a book about the nature of literature. It is a reflection on the way in which Western literature has represented reality, and it is a meditation on the role of the artist in shaping the world.

The book begins with a comparison between the representation of reality in Homer's Odyssey and Dante's Inferno. Auerbach argues that while Homer's representation of reality is more naturalistic, Dante's is more idealistic. He suggests that this difference is due to the different attitudes of the two poets towards the world they are describing.

Auerbach goes on to discuss the role of the artist in shaping the world. He argues that the artist is not simply a recorder of reality, but is also a creator of new realities. He suggests that the artist has the power to shape the world, and that this power is both a blessing and a curse.

Mimesis is a groundbreaking work of literary criticism, and it remains a classic in the field. It is a book that every student of literature should read, and it is a book that every reader of literature should read as well.