RHETORIC MODES OF WRITING

They include the following:

1. Narrative Mode
2. Descriptive Mode
3. Persuasive Mode
4. Expository Mode

LEARNING OUTCOMES

By the end of this session students should be able to:

1. Define a narrative
2. Identify the types of narrative writing
3. State the qualities of a good narrative
4. Identify and define the elements of a narrative
5. Write your own narratives effectively

Introduction

A narrative is a story. A narration presents a sequence of incidents and events that happen to a person. The person who tells the story is the narrator or storyteller. Direct conversation that appears within a narrative is called dialogue. The people mentioned in a story are called characters.

NARRATIVE POINT OF VIEW

FIRST PERSON POINT OF VIEW

First person is used when the main character is telling the story. This is the kind that uses the “l” narrator. As a reader, you can only experience the story through this person’s perspective. So you will not know anything about the people or events that this character has not personally experienced.

SECOND PERSON POINT OF VIEW

Second person is usually used with directions and includes the pronoun “you”

THIRD PERSON POINT OF VIEW

Third person point of view is used when the narrator is not a character in the story. It uses the “he/she/it” narrator and it is the most commonly used point of view in writing. The telling of the story can be limited to one or multiple characters where by the reader can be able to access whichever information that the character knows. The omniscient narrator is like God. The narrator can know things that others do not know and can also make comments about what is happening, together with reading the minds of the other characters.

TYPES OF NARRATIVES

A narrative is divided into two:

1. A non-fictional narrative, which is a story about something that really happened.
2. Fictional narrative is about something that the writer imagines but it is not real.

Narratives can be in the forms of short stories, poems, novels and autobiographies among others. However, whether a narrative is fictional or not, it must include certain elements.

ELEMENTS OF A NARRATIVE

1. PLOT- this refers to the sequence of events. A good narrative has a solid plot structure which is smoothly incorporated. Conjunctions (after, when, although…refer to the last chapter) are used here to smoothly connect the different events in the story. The writing then flows from:
2. INTRODUCTION / EXPOSITION- write the background or what happens first
3. RISING ACTION CLIMAX - write what leads up to the main problem of the conflict.
4. CLIMAX- write what happens when the problem or conflict reaches a high point.
5. FALLING ACTION- write how the problem or conflict is solved
6. RESOLUTION- write how things end up.
7. CHARACTERS- they should be named

together with their physical appearance, way of speaking. A character is a person in the story who’s described with nouns and adjectives. E.g “John was the best student in class. He never got bored during lessons like the rest of us”

John is an example of a proper noun, while best is an adjective and he is a pronoun.

1. PURPOSE
2. SETTING
3. DIALOGUE
4. PROBLEM/CONFLICT
5. THEME

EXAMPLE 1

MAD APIO by Susan Kiguli

Just listen to me, young woman. After the burial, the elders of the clan came back to the house. They demanded the land title and also informed Apio that she would have to leave their son’s house. She listened patiently as Sati’s eldest brother told her that they were going to make a list of his bother’s property and see how it would be distributed and that the two daughters were her responsibility. He even said the sooner she left with them the better. The house was for Sati’s heir who happened to be that man’s son. Mad Apio listened calmly, turned her eyes on her father- in- law as if she were seeing him for the first time. She then excused herself, got her two daughters, locked them in a room and went to her bedroom, where she stripped herself naked. She then came back to the front room. She turned slowly and pointed at the her bottom saying, “ This was one of your son’s favorite possessions, so write down, go ahead, write it”. There was a stampede as all the elders fled except Sati’s old father, who had fainted. His sons came back and dragged him out. Mad Apio had done it! It was a taboo to even look your father-in-law in the eye but to show your nakedness was something new to Kati. There was no ruling on that. It was decided that the woman was mad and should be left alone. No one tampers with Mad Apio anymore, not even the village councils.

TASK: 1. What type of narrative is it

2. Who’s the main character

3. Identify the rising action and the resolution in the above narrative.