

Week 1: Introduction to Literature

Specific objectives: I should be able to:

- 1.define literature;
- 2.discuss its history and types;
- 3.discuss its importance.

Literature-in-English is defined as a work of art, which uses a creative imagination, to give a fiction and non-fiction account of human experiences.

It's also a mirror, through which human life is seen in the society.

History

Literature originates from the Latin word "litera" which means letters, and encompasses anything that is written and can be read or referenced.

Types

Written Literature

This is documented with pen on paper, for future reference and studies. Examples: Look Back in Anger by John Osborne and Unexpected Joy At Dawn by Alex Agyei-Agyiri.

Oral Literature

This is performed by words of mouth, and handed down from one generation to the other. There is no known author. Examples: ballads, myths, legends etc.

Importance

The importance of Literature include among others, the following: education, entertainment, propagation of culture, didacticism, and teaching of the world beyond one's environment.

Week 2: Genres of Literature.

Specific objectives: I should be able to:

- 1.discuss the genres of literature;

2. discuss their types;

3. give good examples of the types.

Genres of Literature simply means, the branches of literature. There are basically, three genres: drama, prose and poetry.

Drama

This is a work of art, written in acts and scenes. It deals with actors and actresses performing on the stage. Drama is not complete until acted. A drama only meant to be read is called closet drama. The writer of drama is called playwright. Its types include among others: comedy, tragedy, tragi-comedy, farce, melodrama, etc.

Prose

This is a work of art written in chapters and paragraphs. It is a long narration of events, usually continuous with a specific subject. The writer of prose is called novelist. Its types are fiction: untrue stories; novel, novella, short story, essay, and nonfiction: true stories; biography, autobiography, memoir, travelogue.

Poetry

This is a work of art written in stanzas and lines. It uses a condensed language in writing that is not like everyday language. The writer of poetry is called poet. Its types include among others: ode, elegy, eulogy, epic, doxology, idyll, sonnet, lyric, dirge, ballad, etc.

Week 3 and 4: Literary Appreciation

Specific objectives: I should be able to:

1. define literary appreciation;

2. explain some literary appreciation devices;

3. identify them in texts and use them daily.

Literary appreciation is the ability to see the artistic beauty in Literature and critically appraise it in an analytical and scholarly manner, using literary appreciation devices.

These literary appreciation devices include among others the following: prosody, mood, lampoon, episode, epigram, hubris, tragic flaw, verisimilitude, histrionics, peripetia, etc.

Week 5: Look Back in Anger by John Osborne

Specific objectives: I should be able to:

1. discuss the background of the play/playwright;
2. discuss the plot of the play;
3. discuss the characterization of the play.

Background

Osborne drew inspiration from his personal life and failing marriage with Pamela Lane while writing *Look Back in Anger*, which was his first successful outing as a playwright. The play spawned the term "angry young men" to describe Osborne and those of his generation who employed the harshness of realism in the theatre in contrast to the more escapist theatre that characterised the previous generation.[6] This harsh realism has led to *Look Back in Anger* being considered one of the first examples of kitchen sink drama in theatre.

Plot

Look Back in Anger (1956) is a realist play written by John Osborne. It focuses on the life and marital struggles of an intelligent and educated but disaffected young man of working-class origin, Jimmy Porter, and his equally competent yet impassive upper-middle-class wife Alison. The supporting characters include Cliff Lewis, an amiable Welsh lodger who attempts to keep the peace; and Helena Charles, Alison's snobbish friend.[3][4][5]

Characterization

Jimmy Porter

Jimmy is the "angry young man" of the play, usually found spouting tirades against the complacency of the British upper classes, and especially against his wife Alison and then his lover Helena. Born working... read analysis of Jimmy Porter

Alison Porter

A woman from an upper class background, and Jimmy's wife. She is drawn to Jimmy's energy, but also exhausted by their constant fighting. Jimmy accuses her of being too complacent and lacking "enthusiasm," and... read analysis of Alison Porter

Cliff Lewis

A kind man of working class background, and a good friend and roommate to both Jimmy and Alison. He lives with the couple, and helps to keep them together. Cliff is "easy and relaxed..." read analysis of Cliff Lewis

Helena Charles

Alison's upper class friend, who comes to stay with the couple while acting in a play, and ends up having an affair with Jimmy after Alison leaves him. She is described as having a... read analysis of Helena Charles

Colonel Redfern

Alison's father, a former colonel in the British army stationed in the English colony of India (back before 1947, when India still was a colony of England). He is "gentle" and "kindly," but also... read analysis of Colonel Redfern

Hugh Tanner

Jimmy's friend, who took Alison and Jimmy into his apartment in the first months of their marriage. He was Jimmy's partner when they went on "raids" against Alison's upper class friends at fancy parties... read analysis of Hugh Tanner

Mrs. Tanner

The mother of Hugh Tanner, called "Hugh's mum" by Jimmy, she helped set Jimmy up with his sweet stall. Jimmy loves her, and Alison thinks this is just because she is lower class and... read analysis of Mrs. Tanner

Minor Characters

Webster

The only one of Alison's friends that Jimmy thinks has any value. Webster plays the banjo and is able to talk in Jimmy's "dialect." Jimmy believes that Webster is gay.

Madeline

Jimmy's first love, a woman ten years older than he is. He sees her as an example of the "enthusiasm" that Alison lacks.

Nigel

Alison's brother, a politician. Jimmy considers him "just about as vague as you can get without actually being invisible." Alison wishes that she could have reached out to Nigel during the difficult first months of her marriage, because he would have been affectionate and loving to her.

Alison's mother

Alison's mother strongly disapproved of Jimmy and Alison's marriage, and went to great lengths to prevent it. She did this out of a protective love for Alison. However, Colonel Redfern says that he thinks his wife went too far in her actions.

Miss Drury

The couple's landlord. Alison is worried that she'll evict them for being too rowdy, while Jimmy considers her a thief, reflecting his negative view of people with financial power.

Week 6: Look Back in Anger by John Osborne

Specific objectives: I should be able to:

1. discuss the dramatic techniques;
2. discuss the themes of the play.

Dramatic techniques

Look Back in Anger Symbols

Newspapers

Jimmy and Cliff read newspapers throughout Act 1 and Act 3, and they are a major visual feature in the apartment. Jimmy uses the newspaper as a symbol of his education. They are a way of exercising his intelligence.

Pipe

Jimmy's pipe is another example of an upper class symbol that Jimmy uses instead to reflect his working class status. Pipes call to mind old, educated, university professors. Jimmy's pipe is a way for exuding upper class status.

Bear and Squirrel

Alison and Jimmy's bear and squirrel game gives them a way to access a simple affection for each other that they cannot achieve in normal life. The bear is associated with Jimmy, and the squirrel is associated with Alison.

Church bells

The church bells symbolize a respectable middle class morality that Jimmy finds oppressive. Helena subscribes to this version of morality, which posits that some things are clearly right, while others are wrong and "sinful." Jimmy.

Trumpet

Jimmy's jazz trumpet can be heard off stage at various points in the play. Jazz has traditionally been protest music, and is associated with the working classes. It symbolizes Jimmy's desire to be a musician.

Themes.

Class and Education

Look Back in Anger was published in the post World War II period in England, in 1956. In 1944, The British Mass Education Act had made secondary education free for everyone in the country. This meant that whole new swaths of British society were now equipped to write about their lives. John Osborne was one of these. His play broke into a world of British theater that had previously been a polite, upper class environment... read analysis of Class and Education.

Suffering and Anger vs. Complacency

Suffering and anger are highly associated with lower class-ness in the play, and complacency with upper class-ness. Jimmy believes that lower class people, who have suffered as he has, have an insight on the world that upper class people lack. He berates Alison for lacking "enthusiasm" and "curiosity." He suggests that her complacency makes her less human, less connected to life than he is. He sees this suffering and anger as an important part of... read analysis of Suffering and Anger vs. Complacency

Disillusionment and Nostalgia

Look Back in Anger is the archetypical play of the “angry young men” movement in British theater, which was marked by working class authors writing plays about their disillusionment with British society. In Osborne’s play, we see this in Jimmy’s sense of political emptiness. Jimmy complains that, in the Britain of the 1950s, “there aren’t any good, brave causes left.” Helena observes that he was born in the wrong time—“he thinks he’s still in... read analysis of Disillusionment and Nostalgia

Gender

During World War II, many British women had stepped into new roles in the labor force. After the war ended, most were expected to move back into their traditional roles in the household, but many still held jobs outside the home. The play takes a conflicted view of gender that parallels these shifting dynamics. On the one hand, Jimmy’s angry, destructive, and typically masculine energy drives much of the action and dialogue. On the... read analysis of Gender

Love and Innocence

Jimmy believes that love is pain. He scorns Cliff and Alison’s love for each other, which is a gentle sort of fondness that doesn’t correspond to his own brand of passionate, angry feeling. When Helena decides, suddenly, to leave him at the end of the play, Jimmy reacts with scorn and derision. Love, he says, takes strength and guts. It’s not soft and gentle. To some extent, Jimmy’s definition of love has to do with strength.

Week 7: " The Grieved Lands of Africa" by Agostinho Neto

Specific objectives: I should be able to:

1. discuss the content analysis of the poem;
2. discuss the themes of the poem;
3. discuss the style and poetic devices of the poem.

"The Grieved Lands of Africa."

The grieved lands of Africa

In the tearful woes of ancient and modern slave

In the degrading sweat of impure dance

Of other seas

Grieved

The grieved lands of Africa

In the infamous sensation of the stunning perfume of the flower

Crushed in the forest

By the wickedness of iron and fire (modernization)

The grieved lands

The grieved lands of Africa

In the dream soon undone in jinglings of gaolers' keys

And in the stifled laughter and victorious voice of laments

And in the unconscious brilliance of hidden sensations

Of the grieved lands of Africa

Alive

In themselves and with us alive

They bubble up in dreams

Decked with dances by baobabs over balances

By the antelope

In the perpetual alliance of everything that lives

They shout out the sound of life

Shout it

Even the corpses thrown up by the Atlantic
In putrid offering of incoherence
And death and in the clearness
Of rivers

They live
The grieved land of Africa
In the harmonious sound of consciences
Contained in the honest blood of men
In the strong desire of men
In the sincerity
In the pure and simple rightness of the stars'

Existence

They live
The grieved lands of Africa
Because we are living
And are imperishable particles
Of the grieved lands of Africa.

Background of the poem

African land is seen as the main focus of the poem and it has gone a long way ever from the start point of thing. African land is said to be aggrieved because of the impact of the over four hundred years of slavery the continent has witnessed, the subjection to slavery and servitude, the trans-Atlantic passage and many more as been traumatic even to the grand children reading about it, during that period millions of Africans were exported to different part of the world ranging from Europe to Americas (both North and South) which include, US, Mexico and so on. Anywhere in the world where there are blacks, other than Africa herself, it could be concluded that they were originally there by force and other means of oppression but thank

God for UDHR (Universal Declaration of Human Right) of 1948 which is a branch of UNO (United Nation Organisation) general assembly which has taken it upon itself to strengthen human right among very many human in every walks of life. One thing this gives insight to is that they are not willing but are moved there by force, although all transpired in the part, races are now more civilised.

Futhermore, as if slavery was not enough, Africa also experienced subjugation of foreign culture domination on there own lesser culture for adventure purpose, this is that, they not only suffer four hundred of slave trade but also subjugation and domination of their resources by Adventurist who are mostly capitalist in most well developed nation, this bring about the ideology behind colonialism and imperialism(The exploitation of foreign countries for economic reasons.

European colonizers ruled over Africa land for many years, although most African countries secure their independence by negotiations, some other including Angola- Agostinho Neto's country-secured theirs through war.

Setting of the poem

The poem is set in Africa, said to be aggrieved. As you can see in the Background, one will conclude that Africa had been subjected to centuries of different kind of woes, sorrow, pain, anguish and turmoil in the hand of the European colonizers. They dealt with Africans in a very strict way and asif they were mere merchandise — usable, expendable and exportable. This African has really been made to suffer “the tearful woes of ancient and modern slave“. The colonizers and those who transport them for slavery pupose made them to experience “the degrading sweat of impure dance/of other seas” as they were exported in their millions in ships.

The Poet (Agostinho Neto) also picture out a visual imagery of what the forest do to them as they were “crushed in the forest/by the wickedness of the iron and fire (modernization) “. Some Africans like Neto, endured imprisonment as they regularly heard “the mingling key of the gaoler/jailer's key”. They experienced “stifled laughter and victorious voice of lament” . However, the only thing the Africans believed in was hope even till this days and it really did kept their dreams alive: “Alive / in themselves with us alive“. All the same, Africans “bubble up in dream/decked with dances by baobabs over balances“

Subject Matter/Summary

The poem mainly focuses on the ‘grieved lands of Africa ‘, this is to remember the very many years of anguish and pain in the hand of colonizers, the Europeans majorly, he wrote that “tearful woes of ancient and modern slaves” . It recalls the tears of “impure dance” as the sea-going vehicles that transported African slaves bubbled up and down on the high seas. The times

did not end with slavery but even within Africa during the time of colonialism. In line 25 -28 the "corpses thrown up by the atlantic" do not discourage the African consciousness. These are corpses of those slave that are being transport through Atlantic for the pupose of slavery. Not even the " putrid offering of incoherence/ and death" would make Africans fail to overcome their years of distress and pain.

The poet also make us see how sorrowful the land called Africa was in line 6-16, where the poet motif of "the grieved lands of the African continent suffered from the "infamous sensation/of the stunning perfume of flower/crushed in the forest/by the wicked if iron and fire (modernization)". The so-called modernization in this stance should be seen from imperialist point view who comes to foreign lands (Africa in this situation) to steal aways the wealth or other mineral resources for their own good, then after leave the land of Africa "the grieved land". The reference to "lands" is an indication that the injustice to African was not at one spot but this is all over the continent, using imprisonment- "the jingling of the jailers key" and comes after the "stifled laughter and victorious voice of Laments" as well as "the unconscious brilliance of hidden sensation" just all deriving from "the grieved land of Africa."

The last stanza of the poem shows how enduring the land in itself is and of how it tenacity has sustained it over the years, the line 37-42 has it that "they live" this line is very emphatic. The grieved lands of Africa are not dying; they live "because we are living". African are "imperishable particles/of the grieved lands of Africa."

Themes

(A) Slavery

The poem chronicles the sufferings, agonies, dilemmas and hostilities that the African slaves are subjected to. The Trans Atlantic slave trade in Angola during the colonial era was one of the longest living memories. The poet bemoans and bewails the slave trade right from the first line "In the tearful woes of ancient and modern slave". "The tearful wors" is a reflection of more than three hundred years during the colonial era in which Angola was part of that horrendous trade.

The first stanza elucidates the fact that the predicament of the black man can be traced to ancient times when he was enslaved, not by innate faults of his, but apparently because of the capricious nature of his captors. Also lines 24-26 "even the corpses thrown up by the Atlantic in putrid offering of incoherence and death/ and in the clearness of rivers". These lines paint the horrible experience and precarious existence of slaves as the discipline given to African slaves ranges from beating, starving or killing and consequently thrown into the ocean. The hard labour of slaves was used to feed the European commercial interests. Hence, the mental

torture and the traumatic experience of African slaves are captured in stanza one with the following: “tearful woes”. “degrading sweat” and “impure dance”.

(B) Harrowing and Exploitative Colonial Experience:

The poem focuses on the destabilization of socio-cultural values and destruction of the African world as a result of the foreign incursion into Angola, for example, lines 7-10 show the debilitating impact of the advent of colonizers on the African way of life. The “flower” (line 7) that is “crushed (line 8) in the “forest” (line 8) is certainly the destruction of the African continent while the wickedness of “iron and fire” (line 9) that serves as instruments which commit the ruthless actions of destruction represent the Western colonizers. Also, lines 12-13 graphically paint the distress nature of incarceration of Africans during the colonial era. “In the dream soon undone in jinglings of gaolers’ keys/ And in the stifled laughter and victorious voice of laments”. The jailers jingling keys are another symbolic instrument to kill the good dreams of Africans. In other words, despite the mission of civilization, the foreigners engage in political and economic subjugation of Angolans. Instead of civilization, what ensue are slavery, economic disruption, killing and oppression of Africans and cultural alienation.

(C) “Grieved Lands“:

The personification here is to demonstrate how African lives, lands, assets, cultures and properties are vandalized by the Portuguese who colonized Angola. The Portuguese built a new port in Benguela in 1616 to expand Portugal’s access to Angolan slaves as line one indicates: “In the tearful woes of ancient and modern slave” - The poet was imprisoned repeatedly for his political activism. The eloquent testimony of wasting innocent lives of Angolan is in line 30 “contained in the honest blood of men”. Actually it is not the lands that are in sorrow, “Grieved Lands” but the entire population of Angolan under the colonial rule as a result of conditions of deprivation, of desperate waste of both human and mineral resources.

(D) Message of Hope:

In the concluding stanza, the poet passes the message of hope for African continent. It is generally believed that Africans will conquer all odds and survive the predicament of colonialism as in lines 35-37. “Because we are living/And are imperishable particules/ Of the grieved lands of Africa”.

Week 8: Unexpected Joy At Dawn by Alex Agyei-Agyiri.

Specific objectives: I should be able to:

1. discuss the background of the text/author;
2. discuss the plot of the text;
3. discuss the characterization of the text.

Background

Alex Agyei-Agyiri was born in Ghana, West Africa. He is a product of the University of Ghana, Legon, and a legal practitioner who has written poetry since 1979. He has the following poetic works to commend of him: "Passover", "Ancestral Faces", and "This Death Call". "This Death Call" and "Passover" were considered among the best the best selected poems for the BBC Arts and Africa Poetry Award for 1982 and 1984 respectively. His two collections of poetry won the Ghana Association of Writers Literary Prize for Literature in 1982 and the Valco Awards for Literature in 1982. Though Alex Agyei Agyiri has written some length work, and it won a Valco Literature Award for Literature for best manuscripts in Ghana in 1988 under the title "Alien".

Setting Of the Novel

Setting includes the historical moment in time and geographical location in which a story takes place and helps initiate the main backdrop of the story. Setting is a critical component for assisting the story as in Man versus nature or in man versus society stories. And in the case of "Unexpected Joy At Dawn", it is likened to man versus society.

The novel "Unexpected Joy At Dawn" is set in West Africa in the late 1960s through the late 1970s and early 1980s.

Plot

This story of migration, identities and lives undermined by cynical and xenophobic politics pushed to its logical and terrible conclusion pertains to the Ghanaian orders of 'alien compliance' issued in 1970-1971, which was designed to force all non-ethnic Ghanaians, so called illegal immigrants, to return to their - so stipulated - 'home'. the novel thus touches on concerns of deeper relevance to the politics of race and migration in the twenty first century

Characterization

Moses Nii Tackie Bi Akrong Nabi is one of the two main characters this novel is centered on. He is Mama Orojo's long lost brother. Though born in Ghana and christened a Ghanaian name (of Ga extraction), he is of the Nigerian ancestry. Therefore, he qualifies as both a Nigerian and Ghanaian.

However, he is considered an alien in both countries. Alien in Ghana because of his Nigerian tribal marks. Alien in Nigeria because of his Ghanaian composure and inability to speak any Nigerian language.

(2) Mama Orojo is Nii Tackie's Nigerian sister. She lost connection with her brother during Ghanaian expulsion of aliens some fifteen years earlier.

She is an industrious woman with a growing construction company and a confectionary store. Apparently, she needs a man to manage these, and, hence a contributory factor to her search for her long lost brother.

She holds no ethnic prejudice; a pointer to why she agrees to marry Joe, a Ghanaian. She is religious and kind-hearted. She is pretty, obviously a delight to men's hearts.

(3) Massa is the ailing woman we are introduced to in the first chapter of the text. She is down with some strange illness which according to medical experts has her living days numbered. She is Nii Tackie's heartthrob and a Pan-African. Until her death, she encourages Nii Tackie not to leave for Nigeria.

(4) Joe is an illegal gold miner and the very man who comes to Mama Orojo's rescue, first when she was duped in her gold quest by I-Put-It-To-You, and again, in her search for Nii Tackie, a known friend of Joe. Joe like every other man is captivated by Mama Orojo's beauty and in the long run, proposed to Mama Orojo.

He seeks to legalise his illegal mining business.

(5) Aaron Tsuru is a soil scientist and the initiator of the Anthill Project. He is unfortunate to be a citizen of a Ghanaian society not ready to harness potentials like him. He is Nii Tackie's partner in their journey in Nigeria through forced servitude to search for Nii Tackie's sister.

He dies at the tail end of the text when he jumps down from a building fleeing.

(6) Ibuk is Mama Orojo's hilarious partner in their Illere evangelical mission and an ally during Mama Orojo's marriage palaver with the authorities of Amen Kristi church. She dies tragically during a religious brawl orchestrated by the Sahn Brotherhood.

(7) Tally O is the dubious character who dupes Mama Orojo with the sale of fake gold. A man of duplicity of identities, he is fondly called I-Put-It-To-You. Until his death, no one knows he is the evasive and troublesome I-Put-It-To-You.

(8) Linda is Nii Tackie's junior colleague at Expense Bank. She is one of the two typists in the bank. She is particularly interested in Nii Tackie because of his Nigerian nationality. She banks on this as a channel to get into Nigeria and book a flight to England to reunite with her husband. She is ready to make any sacrifices to achieve this end.

(9) Immigration Officer Paleo is the lead officer vested with the responsibility of ejecting aliens. He is responsible for Nii Tackie's slavery on the farm. Mama Orojo will later save his little child in a fire disaster, his wife is not lucky though.

(10) Marshak is another of the endless list of Ghanaians forced out of Ghana by the revolutionary government; one of the three Ghanaian ladies Nii Tackie and his friends meet in Nigeria. She prostitutes her body to make ends meet. Her mother's situation in Côte d'Ivoire is not any different.

In Nii Tackie, she sees hope of settling down into matrimony. She is often irritated when Nii Tackie mistakes her for Massa (his dead lover). She dies later after a brief disagreement with Nii Tackie (on morality obviously), suggestively a suicide, a catastrophe Nii Tackie holds himself responsible for.

(11) Tom Monday is a businessman and widower from Illere, Nigeria. He is the elderly man who Mama Orojo and Ibuk paid a visit during their evangelical mission in the town. He has two children; one of whom is a twenty-eight year old daughter married to a man of the Sahn Movement.

He is captivated by Mama Orojo's beauty and industriousness. He offers to marry Mama Orojo when members of Amen Kristi refuse to support her marriage on the basis of ethnic and national prejudice.

Week 9: Unexpected Joy At Dawn by Alex Agyei-Agyiri.

Specific objectives: I should be able to:

1. discuss the themes of the text;
2. discuss the narrative techniques of the text.

Themes

) THEME OF XENOPHOBIA

Xenophobia is one of the most significant themes in Unexpected Joy at Dawn.

Oxford Advanced Learner's Dictionary (8th Edition) defines xenophobia as "a strong feeling of dislike or fear of people from other countries.

In the text, citizens and governments of both Nigeria and Ghana are not comfortable with other country's nationals in their country. The Bank Manager of Expense Bank does not hide his dislike for Nii Tackie whom he sees as a Nigerian living off the wealth of Ghana. He goes to the

extent of saying that if given the power, he would gladly sack all the “aliens” working in the bank.

The Bank Manager’s wish though not fulfilled is already in motion outside the bank. Ghanaians are already hitting out on Nigerians living in Ghana. This is further confirmed by newspaper reports as related by an immigration officer during the screening of Mama Orojo’s luggage in the airport on her way to Accra and also by Nii Tackie’s sudden consciousness of his tribal marks.

And in Nigeria, there is expulsion of aliens from the country; mostly Ghanaians. The Ghanaians are clearly doing well in Nigeria before the alienation policy is introduced. They work in banks, schools, and construction companies. But immediately the new immigration policy is introduced, their Nigerian employers subtly collect their residents’ permits and destroy them.

Idem’s expression in Chapter 8 (Part 1) of the text, “Omo Ghana no go go oo”, underscores the attitude of many Nigerian citizens to Ghanaians; whether legal or illegal immigrants.

(2) THEME OF ALIENATION

Also rife in the novel is the theme of alienation. And it cuts across the both countries.

Some fifteen years earlier, Ghanaian government introduced an alienation policy which eventually led to mass exodus of other countries’ nationals from Ghana; and the separation of families. This led to the separation of Mama Olu Orojo and her parents from her kid brother, Moses Nii Tackie.

Some fifteen years after this incident, Nigeria introduces a similar policy which culminates into tensed atmosphere in both Nigeria and Ghana.

While Ghanaian alienation policy separates Mama Orojo and Nii Tackie, the Nigerian alienation brings them together after fifteen years of separation.

(3) THEME OF SEPARATION

Unexpected Joy at Dawn is premised on the separation of two siblings and the efforts from both sides to reunite.

Nii Tackie is separated from his family by the Ghanaian alienation policy at a very tender age.

As a result, it takes fifteen years to re-unite with his sister, Mama Orojo, under the least expected circumstance.

Also, Nii Tackie and Massa are separated by Massa's death.

(4) THEME OF LOVE

Nii Tackie and Massa are our ideal love birds in this text. They so much love each other that each understands the other already.

For example, when Massa downplays her pain, Nii Tackie knows already that she is lying and only wants him to feel relieved. Massa too, despite her sickness, is quick to notice that Nii Tackie has become conscious of his tribal marks.

Another category of lovers in the novel are Joe and Mama Orojo. Their relationship belies the cat and dog relationship between their two countries. It is refurbished with love the two countries lack.

The love is so strong that Mama Orojo is ready to forgo her respected position in the local Corpus Kristi and risk being excommunicated from Amen Kristi just to marry Joe.

Idem and Wachuc are another category of lovers. Through Idem's nagging, one can see a woman's love and concerns for her husband.

(5) THEME OF RELIGION INTOLERANCE

The reader first has a glimpse of religion intolerance in Chapter 2 (Part 1) of the text during Mama Orojo's and Ibuk's evangelical mission in Illere, Nigeria.

It is made obvious that many people they preach to show little interest because the Sahm brotherhood frowns at preaching to their people and they do not want any of their people to have anything to do with the preaching.

Tom Monday is also worried about his daughter's religion extremism and intolerance; something he attributes to her marriage to a man of the Sahm, a politico-religious brotherhood.

Religion intolerance reaches its peak in Chapter 13 (Part 2) while members of Amen Kristi Church are on an evangelical mission in Egba. It culminates into violence.

Earlier on in Chapter 19 (Part 1), the narrator has foreshadowed this purported violence; mildly put as the intent to “stop the Amen Kristi’s evangelical mission” by elements who feel threatened by the encroaching Christianity.

The violence costs the lives of Paleo’s wife, Ibuk and others; wounds several; and destroys valuable properties. It is perpetrated by members of the Sahm Brotherhood.

Narrative Techniques

The author employs the use of Omniscient narrative in his narration. He equally the quest motif largely in the narration.

Week 10: "Bat" by D H Lawrence

Specific objectives: I should be able to:

1. discuss content of the poem;
2. discuss the themes of the poem;
3. discuss the structure and style of the poem.

" Bat"

At evening, sitting on this terrace,

When the sun from the west, beyond Pisa, beyond the mountains of Carrara

Departs, and the world is taken by surprise ...

When the tired flower of Florence is in gloom beneath the glowing

Brown hills surrounding ...

When under the arches of the Ponte Vecchio

A green light enters against stream, flush from the west,

Against the current of obscure Arno ...

Look up, and you see things flying

Between the day and the night;

Swallows with spools of dark thread sewing the shadows together.

A circle swoop, and a quick parabola under the bridge arches

Where light pushes through;

A sudden turning upon itself of a thing in the air.

A dip to the water.

And you think:

"The swallows are flying so late!"

Swallows?

Dark air-life looping

Yet missing the pure loop ...

A twitch, a twitter, an elastic shudder in flight

And serrated wings against the sky,

Like a glove, a black glove thrown up at the light,

And falling back.

Never swallows!

Bats!

The swallows are gone.

At a wavering instant the swallows gave way to bats

By the Ponte Vecchio ...

Changing guard.

Bats, and an uneasy creeping in one's scalp

As the bats swoop overhead!

Flying madly.

Pipistrello!

Black piper on an infinitesimal pipe.

Little lumps that fly in air and have voices indefinite, wildly vindictive;

Wings like bits of umbrella.

Bats!

Creatures that hang themselves up like an old rag, to sleep;

And disgustingly upside down.

Hanging upside down like rows of disgusting old rags

And grinning in their sleep.

Bats!

In China the bat is symbol for happiness.

Not for me!

Summary of The Poem Bat by D.H. Lawrence

As a lyric and an ode, the poem is a description of the attitude of the poet to the natural things around him including the swallow and the bat. The poet provides a vivid account of the activities of the birds on a particular night. In doing so, he provides a background account of the settings of the events.

About The Poem

D.H. Lawrence wrote the poem at a time when English poetry was transiting from the romantic poetry of the nineteenth century to the modernist period which was the twentieth century. By then, the numerous effects of industrialization manifesting in a very subtle manner in the poetry of G.M. Hopkins, had become an intrinsic part of the poetry of D.H. Lawrence. Poetry, especially the poems of the modernist poets, was taking on a more open, conversational and realistically descriptive style. At the same time, Europe was going through a myriad of chaotic activities. Internal disparities and wars were leading to increased divisions amongst European nations. The increase in travel and exploration led to a more stratified society with more classes, class mobility and class ambiguity. The nineteenth-century focus on romantic poetry still left the remnants of its effects in the poetry of the next century as issues on nature were always being treated. All the while, the modernist tendencies of most of the writers led them to contrast nature with the gloomy realities that were direct consequences of industrialization. In 'Bats', Lawrence creates a poem that unifies both backgrounds by creating a poem about something in nature and describing his dislike for it in a modernist style. 'Bat' was published in an anthology entitled *Birds, Beasts and Flowers*. It was written during the period of Lawrence's

creative career where he focused his attention on animals, using them to examine human consciousness and sensibility.

Plot Account of The Poem Bat by D.H. Lawrence

Lawrence accuses the mosquito of harming humans. The mosquito in this poem is "Bat". He stated that he did not like bats because of their nature. The opening stanza introduces the reader to the setting of the poem in Italy landmark like Pisa, Florence, Mountains of Carrara, Ponte Vecchio and River Arno. The poet observed the sunset beyond the hills in the West. He saw things or swallows that fly at evening both forward and backward to touch the water with their bodies. Swallows or things are migratory birds that often attach their nests to buildings. They are nocturnal birds. The poet is irritated as bats fly in battalions over his head and towards the sky. Bats have wings like a piece of a wretched umbrella; hang themselves upside down in rows to sleep, looking more like an old rag. The poet demonstrated his hatred for bats when he said "An grinning in their sleep." Bats! Not for me!" It means a situation he cannot help anymore.

Setting of The Poem Bat by D.H. Lawrence

The setting is a terrace of a house in Italy, where the poetic persona observes the animals as they begin the process of settling in for the night. He appears to be a nature-lover from his beautiful description of the hues and aesthetics that form as the day draws to a close, as well as his close examination of the birds flying in the night sky. Apart from the fact that 'Bat' contains several Italian words, it has been extracted from the poetry collection, *Birds, Beasts and Flowers*, which is an anthology of poems that Lawrence wrote during a part of his tour of Europe when he stayed at San Cervasio, a city close to Florence, in Italy. The poem appears under the heading 'Creatures'. Although the poetic focus is on bats, it does not immediately begin its description of bats at the beginning of the poem. The poetic persona mentions places and water bodies like Pisa, Carrara, Florence, Ponte Vecchio and Amo in the poem. Pisa is mentioned in line 2 of the poem, and it refers to a city in the Tuscany region of Central Italy. This city lies close to the Arno which is a large river. It is one of the most important rivers in Central Italy. The Amo is mentioned in line 8 of the poem. Carrara is another city that is also

mentioned in the poem, precisely in line 2. It is located in the Tuscany region of Central Italy, which is West-Northwest of Florence. Florence is mentioned in line 4 of the poem, and it is linked to a flower that is native to the region. It is the capital city of the Italian region of Tuscany. In line 6, the name of another place that is mentioned is Ponte Vecchio, which is a bridge built with shops along it. It is located above the Arno River, which is also in Florence, Italy. Throughout the poem, the poetic persona is just an observer speaking out his thoughts to a listener. He focuses on the timelessness of nature, using the bat as the means of expressing his mind about nature. His vivid language and descriptions give him away as perhaps describing the unflattering chaos of the twentieth century in the similitude of an animal that he dislikes. Just like the bat represents an unwelcome animal in this beautiful and romantic scenery that is presented in the poem, so are the evils of industrialization also undesirable in the natural fields and woods that were part of Europe's heritage.

Subject Matter of The Poem Bat by D.H. Lawrence

The poem, by its title, seems to give away its subject matter already. Indeed, the 'Bat', as in the mammal, is the poetic focus here but the poem does not delve into it immediately. Instead, it begins as an observation of different places. It only unfolds into an observation of the bat at a later point in the poem. The poetic persona's varying description of places and rivers turns into a language full of dislike and irritation while describing the bat. It could be that this caustic description of this animal that he dislikes could be a way for him to show his disaffection with Europe, at the beginning of the 20th century.

SYNOPSIS OF THE POEM "BAT"

The poem begins by giving the readers a clue on the setting of the poem. The time is evening. The physical setting is Italy. Some ancient cities like Pisa, Florence, Mountains of Carrara, Ponte Vecchio and River Arno all portray the setting as Italy.

The poet, looking towards the Ponte Vecchio, an old bridge built in arches over the Arno River in Florence, experiences tranquil atmosphere. The poet admires the entire beauty of natures which are radiating from mountains of Carrara down to Ponte Vecchio and to the River Arno.

Suddenly, he sees swallows as he looks up. Those creatures are swallows with spools of dark thread sewing the shadows .

Swallows are small birds with pointed wings and forked tail. The birds hover up and down the bridge. They move in any direction they see light under the bridge. The sight seems pleasing to the poet as they do not hover in the gross darkness unlike bat

There is a huge contrast between swallows and bats. While swallow is endearing, bat is irritating. In these lines the poet expresses open hatred towards bats. Swallows fly at sunset but bats take deep pleasure in thick darkness. The poet bitterly expresses disdain against bats.

The poet continues with his contempt against bats. The poet says the swallows gave way for the bats by the Ponte Vecchio. The poet uses 'changing guard' a military term to describe how this birds change operation. In his further disdainful dispositions for bats, the poet reveals how the bat 'swoop overhead madly'. To swoop means to carry out a sudden raid.

The poet describes bats using more harsh and unpleasant words. Bats are called Pipistrello in Italy. As tiny as bats are, they are expressing unreasonable desire for revenge. All about bat is disgusting to the poet. Bats ooze their disgusting voices from an infinitesimal pipe.

The poet describes bats with so many vilifying imageries. They hang themselves up like an old rag, to sleep' and disgustingly upside down

While bat is highly disgusting to the poet, it is warmly revered and widely accepted in China. Chinese people consume bat with great relish. Apart from serving as edible meat in China, it is a symbol of good luck and happiness.

Notwithstanding that bat is highly welcomed in China, the poet still maintain his resolute stance on detesting bat

Themes of The Poem Bat

The Theme of Beauty of Nature

The poet describes the beauty of nature In the poem. He particularly identifies the following natural phenomena:

One, the beauty of sunset is showcased:

At evening, sitting on this terrace

When the sun from the West, beyond Pisa, beyond the mountain of Carrara.

The poet identifies the surrounding vegetation of the hill under the shadow of sunset

When the tired flower of Florence is in Gloom beneath the glowing Brown' Hills surrounding

The serenity of the flow of the River Arno in the dark evening; the river flow under the Ponte Vecchio bridge and being illuminated by rays of green lights is also described:

When under the arches of the Ponte Vecchio

A green light enters against the stream, flash From the West, August the current of obscure Arno.

Then, the poet goes on to describe the activities of the birds:

Swallows Look up, and you see things flying...

Swallows with spools of dark thread sewing...

The poet goes on to describe the fascinating display of the swallows in the air. He also describes the bats and their calisthenics activities thus:

Bats and an uneasy creeping in ones scalp

As the bats swoop overhead

Flying madly...

Bats...

Creatures that hang themselves up / ^J an old rag to sleep

And disgustingly upside down..... And grinning in their sleep

Bats!

Nature and Its Beauty

A careful reading of the lines of Bat, (especially the ones that speak of the flight of the swallows) will show you this one unmistakable theme. It is that nature, undisturbed, can be truly

beautiful. This beauty of nature is portrayed through a careful selection of words. It is further reinforced by the poet's deliberate use of rhythm in the relevant lines. Furthermore, the powerful evocation of nature imagery is for a purpose. It is meant to enable us to see nature in a positive way. The lines below are proof of how diction, imagery and rhythm are combined to show the beauty of nature in its primitive state. A circle swoop, and a quick parabola under the bridge arches Where light pushes through; A sudden turning upon itself of a thing in the air. A dip to the water. Apart from rhythm, diction and imagery, the poet also uses the bird (swallow), the sunset, the mountains (of Carrara) and the river (Arno) as symbols of nature.

The Theme of The Relationship Between Humans and Nature

Theme Analysis: Humans and nature do not exist in isolation from each other. One way or the other, nature affects humans and vice versa. For example, the poetic persona appears to gain pleasure from watching the swallows glide through the air, utterly oblivious to their one-person audience. Therefore, nature can be a source of delight and fulfilment to man. However, nature can also be a source of revulsion to humans. The speaker is completely put off by the bats. Everything about them repulses him; their appearance, their sleeping habits, their voice. Bats are nocturnal creatures; they are most active at night, and this is why they come out at the end of the day.

Nonetheless, the speaker finds them disgusting and unsightly. The mere sight of them fills him with apprehension. However, it is interesting to note that despite his aversion to these creatures, he knows a lot about them. It gives the impression that he has taken the time to study them despite his loathing. Furthermore, nature has been known to play an essential role in various human cultures and traditions all over the world. In certain places, animals are deified and worshipped. For example, the poetic persona states, 'In China, the bat is a symbol of happiness' (line 44). In various places around the world, certain animals and even plants in some cases are given religious and cultural significance. In this case, the bat is considered a good omen in China. However, this significance changes from place to place. This is why the poetic persona passionately exclaims, 'Not for me!' (line 45).

Man and nature will always interact and influence each other one way or the other, be it negatively or positively. In this poem, both sides of this influence are portrayed. While the graceful movements of the birds initially enrapture the speaker, he is also put off by the appearance of the bats. In the same vein, the bats are a source of disgust and unease to the speaker, but they are used to symbolize happiness in China.

The Theme of Natural Grace of Birds in Flight

Theme Analysis: The poetic persona's detailed description of the various patterns formed by the swallows in flight foregrounds this theme. The birds execute 'a circle swoop, a quick parabola' and 'a dip to the water.' These expressions capture the reader's imagination and call attention to the elegance of birds in flight. They form various patterns that are riveting and pleasing to the eye. The poet, therefore, highlights the pleasures that are to be gained simply from paying more attention to one's natural environment and the creatures that inhabit it.

The Theme of Irrational Prejudice

Theme Analysis: One of the major themes in OH. Lawrence's "Bat" is irrational prejudice, it states irrational dislikes the poet persona exhibit towards the mammal. Lawrence is best known for his various types of prejudice he shares in his animal poems, for instance, his notably or perhaps his best-known poem, "Snake," when he throws a log at a snake, not because he particularly wants to, but because people generally dislike snakes, and he feels a gesture of hostility is required.

In this poem, the poet persona seems to loathe bats. He describes their physical appearance in words filled with repulsions "Creatures that hang themselves up like an old rag, to sleep; And disgustingly upside down. Hanging upside down like rows of disgusting old rags And grinning in their sleep. Bats!" The quick procession of the adverb "disgustingly" and the adjective "disgusting" emphasizes the strength of the speaker's feelings. The bats have spoiled his quiet evening amidst the beauties of Florence

Never swallows!

Bats!

The swallows are gone.

This sounds very much like someone, being deeply disappointed, crying (like a child) for the return of the beloved swallows.

As I pointed out already, the swallows here represent untainted nature in its glory. They stand for the past as it was in the period before the onset of the industrial revolution.

Now, that period seems to have disappeared forever. In its place has come the factories of mass production and pollution. This new way of life is what the bats represent.

The poet is devastated as a result. A note of despair can be heard in the above lines. He cries out, hoping that, somehow, someone would heed his call for a return to the past life.

The Theme of Right to Individual Preference

Theme Analysis: The theme of the right to individual preference is prevalent in Lawrence's "Bat". Under this theme, we learned that every individual has equal rights to choices and decisions about matters of life. From the beginning of the poem, the poet persona's uniqueness and convictions of what he wants and detest are obvious and loud clearly and compellingly.

The poet persona in the last stanza contrasts the affection the Chinese have for bats with his dislike for the bird. The poet's creativity to pitch a society against the individual and let the individual win to convey the importance of individual preference over the decision making of life matters.

The Theme of Realities of Human Consciousness

Theme Analysis: The way the poet sees bat reflects the realities of human consciousness. The bat evokes a sense of sadness and bitterness in the poet. The mere sight and thought of the bat spoils the poet's happy mood. The bat represents the pain that humans encounter in the world. At end, the poet exclaims, 'Not for me'. This shows his level of consciousness. A sudden shift in the light of the swallows that are gone and replaced with the pain and fear at the grinning of the bats.

Haman's must have an in-depth knowledge of the elements of nature

In 'Bat', the poet shows that he admires nature and that he has an in-depth knowledge of nature and its element. One can admire something without understanding it. Admiration is usually superficial while understanding on the other hand, goes deeper. Understanding is not just concerned with the beauty of a thing but with the unique features that make that thing what it is. In this poem, the poetic persona makes a subtle reference to the fact that he admires

nature and also understands it, especially the creatures within it. From the beginning of the poem, the poetic persona describes several places and admires their beauty. He describes these places in detail and colour, using imagery to get the listeners to see through his mind's eye. His in-depth knowledge of nature and its elements enable him to present graphic descriptions of the birds flying above in the sky. He understands the periods of the day when they fly, the way they flew, their different bodily features and even the noises that emanated from them. It is this understanding that helps him know it is not a flight of swallows that are flying but a colony of bats. His knowledge of each bird type helps him to appreciate them differently and better than he would have done if he did not understand their unique characteristics. It also helps to state, categorically, the bird type that he prefers.

Hatred for Bats Theme

Theme Analysis: The poet seems to have a dislike for bats. He expresses his hatred for bat thus:

In China the bat is a symbol of happiness

Not for me!

Nature: The poet gave reference to nature. Names of ancient cities, places in Italy like Pisa, Florence, Mountains of Carrara, the arches of the Ponte Vecchio and River Arno were beautifully described. The poet also revered "the sun from the west", "evening", "tired flower", "Brown hills", "air", "the water" as parts of nature.

Happiness: Bats is a symbol of happiness in China. The poet sees it as a bad omen. It shows that what a person dislike may be a thing of happiness to others.

Nature as Object of Recreation Theme

Theme Analysis: In the poem, nature is presented as object of recreation for humans. For recreation, the poet has stepped out of his house to the riverside. There, he absorbs the serenity and pleasure of the element while Watching with fascination the flight of the swallows. He also observes the bats flying

The poet gives effect to the recreational value of nature as illustrated in the poem thus:

In China the bat is a symbol of happiness...

Theme of disappointment or reversal

Theme Analysis: Another noticeable theme in Bat is that of disappointment or reversal in fortunes.

The poem apparently has something else to say. His message seems to go beyond the dominant theme of change from a life of simplicity to one bogged down by the dangers of modernity that we just saw.

So, what of this other theme?

It is this idea that life is full of disappointments. We are never sure of what is real and what is not. And we must be prepared for unmet expectations as we move through life.

Moreover, the reality is always not so real after all.

This is why human beings are prone to get disappointed when what they expect turns out to be a different thing altogether.

In Bat, D.H. Lawrence registers, in very strong terms, his disappointment with the sudden turn of events. His initial joyful experience with the image of the swallows is quickly wiped away.

Sadly, it turns out to be a fleeting joy. It disappears so suddenly.

But this is the reality of man's existence. And we need to accept it and live with it. It is obvious this is another lesson to take away from the poem Bat

Week 11: "Bat" by D H Lawrence

Specific objectives: I should be able to:

1. discuss the poetic devices of the poem;
2. discuss its language and style.

POETIC DEVICES FROM THE POEM BAT

Symbolism

The poet uses many symbols in this work. The poem is a modernist poem with a flavour of the romantic tradition. Hence, Lawrence makes use of nature and creatures from nature as symbols.

The bat is a significant symbol used in the poem. His description of bats, for instance, comes with a scathing style and acidity that can only be termed modernist. In using 'bat', as a symbol, the poet was indirectly creating a logo of his pessimistic view of Europe at the beginning of the twentieth century.

Symbols can change depending on the setting in which the symbols are used. In some places, the colour black signifies death or mourning while in some other cultures, white signifies peace. In this poem, the poetic persona refers to Chinese culture and what the bat symbolizes to the Chinese. In China, the 'bat' symbolizes 'happiness', but the poetic persona reiterates in the last stanza of the poem that the bat does not symbolize such to him. One can, therefore, infer from the poetic persona's use of words and phrases like 'wildly vindictive' (line 36) 'disgusting' (line 40) and 'uneasy creeping in one's scalp' (line 31) while describing the bat that it symbolizes something irritating and sinister to him. Within the context of this poem, the appearance of the , bats is ominous, a symbol of something terrible and destructive that had happened, that was happening and could still occur in Europe. It also symbolizes the untoward effects of industrialization. The poem was written in 1923, five years after the catastrophic First World War, during which more than 37 million people died. Most of the deaths were caused by the development and production of very deadly armaments, which highlighted the increasing dependence on technology, a significant feature of industrialization.

At the beginning of the poem, the poet describes places, bridges, flowers, streams and rivers. The poetic persona's description of nature shows a world of serenity and bliss that was nineteenth-century Europe before the era of industrialization. In lines 9 and 10, the poetic persona makes the following statement: 'Look up, and you see things flying/between the day and the night'. The 'day' represents the nineteenth while the twentieth century is represented by the 'night'. The poetic persona's description of bats in a very disgusting manner conveys his unhappiness at the debilitating effects of industrialization on the environment and on the people of Europe during this period. The description, 'little lumps that fly in air...*' in line 36 of the poem, could refer to the black, thick lumps of smoke created in the air by the numerous factories that were springing up throughout Europe. This is because bats are black and the description of them as lumps in the air makes this analysis and inference, plausible.

The way the unwelcome bat enters and disrupts the poetic persona's idyllic and romantic description of nature is a symbolic representation of how industrialization came and disrupted the bliss that nature embodied.

Use of punctuation marks as poetic device

In this poem, there is ample use of punctuation marks by the poetic persona. From the full stop to the question mark, no punctuation stone is left unturned. The comma is used in almost all the lines, the ellipsis is used in lines 3, 5, 8, 20 and 29, the semicolon is used in lines 10, 13, 36 and 39, the exclamation mark is also used in lines 17,25,26,32,34, 38,43 and 45 while a question mark features in line 18. The poem moves and swerves like a conversation and sometimes like a stream of thoughts There are descriptions, there are exclamations, there are questions, and there are omissions. All these punctuation marks guide the reader to a better understanding of the poem and its inherent message For example, in Stanza 1, the reader is carried like one floating through an endless stream into endless possibilities and omissions through the use of the ellipsis in line 3.

In line 18, the poetic persona asks a question: 'swallows?*' With this simple question, the poetic persona affirms his amazement that the birds flying in the horizon might not be swallows. The answer to his question is given in line 26, where the poetic persona replies, 'Bat*!' In this line, the speaker confirms that the birds are not swallows but bats using the emphatic nature of the exclamation mart The poet persona's ample use of these different punctuation marks affects how the poem is read. They introduce a pause where a pause is needed, they give speed where it is most required and help in sensitizing the imagination of the readers. The punctuation marks help the poem retain its mystery as a work of art, as the reader slowly gleans the poem's message.

Enjambment

Each line has its meaning flow into another.

Allusion

Ponte Vecchio is a medieval stoned-a segmental arch bridge over the Arno River, in Florence, Italy. Another way is "Mountain Carrara"—Carrara marble is a type of white or blue-grey marble of high quality, popular for use in sculpture and building decoration.

Antithesis

It is the use of two contrasting words, phrases or sentences. Bats are the symbol of happiness and good fortune in China but the poet sees bats as disgusting and ill-omen creatures.

Metaphors

The poetic persona also makes use of metaphors. In line 11, the poetic persona compares the way fl* swallows fly in the sky with the way spools of dark thread sew things together. This creates the images of numerous black birds in the sky looking like they have been sewn into each other because of symphony in their movement. This metaphor helps to sharpen the already vivid image created in preceding lines. The swallows are flying so close together that it looks as if they are held together 'spools of dark thread' .*

In line 36, the bats are described as 'little lumps'. They are not said to look like 'little lumps'® that they are 'little lumps'. As noted earlier, these comparisons are drawn from everyday objects so that the readers can imagine the creatures more vividly. Various examples of metaphors include

'When the tired flower of Florence is in gloom' (line 4)

In these lines, the poetic persona compares the darkening city to a 'tired flower.' This helps to create the visual image of nightfall and the sun gradually setting.

'Changing guard' (line 30)

The change of the flying creatures in the night sky from swallows to bats is compared to the ceremonial changing of guards at Buckingham Palace. Just as the old guards are replaced by new ones, the swallows have been replaced by bats

Imagery

In this poem, there is an appeal to the visual senses of the reader. Everything in this poem is a description by the poetic persona. Lines 1-8 present vivid images of places, bridges and rivers. In lines 9-18, swallows and the way they fly are the next things that the poetic persona describes. Then, lines 19-45, the poetic persona presents images of the bat.

Initially, it is places and things that the poetic persona observes in the Tuscany region of Italy that are described. This description is done with emphasis on visual imagery. The first line of the poem begins with, 'at evening...' (line 1). This statement immediately creates the imagery of the evening in the mind of the reader. Deliberately, the poetic persona continues to guide the images that are being created in the mind of the reader. In lines 2-3, he talks about 'When the sun from the west, beyond Pisa, beyond the mountains of Carrara world is taken by surprise/Departs, and the world is taken by surprise...' * These lines reinforce the images in the mind of the reader that the poem is set in the evening. The reader's thoughts are filled with

images of dusk and the cloudy dark look of a night in which the sun is still slowly fading away. The poetic persona also describes the topography like 'mountains' (line 2), 'flowers' (line 4), 'brown hills' (line 5) and 'obscure Amo' (line 8). All these visual images help the reader to remember and imagine the places that the poetic persona describes in the poem. The poetic persona creates vivid mental images in the mind of the reader through the lucid descriptions of the atmosphere, the city, the swallows, and the bats. In lines 1-10, he artfully portrays the play of colours that are usually associated with the setting of the sun.

The first line informs the reader that the events in this poem occur in the evening. The mention of cities such as Pisa, Carrara and Florence firmly establishes Italy as the setting of the poem. Expressions such as 'When the sun... .departs,' (lines 2-3), '...Florence is in gloom,' (line 4) and 'between the day and the night' (line 10) all work together to create the image of twilight; that period of the day when the sun has not completely set, but it is no longer day time.

In the remaining stanzas, the poetic persona describes the birds. There is an emphasis on movement that if, kinaesthetic imagery. In line 12, the speaker talks about the bird* making, 'a circle swoop, a quick parabola under the bridge arches'. Here, the poetic persona gives the readers visual imagery of how the birds move. After reading this, the readers can imagine the movement of birds through air as they form circles in the sky. One can also imagine the birds flying and curling around the arch* of the bridge in a snakelike wrap as they fly round and round the Ponte Vecchio Bridge. Similarly the readers can imagine the birds flying low as though they are about to plunge into the water only they suddenly curve with a little dip of the tip of their wings: teasing the viewer. This is aptly described in line, 14-15: 'A sudden turning upon itself of a thing in the air/a dip to the water'. The detailed descriptions of the swallows' graceful, almost acrobatic movement creates visual imagery. Lines 14-15 also enable the reader to appreciate the gracefulness of the birds' movements as they fly around.

As soon as the poetic persona becomes aware that the birds are bats, the description becomes more detailed in the depiction of the movement of the bats, in the visual and in the auditory sense. When the poetic persona describes the movement of the birds, in the horizon as 'dark air-life looping' (line 19) the reader imagines these birds as life forms made out of dark air, moving in angles that can form a loop. The speaker does not stop here; he continues in line 21 where he talks about, 'a twitch, a twitter, a elastic shudder in flight'. A twitch is a sudden movement, almost involuntary and beyond one's control. The readers are made to imagine the birds as they move like this and then later make high pitched sounds as they twitter and fly through the air in vibratory movements. In this single line, the writer has been able to fuse the visual, the kinaesthetic and the auditory forms of imagery. Even the wings are visually called to mind by the poetic persona's use of visually stimulating phrases like 'serrated wings' in line 22 and 'wings like bits of umbrella' in line 37.

When the speaker shifts his focus to the bats, the reader is presented with the image of disorder and ugliness. Unlike the swallows which fly in 'a quick parabola' with ease, the bats are 'dark air-life looping/ Yet missing the perfect loop.' The swallows execute complicated flying patterns quite easily, but the bats are unable to do so. The bats are further described as a 'black glove thrown up against & light'. In other words, the bats are rather ugly creatures that block out the dimming light as they fly across the night sky. The sounds they make are 'wildly vindictive'; they are discordant and unpleasant. Furthermore, they hang themselves up to sleep 'like old rags' and 'disgustingly upside down.' This line fully expresses the speaker's abhorrence of the animals and presents them as offensive and repulsive creatures.

Diction

The poetic persona adopts a conversational tone in this poem. The language is very simple, and the reader has a good understanding of the message that the poetic persona is trying to pass across to the reader.

Another exciting thing in the poem is the poet's use of several Italian words. The use of Italian words helps in establishing the fact that Italy is the physical setting of the poem. At a point in the poem, Lawrence calls bat in its Italian name, which is 'pipistrello' (line 34). The poet also mentions places like 'Pisa' (line 2), 'Carrara' (line 2), 'Florence' (line 4), 'Ponte Vecchio' (line 6) and 'Arno' (line 8).

Structure of The Poem Bat by D.H. Lawrence

'Bat' by D.H. Lawrence is a 45-line poem with no exact stanzaic structure. The stanzas, if one is to call them stanzas in the strict sense of the word, are not entirely made of the same number of lines. In some places, just one word or line makes up a stanza. However, if one is to think of these clusters as stanzas then the poem is made up of 18 stanzas. The first stanza contains three lines. The second stanza contains two lines while the third stanza has three lines. The fourth stanza is made up of three lines while the fifth stanza contains four lines. The sixth stanza consists of two lines while the seventh stanza contains one line. The eighth stanza contains six lines; the ninth, tenth, eleventh and twelfth stanzas contain three lines each. The thirteenth and the fourteenth stanzas contain one line, the fifteenth stanza contains two lines, the sixteenth stanza contains three lines, the seventeenth and eighteenth stanzas contain one line each. Lines 18, 26, 34, 38 and 43 have only one word each, and they are all names of birds. Line 18 mentions 'swallows' while the other lines seem to reply with the word 'bats!'. Line 34 mentions the word bat in its Italian version, 'pipistrello'. The one line stanzas are known as

monostich. A whole poem can consist of just one line. In poetry, a single line of poetry can be called a stich. Thus, a mono means 'one' while a stitch simply means 'line', therefore, monostich means 'one-line'.

The structure of this poem has an enjambment form. Thus, the thoughts in one line flow into the next line. The use of this device makes the poem to also sound like a conversation. Within the poem, the poetic persona seems to be speaking to a listener. This style of artistic creativity helps the reader relate more with the contents of the poem because he imagines himself as the person that is being addressed. Besides, the first three stanzas of the poem and lines 20 and 29 end with an ellipsis. This is very important in the understanding of this structure because the use of ellipses implies that there are omissions in the poem or vast descriptions left unsaid. The poem is also written in free verse, probably to allow the poet to fully express his abhorrence of the bats.

Language

The poem is written in simple prose-like form. It employs ellipsis to show that the poem is a personal emotional opinion of the poet. Language: Lawrence used violent words or expression to express his hatred for bats. Words like "flying madly," "voices indefinite," "wildly vindictive," "old rags," "disgusting," "Black Piper." The use of "black" here connotes "devil" or "evil." "Disgusting" means something bad, unfair, inappropriate that you feel annoyed and angry.

Tone

The poet makes use of harsh and disdainful tone that reveals his strong hatred for bat.

Mood

The mood of the poem is initially reflective and thoughtful. However, from line 26, the mood becomes forceful, as the poetic persona makes no effort to hide his disgust.

Figures of Speech

Metaphor

Darl Life, • secreted wings against the sky - a wave rings instant the swallows gives way..
Changing guard • Black piper on an infinitesimal pipe little lumps • voices indefinite

Simile

In the poem, the poet makes use of simile. This can be found, first of all, in line 23, where the speaker says the bats are, 'like a glove, a black glove thrown up at the light'. In describing the bats, the poetic persona compares them with gloves that have been thrown against the light of the receding sun. When 'black gloves' are thrown up at the light', they are very likely to block out the light. In the same vein, therefore, these repulsive creatures block out the slowly-fading light of the setting sun.

By the time one gets to line 37, the poetic persona says that the bats' wings are like 'little bits of umbrella'. In this line, he compares the spine-like patterns on the wings of bats to the same pattern used in the design of umbrellas. A bat's wings, when examined closely, actually look like pieces of an umbrella. This apt comparison, therefore, is used to create a vivid mental picture of a bat in the mind of the reader. It is evident that the poetic persona has taken things from everyday life and used them to illustrate the wings of the bat. This illustration enables those who have never seen a bat to use that comparison to imagine how a bat would look. Various examples of simile within the poem include the description of bats as 'Creatures that hang themselves like an old rag, to sleep' (line 39). This simile foregrounds the off-putting image that the bats form when they hang themselves upside down to sleep. A strong tone of disgust and loathing is evident here. Likewise in line 41, a simile is used in the following expression to describe bats: 'Hanging themselves upside down like rows of disgusting old rags...' This device is used in this line to convey the speaker's disgust at the habit the bats have of sleeping in rows,

and upside down. It should be noted here that, despite his apparent aversion to the creatures, the poetic persona appears to have considerable knowledge of their features and attributes, both physical and otherwise. It can therefore, be deduced that the poetic persona is a lover of nature.

Personification

The poet uses the literary device, personification, in this poem. For example, personification is evident in the early parts of the poem where references are made to the sun. Personification occurs in a work of art when human attributes are given to something non-human or the presentation of an abstract idea in human form. Personification is used in lines 2-3, 'When the sun from the west, beyond Pisa, beyond the mountains of Carrara/Departs, and the world is taken by surprise'. In these two lines, the sun possesses the ability to depart from a place and go to another place. The use of personification is also seen in lines 4-5, where the poet talks about the time 'When the tired flower of Florence is in gloom beneath the glowing/Brown hills surrounding'. In these lines, we have the personification of the flower of Florence through the use of the words 'tired' and 'gloom*.

Alliteration

Another figure of speech nestled within this poem is alliteration; that is, the repetition of consonant sounds in the initial letters of words in a single line. The first place where one can notice this is in line 4. In this line, the poetic persona says, 'when the tired flower of Florence is in gloom'. Here, the consonant sound /f/ is repeated. This is used to create the semblance of a breeze blowing at the gloomy flower in the background. It creates a complete imagery that the speaker projects to the reader. Besides, this figurative device is also used in line 21, where the poetic persona says 'a twitch, a twitter...'. The consonant sounds /t/ and /w/ in close succession are the sounds being repeated in this line. Interestingly, this is the line where the birds are said to be twittering. Twitter is a verb usually associated with a short high pitched sound usually made by birds. Its sound is usually like that of the sounds /v and /w/ following in close succession. Various examples of alliteration in this poem include 'the day, a night...' (line 12) 'swallows with spools of dark thread sewing the shadows together' (line 11), 'Little lumps' (line 36).

Rhetorical questions

There are also rhetorical questions in this poem. The poetic persona asks questions without expect a reply from his listener. One rhetorical question that appears within this poem is in line 18 when the poetic persona asks 'swallows?*' Its lone presence in this line affects the entirety of the next lines of the poem, which are lines 19-45. Although the poetic persona does not expect an answer from the listener, he spends the following several lines answering that question, emphasizing and describing the features of the bat, to show that the birds being described are bats and not swallows. The rhetorical question is also of symbolic use within the poem. It could be a call for people not to blindly accept what people describe to them as the truth but to cultivate a habit of digging out the truth themselves.

Repetition: It is when an expression or a word is used more than one time. Words like "upside down", "old rags" and "disgusting" shows the poet's strong hatred for bats. Other repeated words are "glove", "swallows" and "Bats".

The Poetic devices used in the poem bat by d.h. Lawrence are Repetition, Symbolism, Enjambment, Personification, Alliteration, Rhetorical questions, Antithesis, Imagery. And many more

Repetition

At various points in the poem, 'Bats!' is repeated. The repetition of the word, as well as the exclamation mark used each time, emphasizes the speaker's intense feelings of loathing and detestation for the creatures.

Apostrophe

Look up... you see... And you think (the *poet is in monologue) • Personification The sun... Departs..., - A green light enters, Light pushes

Onomatopoeia

Twitter, pipistrello, voices, grinning

Transferred Epithet

- Obscure Arno, Tired Flower, Brown hills Alliteration Flower... Florence/f/

Consonance

- little lumps/l/ - Flush from/f/ • A twitch a twitter /(/ - Piper on... pipe/p/

Antonomasia

Pipistrelle It is a kind of music played on pipe. The l sound of the birds is here represented in l a rhythmic form.

The Poem Bat Review Box

Poem Author David Herbert Lawrence

Authors Profile Lawrence was born on September 11,1885 in Eastwood, Nottingham shire. He studied with scholarship in the University of Nottingham shire and taught for most-part of his active age. He also engaged himself in writing novels, plays and poems, especially on wild life, and political activism Lawrence died on 2nd March, 1930 .