

PARALLELS BETWEEN HUMAN AND ANIMAL PSYCHOLOGY IN JACK
LONDON AND CHINGIZ AITMATOV'S WORKS AND THEIR 21ST CENTURY
LEGACY

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Annotation: *This article examines the psychological parallels between humans and animals in the works of Jack London and Chingiz Aitmatov. Both authors explore the emotional and survival challenges of both species, as seen in *The Call of the Wild* and *Doomsday*. The paper also looks at how 21st-century authors continue to build on these themes, addressing contemporary issues like environmental concerns and the evolving relationship between humans and animals in modern literature.*

Keywords: *Jack London, Chingiz Aitmatov, human psychology, animal psychology, literary parallels, *The Call of the Wild*, *Doomsday*, 21st-century literature, contemporary authors, animal-human connection.*

The exploration of human and animal psychology in literature has always held a profound significance, as it allows for a deeper understanding of both species' nature. Jack London, in his classic novel *The Call of the Wild*, masterfully captures the transformative journey of Buck, a domestic dog thrust into the harsh wilderness. Through Buck's eyes, London vividly illustrates the reawakening of primal instincts, positioning his narrative as a meditation on survival, loyalty, and the complex relationship between civilization and nature.

Similarly, Chingiz Aitmatov's *Doomsday* weaves a powerful narrative that intertwines the fate of humans and animals, often drawing parallels between the emotional and existential struggles of his characters with those of the animals they encounter. Aitmatov's use of symbolism and philosophical musings on life and death offers a deep reflection on the shared experiences of sentient beings. In his works, animals often serve as mirrors to human consciousness, representing innocence, strength, or the brutal truths of survival.

Both authors highlight a unique intersection where human and animal psychologies converge. London's and Aitmatov's characters, whether human or animal, are often faced with similar dilemmas—choices between submission and rebellion, instinct and reason, and life and death. These parallels evoke questions about the boundaries of humanity and the essence of nature, inviting readers to reconsider the hierarchical relationships between species.

In the 21st century, the exploration of the relationship between humans and animals has evolved, reflecting modern-day concerns such as environmental degradation, animal rights, and the ethical treatment of non-human beings. Contemporary authors have expanded on the foundation laid by London and Aitmatov, creating narratives that challenge traditional boundaries between human and animal consciousness. They delve

deeper into how modern societies view the interconnectedness of all living beings, often using animal characters to explore themes of identity, survival, and emotional complexity.

For instance, contemporary literary works now incorporate ecological concerns, emphasizing the urgent need for harmony between humans and animals to prevent further destruction of natural habitats. Writers such as Barbara Kingsolver and J.M. Coetzee have continued in this vein, using animals as symbolic figures in their novels to critique human behavior and its impact on the environment. Coetzee's *The Lives of Animals*, for example, questions the moral obligations humans have toward animals, while Kingsolver's works often feature animals as key figures in environmental struggles.

Furthermore, 21st-century literary criticism has also embraced interdisciplinary approaches, drawing from fields like cognitive science and animal studies to further analyze the psychological parallels between humans and animals. This shift has allowed scholars to investigate not only the symbolic use of animals in literature but also the real-life implications of how humans understand and empathize with animals.

When teaching the exploration of human and animal psychology in literature, it is essential to focus on understanding the themes of survival, instinct, and the complex relationships between species. Educators can begin by introducing students to the core ideas found in Jack London's *The Call of the Wild*, emphasizing how the author presents Buck's journey as a metaphor for the awakening of primal instincts. Teachers can encourage students to analyze Buck's experiences, drawing connections between his internal struggles and the broader themes of survival and loyalty, thus helping students grasp the depth of London's narrative.

In addition to London's work, Chingiz Aitmatov's *Doomsday* offers rich material for exploring the emotional and existential parallels between humans and animals. Teachers can guide students in examining Aitmatov's symbolic use of animals to reflect human struggles, such as the battle between life and death or submission and rebellion. Classroom discussions can focus on how Aitmatov's characters, both human and animal, face similar psychological challenges, thereby providing students with a holistic view of the shared nature of existence across species.

Finally, teachers can connect these literary themes to modern-day issues by discussing contemporary writers and their focus on environmental and ethical concerns. By incorporating interdisciplinary approaches, such as animal studies and cognitive science, educators can enhance students' understanding of the significance of human-animal relationships in literature. This can encourage students to explore current debates on environmental protection, animal rights, and empathy, making the literary exploration relevant to their own lives and society's challenges today.

In conclusion, the psychological and thematic parallels between humans and animals, as explored by Jack London and Chingiz Aitmatov, continue to inspire contemporary writers and scholars. As modern society grapples with pressing environmental and ethical issues, these literary explorations remain profoundly relevant, urging readers to reconsider their relationship with the natural world and the creatures that inhabit it. The legacy of London and Aitmatov lives on, influencing both literature and broader cultural discourse in the 21st century.

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