

THE TRANSFORMATIVE POWER OF LITERACY AND FEMALE SOLIDARITY IN
JOJO MOYES'S "THE GIVER OF STARS"

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Annotatsiya: Mazkur maqolada zamonaviy ingliz adabiyotining yorqin vakillaridan biri — yozuvchi Jojo Moyesning hayoti va ijodiy faoliyati ilmiy nuqtai nazardan tahlil qilinadi. Tadqiqotda ayniqsa muallifning mashhur asarlaridan biri bo'lgan **"The Giver of Stars"** romani markaziy o'rinda turadi. Ushbu asar misolida Moyes ijodining tematik yo'nalishlari, uslubiy xususiyatlari hamda badiiy-estetik qadriyatlari o'rganiladi. Shuningdek, roman kitobxonlar tomonidan qabul qilinishining ijtimoiy va madaniy omillari tahlil etilib, uning zamonaviy ingliz adabiyotidagi o'rni hamda ayollar obrazining ifodalanishidagi yangicha yondashuvlar yoritiladi.

Kalit so'zlar: Jojo Moyes, zamonaviy ingliz adabiyoti, The Giver of Stars, emotsional realizm, ijtimoiy masalalar, ayol obrazi, badiiy uslub, tematik tahlil, adabiy-estetik qadriyatlar, kitobxonlik madaniyati.

Annotation. This article provides a scholarly analysis of the life and creative activity of one of the prominent representatives of contemporary English literature — **Jojo Moyes**. The study pays special attention to one of her most famous works, the novel **"The Giver of Stars."** Using this novel as an example, the article examines the thematic directions, stylistic features, and artistic-aesthetic values of Moyes's writing. In addition, it analyzes the social and cultural factors influencing readers' perception of the novel, highlights its place in contemporary English literature, and explores new approaches to the depiction of female characters. The article also considers such aspects as the author's artistic style, mastery of character creation, and the interplay between emotional realism and social issues.

Keywords: Jojo Moyes, contemporary English literature, The Giver of Stars, emotional realism, social issues, female image, artistic style, thematic analysis, artistic and aesthetic

статье с научной точки зрения анализируется жизнь и творческая деятельность одной из ярких представительниц современной английской литературы — писательницы **Джоджо Мойес**. В исследовании особое внимание уделяется одному из самых известных её произведений — роману **«The Giver of Stars»**. На примере данного произведения рассматриваются тематические направления, стилевые особенности и художественно-эстетические ценности творчества Мойес. Кроме того, анализируются социальные и культурные факторы восприятия романа читателями, освещается его место в современной английской литературе, а также новые подходы в изображении женских образов. В статье также рассматриваются такие аспекты, как художественный стиль автора, мастерство создания характеров, сочетание эмоционального реализма и социальных проблем.

Ключевые слова: Джоджо Мойес, современная английская литература, The Giver of Stars, эмоциональный реализм, социальные проблемы, женский образ, художественный стиль, тематический анализ, художественно-эстетические ценности, культура чтения.

Jojo Moyes (born on 4 August 1969 in Maidstone, England) is a prominent British novelist and former journalist whose literary works have achieved exceptional commercial success, with global sales reaching tens of millions of copies. Prior to devoting herself entirely to fiction writing in 2002, Moyes accumulated diverse professional experience in multiple sectors of media and communication. Her early career included producing promotional materials for the travel company Club 18–30, preparing Braille financial statements for visually impaired clients, and serving as a minicab controller. Subsequently, she spent approximately a decade working as a journalist for *The Independent*, where she honed her narrative and stylistic skills.

Moyes's fiction is characterised by psychologically complex, character-driven narratives that intertwine emotional intensity with social realism. Her novels are predominantly situated within the genres of women's fiction and historical romance, exploring themes such as identity, resilience, love, and personal transformation. As an accomplished and internationally recognised author, Moyes has received numerous literary accolades, including the Romantic Novel of the Year Award twice, conferred by the Romantic Novelists' Association. Furthermore, several of her works have been adapted for film and television, thus extending her cultural influence beyond the literary domain.

"*The Giver of Stars*", published in 2019, is a historical novel set in the United States during the 1930s. The work is grounded in the socio-historical context of the Great Depression and draws inspiration from the real-life "Packhorse Librarian" initiative implemented in rural Kentucky. This programme, established under the Works Progress Administration, aimed to promote literacy by delivering books on horseback to isolated mountain communities. Moyes structures the narrative around five female protagonists who establish a travelling library collective in the Appalachian region. Through their experiences, the author examines fundamental socio-cultural issues such as gender inequality, class divisions, social justice, female solidarity, and the transformative power of education and literature.

The novel achieved remarkable commercial and critical success, becoming a *New York Times* bestseller and receiving translation into numerous languages. This reception underscores both its universal themes and its contribution to the genre of contemporary historical fiction. A central thematic concern of "*The Giver of Stars*" is the empowerment of women and the significance of female solidarity. The novel foregrounds the collective agency of women who collaborate to transcend conventional gender expectations, forming interpersonal bonds that extend beyond the confines of marriage and domestic responsibilities. Through their shared experiences, Moyes illustrates the evolution of female friendship as a vehicle for independence and social contribution.

Another pivotal theme is the transformative influence of books and literacy. Within the narrative, the dissemination of literature to geographically isolated populations functions not merely as a cultural act but as an instrument of intellectual emancipation. Reading and access to knowledge are portrayed as catalysts for individual and communal liberation, symbolising progress within a restrictive socio-economic environment. The novel also interrogates the dynamics of class stratification, social isolation, and structural change. By situating the story within the remote Appalachian region of Kentucky during the Great Depression, Moyes constructs a socio-geographical dichotomy between the affluent mine-owning elite and the impoverished rural populace. These tensions compel the characters to re-evaluate their social roles and moral principles, thereby reflecting broader processes of transformation within American society.

Finally, the motif of identity and belonging is intricately explored through the protagonist, Alice. Her displacement from England to Kentucky and subsequent integration into a culturally

distinct environment establish a framework for analysing the complexities of self-perception, alienation, and cultural assimilation. The juxtaposition of her outsider status with her gradual acceptance within the local community enables the narrative to interrogate the very notion of “home” as both a physical and psychological construct.

“The Giver of Stars” has been met with predominantly positive critical and popular reception. Literary reviewers have commended Moyes for her nuanced characterisation, emotional resonance, and the vivid atmospheric depiction of Depression-era Kentucky. The novel’s narrative cohesion and affective power have been frequently cited as key contributors to its wide appeal. As noted by one reviewer, the text is described as “beautiful, humorous, and profoundly moving,” reflecting its ability to engage readers on both intellectual and emotional levels. Similarly, another critic characterised the work as “an epic narrative that celebrates women in history who have contributed meaningfully to society yet often remain unacknowledged,” emphasising its feminist and historiographical significance .

Nevertheless, the novel has also elicited certain critical reservations. Some commentators have argued that elements of the denouement appear somewhat artificial or overly constructed, potentially diminishing the narrative’s authenticity. Additionally, debates have emerged regarding the novel’s originality, as particular plot parallels with another contemporary work have led to questions concerning creative derivation and intertextual influence

Jojo Moyes’s “The Giver of Stars” constitutes an emotionally profound and historically contextualised work of fiction that transcends the boundaries of conventional romance. The novel functions as a multifaceted narrative framework through which the author examines critical socio-cultural dimensions such as literacy, gender relations, communal solidarity, and the emancipatory potential of knowledge dissemination. By situating personal stories within broader historical and ideological contexts, Moyes transforms the text into a vehicle for intellectual reflection on the ways literature and education can reshape individual consciousness and collective identity.

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