

LITERATURE IN ENGLISH

FOR

Senior Secondary School



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EDUBASE

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SS1

Literature In English

First Term

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Week 1

Topic: Meaning of literature In English

Content:

1. Definition of Literature
2. Types of Literature

Definition of Literature

Literature is a subject that mirrors people, their customs and traditions for others to see and learn from. Literature epitomizes the history of a particular group of people and their totality.

It exposes people to the realities of life. Literature is any printed and unprinted materials that instructs, informs, educates, and entertain people. *Literature* is a term used to describe written and sometimes spoken material. Derived from the Latin *litteratura* meaning “writing formed with letters,” *literature* most commonly refers to works of the creative imagination, including poetry, drama, fiction, nonfiction, journalism, and in some instances, song.

Literature is written works (such as poems, plays, and novels) that are considered to be very good and to have lasting importance. They are:

: books, articles, etc., about a particular subject

: printed materials (such as booklets, leaflets, and brochures) that provide information about something

Litterateur: Literature writer

Literatus: A genius in the field of literature

Types of literature

There are two types of Literature – Oral and Written Literature

Two types of literature are written and oral. Oral literature includes ballads, folklore, jokes and fables that are passed down by word of mouth. Written literature includes **poetry** and

novels, with subsections for fiction, **prose**, myth, short story and novel. Some Literary terms:

The **form** of a piece of writing is simply its structure, how it is constructed and organized. Literary forms are like the roots of the literary family tree. Genres, in turn, are like the branches of the family tree.

A **genre** is a specific style or category of writing. Genres make use of the various literary forms as foundations from which to stretch out in many directions of expression. Forms and genres join with content to create the meaning of a piece of writing.

Meaning is basically the writer's message to the reader. Writers choose various forms and genres to help them express their meaning. For instance, a poem about the tragedy of the Civil War would send a very different message than a nonfiction history book.

Literature can be classified into genres

1. **Prose:** Prose is a form of language that exhibits a grammatical structure and a natural flow of speech rather than a rhythmic structure (as in traditional poetry). We have fiction and non-fiction prose.
2. **Drama:** a piece of writing that tells a story and is performed on a stage. A play for theater, radio, or television. **Drama** combines elements of prose and poetry into plays that are usually intended to be performed on stage. Drama joins monologues and dialogues by characters with stage directions and occasionally narrative sections that explain the action. Like poetry, drama can feature hidden meanings and messages that take some work to decipher.
3. **Poetry:** literary work in which special intensity is given to the expression of feelings and ideas by the use of distinctive style and rhythm; poems collectively or as a genre of literature. Poetry uses metrical language with lots of rhythm and rhyme to create word pictures. Poetry employs all kinds of word play, figurative language, and imagery to send its messages, which are often rather obscure and need to be dug out with some effort on the part of the reader.

Types of Prose

- **Fiction:** It is a story invented by someone, it is not real. It is the creation of the writer with the aim of eliciting literary reactions from readers. Fiction centers on imaginary people and events. The story may be from real events, people but changes must be made as well. **Fiction Prose** is written in ordinary, non-metrical language, but it is the product of the writer's imagination. You've probably been reading novels and

short stories for years; if so, you already know a lot about fiction prose. The meaning of fictional works can stretch all the way from obscure and difficult to clear and direct.

- **Non –Fiction** : It is a direct opposite of fictitious literature. They include: books, plays, poems, articles that are real, which are not created or imagined. **Non fiction Prose** is literature that is written in ordinary, non-metrical language and communicates facts or opinions about reality. Every time you read a science textbook or a how-to article, you are reading nonfiction prose. Nonfiction meanings are usually pretty straightforward because the writer's primary purpose is to convey information or persuade readers.

Test and Exercises

1. **The three (3) major categories of literature are**
 - (a) tragedy, comedy, and rhythm
 - (b) poetry, folktales, play
 - (c) drama, lyric, prose fiction
 - (d) poetry, drama, prose.
2. **Which of the following best describe literature? It**
 - (a) tells the story of great men and women
 - (b) is a reflection of man's life in society
 - (c) is a record of past events
 - (d) describes what never happened and cannot happen.
3. **Literature works are classified into**
 - (a) cantose
 - (b) episodes
 - (c) eras
 - (d) genres
4. **Poetry differs from prose by its use of**
 - (a) song
 - (b) condensed language
 - (c) flat character
 - (d) rhythm
5. **Poetry is defined by**
 - (a) words written in sequence
 - (b) condensed use of language
 - (c) evocation of feelings
 - (d) legends and myths

Answers

1. d
2. b

3. d
4. d
5. C

Week 2

Topic: Sources of Literature

Literature are sourced from the following

1. **Folktale:** Folktale is traditional stories that take their roots from culture of a particular group of people. It consists of folk heroes who are admired by people in a particular society and society at large.
2. **Folk dance:** Folk dance is a traditional dance peculiar to a particular area. It is done by folk dancers.
3. **Festival:** Festivals are occasions where people usually perform with musical instrument, films and play to entertain. It marks a special feasting which celebrates religious events and it is usually marked with public holidays.
4. **Rituals:** Ritual is a ceremony that is always performed in the same way, in order to mark an important religious or social occasion. It is believed to be used to appease the gods and deities.
5. **Myths:** Myth is a story that many people believe, which may or may not be true. It is an old story, especially those ones invented in order to explain natural or historic events. It is an imaginary story of gods, heroes, and heroines and supernatural beings which the society upholds.
6. **Legends:** Legend is an old, well known story which centers on adventure of brave people, or magical events. Note: A legend is someone who is famous and admired for being extremely good at doing something.
7. **Customs/Traditions:** Customs is the habits or behaviors of people in a particular society. Tradition is a way of life in a particular society that has existed for a very long time. Indeed, it is the way in which things are done by a particular group of people or community.

ASSESSMENT

1. **An old story believed by a lot of people but may not be true is known as**
 - (a) Legend
 - (b) Customs/Traditions
 - (c) Rituals
 - (d) Myth

2. **The source of literature where people perform with musical instruments, dance performance or plays is called**
 - (a) Festival
 - (b) Folktale
 - (c) Legend
 - (d) Folk dance
3. **A ceremony always performed the same way to mark a religious event or occasion is**
 - (a) celebration
 - (b) holiday
 - (c) ritual
 - (d) customs
4. **When the habits and behaviors of a group of people or community has existed for a long time it is called**
 - (a) ritual
 - (b) festival
 - (c) folkdance
 - (d) culture/tradition
5. **What are folktales?**
 - (a) stories about imaginary gods
 - (b) stories about heroes that are admired in a particular society
 - (c) stories told to children when they are unable to sleep
 - (d) stories told to make people happy

Answers

1. d
2. a
3. c
4. d
5. b

Week 3

Topic: Purpose of Literature

Literature help to provide pleasure to readers, to help build experience, to help readers empathize with others and to develop thinking skills.

While literature's educational importance is often downplayed in favor of business and technical education, the study of books offers many positive benefits to readers.

Because literary study involves the four processes of reading, thinking, discussing, and writing, its practical pedagogical value lies in its tendency to stimulate these activities and thereby improve the student's ability to perform them.

Reading literature is a pleasurable, entertaining and it offers readers the potential to escape from the troubles of daily life.

Literature also has the power to provoke thought in readers, making it a leisure activity that is also intellectually productive.

Literature also has the power to impart a wide variety of experiences to readers. A story can expose readers to different places, time periods, viewpoints and cultures.

Readers can gain experiences through literature they would never have access to in ordinary life. Literature's ability to capture the imagination and depict the lives of others also increases readers' ability to empathize with others.

Literature helps a lot in the development of language. It is by reading books and other relevant materials that one acquires appropriate use of language.

It teaches moral lessons, corrects wrong doings and recognizes achievements and appreciates achievers.

It assists a lot in the process of projecting the customs and traditions of the people.

It entertains, educates and instructs literature lovers

ASSESSMENT

1. **Literature helps to do the following except**
 - (a) develop reader's thinking skills
 - (b) provide pleasure for readers
 - (c) helps to clear their memories
 - (d) helps to build experiences
2. **Literary study involves these four processes**
 - (a) reading, sleeping, discussing, climbing
 - (b) discussing, thinking, sleeping, writing
 - (c) thinking, riding, discussing, reading
 - (d) reading, thinking, discussing, writing
3. **Reading literature is the following except**
 - (a) pleasurable
 - (b) entertaining
 - (c) escape from the troubles of daily life
 - (d) violent
4. **Literature's ability to capture the imagination and depict the lives of others also increases readers' ability to**
 - (a) empathize with others
 - (b) follow people about
 - (c) unlock the secret of life
 - (d) create hostility
5. **A story can expose readers to the following except**
 - (a) different place
 - (b) time periods
 - (c) violence
 - (d) viewpoints

Answer

1. c
2. d
3. d
4. c
5. c

Week 4

Topic: Genres of Literature

Content:

1. **Types of Genres of Literature**
2. **Meaning of drama**
3. **Characteristics of drama**
4. **Types of drama**
5. **Meaning of poetry**
6. **Characteristics of poetry**
7. **Types of poetry**

There are three genres of Literature:

1. Drama
2. Prose
3. Poetry

Drama: Drama in real life involves action. It is a situation in which happenings in a story are acted on stage by characters (casts). It is classified into:

1. **Melodrama**—it is regarded as melodrama when drama is exaggerated.
2. **Straight drama**—It is a drama in which issues presented in the drama involves serious reactions from both the audience and the characters.

Characteristics of Drama

1. Drama is meant to be acted on stage.
2. It makes use of dialogues between one cast and another or group of casts.
3. Also, it is usually divided into acts and scenes.
4. Drama requires the active participation of audience.

Types of Drama

1. Mime: This is a dramatic performance in which the action and events are conveyed through the medium of movements, facial expression and gesture without words.
2. Opera: This is a drama that is made up of songs. All actions are musical.
3. Allegory: In this type of drama, casts are exaggerated in a ridiculous manner to teach moral and intellectual lesson.
4. Epic: This is a form of drama which represents the history of individuals and people. The aim is to glorify the past heroic deeds of individuals and people.

Poetry

This is a form of writing that is expressed by emotion and a deep feeling that may be very difficult to explain in literary form. It is the act of uniting pleasure within truth by the help of imagination and reasoning. Note: Poetic License is the freedom a poet enjoys in violating the normal rules of a language.

Characteristics of poetry

1. Poetry makes use of archaic language and choice of words.
2. It makes use of stanza, meter, rhyme scheme and lines.
3. It makes use of dialogue known as dramatic monologue.
4. It makes use of invented characters and settings.
5. The language of poetry is expressed rhythmically.

Types of Poetry

1. The Lyric
2. The Epic
3. The Ode
4. The Sonnet
5. The Ballad
6. The Elegy
7. Dramatic/Narrative/Descriptive
8. Lullaby
9. Dirge
10. Idyll.

Test and Exercises

1. **The three genres of literature are**
 - (a) comedy, tragedy, tragi-comedy
 - (b) poetry, drama, folktales
 - (c) drama, lyric, prose fiction
 - (d) prose, poetry, drama

2. **Pick the odd item from the options below**
 - (a) mime
 - (b) dance
 - (c) allegory
 - (d) epic
3. **Which of the following is not a type of poetry**
 - (a) dirge
 - (b) sonnet
 - (c) dialogue
 - (d) Lullaby
4. **Which genre of literature is acted on stage by characters?**
 - (a) prose
 - (b) drama
 - (c) mimic
 - (d) poetry
5. **The freedom a poet enjoys in violating the normal rules of a language is called**
 - (a) poetic law
 - (b) poetic justice
 - (c) poetic licence
 - (d) poetic identification

Week 5

Topic: Genres of Literature (II).

Types of Poetry

Lyric: It is a form of poetry expressing strong emotions like love which is usually very light-hearted. A lyric is meant to be sung to the accompaniment of the Greek musical instrument.

Epic: It is a long poem and elaborated narrative poem. It is about the actions of great men and women or about a nation's history.

Ballad: It is a poem that tells a story and teaches moral lessons. It narrates the story of unfulfilled love and belated expectations.

Ode: It is a poem of meditation that addressed to animate or inanimate objects. An Ode speaks to a person or thing or celebrates a special events

Sonnet: It is a lyrical poem which is of fourteen lines with rhyme scheme. It consists of three types: a. Italian sonnet. b. English or Shakespearean sonnet. c. Miltonic Sonnet. The first eight lines is called octave while the last six lines is called sestet.

Dirge: It is a spontaneous reaction through the medium of speech to a sad event, while Elegy begins where a dirge ends. A dirge occurs before an elegy. Elegy is a poem written with the sole aim of remembering a sad situation.

Lullaby: It is a soft sonorous song meant to keep children quiet, peaceful, and happy. It can also lure them to sleep.

Idyll: It is a short, smooth and idealized poem that described a peaceful scene, or incident.

Narrative poem: It tells a story or gives an account of something with sole aim to teach moral lessons, while dramatic poem usually consists of dramatic monologue, in an attempt to present the action of human beings, so as to make the poem real.

Test and Exercises

1. **Pick the odd item from the options below**
(a) epic
(b) lyric
(c) dance
(d) sonnet
2. **Poetry that expresses strong emotions like love is**
(a) lyric
(b) ballad
(c) idyll
(d) narrative poem
3. **A praise poem is**
(a) a dirge
(b) an epic
(c) a ballad
(d) an ode
4. **Pick the odd item out of the underlisted**
(a) ode
(b) elegy
(c) sonnet
(d) simile
5. **A short poem used to remember a sad situation is a**
(a) lyric
(b) sonnet
(c) ballad
(d) dirge

Answer

1. c
2. a
3. d
4. d
5. d

Week 6

Topic: Prose

A prose is a long narrative with a wide range of characters, events, experiences, written in a straight forward language. The main character in a prose work is the protagonist. The chief character who opposes the main character is called antagonist.

Prose man/Prosiest/Novelist: The writer of a prose work.

Types of characters

1. Flat character: flat character is the opposite of a round character. This literary personality is notable for one kind of personality trait or characteristic
2. Round character: A rounded character is anyone who has a complex personality; he or she is often portrayed as a conflicted and contradictory person.
3. Static character: A static character is someone who does not change over time; his or her personality does not transform or evolve.
4. Main character: characters are vital to the development and resolution of the conflict. In other words, the plot and resolution of conflict revolves around these characters.
5. Minor characters: serve to complement the major characters and help move the plot events forward.

Note: A long narrative prose in which the characters are usually imaginary is known as a novel, but when the prose narrative is short it is called a Novelette. A short narration that focuses only on an event or an issue is a Novella or Novelle.

Types of prose

1. Detective prose: This research aims to investigate the development of the Sepedi detective story, and to classify existing works into appropriate sub-genres
2. Terror novel
3. Sociological novel
4. Epistolary novel
5. Biography
6. Autobiography

7. Narrative prose: This is the most common type of prose found in novels and stories. Basically it relates to any sort of writing that tells a story, or develops a plot.

Test and Exercises

1. A prose is a long narrative with a wide range of characters, events, experiences, written in a ___ language
 - (a) crooked
 - (b) flowery
 - (c) superfluous
 - (d) straight forward
2. Pick the odd one out of the underlisted items
 - (a) terror novel
 - (b) detective prose
 - (c) short film
 - (d) biography
3. The main character in a prose work is the
 - (a) villain
 - (b) actor
 - (c) superman
 - (d) protagonist
4. Pick the odd one out of the following items
 - (a) round character
 - (b) flat character
 - (c) rectangle character
 - (d) static character
5. Pick out the odd option
 - (a) novel
 - (b) novella
 - (c) novellete
 - (d) novellus

Answers

1. d
2. c
3. d
4. c
5. d

SS1

Literature In English

Second Term

TABLE OF CONENT

WEEK 1 TOPIC:	GENERAL CHARACTERISTICS OF PROSE WRITING
WEEK 2 TOPIC:	FORMS OF LITERATURE
WEEK 3 & 4 TOPIC:	LITERARY TERMS
WEEK 5 TOPIC:	LITERARY TERMS (II) FOR PREVIOUS NOTES ON “LITERARY TERMS”
WEEK 6 TOPIC:	DRAMA

Week 1

Topic: General characteristics of prose writing

Content:Narrative Devices in Literature

The major characteristic of prose work is the use of narrative devices such as flashback. Others include: a. the introduction of conflict. b. the use of chapters and paragraphs c. the use of characters.

Narrative Devices in Literature

A writer adopts different strategies to tell his story. Devices in literature include:

1. **Foreshadowing:** Foreshadowing is a device used to describe events that are yet to happen in the story.
2. **Monologue:** Monologue is a device adopted to reveal the inner mind of a character. It is classified into two:(a) aside (b) soliloquy. An aside occurs when a character talks to himself in the presence of the audience, but the other cast in the play do not hear, even if they heard what was said, they acted otherwise. On the other hand, soliloquy happens when a character talks to him only when other casts are not around, here, it is only the audience that listens to him.
3. **Suspense:** Suspense is a device used to reduce an already built up tension. It can be done by introducing a jester or deviate from the expectations of the audience.
4. **Flashback:** Flashback is a device used by writers to bring the past issue, action and event to the present. It is done to link the past with the present.
5. **Dialogue:** Dialogue is an integral part of literary work. It is used to avoid ambiguity in time, event and action in any literary piece. It is use to make their narration a bit dramatic and real.
6. **Point of View:** Point of View is the way the novelists sees his work, casts and the story. It include: a. the first person point of view. b. autobiography narrative device .c. the third person point of view .d. Omniscient point of view.
7. Stream of Consciousness
8. Epistolary Device

Test and Exercise

1. **Pick the odd one out of these items**
(a) flashback

- (b) verse
- (c) introduction of conflict
- (d) chapters and paragraphs
- 2. **Foreshadowing, monologue, suspense, and flashback are all examples of**
 - (a) narrative machinery
 - (b) narrative vehicle
 - (c) narrative device
 - (d) narrative automation
- 3. **Suspense is used to reduce an already built up**
 - (a) attention
 - (b) audience
 - (c) rhythm
 - (d) tension
- 4. **One of the following is a narrative device**
 - (a) epistolary
 - (b) sonnet
 - (c) ode
 - (d) lyric
- 5. **Flashback is used to link the past with the**
 - (a) alternative
 - (b) present
 - (c) future
 - (d) forever

Answers

- 1. b
- 2. c
- 3. d
- 4. a
- 5. b

Week 2

Topic: Forms of Literature

Contents

1. **Forms of Literature**
2. **Meaning of tragedy**
3. **Characteristics of tragedy**
4. **Meaning of comedy**
5. **Characteristics of comedy**

The forms of literature are classified into two:

1. Tragedy
2. Comedy.

Tragedy

It has an elevated diction and action, but with an unhappy ending. It begins in a good note, but ends on a very sad note. The disaster is usually targeted at the hero. Sometimes, his down fall is attributed to his inability to control his weakness (tragic flaw)

Characteristics of Tragedy

1. The writer makes efforts to arouse his reader's curiosity.
2. There is the presence of irony which could be verbal or dramatic
3. There is conflict as a result of struggle between the opposing forces.
4. Sometimes, comic relief is seen to reduce tension.

Comedy

It is a light amusing work, which is funny and ends on a happy note. It is a form of entertainment. They are as follows:

1. Comedy of manners
2. Black comedy
3. Comedy of absurd
4. Situational comedy.

Note: A comedian is a male entertainer who makes people laugh by cracking jokes or telling funny stories, while a comedienne refers to the female counterpart.

Characteristics of Comedy

1. It must consist of humors.
2. There is always an atmosphere of laughter
3. There is an element of ignorant on the part of the hero which must cause his downfall.
4. There is always a ridiculous and unusual character.

Test and Exercises

1. **The two forms of literature are**
(a) tragedy and comedy
(b) comedy and mime
(c) horror and action
(d) ode and sonnet
2. **The inability of the hero to control his weakness is called**
(a) tragic floor
(b) tragic form
(c) tragic flop
(d) tragic flaw
3. **All these are characteristics of tragedy except**
(a) arouses reader's curiosity
(b) absence of irony
(c) conflict as a result of struggle between opposing forces
(d) comic relief
4. **A light amusing work that often ends on a happy note is called**
(a) an ode
(b) a comedy
(c) an elegy
(d) a dirge
5. **Pick out the odd option in the following items**
(a) black comedy
(b) white comedy
(c) situational comedy
(d) comedy of manners

Answers

1. a
2. d
3. b
4. b
5. b

Week 3 & 4

Topic: Literary Terms

These are terms that we make use of when appreciating any literary work. They are tools for literary analysis. Literary Devices refers to the typical structures used by writers in their works to convey his or her messages in a simple manner to the readers. When employed properly, the different literary devices help readers to appreciate, interpret and analyze a literary work. Below is a list of literary devices with detailed definition and examples.

They include:

1. A foil character: It is a character that contrasts with, and sets off the qualities of another character.
2. Aesthetics: It is the study of the beautiful work of art in literature.
3. Allegory: It is a narrative in which action, character and the setting is depictions created to make sense on another level of events, character and actions.
4. Alliteration: It is the repetition of consonant sounds within a piece of poem.
5. Cast: It refers to the collective term used to refer to all the actors/actresses in a play.
6. Costumes: They are clothes which the characters put on while on the stage.
7. Theme: It is the central idea, which envelopes any piece of art.
8. Subject matter: It refers to what the work of art in question is all about.
9. Diction: It is the choice of words in any piece of writing.
10. Imagery: It is the appeal to the senses through words, while an image is the mental representation of anything not actually presented to the senses.

Allegory

Definition:

An allegory is a symbolism device where the meaning of a greater, often abstract, concept is conveyed with the aid of a more corporeal object or idea being used as an example. Usually a rhetoric device, an allegory suggests a meaning via metaphoric examples.

Example:

Faith is like a stony uphill climb: a single stumble might send you sprawling but belief and steadfastness will see you to the very top.

Alliteration

Definition:

Alliteration is a literary device where words are used in quick succession and begin with letters belonging to the same sound group. Whether it is the consonant sound or a specific vowel group, the alliteration involves creating a repetition of similar sounds in the sentence. Alliterations are also created when the words all begin with the same letter. Alliterations are used to add character to the writing and often add an element of 'fun' to the piece..

Example:

The Wicked White Witch of the West Wing went her own way. (The 'W' sound is highlighted and repeated throughout the sentence.)

Personification

Definition:

Personification is one of the most commonly used and recognized literary devices. It refers to the practice of attaching human traits and characteristics with inanimate objects, phenomena and animals.

Example:

"The raging winds"

"The wise owl"

"The warm and comforting fire"

Plot

Definition:

The plot usually refers to the sequence of events and happenings that make up a story. There is usually a pattern, unintended or intentional, that threads the plot together. The plot basically refers to the main outcome and order of the story. There is another kind of plot in literature as well; it refers to the conflict or clash occurring as a part of the story. The conflict usually follows 3 regular formats: a) characters in conflict with one another b) characters in conflict with their surroundings and c) characters in conflict with themselves.

Example:

Many date movies follow a similar simple plot. Boy meets girl, boy loses girl, boy wins girl back in the end.

Point of View

Definition:

Point of view is the manner in which a story is narrated or depicted and who it is that tells the story. Simply put, the point of view determines the angle and perception of the story unfolding, and thus influences the tone in which the story takes place. The point of view is instrumental in manipulating the reader's understanding of the narrative. In a way, the point of view can allow or withhold the reader access into the greater reaches of the story. Two of the most common point of view techniques are the first person, wherein the story is told by the narrator from his or her standpoint and the third person wherein the narrator does not figure in the events of the story and tells the story by referring to all characters and places in the third person with third person pronouns and proper nouns.

Example:

In the popular Lord of the Rings book series, the stories are narrated in the third person and all happenings are described from an "outside the story" point of view. Contrastingly, in the popular teen book series, Princess Diaries, the story is told in the first person, by the protagonist herself.

Polysyndeton

Definition:

Polysyndeton refers to the process of using conjunctions or connecting words frequently in a sentence, placed very close to one another. Opposed to the usual norm of using them sparsely, only where they are technically needed. The use of polysyndetons is primarily for adding dramatic effect as they have a strong rhetorical presence.

Example:

For example:

a) Saying "here and there and everywhere", instead of simply saying "here, there and everywhere".

b) "Marge and Susan and Anne and Daisy and Barry all planned to go for a picnic", instead of "Marge, Susan, Anne, Daisy and Barry..." emphasizes each of the individuals and calls attention to every person one by one instead of assembling them as a group.

Portmanteau

Definition:

In literature, this device refers to the practice of joining together two or more words in order to create an entirely new word. This is often done in order to create a name or word for something by combining the individual characteristics of 2 or more other words.

Example:

1. The word “smog” is a portmanteau that was built combining “fog” and “smoke” and “smog” has the properties of both fog and smoke.

2. Liger= Lion + Tiger= A hybrid of the two feline species, possessing characteristics of both.

Prologue

Definition:

A prologue can be understood to be a sort of introduction to a story that usually sets the tone for the story and acts as a bit of a backgrounder or a “sneak peek” into the story. Prologues are typically a narrative ‘spoken’ by one of the characters and not from the part of the author.
Example:

1. “The origin of this story is...”

2. “It all began one day when...”

Puns

Definition:

Puns are a very popular literary device wherein a word is used in a manner to suggest two or more possible meanings. This is generally done to the effect of creating humor or irony or wryness. Puns can also refer to words that suggest meanings of similar-sounding words. The trick is to make the reader have an “ah!” moment and discover 2 or more meanings.

Example:

Santa’s helpers are known as subordinate Clauses.

Syntax

Definition:

Syntax in literature refers to the actual way in which words and sentences are placed together in the writing. Usually in the English language the syntax should follow a pattern of subject-verb-object agreement but sometimes authors play around with this to achieve a lyrical, rhythmic, rhetoric or questioning effect. It is not related to the act of choosing specific words or even the meaning of each word or the overall meanings conveyed by the sentences.

Example:

The sentence “The man drives the car” would follow normal syntax in the English language. By changing the syntax to “The car drives the man”, the sentence becomes awkward.

Theme

Definition:

The theme of any literary work is the base that acts as a foundation for the entire literary piece. The theme links all aspects of the literary work with one another and is basically the main subject. The theme can be an enduring pattern or motif throughout the literary work, occurring in a complex, long winding manner or it can be short and succinct and provide a certain insight into the story.

Example:

The main theme in the play Romeo and Juliet was love with smaller themes of sacrifice, tragedy, struggle, hardship, devotion and so on.

Tone

Definition:

The tone of a literary work is the perspective or attitude that the author adopts with regards to a specific character, place or development. Tone can portray a variety of emotions ranging from solemn, grave, and critical to witty, wry and humorous. Tone helps the reader ascertain the writer's feelings towards a particular topic and this in turn influences the reader's understanding of the story.

Example:

In her Harry Potter series, author J.K. Rowling has taken an extremely positive, inspiring and uplifting tone towards the idea of love and devotion.

Tragedy

Definition:

In literature, the concept of tragedy refer to a series of unfortunate events by which one or more of the literary characters in the story undergo several misfortunes, which finally culminate into a disaster of 'epic proportions'. Tragedy is generally built up in 5 stages: a) happy times b) the introduction of a problem c) the problem worsens to a crisis or dilemma d) the characters are unable to prevent the problem from taking over e) the problem results in some catastrophic, grave ending, which is the tragedy culminated.

Example:

In the play Julius Caesar, the lead character is an ambitious, fearless and power hungry king who ignores all the signs and does not heed the advice of the well-meaning: finally being stabbed to death by his own best friend and advisor Brutus. This moment has been immortalized by the phrase "Et tu Brutus?", wherein Caesar realizes that he has finally been defeated, and that too through betrayal.

Verse

Definition:

The literary term 'verse' is used to refer to any single, lone line of a poetry composition. A metrical writing line is known as verse. The word can however, also refer to a stanza or any other part of the poetry.

Example:

A single line or stanza in a poem would be an example of verse.

Understatement

Definition:

This literary device refers to the practice of drawing attention to a fact that is already obvious and noticeable. Understating a fact is usually done by way of sarcasm, irony, wryness or any other form of dry humor. Understating something is akin to exaggerating its obviousness as a means of humor.

Example:

The phrase, “Oh! I wonder if he could get any later; I am free all day long”. Said in a sarcastic tone it indicates that the speaker obviously means the opposite of the literal meaning.

Rhyme Scheme

Definition:

The rhyme scheme is the practice of rhyming words placed at the end of the lines in the prose or poetry. Rhyme scheme refers to the order in which particular words rhyme. If the alternate words rhyme, it is an “a-b-a-b” rhyme scheme, which means “a” is the rhyme for the lines 1 and 3 and “b” is the rhyme affected in the lines 2 and 4.

Example:

Roses are red (a)

Violets are blue (b)

Beautiful they all may be (c)

But I love you (b)

The above is an “a-b-c-b” rhyme scheme.

Rhythm & Rhyme

Definition:

The concept of ‘rhythm and rhyme’ refers to a pattern of rhymes that is created by using words that produce the same, or similar sounds. Rhythm and rhyme together refer to the recurrence of similar sounds in prose and poetry, creating a musical, gentle effect.

Example:

“I am a teapot

Short and stout;

This is my handle

And this is my spout.

When the water's boiling

Hear me shout;

Just lift me up

And pour me out"

Allusion

Definition:

An allusion is a figure of speech whereby the author refers to a subject matter such as a place, event, or literary work by way of a passing reference. It is up to the reader to make a connection to the subject being mentioned.

Example:

It's no wonder everyone refers to Mary as another Mother Teresa in the making; she loves to help and care after people everywhere- from the streets to her own friends.

In the example the author uses the mention of Mother Teresa to indicate the sort of qualities that Mary has.

Amplification

Definition:

Amplification refers to a literary practice wherein the writer embellishes the sentence by adding more information to it in order to increase its worth and understandability. When a plain sentence is too abrupt and fails to convey the full implications desired, amplification comes into play when the writer adds more to the structure to give it more meaning.

Example:

Original sentence- The thesis paper was difficult. After amplification- The thesis paper was difficult: it required extensive research, data collection, sample surveys, interviews and a lot of fieldwork.

Anagram

Definition:

Anagrams are an extremely popular form of literary device wherein the writer jumbles up parts of the word to create a new word. From the syllables of a phrase to the individual letters of a word, any fraction can be jumbled to create a new form. Anagram is a form of wordplay that

allows the writer to infuse mystery and a little interactive fun in the writing so that the reader can decipher the actual word on their own and discover a depth of meaning to the writing.

Example:

An anagram for “debit card” is “bad credit”. As you can see, both phrases use the same letters. By mixing the letters a bit of humor is created.

Analogy

Definition:

An analogy is a literary device that helps to establish a relationship based on similarities between two concepts or ideas. By using an analogy we can convey a new idea by using the blueprint of an old one as a basis for understanding. With a mental linkage between the two, one can create understanding regarding the new concept in a simple and succinct manner.

Example:

In the same way as one cannot have the rainbow without the rain, one cannot achieve success and riches without hard work.

Malapropism

Definition:

Malapropism in literature refers to the practice of misusing words by substituting words with similar sounding words that have different, often unconnected meanings, and thus creating a situation of confusion, misunderstanding and amusement. Malapropism is used to convey that the speaker or character is flustered, bothered, unaware or confused and as a result cannot employ proper diction. A trick to using malapropism is to ensure that the two words (the original and the substitute) sound similar enough for the reader to catch onto the intended switch and find humor in the result.

Example:

In the play *Much Ado About Nothing*, noted playwright William Shakespeare’s character Dogberry says, “Our watch, sir, have indeed comprehended two auspicious persons.” Instead, what the character means to say is “Our watch, sir, have indeed apprehended two suspicious persons.”

Metaphor

Definition:

Metaphors are one of the most extensively used literary devices. A metaphor refers to a meaning or identity ascribed to one subject by way of another. In a metaphor, one subject is implied to be another so as to draw a comparison between their similarities and shared traits. The first subject, which is the focus of the sentences is usually compared to the second subject, which is used to convey a degree of meaning that is used to characterize the first. The purpose of using a metaphor is to take an identity or concept that we understand clearly (second subject) and use it to better understand the lesser known element (the first subject).

Example:

“Henry was a lion on the battlefield”. This sentence suggests that Henry fought so valiantly and bravely that he embodied all the personality traits we attribute to the ferocious animal. This sentence implies immediately that Henry was courageous and fearless, much like the King of the Jungle.

Anastrophe

Definition:

Anastrophe is a form of literary device wherein the order of the noun and the adjective in the sentence is exchanged. In standard parlance and writing the adjective comes before the noun but when one is employing an anastrophe the noun is followed by the adjective. This reversed order creates a dramatic impact and lends weight to the description offered by the adjective.
Example:

He spoke of times past and future, and dreamt of things to be.

Anecdote

Definition:

The word anecdote, phonetically pronounced an.ik.doht, means a short verbal accounting of a funny, amusing, interesting event or incident. The story is usually a reminiscence from the teller's life but at best is a related story of fact, as opposed to a contrived work of fiction. The origin of the word anecdote comes from the Greek Byzantine period, A.D. 527 to 565 during the reign of emperor Justinian. In his court, Justinian had a historian named Procopius who was a gifted writer who wrote many witty, amusing and somewhat bawdy accounts of court life. Never intending for this stories to become public he entitled his writings as “Anecdota” which was Greek for unpublished and kept secret. After his secret writings did indeed become public and published, the term anecdote became commonly used for similar accounts.

Hyperbole

Definition:

A hyperbole is a literary device wherein the author uses specific words and phrases that exaggerate and overemphasize the basic crux of the statement in order to produce a grander, more noticeable effect. The purpose of hyperbole is to create a larger-than-life effect and overly stress a specific point. Such sentences usually convey an action or sentiment that is generally not practically/ realistically possible or plausible but helps emphasize an emotion.
Example:

“I am so tired I cannot walk another inch” or “I’m so sleepy I might fall asleep standing here”.

Imagery

Definition:

In literature, one of the strongest devices is imagery wherein the author uses words and phrases to create “mental images” for the reader. Imagery helps the reader to visualize more realistically the author's writings. The usage of metaphors, allusions, descriptive words and

similes amongst other literary forms in order to “tickle” and awaken the readers’ sensory perceptions is referred to as imagery. Imagery is not limited to only visual sensations, but also refers to igniting kinesthetic, olfactory, tactile, gustatory, thermal and auditory sensations as well.

Example:

The gushing brook stole its way down the lush green mountains, dotted with tiny flowers in a riot of colors and trees coming alive with gaily chirping birds.

Internal Rhyme

Definition:

In literature the internal rhyme is a practice of forming a rhyme in only one lone line of verse. An internal rhyme is also known as the middle rhyme because it is typically constructed in the middle of a line to rhyme with the bit at the end of the same metrical line.

Example:

The line from the famed poem Ancient Mariner, “We were the first that ever burst”.

Inversion

Definition:

The term ‘inversion’ refers to the practice of changing the conventional placement of words. It is a literary practice typical of the older classical poetry genre. In present day literature it is usually used for the purpose of laying emphasis this literary device is more prevalent in poetry than prose because it helps to arrange the poem in a manner that catches the attention of the reader not only with its content but also with its physical appearance; a result of the peculiar structuring.

Example:

In the much known and read Paradise Lost, Milton wrote:

“Of Man’s First Disobedience, and the Fruit

Of that Forbidden Tree, whose mortal taste

Brought Death into the World, and all our woe,

With loss of Eden, till one greater Man

Restore us, and regain the blissful Seat,

Sing Heav’nly Muse. . .”

Irony

Definition:

The use of irony in literature refers to playing around with words such that the meaning implied by a sentence or word is actually different from the literal meaning. Often irony is used to suggest the stark contrast of the literal meaning being put forth. The deeper, real layer of significance is revealed not by the words themselves but the situation and the context in which they are placed.

Example:

Writing a sentence such as, "Oh! What fine luck I have!". The sentence on the surface conveys that the speaker is happy with their luck but actually what they mean is that they are extremely unhappy and dissatisfied with their (bad) luck.

Juxtaposition

Definition:

Juxtaposition is a literary device wherein the author places a person, concept, place, idea or theme parallel to another. The purpose of juxtaposing two directly or indirectly related entities close together in literature is to highlight the contrast between the two and compare them. This literary device is usually used for etching out a character in detail, creating suspense or lending a rhetorical effect.

Example:

In *Paradise Lost*, Milton has used juxtaposition to draw a parallel between the two protagonists, Satan and God, who he discusses by placing their traits in comparison with one another to highlight their differences.

Example:

Amusing anecdotes many times find their way into wedding receptions, family reunions and any other gathering of people who know each other well. Teachers and educators often tell classrooms of pupils anecdotes about famous people. The anecdotes are not always flattering, but are usually revealing of character and invariably amusing. Here is an example of an anecdote about Winston Churchill:

Winston Churchill was very fond of his pet dog Rufus. He ate in the dining room with the family on a special cloth and was treated with utmost respect. When enjoying movies, Rufus had the best seat in the house; on Winston Churchill's lap. While watching "Oliver Twist," Churchill put his hands over Rufus' eyes during the scene where Bill Sikes intends to drown his dog. Churchill is believed to have said to Rufus: "don't look now, dear. I'll tell you about it later."

Anthropomorphism

Definition:

Anthropomorphism can be understood to be the act of lending a human quality, emotion or ambition to a non-human object or being. This act of lending a human element to a non-human subject is often employed in order to endear the latter to the readers or audience and increase the level of relativity between the two while also lending character to the subject.

Example:

The raging storm brought with it howling winds and fierce lightning as the residents of the village looked up at the angry skies in alarm.

Antithesis

Definition:

An antithesis is used when the writer employs two sentences of contrasting meanings in close proximity to one another. Whether they are words or phrases of the same sentence, an antithesis is used to create a stark contrast using two divergent elements that come together to create one uniform whole. An antithesis plays on the complementary property of opposites to create one vivid picture. The purpose of using an antithesis in literature is to create a balance between opposite qualities and lend a greater insight into the subject.

Example:

When Neil Armstrong walked on the moon it might have been one small step for a man but it was one giant leap for mankind.

Source: Literary Devices

Test and Exercises

1. **The following are literary devices except**
 - (a) cast
 - (b) costume
 - (c) genre
 - (d) subject
2. **The misuse of words that sound similar somewhat similar is**
 - (a) malapropism
 - (b) metonymy
 - (c) onomatopoeia
 - (d) pun
3. **A seemingly absurd statement is a/an**
 - (a) climax
 - (b) anti-climax
 - (c) hyperbole
 - (d) paradox
4. **Diction is a writer's choice of**
 - (a) styles
 - (b) plot
 - (c) theme
 - (d) words
5. ***"Life is an empty dream"* illustrates the use of**
 - (a) synecdoche
 - (b) hyperbole
 - (c) litotes
 - (d) allusion

Answers

1. c
2. a
3. c
4. d
5. d

Week 5

Topic: Literary Terms (II) For previous notes on “Literary Terms”

1. Plot: It is the arrangement of actions in any literary work.
2. Epilogue: It is the speech made at the end of any work of art, particularly a play.
3. Prologue: It is the speech made at the beginning of any piece of work, particularly a play.
4. Audience: It is a name given to a collection of people watching performance of a play on stage.
5. Antagonist: It is the character that stands in opposition to the protagonist.
6. Characters: They are the human, non-human or supernatural beings that perform all the events that take place in a prose, drama or poetry.
7. Synopsis: It is the summary of a literary work.
8. Catastrophe: It is usually the climax of a tragic play narrative. It usually ends on a melancholic note.
9. Satire: the use of humor, irony, exaggeration, or ridicule to expose and criticize people's stupidity or vices, particularly in the context of contemporary politics and other topical issues.
10. Fable: a short story, typically with animals as characters, conveying a moral.

Test and Exercises

1. **A collection of people who go to watch a play is called**
(a) onlookers
(b) spectators
(c) fans
(d) audience
2. _____ **is the arrangement of action in any literary work**
(a) drama
(b) plot
(c) setting
(s) theme
3. **A summary of a literary work is called a/an**
(a) extract
(b) example
(c) synopsis
(d) satire
4. **An antagonist stands in _____ of the protagonist**
(a) support
(b) opposition
(c) front
(d) awe

5. **Satire uses all of the following except _____ to expose and criticize people's stupidity or vices**
- (a) humor
 - (b) irony
 - (c) personification
 - (d) exaggeration

Answers

- 1. d
- 2. b
- 3. c
- 4. b
- 5. c

Week 6

Topic: Drama

Content

- Meaning of drama
- Types of dram
- Literary terms in drama

Meaning of drama

Drama is a general name for that genre of literature which concerns itself with the dramatization of experience. It is an exciting, emotional, or unexpected series of events or set of circumstances. It is a representative of human action

A person who writes drama is play wright.

Types of drama

1. **Comedy:** This refers to a drama as opposed to tragedy, usually provoking a light atmosphere and which after ends on a happy note
2. **Tragedy:** This is often regarded as the opposite of comedy. It is a drama from whose atmosphere is usually serious and tense and ends with an unhappy ending. In most cases it involves death.
3. **Tragi-comedy:** It is a play which harbors both elements of tragedy and comedy and often ends on happy note.
4. **Farce:** It is a comic drama with no seriousness; it is extremely humorous and often with a very ridiculous characters
5. **Melodrama:** It is often refers to as a tragic farce, especially when a tragedy lacks a sense of cunningness. It is a drama that has a simple conflict typically between an all-good hero and all evil villain
6. **Monodrama/Monologue:** It refers to a dramatic action or speech rendered by only one character who enacts the presence of other character even as they are not there

Literary terms in drama

1. Theatre : The word theatre have several meaning . In one of its meaning;it refers to the work of writing, producing and acting in place

2. Plot: plot refers to the scene of event and the interrelationship between the main event which form the structure of the play.
3. Setting: It refers to a play, time , scene of a cinema
4. Characters: These are list of people that act in a play and which are the actor and actress
5. Flashback: It is a requisite use to remember a play
6. Mime: It is a type of play use to communicate with the audience. the theatrical technique of suggesting action, character, or emotion without words, using only gesture, expression, and movement
7. Audience: They are people who watch the actors and actresses as they act
8. Tragic hero: A tragic hero is a character whose flaws combined with external forces lead to his suffering or downfall, such flaws are called tragic flaws.

Test and Exercises

1. **Drama can be described as the**
 - (a) representation of human actions
 - (b) recognition of human actions
 - (c) reorganization of human actions
 - (d) reconfiguration of human actions
2. **A tragi-comedy often ends on a _____ note**
 - (a) sad
 - (b) happy
 - (c) melancholic
 - (d) morose
3. **A farce is a kind of drama that makes uses of**
 - (a) serious characters
 - (b) sad characters
 - (c) happy characters
 - (d) ridiculous characters
4. **The following are literary terms in drama except**
 - (a) mime
 - (b) plot
 - (c) theatre
 - (d) ode
5. **The flaws that lead to the down fall of a tragic hero is called**
 - (a) comic flaws
 - (b) tragi-comedy flaws
 - (c) tragic flaws
 - (d) melodramatic flaws

Answers

1. a
2. b
3. d

4. d
5. c

SS1

Literature In English

Third Term

TABLE OF CONTENT

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Week 1

Topic: Figures of Speech

Content:

1. Meaning of Figure of Speech
2. Uses of figure of speech
3. Kinds of figure of speech

Meaning of Figures of Speech

A figure of speech is a word or phrase that has a meaning different than its literal meaning. It can be a metaphor or simile that is designed to further explain a concept. Or, it can be a different way of pronouncing a word or phrase such as with alliteration to give further meaning or a different sound.

Figurative language is more effective and more vivid than ordinary or literary language.

Uses of Figures of speech

Figures of speech are used to perform the following:

1. Create images, pictures.
2. Lay emphasis on certain events.
3. Satirize or ridicule bad occurrences.
4. Decorate, overstate or exaggerate, and
5. Make feelings properly appreciated.

Kinds of Figures of Speech

1. **Mixed metaphor:** It is the emerging of two metaphors. Examples: a. taking up arms against the sea of trouble. B. civilization kicked us in the face.
2. **Parallelism:** It is a form of repetition used in order to reveal what has been said in a different form, all meaning the same thing. Example: a. 'How dull it is to pause, to make an end'
3. **Personification :** It is defined as the transfer of the quality of animals and inanimate objects to human beings. Examples: a. confusion heard his voice b. Let the floods clap their hands.
4. **Paradox:** It is a figure of speech in which truth is conveyed under the cloak of apparent contradiction. Example: The ripest fruit was saddest. B. For whosoever will save his life shall lose it.

5. **Epigram** : It is a brief statement that usually introduces an antithetical idea. It closely resembles proverb. Examples: a. more haste; less speed. B. Know then thyself, presume not God to scan.

ASSESSMENT

1. **A figure of speech is a word or phrase that**
 - (a) can be used instead of another
 - (b) helps to explain another word or phrase
 - (c) has a meaning different than its literal meaning
 - (d) has the same meaning as its literal meaning
2. **Figure of speech is used to perform the following except**
 - (a) talk to someone that isn't there
 - (b) create images and pictures
 - (c) lay emphasis on certain events
 - (d) satirize or ridicule bad occurrences.
3. ***Civilization kicked us in the face* is an example of**
 - (a) mixed metaphors
 - (b) paradox
 - (c) epigram
 - (d) personification
4. **Personification transfers the**
 - (a) quality of one man to another man
 - (b) quality of human beings to animals and inanimate objects
 - (c) quality of animals and inanimate objects to human beings
 - (d) quality of plants to animals
5. **The son is the father of the man is an example of**
 - (a) paradox
 - (b) personification
 - (c) mixed metaphor
 - (d) parallelism

Answers

1. c
2. a
3. a
4. c
5. a

Week 2

Topic: Figures of Speech

Content:

Types of Figures of Speech

1. **Epigram** : It is a brief statement that usually introduces an antithetical idea. It closely resembles proverb. Examples: a. more haste; less speed. B. Know then thyself, presume not God to scan.
2. **Metonymy**: It is the representation of an object by something closely associated with it. Example: a. Law and state b. The crown is supreme.
3. **Oxymoron**: It is the placing side by side of two seemingly contradictory words. It is known as a shrunk paradox. Examples: a. what a sick health! B. He had a feather of lead.
4. **Antonomasia**: This is a special form of figure of speech in which the name of a well known person, place or event is used to represent some quality which it epitomizes. Examples: He is a veritable Job. B. She is the Jezebel of our time.
4. **Consonance**: It is the repetition of middle consonant sounds. It is also the agreement in sound between two stressed consonant in a line of a poem. Example: pitter patter, pitter patter, here comes the rain.
5. **Hyperbole**: A far-fetched, over exaggerated description or sentence is called as hyperbole and is commonly used in jokes and making backhanded compliments. For example: When she smiles, her cheeks fall off.
6. **Assonance**: Assonance is a repetition of the vowel sounds. Such a figure of speech is found most commonly in short sentences or verses. For example: And murmuring of innumerable bees
7. **Climax**: In a climax, the words are placed in an ascending order, depending on their significance. These words generally revolve around a central theme and are arranged in an increasing order to create a strong impression on the mind of the reader.

For example: "There are three things that will endure: faith, hope, and love. But the greatest of these is

Irony: Irony is used to stress on the opposite meaning of a word. When people are looking to be sarcastic, they employ irony.
For example: He was so intelligent, that he failed all his tests.

Polysyndeton: Polysyndeton refers to that figure of speech which makes good

use of conjunctions and in close succession.
For example: He ran and jumped and laughed for joy.

zeugma

Zeugma refers to the employment of a word to bridge two or more words, but here the word makes sense to one word or all words in dissimilar ways.

For example: She lowered her standards by raising her glass, her courage, her eyes and his hopes.

Anticlimax

An anticlimax as a figure speech refers to the building up a climax that results in something that cannot really be described as a climax.

For example: On discovering that his friend was murdered, with vengeance on his mind Ravi rushed back to his college, only to find his friend sipping on coffee in the college canteen.

ASSESSMENT

1. **A brief statement that usually introduces an antithetical idea is known as**
 - (a) personification
 - (b) simile
 - (c) ode
 - (d) epigram
2. **'Oh sweet sorrow' makes use of**
 - (a) oxymoron
 - (b) epigram
 - (c) personification
 - (d) metaphor
3. **Assonance is a repetition of**
 - (a) consonant sounds
 - (b) vowel sounds
 - (c) alphabet sounds
 - (c) oral sounds
4. **Irony is used to**
 - (a) tell if a word contain iron
 - (b) stress on the opposite meaning of a word
 - (c) stress the middle of a word
 - (d) tell the true meaning of a sound
5. **Pick out the odd item from the list**
 - (a) noun
 - (b) assonance

- (c) consonance
- (d) epigram

Answer

1. d
2. a
3. b
4. b
5. a

Week 3

Topic: The Old Man and the sea (Plot Overview)

The Old Man and the Sea is the story of an epic struggle between an old, seasoned fisherman and the greatest catch of his life. For eighty-four days, Santiago, an aged Cuban fisherman, has set out to sea and returned empty-handed. So conspicuously unlucky is he that the parents of his young, devoted apprentice and friend, Manolin, have forced the boy to leave the old man in order to fish in a more prosperous boat. Nevertheless, the boy continues to care for the old man upon his return each night. He helps the old man tote his gear to his ramshackle hut, secures food for him, and discusses the latest developments in American baseball, especially the trials of the old man's hero, Joe DiMaggio. Santiago is confident that his unproductive streak will soon come to an end, and he resolves to sail out farther than usual the following day.

On the eighty-fifth day of his unlucky streak, Santiago does as promised, sailing his skiff far beyond the island's shallow coastal waters and venturing into the Gulf Stream. He prepares his lines and drops them. At noon, a big fish, which he knows is a marlin, takes the bait that Santiago has placed one hundred fathoms deep in the waters. The old man expertly hooks the fish, but he cannot pull it in. Instead, the fish begins to pull the boat.

Unable to tie the line fast to the boat for fear the fish would snap a taut line, the old man bears the strain of the line with his shoulders, back, and hands, ready to give slack should the marlin make a run. The fish pulls the boat all through the day, through the night, through another day, and through another night. It swims steadily northwest until at last it tires and swims east with the current. The entire time, Santiago endures constant pain from the fishing line. Whenever the fish lunges, leaps, or makes a dash for freedom, the cord cuts Santiago badly. Although wounded and weary, the old man feels a deep empathy and admiration for the marlin, his brother in suffering, strength, and resolve.

On the third day the fish tires, and Santiago, sleep-deprived, aching, and nearly delirious, manages to pull the marlin in close enough to kill it with a harpoon thrust. Dead beside the skiff, the marlin is the largest Santiago has ever seen. He lashes it to his boat, raises the small mast, and sets sail for home. While Santiago is excited by the price that the marlin will bring at market, he is more concerned that the people who will eat the fish are unworthy of its greatness.

As Santiago sails on with the fish, the marlin's blood leaves a trail in the water and attracts sharks. The first to attack is a great mako shark, which Santiago manages to slay with the harpoon. In the struggle, the old man loses the harpoon and lengths of valuable rope, which leaves him vulnerable to other shark attacks. The old man fights off the successive vicious predators as best he can, stabbing at them with a crude spear he makes by lashing a knife to an oar, and even clubbing them with the boat's tiller. Although he kills several sharks, more and more appear, and by the time night falls, Santiago's continued fight against the scavengers is useless. They devour the marlin's precious meat, leaving only skeleton, head, and tail. Santiago chastises himself for going "out too far," and for sacrificing his great and worthy opponent. He arrives home before daybreak, stumbles back to his shack, and sleeps very deeply.

ASSESSMENT.

1. Summarize the passage.
2. What happened on the third day?
3. Who was the first to attack?
4. On what day did Santiago do as promised?

Week 4

Topic: Analysis of Major Characters of “the old man and the sea”

Santiago

The old man of the novella's title, Santiago is a Cuban fisherman who has had an extended run of bad luck. Despite his expertise, he has been unable to catch a fish for eighty-four days. He is humble, yet exhibits a justified pride in his abilities. His knowledge of the sea and its creatures, and of his craft, is unparalleled and helps him preserve a sense of hope regardless of circumstance. Throughout his life, Santiago has been presented with contests to test his strength and endurance. The marlin with which he struggles for three days represents his greatest challenge. Paradoxically, although Santiago ultimately loses the fish, the marlin is also his greatest victory.

The marlin

Santiago hooks the marlin, which we learn at the end of the novella measures eighteen feet, on the first afternoon of his fishing expedition. Because of the marlin's great size, Santiago is unable to pull the fish in, and the two become engaged in a kind of tug-of-war that often seems more like an alliance than a struggle. The fishing line serves as a symbol of the fraternal connection Santiago feels with the fish. When the captured marlin is later destroyed by sharks, Santiago feels destroyed as well. Like Santiago, the marlin is implicitly compared to Christ.

Manolin – A boy presumably in his adolescence, Manolin is Santiago's apprentice and devoted attendant. The old man first took him out on a boat when he was merely five years old. Due to Santiago's recent bad luck, Manolin's parents have forced the boy to go out on a different fishing boat. Manolin, however, still cares deeply for the old man, to whom he continues to look as a mentor. His love for Santiago is unmistakable as the two discuss baseball and as the young boy recruits help from villagers to improve the old man's impoverished conditions. **Joe**

DiMaggio

Although DiMaggio never appears in the novel, he plays a significant role nonetheless. Santiago worships him as a model of strength and commitment, and his thoughts turn toward DiMaggio whenever he needs to reassure himself of his own strength. Despite a painful bone spur that might have crippled another player, DiMaggio went on to secure a triumphant career. He was a center fielder for the New York Yankees from 1936 to 1951, and is often considered the best all-around player ever at that position.

Perico

Perico, the reader assumes, owns the bodega in Santiago's village. He never appears in the novel, but he serves an important role in the fisherman's life by providing him with newspapers that report the baseball scores. This act establishes him as a kind man who helps the aging Santiago.

Martin

Like Perico, Martin, a café owner in Santiago's village, does not appear in the story. The reader learns of him through Manolin, who often goes to Martin for Santiago's supper. As the old man says, Martin is a man of frequent kindness who deserves to be repaid.

ASSESSMENT

1. Analyse the main characters in the book 'The Old man and the sea'

Week 5

Topic: Themes, motifs and symbols of “the old man and the sea”

Themes

Themes are the fundamental and often universal ideas explored in a literary work.

The Honor in Struggle, Defeat & Death

From the very first paragraph, Santiago is characterized as someone struggling against defeat. He has gone eighty-four days without catching a fish—he will soon pass his own record of eighty-seven days. Almost as a reminder of Santiago’s struggle, the sail of his skiff resembles “the flag of permanent defeat.” But the old man refuses defeat at every turn: he resolves to sail out beyond the other fishermen to where the biggest fish promise to be. He lands the marlin, tying his record of eighty-seven days after a brutal three-day fight, and he continues to ward off sharks from stealing his prey, even though he knows the battle is useless.

Because Santiago is pitted against the creatures of the sea, some readers choose to view the tale as a chronicle of man’s battle *against* the natural world, but the novella is, more accurately, the story of man’s place *within* nature. Both Santiago and the marlin display qualities of pride, honor, and bravery, and both are subject to the same eternal law: they must kill or be killed. As Santiago reflects when he watches the weary warbler fly toward shore, where it will inevitably meet the hawk, the world is filled with predators, and no living thing can escape the inevitable struggle that will lead to its death. Santiago lives according to his own observation: “man is not made for defeat . . . [a] man can be destroyed but not defeated.” In Hemingway’s portrait of the world, death is inevitable, but the best men (and animals) will nonetheless refuse to give in to its power. Accordingly, man and fish will struggle to the death, just as hungry sharks will lay waste to an old man’s trophy catch.

The novel suggests that it is possible to transcend this natural law. In fact, the very inevitability of destruction creates the terms that allow a worthy man or beast to transcend it. It is precisely through the effort to battle the inevitable that a man can prove himself. Indeed, a man can prove this determination over and over through the worthiness of the opponents he chooses to face. Santiago finds the marlin worthy of a fight, just as he once found “the great negro of Cienfuegos” worthy. His admiration for these opponents brings love and respect into an equation with death, as their destruction becomes a point of honor and bravery that confirms Santiago’s heroic qualities. One might characterize the equation as the working out of the statement “Because I love you, I have to kill you.” Alternately, one might draw a parallel to the poet John Keats and his insistence that beauty can only be comprehended in the moment before death, as beauty bows to destruction. Santiago, though destroyed at the end of the novella, is never defeated. Instead, he emerges as a hero. Santiago’s struggle does not enable him to change man’s place in the world. Rather, it enables him to meet his most dignified destiny.

Pride as the Source of Greatness & Determination

Many parallels exist between Santiago and the classic heroes of the ancient world. In addition to exhibiting terrific strength, bravery, and moral certainty, those heroes usually possess a tragic flaw—a quality that, though admirable, leads to their eventual downfall. If pride is Santiago's fatal flaw, he is keenly aware of it. After sharks have destroyed the marlin, the old man apologizes again and again to his worthy opponent. He has ruined them both, he concedes, by sailing beyond the usual boundaries of fishermen. Indeed, his last word on the subject comes when he asks himself the reason for his undoing and decides, "Nothing . . . I went out too far."

While it is certainly true that Santiago's eighty-four-day run of bad luck is an affront to his pride as a masterful fisherman, and that his attempt to bear out his skills by sailing far into the gulf waters leads to disaster, Hemingway does not condemn his protagonist for being full of pride. On the contrary, Santiago stands as proof that pride motivates men to greatness. Because the old man acknowledges that he killed the mighty marlin largely out of pride, and because his capture of the marlin leads in turn to his heroic transcendence of defeat, pride becomes the source of Santiago's greatest strength. Without a ferocious sense of pride, that battle would never have been fought, or more likely, it would have been abandoned before the end.

Santiago's pride also motivates his desire to transcend the destructive forces of nature. Throughout the novel, no matter how baleful his circumstances become, the old man exhibits an unflagging determination to catch the marlin and bring it to shore. When the first shark arrives, Santiago's resolve is mentioned twice in the space of just a few paragraphs. First we are told that the old man "was full of resolution but he had little hope." Then, sentences later, the narrator says, "He hit [the shark] without hope but with resolution." The old man meets every challenge with the same unwavering determination: he is willing to die in order to bring in the marlin, and he is willing to die in order to battle the feeding sharks. It is this conscious decision to act, to fight, to never give up that enables Santiago to avoid defeat. Although he returns to Havana without the trophy of his long battle, he returns with the knowledge that he has acquitted himself proudly and manfully. Hemingway seems to suggest that victory is not a prerequisite for honor. Instead, glory depends upon one having the pride to see a struggle through to its end, regardless of the outcome. Even if the old man had returned with the marlin intact, his moment of glory, like the marlin's meat, would have been short-lived. The glory and honor Santiago accrues comes not from his battle itself but from his pride and determination to fight.

Motifs

Motifs are recurring structures, contrasts, and literary devices that can help to develop and inform the text's major themes.

Life from Death

Death is the unavoidable force in the novella, the one fact that no living creature can escape. But death, Hemingway suggests, is never an end in itself: in death there is always the possibility of the most vigorous life. The reader notes that as Santiago slays the marlin, not only is the old man reinvigorated by the battle, but the fish also comes alive "with his death in him." Life, the possibility of renewal, necessarily follows on the heels of death.

Whereas the marlin's death hints at a type of physical reanimation, death leads to life in less literal ways at other points in the novella. The book's crucifixion imagery emphasizes the cyclical connection between life and death, as does Santiago's battle with the marlin. His success at bringing the marlin in earns him the awed respect of the fishermen who once mocked him, and secures him the companionship of Manolin, the apprentice who will carry on Santiago's teachings long after the old man has died.

The Lions on the Beach

Santiago dreams his pleasant dream of the lions at play on the beaches of Africa three times. The first time is the night before he departs on his three-day fishing expedition, the second occurs when he sleeps on the boat for a few hours in the middle of his struggle with the marlin, and the third takes place at the very end of the book. In fact, the sober promise of the triumph and regeneration with which the novella closes is supported by the final image of the lions. Because Santiago associates the lions with his youth, the dream suggests the circular nature of life. Additionally, because Santiago imagines the lions, fierce predators, playing, his dream suggests a harmony between the opposing forces—life and death, love and hate, destruction and regeneration—of nature.

Symbols

Symbols are objects, characters, figures, and colors used to represent abstract ideas or concepts.

The Marlin

Magnificent and glorious, the marlin symbolizes the ideal opponent. In a world in which "everything kills everything else in some way," Santiago feels genuinely lucky to find himself matched against a creature that brings out the best in him: his strength, courage, love, and respect.

The Shovel-Nosed Sharks

The shovel-nosed sharks are little more than moving appetites that thoughtlessly and gracelessly attack the marlin. As opponents of the old man, they stand in bold contrast to the marlin, which is worthy of Santiago's effort and strength. They symbolize and embody the destructive laws of the universe and attest to the fact that those laws can be transcended only when equals fight to the death. Because they are base predators, Santiago wins no glory from battling them.

ASSESSMENT

1. What are the major themes expressed in the book?