



## Module 2

# Prose and Poetry, Literature Elements and Forms, Creative and Figurative Languages

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# Poetry

- Rhythmic imaginative language expressing the invention, thought, imagination, taste, passion and insight of the human soul.
- Purpose: *Enthrallment*



# Poetry

“ The spontaneous overflow of powerful feelings,” taking its origin from “emotion recollected in tranquility ”.

– ***William Wordsworth***

“ The rhythmical creation of beauty. “

– ***Edgar Allan Poe***



# Prose

- discourse which uses sentences usually forming paragraphs to express ideas, feelings and actions.
- Concentrates on the familiar and ordinary
- **Deals with:** heroism, love, beauty and nobility of spirit.



# Poetry vs. Prose

**POETRY** expresses strong emotion or a lofty thought in a compressed and intense utterance while **PROSE** is generally concerned with the presentation of an idea, concept or point of view in a more ordinary and leisurely manner.



# Poetry vs. Prose

Purpose of **POETRY** is to provide pleasure and delight and its appeal is for emotion and imagination while **PROSE** 's purpose is to furnish information and pleasure in a single work and its appeal is mainly of intellect.



# ELEMENTS OF LITERATURE

- All fiction is based on conflict and this conflict is presented in a structured format called PLOT.
- There are a number of different elements to a plot.



# ELEMENTS OF LITERATURE

## 1. Exposition

The introductory material which gives the setting, creates the tone, presents the characters, and presents other facts necessary to understanding the story.

## 2. Foreshadowing

The use of hints or clues to suggest what will happen later in the story.

## 3. Inciting Force

The event or character that triggers the conflict.

## 4. Conflict

The essence of fiction. It creates plot. The conflicts we encounter can usually be identified as one of four kinds. (Man versus...Man, Nature, Society, or Self)





# ELEMENTS OF LITERATURE

## 5. Rising Action

A series of events that builds from the conflict. It begins with the inciting force and ends with the climax.

## 6. Crisis

The conflict reaches a turning point. At this point the opposing forces in the story meet and the conflict becomes most intense. The crisis occurs before or at the same time as the climax.

## 7. Climax

The climax is the result of the crisis. It is the high point of the story for the reader. Frequently, it is the moment of the highest interest and greatest emotion. The point at which the outcome of the conflict can be predicted.



# ELEMENTS OF LITERATURE

## 9. Falling Action

The events after the climax which close the story.

## 10. Resolution (Denouement)

Rounds out and concludes the action.

## 11. CHARACTERIZATION

Major and Minor Characters



# ELEMENTS OF LITERATURE

## A. MAJOR CHARACTERS

Almost always round or three dimensional characters. They have good and bad qualities. Their goals, ambitions and values change. A round character changes as a result of what happens to him or her. A character who changes inside as a result of what happens to him is referred to in literature as a DYNAMIC character. A dynamic character grows or progresses to a higher level of understanding in the course of the story.



# ELEMENTS OF LITERATURE

## Protagonist

- The main character in the story

## Antagonist

- The character or force that opposes the protagonist.

## Foil

- A character who provides a contrast to the protagonist



# ELEMENTS OF LITERATURE

## B. MINOR CHARACTERS

Almost always flat or two dimensional characters. They have only one or two striking qualities. Their predominant quality is not balanced by an opposite quality. They are usually all good or all bad. Such characters can be interesting or amusing in their own right, but they lack depth. Flat characters are sometimes referred to as STATIC characters because they do not change in the course of the story.



# ELEMENTS OF LITERATURE

## 12. POINT OF VIEW

- **First Person**

The narrator is a character in the story who can reveal only personal thoughts and feelings and what he or she sees and is told by other characters. He can't tell us thoughts of other characters.

- **Third-Person Objective**

The narrator is an outsider who can report only what he or she sees and hears. This narrator can tell us what is happening, but he can't tell us the thoughts of the characters.



# ELEMENTS OF LITERATURE

## Third- Person Limited

- The narrator is an outsider who sees into the mind of one of the characters.

## Omniscient

- The narrator is an all-knowing outsider who can enter the minds of more than one of the characters.



# Figurative Language

- Figurative language can be found in literature and poetry where the writing appeals to the senses. It can do this by giving a word with a specific meaning, by comparing two things in such a way that you find the comparison interesting or by using words that have unusual constructions or sounds.
- Figurative language makes your writing come alive!





# Figurative Language

## 1. Metaphors

- When we use a metaphor, we imply a comparison (indirectly, without using the word *as* or *like*) between an idea or quality and a concrete picture.
- Examples:
  - he has a heart of stone
  - America is a melting pot
  - you are my sunshine
  - *the years the swarming locusts have eaten*



# Figurative Language

## 2. Simile

- A simile sharpens and enhances an idea through direct association or comparison with concrete images, using the word as or like.
- Examples:
  - as funny as a barrel of monkeys
  - they fought like cats and dogs
  - like watching grass grow
  - *The Assyrian came down like the wolf on the fold*



# Figurative Language

## 3. Personification

- Here, we bring ideas and objects to life by treating them as though they were human.
- Personification gives human characteristics to inanimate objects, animals, or ideas. This can really affect the way the reader imagines things. This is used in children's books, poetry, and fictional literature.
- Examples:
  - the vines wove their fingers together to form a braid
  - the radio stopped singing and stared at me
  - the sun played hide and seek with the clouds



# Figurative Language

## 4. Hyperbole

- This is an overstatement or deliberate exaggeration, used to create humor or emphasize a point
- Example:
  - She is so dumb, she thinks Taco Bell is a Mexican phone company.
  - I had to walk 15 miles to school in the snow, uphill.
  - You could have knocked me over with a feather



# Figurative Language

## 5. Symbolism

- Occurs when a word which has meaning in itself but is used to represent something entirely different.
- Example:
  - Using an image of the American flag to represent patriotism and a love for one's country.
  - Using an apple pie to represent an American lifestyle.
  - Using an apple to represent education.



# Figurative Language

## 6. Alliteration

- The easiest of the examples of figurative language to spot. It is a repetition of the first consonant sounds in several words
- Example:
  - Larry's lizard likes leaping leopards.
  - Mike's microphone made much music.
  - Nick's nephew needed new notebooks now not never.



# Figurative Language

## 7. Onomatopoeia

- The use of words that sound like their meaning, or mimic sounds. They add a level of fun and reality to writing.
- Example:
  - whoosh, passing breeze
  - flags flutter and flap
  - frog croaks, bird whistles
  - babbling bubbles from tap



# Figurative Language

## 8. Idiom

- An expression that has a meaning that is only known to a particular group of people.

- Example:

a. Waiting in the wings

*Meaning* - Waiting for an opportunity to take action, mostly to replace someone else in their job.

b. Golden handshake

*Meaning* - Big sum of money given to a person when they leave a company or retire





# Figurative Language

## 9. Oxymorons

- Are used for a variety of purposes. Sometimes they are used to create some sort of drama for the reader or listener, and sometimes they are used to make the person stop and think, whether it's to laugh or to ponder.
- We juxtapose two opposites for a seeming contradiction or paradox; nevertheless this contrast conveys precisely the meaning we intend, and the unexpected word combination grabs the reader's attention.
- Examples:
  - Pain for pleasure
  - Clearly confused
  - Act naturally



# Figurative Language

## 10. Synecdoche

- Here we use the specific to represent the general (or vice versa); or a part to represent the whole (or vice versa); or a person to represent a class (or vice versa): useful for replacing vague or colorless words with vibrant images.
- Example:  
*sceptre and crown* to represent rulers;  
*scythe and spade* to represent peasants



# Figurative Language

## 11. Understatement

- An understatement, or litotes, is the opposite of a hyperbole. We use it for irony or emphasis.
- Example:  
*He was a little displeased* (meaning: he was furious);  
*How was the concert? Not bad at all* (meaning: it was very good).



# Figurative Language

## 12. Irony

- Pervades contemporary language. From its use in sarcasm, comedy and just everyday conversation, irony has long transcended from only being a literary device.
- Example:
  - One of the identical twins says to the other, "You're ugly!"
  - I saw a fish drowning.
  - Many things can be preserved in alcohol. Dignity is not one of them.



# References:

- [http://www.nps.gov/mora/forteachers/upload/background-elements-of-literature\\_sr.pdf](http://www.nps.gov/mora/forteachers/upload/background-elements-of-literature_sr.pdf)
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