

SUBJECT: LITERATURE IN ENGLISH

CLASS: SS1

FIRST TERM SCHEME OF WORK

WEEK 1- Introduction to Literature

- Definition of Literature and types
- Functions of literature
- Difference between Literature in English and English Literature

WEEK 2- Genres of Literature

- Definition of drama and features
- Types of drama
- Elements of drama
- Professional terms used in drama

WEEK 3- Genres of Literature

- Definition of prose and features
- Types of prose
- Elements of prose
- Narrative techniques

WEEK 4- Genres of Literature

- Definition of poetry and features
- Types of poetry
- Poetic devices
- Various lines in poetry and their meaning

WEEK 5- Literary terms

- Figures of speech 1
- Figures of speech 2

WEEK 6- Literary terms

- Figures of speech 3
- Figures of speech with examples cont'd

WEEK 7- Literary Appreciation

- Definition of Literary Appreciation
- What to appreciate
- Terms used in literary appreciation
- Significance of literary works

WEEK 8-

- Identification of figures of speech in poems

WEEK 9-

- HOW TO COMPOSE POEMS WITH FIGURES OF SPEECH

WEEK 10 – REVISION

WEEK 11 – 12 EXAMINATION

WEEK 13- CLOSURE

WEEK 1- Introduction to Literature

What is Literature?

Literature refers to a term that is used to describe written and sometimes spoken materials that mirror people, their customs and traditions for others to see and learn from.

Types of Literature

There are two (2) types of literature namely:

1. Fiction and
2. Non-fiction

Fiction is simply an unreal story based on unreal imaginary people and events. An example is Purple Hibiscus and other short stories/novels.

Non-fiction refers to a literary piece that is based on facts, actual events or real people. It can be in form of biographies, autobiographies, diaries, letters, essays/articles etc.

FUNCTIONS/PURPOSES OF LITERATURE

Some of the functions of Literature include:

1. **Entertains and educates:** Instructs readers and shares new knowledge.
2. **Teaches and corrects:** Shares moral lessons and fixes wrong behavior.
3. **Reflects society:** Shows local and global cultures, traditions, and achievements.

Difference Between English Literature and Literature in English

English Literature: This refers to works originally written in English by English authors, reflecting English culture.

Literature in English: This refers to works originally written in other languages from around the world and translated into English, reflecting diverse cultures.

ASSIGNMENT:

1. Define Literature.
2. State 5 functions of literature.

WEEK 2- Genres of Literature; Drama

What is drama?

Drama is an imitation of human character that is acted on stage. It is also called a play. The characters, events and settings in a drama can be fictitious or non-fictitious. A person who writes/creates plays is called a playwright/dramatist.

CHARACTERISTICS / FEATURES OF DRAMA

1. Drama is written in act and scene.
2. The imitation of human character[actions] are done by actors/actresses [characters].
3. It is usually acted on stage.
4. There is a dialogue between the characters.
5. Costumes are used in drama.

TYPES OF DRAMA

The following are the various types of drama:

1. **TRAGEDY:** this is a play in which the main character suffers a great downfall or misfortune. It is a play with a sad ending. Some examples of tragic plays include:” Romeo and Juliet” by William Shakespeare, “Women of Owu” by Femi Osofisan etc.
2. **Comedy:** this is a light and humorous play with a happy ending. It is written to entertain, but may also point out the social ills/ faults of the society.
3. **Tragicomedy:** this is a combination of the elements of a comedy and a tragedy. It’s a play that can make you laugh and cry. “The Merchant of Vernice” by William Shakespeare is an example of a tragicomedy.

4. **Farce:** this is a play that uses exaggerated, ridiculous situations and funny actions to make people laugh.
5. **Melodrama:** this is a dramatic piece with exaggerated characters and events. It is intended to appeal[arouse] to the emotions of the audience.
6. **Mime:** this is a speechless play, actions and events are conveyed through the medium of movements, facial expression and gestures without words.
7. **Epic Drama:** this is a play about heroic characters and significant life journey or heroic deeds.

ELEMENTS OF DRAMA

1. Playwright: this is the writer of a piece of drama or play.
2. Cast: this refers to all the actors and actresses in the play. They are also called **dramatic personae**.
3. Protagonist: this is a character that plays the most important / prominent role in a play or novel, often referred to as the hero/heroine or the chief character.
4. Antagonist: a character that opposes the protagonist rightly or wrongly.
5. Dialogue: this is an integral part of drama. It is the conversation between characters.
6. Soliloquy: this refers to when a character talks to himself. Plot: this is the sequence of events that make up the storyline.
7. Setting: this entails the time, place and environment in which the drama unfolds.
8. Prologue: this is a short opening section in a drama piece that foreshadows what will happen later.
9. Epilogue: this is a speech or piece of writing at the end of a drama piece.
10. Conflict: this is the struggle that the protagonist goes through in a play.

ASSIGNMENT:

List and explain 5 elements of drama.

Mention and describe 5 types of drama apart from the ones mentioned in the note above

WEEK 3- Genres of Literature; Prose

What is prose?

This refers to a literary piece that uses ordinary sentences and paragraphs to tell a story or give information.

Features of Prose

- Uses everyday language and dialogue.
- Written in sentences and paragraphs.
- Focuses on human life through a narrative plot with characters.
- Written by a novelist (if a novel) and can be any length.

Types of Prose

Fiction (Imagination): This includes short stories, novellas (novelettes), full novels, oral folktales (fables, fairy tales), legends, and parables.

Non-Fiction (Real facts): This includes biographies, autobiographies, memoirs, diaries, journals, articles, essays, letters, and critiques.

Elements of Prose

Setting: This refers to the time and place where events happen.

Plot: The sequence of events that make up the story.

Character: The people, animals, or creatures taking part in the action.

Theme: this is the central idea /message of a story {the **why** of the story}. It is the moral of the story.

Diction: this refers to the author's choice of words. It could be formal, informal, figurative or allusive.

NARRATIVE TECHNIQUES/ POINT OF VIEW

Narrative technique or point of view is the angle from which a story is told.

The narration of a story can be told in three {3} different ways or point of views namely:

1. First person narrative technique/Point of view: here, a character tells the story using "I" or "we," showing only their own thoughts.
2. Second person narrative technique/ point of view {not usually used in fiction writing}: here, the narrator speaks directly to the reader using "you". it is mostly found in instructions.
3. Third person narrative technique / point of view: here, an outside voice tells the story using "he," "she," or "they."

Types of Third Person Point of View/ Narrative Techniques

- **Third Person Omniscient Point of View:** the narrator knows everything about the story and its characters.
- **Third Person Limited Omniscient:** here the narrator sticks closely to one character but remains in the third person.
- **Third Person Objective:** here the narrator is neutral, as he is not privy to other characters' thoughts or feelings. The narrator presents the story with an observational tone.

ASSIGNMENT:

In your choice of words, briefly describe the various narrative techniques you've learnt.

WEEK 4- Genres of Literature; Poetry

What is poetry?

This is a genre of literature that uses rhythm, meter, rhyme and elevated language to convey feelings, emotions, experiences, thoughts and ideas. A person who writes poems is called a **POET**.

FEATURES/CHARACTERISTICS OF POETRY

Some of the features/characteristics of poetry include:

1. It is written in lines and stanzas.
2. It uses figurative language to convey imagination, emotion, thought and idea.
3. It is written in rhyme pattern.
4. It is usually musical.
5. It is meant to be recited or memorized.

TYPES OF POETRY

1. **Epic:** this is a long narrative poem about the heroic / great deeds of a hero.
2. **Lyric:** this is a short musical poem that expresses the poet's strong personal feelings.
3. **Ode:** this is a poem that addresses {celebrates/exalts} a person or thing for a particular purpose. Odes are usually musical.
4. **Narrative poem:** this is a poem that tells a story.
5. **Pastoral poem:** this is a poem that concerns itself with the simple life of rural people.
6. **Ballad:** this is a narrative poem. It is passed down from one generation to the other by word of mouth and meant to be sung and danced to before a

crowd.

7. **Sonnet:** this is a poem of fourteen lines.
8. **Elegy:** a poem or song that expresses sorrow or lamentation especially for someone who is dead.
9. **Dirge:** this is a poem or song of grief or mourning that is often performed at a funeral.
10. **Lullaby:** this is a poem sung to children in order to make them sleep.
11. **Panegyric:** this is a poem of praise to an individual, a group of people, heroic deeds of a person/group, animals or other entities with outstanding attributes.
12. **Limerick:** this is a funny poem of five lines with rhyme scheme of aabba.

ELEMENTS OF POETRY

- a. **Stanza:** this is a collection of verses. It is an equivalent of paragraph in prose.
- b. **Verse:** this is a line of poetry. It is an equivalent of a sentence in prose.
- c. **Rhyme:** This simply refers to the sameness of sounds at the end of lines in poetry.
- d. **Rhyme Scheme:** this is the manner or sequence in which a rhyme occurs at the end of each line of a poem.

Twinkle Twinkle , Little Star **a**
How I Wonder what you are **a**
Up above the world so high **b**
Like a diamond in the sky **b**

- e. **Mood:** this is the attitude, mindset or state of mind of the poet in the course of writing the poem. It refers to the overall emotional effect of the poem. It could be meditative, reflective, sad, happy etc.
- f. **Tone:** this is the poet's attitude or feelings about the subject matter in the

poem.

- g. **Rhythm:** this refers to the flow of sounds in a poem created through the poet's diction.
- h. **Theme:** this is the central message, idea or moral lesson{s} in a poem.

POETIC DEVICES

These are poetry tools or elements used by a poet to make his work more poetic. Some of them include:

- **Enjambment:** this is the continuation of a sentence from one line to the next line within a stanza.
- **Imagery:** this refers to words that create visual or sensory images in the reader's mind.
- **Symbolism:** just as the name implies, it refers to something that represents something else. It uses object, person or event to represent something else.
- **Repetition:** this is when a word is repeated severally in a poem.
- **Juxtaposition:** this means placing two things side by side in order to highlight their differences.
- **Satire:** this is the use of humor, irony, exaggeration or ridicule to expose and criticize human vices or folly so as to bring about social change.
- **Allusion:** this is a poetic device that refers to a person, event or thing
- **Simile:** this is the comparison between two unlike things using **as** or **like**.
- **Metaphor:** this is a direct comparison between two unlike things without using **as** or **like**.
- **Personification:** this is the attribution of human qualities to non-human entities.
- **Consonance:** this is the repetition of consonant sounds in a line of

poetry.

- **Assonance:** this is the repetition of vowel sounds in a line of poetry.
- **Alliteration:** this is the repetition of initial consonant sounds in closely situated words or syllables.

Various Lines in Poetry and their Meaning

A poem of two lines is called a couplet.

A poem of three lines is called a tercet or triplet.

A poem of four lines is called a quatrain.

A poem of five lines is called a quintain.

A poem of six lines is called a hexastich or sestet.

A poem of seven lines is called a heptastich or septet.

A poem of eight lines is called an octave.

A poem of fourteen lines is called a sonnet.

ASSIGNMENT:

Mention five figures of speech commonly used in poetry.

Describe the following features:

- Rhythm
- Rhyme
- Tone
- Stanza
- Imagery

WEEK 5 & 6- Literary Terms

FIGURES OF SPEECH

A figure of speech is a literary device in which language is used in an unusual—or "figured"—way in order to produce a stylistic effect.

Types of Figures of Speech

1. Simile: This is a direct comparison of two different things using the words "like" or "as". Example: He is as gentle as a dove.
2. Metaphor: This is an indirect comparison of two things without using "like" or "as". Example: He is a dove.
3. Personification: This entails giving human traits, feelings, or actions to non-living objects or abstract ideas. Example: "The angry wind howled through the night.
4. Hyperbole: This is a deliberate exaggeration used for emphasis or humor, not meant to be taken literally. Example: I am so hungry I could eat a horse.
5. Irony: This is a sharp contrast between what is expected to happen and what actually happens, or saying one thing while meaning the exact opposite. Example: A fire station burning down.
6. Alliteration: The repetition of the same initial consonant sound in neighboring words. Example: "She sells seashells by the seashore.
7. Onomatopoeia: The use of words that imitate the actual sounds they represent. Example: The snake let out a loud hiss.
8. Apostrophe: addressing an absent person or an object as if it could

respond. Example: Nigeria, we hail thee!

9. Oxymoron: refers to two opposite words placed side by side. E.g: she had a bitter sweet experience last night.
10. Synecdoche: here, a part is used to represent the whole or the whole represents a part. Eg: We need a few more **strong arms** to move these boxes.
11. Metonymy: Here, one thing is referred to by something closely associated with it. Eg: **The crown** has approved the law. {the king/queen}

ASSIGNMENT:

Explain the importance of figures of speech in Literature.

Mention and explain any ten figures of you have studied.

WEEK 7- LITERARY APPRECIATION

What is literary appreciation?

Literary appreciation is the ability to read, understand, analyse and evaluate literary works by making informed critical judgements about them.

What to Appreciate / Terms Used in Literary Appreciation

When appreciating a literary work, consider the following:

- Plot: the sequence of events or storyline.
- Theme: the central idea of the literary piece.
- Style: the writer's unique way of using language.

- Mood: the feeling or atmosphere the writer creates.
- Diction: the writer's choice of words.
- Literary Devices: writing techniques such as metaphor, simile, personification and irony that help to convey meaning and make the work more interesting.

Significance/Importance of Literary Appreciation

- a. It enables readers to understand and evaluate literary works properly.
- b. It creates a better understanding between the writer and the reader.
- c. It helps readers appreciate the worth and beauty of literary works.
- d. It helps readers understand the informative and imagination aspects of literature.

ASSIGNMENT: Attempt a literary appreciation of the poem "Once Upon a Time" by Gabriel Okara.

WEEK 8- IDENTIFICATION OF FIGURES OF SPEECH IN POEMS

Figures of speech are literary devices that are very crucial in poetry. They make poems more interesting by ensuring an effective expression of emotion.

Some figures of speech that are commonly used in poetry are: simile, metaphor, personification, hyperbole, onomatopoeia, alliteration, euphemism, oxymoron etc.

HOW TO IDENTIFY FIGURES OF SPEECH IN A POEM

- Read the poem carefully.

- Look for direct and indirect comparisons {simile and metaphor}.
- Check if human qualities are given to non-human things {personification}
- Look for deliberate exaggeration {hyperbole}
- Identify words that imitate sounds {onomatopoeia}
- Etc.

Example:

The smiling sun awoke the day,
And chased the sleepy clouds away.
Its golden arms embraced the land,
Bringing hope with gentle hand.

Literary Analysis:

- a. “The smiling sun”- personification
- b. “Sleepy clouds”- personification
- c. “Golden arms”- metaphor
- d. “Embraced the land”- personification

ASSIGNMENT: Identify the figures of speech in the poem below.

The wind whispered through the trees,
The river clapped with gentle ease.

My heart was a burning fire,
Rising higher and higher.

WEEK 9- How to Compose Poems with Figures of Speech

Composing poems with figures of speech involves selecting a central theme, brainstorming vivid comparisons like similes and metaphors, and structuring lines with poetic devices such as alliteration and personification.

Step-by-Step Guide to Composing Your Poem

Choose a Subject: Pick a simple topic like the rain, the morning sun, a busy street, or a quiet night.

Brainstorm Images: Write down 5 words or feelings associated with your topic.

Add Comparisons: Turn your ideas into similes and metaphors. Instead of saying the night is dark, write the night is a black velvet cloak.

Bring Objects to Life: Use personification to make nature active (e.g., The stars danced in the sky).

Refine the Sound: Add alliteration or a simple rhyming pattern (like AABB or ABAB) at the end of your lines.

Example

The smiling sun awoke the day,
And chased the sleepy clouds away.
Its golden arms embraced the land,
Bringing hope with gentle hand.

ASSIGNMENT: Compose a poem of five {5} lines with figures of speech.