

JSS 2 THIRD TERM LITERATURE

ELEMENTS OF POETRY

Specific Objectives: I should be able to.

1. Define element of poetry
2. List some of poetry
3. Explain element of poetry

Elements of poetry are things we focus on to enrich our understanding of a particular poem or group of poems. Some element of poetry are:

1. **Atmosphere**

This refers to the pervading psychological background of a literary work. Atmosphere may be tensed or relaxed.

2. **Enjambment:** Also known as 'run-on-line'. It refers to the spilling of an idea being expressed in a line of poetry to the next or subsequent lines. Examples.

Except that like some fish
Doped out of the deep
I have bopped up belly wise
From the stream of sleep –
(J.p clark)

3. **Imagery:** This refers to the selective and effective use of words to create pictorial impression in the imagination of the reader or audience, or to appeal to his senses of smell taste touch and hearing.
4. **Mood:** This is the underlying attitude which runs through a poem. The mood may be meditative, reflective, melancholic and so on.
5. **Rhyme:** It refers to the same sounds of words in poetry. Two words in might. Sound the same at the each of two different lines of a poem. Example:

And I have raise my three to the moon
Towards the full moon, the naked moon
Beyond the seas and further still
Beyond the seas and further still

6. **Refrain:** it refers to a word, phrase or any expression that is repeated at a regular interval in poem, of line after group of lines.
7. **Stanza:** this is a group of lines/Collection of verse to form a division or section of a poem.
8. **Theme:** It is the meaning of interpretation given to the subject matter treated by the writer of a work.
9. **Tone:** This is the attitude of the poet towards the subject matter. It could be moody, ironic,, sarcastic, humorous, serious and so on.
10. **Verse:** it is a line of poetry.

INTRODUCTION TO: "TAXATION IN THE GENERAL'S KINGDOM" BY S.A ADEFILA

Objectives: I should be able to:

- Recite the poem
- Analyze the poem
- Identify and explain the themes in poem.

It is a civic duty to pay tax
With the wonders in the general's society
With our slaughtered legal tender
And our roads turned "ago"
Game wooden frame
The muddle river-bed for the motorists
And pedestrians alike
Gorges adorned on all sides
Like the sight of a mass grave
Classrooms in shambles congested with
Gloating eyes for the spring of knowledge

It is our duty to pay tax
With white elephant projects
With poverty elongated program
And the millions daily clobbered

By the silent claws of hunger
Issued with installment death
With the willing able-bodied
Left to roam the street
A tax is a must.

The current gasping in fainting fits
Hoodlums ripping our spines with benefits
Accidental discharge couple with "koboko"
From the riffle master. Pure typhoid.
Appurtenance of pure water
And more mortuaries his tagged as hospitals

In the General's kingdom
The fettered limbs herded to the clock
For a vicarious sentence
Or a summary dismissed
From the face of the earth
But to pay the tax
A compulsory task

INTRODUCTION TO “TAXATION” IN THE GENERAL’S KINGDOM” BY J.A ADEFILA

Content Analysis

This poem is set against the backdrop of a society ridden with bribery and corruption. It is a society where there is death of social amenities. Even when some are provided they are not taken care of and they eventually pack up. The poet is moved by corrupting in high places and the ripping off of the masses in the name of tax yet, all the amenities that are supposed to be provided are not forthcoming.

Themes

1. The deception of tax/A battle against taxation
2. Indictment of our leaders/insensitivity of the Government
3. A catalogue of woes/The suffering of masses
4. Improving Governance.

Structure

It is a poem of thirty three lines divided into four stanzas.

Language/Diction

The poet uses language skillfully to pass across his message of the mismanagement of the fund accruing from taxation.

Mood

There is a mood of hopelessness and despair

Tone

Bitterness, anger, cutting sarcasm.

Figures of speech

1. Repetition:
“It is a civic duty to pay tax
It is our duty to pay tax”
2. Euphemism
Or a summary dismissal from the face of the earth
3. Alliteration:
With the wonders in the General’s society
From the face of the earth
4. Assonance:
It is a civic duty to pay tax
5. Personification:
With our slaughtered legal tender
By the silent claws of hunger
6. Metaphor
And our roads turned ‘ayo’
The muddle river-bed for the motorists
7. Simile
Gorges adorned on all sides like the sight of a mass grave.

INTRODUCTION TO “THE THIEF IS ONE OF US” BY SOLA OLATUNJI

Specific Objective: I should be able to:

1. Recite the poem
2. Analyze the poem
3. Identify the themes in the poem

“She is one of our own!
She must not be made to pay”
Shouted the Aku People.

She is being victimized
Just because she is a woman!
Hollered the women folk
That she actually stole
That the stolen money
Could have bettered the lot
Of many emaciated co-owners
They would not address

So, steal our money
Loot our treasury
As long as you remain in the fold

If you remain one of us
You are not a thief
But a chief

You become a thief
Only when you decamp
And disown us
This then is the unvoiced language
Of our home grown political brigand
Who claim to be governing
By way of democracy

“The Thief Is One of Us” by Sola Olatunji discusses how the issue of national importance are viewed through gender sentiments. It is a condiment of the camaraderie or friendship that exist among the corrupt political class who are willing to give the corrupt among them.

Protection from prosecution as long as they belong to their political fold. Problems only arise for the individuals when he or she decides to decamp or joins another political group.

Themes of the Poem

1. Corruption persists because the perpetrators are protected
2. Allowing sentiment to becloud our sense of judgment
3. The corruption political class
4. Politicians are responsible for our problem
5. The politicians leaders

Structure

The poem is written in five stanzas. All the the stanzas are written in run-on lines and so there is no visible rhyme scheme

Literary devices

1. Dramatic monologue: In the poem, the poet addresses an imaginary silent listeners who are usually not the readers
2. Metaphor e.g:
Political brigands (stanza 5, line 5)
3. Oxymoron e.g:
“This then is the invoiced language”(stanza 5, line 4)
4. Alliteration e.g:
“that the stolen money” (line 9)
5. Assonance e.g:
“as long as you remain in the fold”(line15)
6. Pun e.g:
“You are not a thief”
“But a chief”(line 17&18)
7. Apostrophe: the use of prenominal ‘you’ shows the poet is directing his anger towards a third party. This is even realized by the direct report of words like:

“She is one of our own”
“she must not be made to pay”
(line 1&2)