



**SUBJECT: ENGLISH LANGUAGE**

**THEME: LITERATURE**

**TOPIC: FEATURES OF POETRY AND PROSE**

**CLASS: JSS1**



## PERFORMANCE OBJECTIVES:

By the end of the class, you should be able to:

1. Define poetry and prose;
2. Identify the features of poetry and prose; and
3. Relate the features to poetry and prose works.



## DEFINITION OF POETRY

Poetry is a writing that formulate a concentrate imaginative awareness of experience in language chosen and arranged to create a specific emotional response through meaning, sound and rhythm.



# POETRY

Poetry is the spontaneous overflow of powerful emotional feeling  
recollected in tranquility.

By

William Wordsworth

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# FEATURES OF POETRY

# 1. LINES

A **line** is a unit of language into which a **poem** is divided. The process of arranging words using **lines** and **line** breaks is known as lineation, and is one of **poetry's** defining features. A distinct numbered group of **lines in verse** is normally called a stanza.

## EXAMPLE OF LINES

*I saw a fairy in the **wood**,*

*He was dressed all in **green**.*

*He drew his sword while I just **stood**,*

*And realized I'd been **seen**.*

***There are four lines in the stanza***

## 2. Rhyme

Rhyme is one of the most recognizable parts of poetry. When something rhymes, it typically has two or words that have similar end sounds. Poetry uses rhyme in many different ways, usually called forms, because it brings closure to lines that are satisfying to the ear and can make it so different ideas are closely related.



## EXAMPLE OF RHYME

*I saw a fairy in the **wood**,*

*He was dressed all in **green**.*

*He drew his sword while I just **stood**,*

*And realized I'd been **seen**.*

The rhyme scheme of the poem is **abab**

### 3. STANZAS

Stanzas are particular to poetry as a means of separating different ideas or sections within a poem. A stanza lets the reader know that a specific set of images or lines are connected and that those lines or images should be read together to make meaning from the text.

## EXAMPLES OF STANZAS

I had no time to hate, because  
The grave would hinder me,  
And life was not so ample I  
Could finish enmity.

Nor had I time to love; but since  
Some industry must be,  
The little toil of love, I thought,  
was large enough for me.

## 4. Rhythm

**Rhythm** can be described as the beat and pace of a **poem**. **Rhythm** is created by the pattern of stressed and unstressed syllables in a line or **verse**. **Rhythm** can help to strengthen the meaning of words and ideas in a **poem**.

Example

Two **households**, both **alike** in **dignity**,


## 5. VERSE

This refers to set of lines that forms one part of poem. The literary device verse denotes a single line of poetry. The term can also be used to refer to a stanza or other parts of poetry.

## 6. REPETITION

Repetition is the use of the same term or words several times. It is one of the crucial elements in poetry.

Repetition involves repetition of word, phrase and in idea. This is the very essence of poetry. Example is The Bells by Edgar Allan Poe




***Keeping time, time, time,  
In a sort of Runic rhyme,  
To the Pæan of the bells —  
Of the bells: —  
Keeping time, time, time,  
In a sort of Runic rhyme***



# Prose

Prose is a literary device referring to writing that is structured in a grammatical way, with words and phrases that build sentences and paragraphs. Works written in prose feature language that flows in natural patterns of everyday speech. Prose is the most common and popular form of writing in fiction and non-fiction works.



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Prose is called “ordinary writing” made up of sentences and paragraphs, without any metrical (or rhyming) structure used in telling a story or expressing an imaginative writing.

# FEATURES OF PROSE

# 1. THEME

Theme is the main idea or subject in a piece of writing. It is the major message discussed in a work of art. It is the writer's main preoccupation. For example, the theme of story 'So Long A Letter' by Mariama Ba is the effect of polygamy.

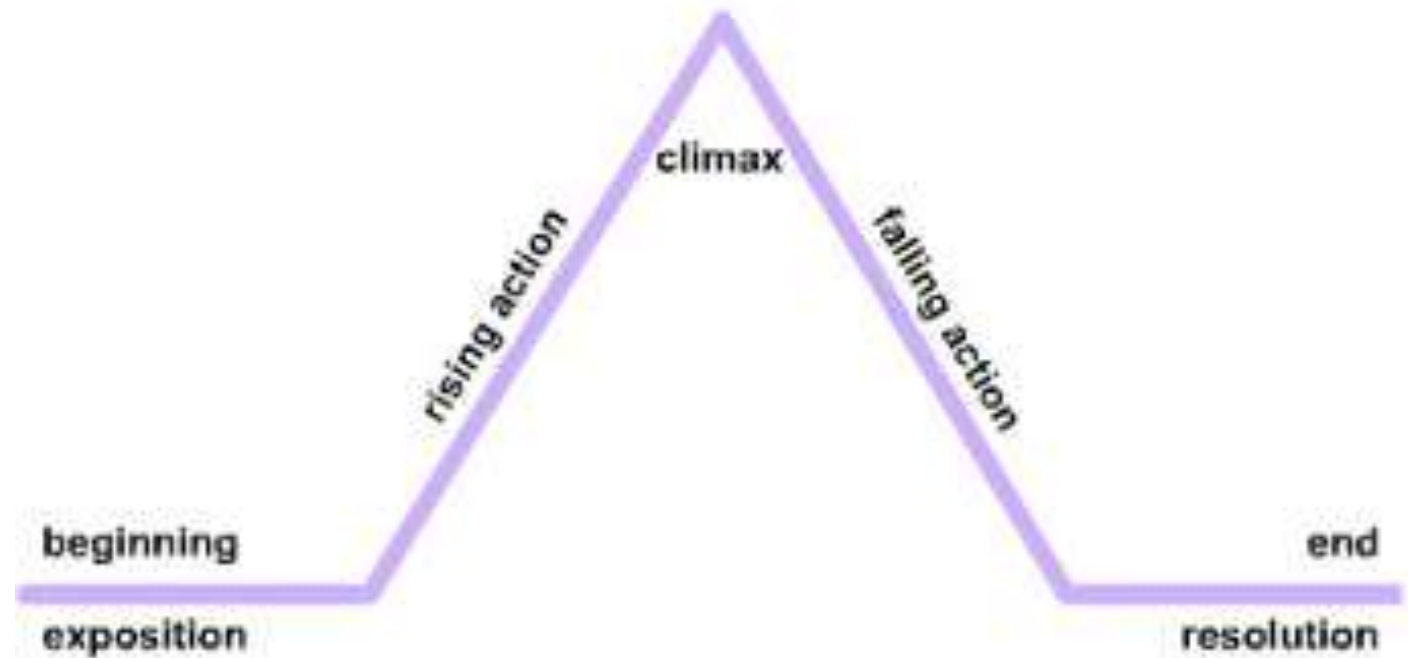


## 2. SETTING

This refers to the general environment of a story. It refers to the period and place of a story. For example, the setting of the story *Things Fall Apart* by Chinua Achebe is in Igboland, a rural environment.

### 3. PLOT

Plot is the sequential arrangement of event in a story. It refers to how events or happenings in a story are organized.



## 4. CHARACTERIZATION AND CHARACTER

Characterization is the way a writer treat the people in his story in a way that they seem real while characters are people that take part in the story. The main character in a story is called the ***Protagonist*** while the one against the protagonist is called the ***Antagonist***. For instance in the story of David and Goliath, David is the protagonist while Goliath is the antagonist.



## 5. STYLE

Style refers to a writer's personalized way of writing a piece of work. A writer's style may include proverbs, figures of speech, elevated or simple language (diction), description, flashbacks and lot more.

## 6. Point of View

This refers to the writer's mode of narration. It is simply through the writer is telling the story. It involves;

first person narrative,  
second person narrative; and  
third person narrative.

A writer is permitted to choose one in his/her writing



# EVALUATION

Read the poem and identify the features of poetry in it.

The Years have passed by,

In the blink of an eye,

Moments of sadness,

And joy have flown by.

People I loved,

Have come and have gone,

But the world never stopped,

And we all carried on.

# EVALUATION

Life wasn't easy,  
And the struggles were there,  
Filled with times that it mattered,  
Times I just didn't care.

*Extracted from*  
**TRUE MEANING OF LIFE**  
*BY*

**PATRICIA A. FLEMING**

Source: <https://www.familyfriendpoems.com/poem/the-true-meaning-of-life>




## **2. Read the story titled The Foolish Donkey and identify the themes, settings and point of view of the story**

A salt seller used to carry the salt bag on his donkey to the market every day.

On the way they had to cross a stream. One day the donkey suddenly tumbled down the stream and the salt bag also fell into the water. The salt dissolved in the water and hence the bag became very light to carry. The donkey was happy.

Then the donkey started to play the same trick every day.

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The salt seller came to understand the trick and decided to teach a lesson to it. The next day he loaded a cotton bag on the donkey.

Again it played the same trick hoping that the cotton bag would be still become lighter.

But the dampened cotton became very heavy to carry and the donkey suffered. It learnt a lesson. It didn't play the trick anymore after that day, and the seller was happy.

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**THANK YOU  
FOR WATCHING!!!!**