

Graham Greene

Task 1. Read the text, write down the words in bold and explain their meanings.

British novelist Graham Greene had the kind of life that biographers dream of. Over his long career, the writer, journalist and sometime spy found himself in political **hotspots** around the globe, **enmeshed in torrid love affairs** and even had an attempt to end his own life.

Through it all, Greene, who **is lauded** as one of the leading novelists of the 20th century, wrote more than 25 novels—thrillers as well as more weighty literary works—that explored the moral and political issues of the modern world.

Greene was born in 1904 in England. He was **an avid reader** from childhood and after school was educated in Oxford where he studied modern history. He started writing in the late 20s. Graham Greene is one of the most beloved and **prolific writers** of the 20th century. He is best known for his novels, especially those dealing with Catholicism, but he also wrote short stories, novellas, book and film reviews, poetry, radio plays, stage plays, an autobiography, biographies, a memoir, travel stories, screenplays, and children's literature. He contributed to major publications and edited other prominent writers' work, as well.

Since the beginning of his literary career Greene was writing along two lines – the so-called “serious novels” and the “entertaining novels”. While the former are generally a meditation on the psychology of man, the latter are more of the detective type of novel. The group of “serious novels” is represented by *The Man Within*, *England Made Me*, *The Heart of the Matter*, *The Power and the Glory*, *The Heart of the Matter*, *The Quiet American* and others. The “entertaining novels” are *Stamboul Train*, *A Gun for Sale*, *The Ministry of Fear* and others.

The borderline between these two groups is however, **vague** because the former are often constructed along detective or adventure lines while the latter present serious problems.

Greene's novels touch on the burning political issues of the day – the American war in Vietnam in *The Quiet American* or racism in South Africa in *The Human Factor*. The social and political events serve as a background against which problems of ethical character are solved. Greene's novels present **a profound research** into the depths of human psychology and **are permeated with** philosophical meditations on the nature of man and **human predicament**. Greene's novels are characterized by a great force of conviction, concreteness. These as well as the wide scope and preoccupation with the most urgent problems of the day, make Greene one of the most prominent writers of contemporary world literature.

Task 2. Answer the questions.

1. Why do biographers dream of writing about Graham Greene's life?
2. Why is Graham Greene considered a prolific writer?
3. What two major groups can Greene's works be divided into? Name some of the novels.
4. What issues does Greene touch upon in his novels?
5. What do Greene's novels present?