**First Term Notes of lesson**

**Literature**

**Jss One (1)**

**Week 1:**

**Topic: Introduction to Literature**

**Subtopic: Definition and functions of Litearture.**

Literature is a term used to describe written and sometimes spoken material. Derived from the Latin word literature meaning "writing formed with letters," literature most commonly refers to works of the creative imagination, including poetry, [drama](https://www.thoughtco.com/drama-literary-definition-4171972), [fiction](https://www.thoughtco.com/difference-between-fiction-and-literature-739696), and in some instances, , and song.

Literature is also is a reflection of the society is a fact that has been widely acknowledged. Literature indeed reflects the society, its good values and its ills. In its corrective function, literature mirrors the ills of the society with a view to making the society realize its mistakes and make amends. It also projects the virtues or good values in the society for people to emulate. Literature, as an imitation of human action, often presents a picture of what people think, say and do in the society. In literature, we find stories designed to portray human life and action through some characters who, by their words, action and reaction, convey certain messages for the purpose of education, information and entertainment.

**Importance of Literature.**

#### 1. Expanding Thought And Understanding

First of all, literature helps us to unlock our minds and perception about the world and allows us to see out of the box. With this, we begin to reflect, ask questions and understand better.

#### 2. Develops Critical Thinking Skills

Critical thinking is a skill that is inevitable for understanding and learning things thoroughly and in detail. When we read, we learn to grasp the meaning that is lying between the lines. We are trained to find different symbols, searching out the themes and connections between the things. This way, we learn to understand and realize the hidden messages and make an opinion out of them.

3.Studying literature is the only way some students will ever learn about other cultures and places. This expands their horizons.

4.It shows them how characters think, react, and problem solve.

5.Sometime studying literature exposes them to words and ideas that reach into their souls and change them forever.

6.Thus, studying literature makes the world a better place.

**Week 2**

**The Branches of Literature.**

1. **Poetry**

Poetry is a style of writing that tends to be written in verses, and typically employs a rhythmic and measured approach to composition. It characteristically is known for evoking emotional responses from readers through its melodic tone and use of creative language that is often imaginative and [symbolic](https://www.thoughtco.com/symbols-and-motifs-in-literature-1857637) in nature. The word “poetry” comes from the Greek word “poiesis” which essentially means, making, which is translated into the making of poetry. Poetry is typically divided into two main subgenres, narrative and lyric, which each have additional types that fall under their respective umbrellas. For example, narrative poetry includes ballads and epic tales, while lyric poetry includes sonnets, psalms and even folk songs. Poetry can be fiction or nonfiction.

**Elements of Poetry**

**1.**A **sonnet** is a one-stanza, 14-line poem, written in iambic pentameter. The sonnet, which derived from the Italian word sonetto, meaning “a little sound or song," is "a popular classical form that has compelled poets for centuries.

## Lyric:

It is a form of poetry, that is subject of being sung to the accompaniment of a musical instrument or that expresses intense personal emotions in a manner suggestive of a song. This type of poetry expresses the thoughts and feelings of the poet

## 3. Ode:

“Ode” comes from the Greek aeidein, meaning to sing or chant, and belongs to the long and varied tradition of lyric poetry. Originally accompanied by music and dance, and later reserved by the Romantic poets to convey their strongest sentiments, it can be generalized as a formal address to an event, a person, or a thing not present

**4. Elegy**:

An elegy, in poetic terms is a funeral song. It can be thought of as a melancholy poem, which is written to mourn the death of someone, who is personal and close to the heart. The first Elegies were written in Roman and Greek

## 5.Epic:

It is a long, often book-length, narrative in verse form that retells the heroic journey of a single person, or group of persons

**6.Stanzas** are categorized by the number of lines included in them. You will often see an empty line after a stanza in a poem.

1. 1 line – Haiku form: Monoku
2. 2 lines – Couplet
3. 3 lines – Tercet / Triplet / Haiku
4. 4 lines – Quatrain
5. 5 lines – Cinquain / Tanka
6. 6 lines – Sestet / Sexain/ Stanza
7. 7 lines – Septet / Rondelet
8. 8 lines – Octave / Rondeau
9. 9 lines – Stanza Spenserian
10. 10 lines – Keatsian Ode
11. 11 lines – Roundel
12. 12 lines – Scottish Stanza
13. 13 lines – Terza
14. 14 lines – Sonnet / Stanza Onegin / Terza
15. 15 lines – Terza
16. 16 lines – Stopping by Woods on a Snowy Evening Form
17. 17 lines – \_\_\_
18. 18 lines – McCarron Couplet
19. 19 lines – Villanelle
20. 20 lines – \_\_\_
21. Other (Free Verse, Prose poetry, etc.)

**B. Prose**

Prose is essentially identified as written text that aligns with the flow of conversation in sentence and paragraph form, as opposed to verses and stanzas in [poetry](https://www.thoughtco.com/what-is-poetry-852737). Writing of prose employs common grammatical structure and a natural flow of speech, not a specific tempo or rhythm as is seen in traditional poetry. Prose as a genre can be broken down into a number of subgenres including both fiction and non-fiction works. Examples of prose can range from news, biographies and essays to novels, short stories, plays and fables. The subject matter, if it is fiction versus nonfiction and length of the work, are not taken into consideration when classifying it as prose, but rather the style of writing that is conversational is what lands works in this genre.

**Elements of prose**

Setting.

Character .

Plot .

Conflict.

Theme .

Point-of-view .

Tone.

Style.

**C. Drama**

Drama is defined as theatrical dialogue that is performed on stage and traditionally is comprised of five acts. It is generally broken down into four subgenres including comedy, melodrama, tragedy and farce. In many cases, dramas will actually overlap with poetry and prose, depending on the writing style of the author. Some dramatic pieces are written in a poetic style, while others employ a more casual writing style seen in prose, to better relate to the audience. Like both poetry and prose, dramas can be fiction or nonfiction, though most are fictional or inspired by real life, but not completely accurate.

**Elements of Drama**

Setting

Plot

Theme

Characters

Diction

Audience

Protagonist

Antagonist

Soliloquy

Prompter

Suspense

Director

Producer

Costumes

Makeup

Playwright

Scripts

Cast

Audition

Theatre , etc.