

THEORIES OF LITERATURE:
(Literature lesson
notes)
FORM THREE
2022

#####

BY SIR;
DASTAN MWESIGE CLEMENCE,
CHRIST THE KING NYANTAKUBWA GIRLS SECONDARY SCHOOL,
P.O. BOX 04, Sengerema.
MWANZA-TANZANIA.
(LITERATURE DEPARTMENT)
Dastanclemence4@gmail.com

PROVERB 23:13
"Withhold not correction from the child: for if thou beatest him with the rod, he shall not die"

TOPIC 1: INTRODUCTION TO LITERATURE

01. THE OVERVIEW OF THE TERM LITERATURE

a) Meaning of literature

There is no single definition of that suits the meaning of literature. As a result, there have been various attempts to define the term literature. Some of these attempts are;

- ✓ Literature is a work of art that uses the language creatively to portray the message to the intended audience.
- ✓ Literature is a work of art that uses the language creatively to express human realities to the society.
- ✓ Literature is an imaginative work of art that uses language to reflect social realities.

Therefore, the definition of literature should include some important terms as follows;
“Literature is an imaginative work of art that uses language creatively and imaginatively to portray social realities (society)”.

b) Key terms/concepts used in literature

The definition of literature is incomplete unless it involves these concepts;

- i. **Art** – refers to the way of doing things. It includes creativity, decoration, beauty, painting, coloring, threading, beautification, embroidery. It is creativity that comprises the use of attention of individuals. Art is divided into two (2) types which are;
 - ✓ *Performing art*. it is an art that uses movement of bodies and voices to convey a

patristic expression. Performing art includes dance, music and acting.

- ✓ *Fine art*: it's an art that are created for aesthetic or intellectual purpose. It includes furniture making, painting, sculpturing, drawing, pottery etc.
- ii. **Language** – is the system of arbitrary vocal symbols used for interaction and communication, exchanging and sharing of ideas. Language is so an important tool in communication in delivering the intended message. No literature can exist without a language.
- iii. **Creativity/imaginative** – it's a situation of applying skills, decoration, painting, designing an object and making it unique from others.
- iv. **Society** –it is the people, folk or inhabitants of a certain area or location, who make up the society.
- v. **Artist** – is a person who deals with art, dancing, drawing, painting and performing. An artist can be an orator, performer, dramatist, novelist or a painter.

02. LITERATURE AS AN ART

Literature is said to be an art due to the following point;

- a) **Language use**; the language used in literature is different from the language of everyday use. Literature uses figures of speech, and words are assigned an extra meaning than what they ordinarily imply. Some words carry literal meaning and others have symbolic meaning. Therefore, you need to dig a bit deeper before you settle and say this is what it means.
- b) **Character and characterization**; literature uses real people or other characters that represent real people in the outside world. Inanimate beings maybe personified in a way that they represent human qualities and act accordingly. This adds artistic effect to the literary work.
- c) **Choice and presentation of incidences**; literature is not just a collection of facts

and stories to be reported. Incidents in literature are presented in artistic way that makes the audiences think that they are actually happening. There is the use of skillful narrative techniques like point of view, flashback, foreshadowing, suspense etc all these help the reader to visualize the events as though they are just unfolding before their eyes.

- d) **Selection of setting;** writers select a setting that goes together with the content of their works. For example, some issues like poverty, ignorance, classes, misuse of power etc are common in African context.
- e) **Selection of title;** literary works like plays, novels and poems have title that goes together with the targeted message. For example, *The Trials of Brother Jero* linked the title with the content presented by using the main character Brother Jero.
- f) **Literature is imaginative and symbolic in nature;** the language used in literature is usually imaginative. Therefore, literature just uses language imaginatively represented social realities.

03. FUNCTIONS OF LITERATURE

Since literature does not develop from a vacuum, but from the society in which it emanates, it has got different roles to play in the society. The following are some of the most important roles of literature in the society;

- a) Literature educates people in the society.

Literary works are used to impart knowledge to the members of the society. It creates awareness on different social- political and economic matters taking place in the society. It educates the young people on how they are expected to behave in accordance with the demands of their societies and the roles they are required to fulfill.

- b) Literature expresses people's culture.

Since literature develops from the society, it automatically expresses the culture of its people. All cultural aspects like traditions, beliefs, customs, norms etc are expressed so that the society may cherish the good ones and carry them over to the next generations and modify or discard the outdated ones.

c) Literature is used to entertain people

Most literary works appeal to emotions. By reading, listening and watching literary works we get entertained. Poems and dramas create an enjoyment to the audience different from one we get when we are eating foods. Literary enjoyment is called ***aesthetic pleasure***; for example, comedies and melodrama.

d) Literature is used to influence people in the society.

More often than not people who are interested in watching, listening and reading literary works are tempted to act like those characters in the respective literary work. During the struggle for independence for example, literary works were used to instill revolutionary ideas to the oppressed to take up arms against the oppressor. Consider the poem ***Your Pain*** by Armando Guebuza.

e) Literature is used to develop language

By reading, listening and watching literary works, people improve their language skills such as listening, speaking, reading and writing. People may also improve their vocabulary stock since they will not only come across a number of new words but also know how they are used in real context. Authors do also come with new words, phrases, idioms, figures of speech that help to develop the language.

f) Literature is used to liberate people mentally and physically.

Literary works present the message that helps to liberate the society mentally as a result they liberate themselves physically. It concertizes the society about the existence of oppressive systems and suggests ways to get rid of those systems. Example, ***united we stand, divided we fall.***

g) Literature is used to criticize the society.

Literature may be used to criticize the society in a sense that it points out the burning issues and requests the society to resolve them. More often than not literary artists points out the evils done by the traditional society. Example, perpetuating the outdated customs like FGM, widow inheritance, forced marriage, etc and ask the society to discard them. They may also point the wrongs done by the ruling class and suggest the ways to get rid of these leaders.

04. IMPORTANCE OF STUDYING LITERATURE

- a) Literature helps us grow both personally and intellectually. It opens doors for us. It stretches our mind, develops our imagination, increases our understanding and enlarges our power of sympathy. It helps us see beauty in the world around us.
- b) It links us with the cultural, philosophical and religious world of which we are a part.
- c) It enables us to recognize human dreams and struggles in different places and times.
- d) It makes us human. Literature excises our emotions through interest, concern, sympathy, tension, excitement, regret, fear, laughter and hope.
- e) It identifies the society.
- f) It broadens people's thinking.
- g) It preserves and transmits people's culture.
- h) It unites people.
- i) It encourages people.
- j) It creates employment to people.

05. CONTEXT IN WHICH LITERATURE IS APPLIED IN THE SOCIETY

Context is a situation in which something happens and that helps you to understand it. It is also known as environment or circumstance or background. There are different contexts in our societies in which literature is applied. These environments include the following;

a) Education context

Literature is used in schools, colleges and universities as one of the field of study. Through studying literature, we get professional or experts like analyst, novelist, playwrights, poet or poetess, teachers, authors, and professors of literature. Musicians are also experts of literature. They use their knowledge to entertain and educate the member of the society through their songs.

b) Religious context

In different religious dominations, literature is a part and parcel of their worship. The church choirs apply the knowledge of literature to compose songs, practice and sing them. The way they sing, praise and worshipping songs as well as hymns and lyric songs employs literary techniques. The language used at churches is characterized by poetic language for example in the Holy Bible there are books such as the book of proverbs and psalm. Also, the dramatization of biblical events such as of Noah is the work of literature.

c) Economic context

From the history of man literature has been used for different purpose. Thus, literature cannot be isolated with the origin of man through labor process associated with the making and using tools. Human beings had to use language to communicate different issues related to labor differentiation. Primarily, literature was in oral forms such as songs (labor songs), myths, folk tales aimed at warning, encouraging hardworking, criticizing evil and maintaining social values or people composed different songs that accompanied them during their economic activities and after it. Example of songs/poems includes **The Lazy Man** by Yoruba.

d) Political context

Literature plays a big role in political activities. From the history of political struggle for independence, it has been observed that political leaders and other members used literature as a tool of communication. They composed different songs to mobilize people to unite and struggle for freedom. For example, the poem of Your Pain was meant to help people of Mozambique to have self-awareness on the impact of colonialism. This song inspired and motivated them to unite hence struggle for their freedom. Literature is applied during political campaign to influence people to vote for a particular political party like CCM or CHADEMA.

e) Marriage context

Literature is also applied during marriage ceremony whereby different songs are sung for enjoyment, warning and educating the couples. For example, wedding songs are mainly sung by the relative of the bride to show appreciation for the ceremony and for the successful marriage.

f) Funeral context

Literature is applied through its works such as songs, proverbs, poems to console the relatives and different friends of the diseased person. In Hehe tribe men cry in poetic form by naming the names of their relatives who passed long time ago. They call it **Kuyeyela**. The songs sung during the funeral are called **dirges**. Dirges are songs sung or performed at funeral or at memorial services whereby the singers mourn the dead person through the song. They convey deep feeling and sadness.

g) Social context

In this context, literature applied according to the purpose of the social gathering. Literary works such as songs, comedies, idioms, proverbs and short stories are used or performed to educate, criticize, warn and entertain people. The aim is to make a

person reforms and behave in a socially acceptable way. Comedy performed to entertain people.

h) Family context

Literature applied in family level whereby parents, guardians, adults, neighbors and youth use literary works to communicate their emotions and feelings in different ways. Members of the family such as elders or adults as well as youth narrate different stories such as fable, anecdote, and folk tale and sing different songs like childbirth and child naming songs, lullabies to educate, entertain and warn the young generation.

06. FORMS OF LITERATURE

There are two major types/forms of literature namely;

- a) **Oral literature**; this is a type of literature that presents the message through words of mouth. It is the oldest form of literature since it was practiced before the invention of writings. Example, myths, parable, legends etc.
- b) **Written literature**; this is a form literature that presents the message through written form. It began with the invention of writings. It has two major forms, which are fiction and non-fiction. Examples of written literature include biography, autobiography, novels, plays, short stories, essays etc.

Relationship between oral and written literature

- a) Both portray on social realities.
- b) Both use language as its medium of communication.
- c) Both consist of two elements that are form and content.
- d) Both perform similar functions like educating, developing language and uniting people.

Difference between oral and written literature

- a) Oral literature presented orally while, written literature presented through writings
- b) Oral literature preserved in memory while, written literature preserved in writings like novels and short stories.
- c) Oral literature involves performance while, written literature does not involve performance rather than reading.
- d) Oral literature adopts immediate changes while, written literature does not adhere to immediate changes.
- e) Oral literature is rich in types while, written literature has few types.
- f) Oral literature is rich in characters while, written literature is limited to human characters.
- g) Oral literature is owned by the whole community while; written literature is owned by the author.
- h) Oral literature is old in age while, written literature is young in age.

07. LANGUAGE AND LITERATURE

Language acts as the bridge where we get messages.

a) Features of language used in literature

- i. It is imaginative in nature

The language used in literature creates mental picture in the readers' mind. When the reader reads, he or she can have a picture of something. This is done by figures of speech such as exaggeration and metaphor.

- ii. It does not follow the standard rules of grammar

This means that any writer of fiction or literary work is free to violate the rules of grammar to convey a certain intention.

- iii. It is symbolic in nature

In literature words are used to presents a certain idea or something. Example, in YOUR PAIN, the word '*blood*' symbolizes sacrifice.

b) Relationship between literature and language

- i. Literature uses language as a medium to present the intended message.

The artists must possess a wide range of vocabularies and a goal command over appropriate occasion and right that express the meaning intended.

- ii. Language is used to influence other peoples' mind.

The functions of the spoken words are not only conveying meanings, but also influence peoples' minds. It makes them alert with the aim of bringing the changes in the society for the betterment of the people.

- iii. Language is used to arouse emotions.

It can be for pleasure and enjoyment to convince, persuade, and arouse emotions such as pity, terror and sorrow. Through language (words) people can enjoy or being sad.

- iv. Language is a part of literature.

We cannot have literature without language. It is therefore, necessary for people who compose literary works to use language of the society to convey the intended message to the audience. For example, if the artist wants to communicate the message to Tanzania, they are forced to use Kiswahili that is understood by majority.

- v. Literature is used to develop language.

This is through reading, listening, speaking and writing.

- vi. Language makes literature a work of art.

When language is used artistically is called literature. The language of literature is creative, imaginative, and symbolic in nature.

- vii. Literature is both stored in either written words and presented in reading while stored in human memory. Also, presented through the word of mouth. Through a language, the audience understood.

c) Differences between ordinary and literary language

- i. Ordinary language is the most common, every day usage of the language among people. It is used on daily basis among the people **while**; literary language is the figurative form of language that is often used in literature. It is used only in literary contexts.
- ii. Ordinary language follows the normal word order (syntax). It is formal standard syntax **while**; literary language word order may be changed according to the writer's style to suit the literary effect.
- iii. Ordinary language may or may not have figures of speech **while**; literary language is rich in figure of speech that make it figurative.
- iv. Ordinary language is straightforward and thus easy to understand the meaning conveyed **while**; literary language is difficult for the ordinary man who does not know the literary techniques to understand the meaning. It may have two or more layers of meaning.
- v. Ordinary language, its words have their original meaning. Its meaning is clear thus no ambiguity is experienced **while**; literary language, its words acquire new meanings. A literary work can be read under multiple interpretations.

d) Factors for using foreign languages in African literature

- i. Underdevelopment and un-development of African languages

Writers cannot write in languages that have not been developed to have a written form or languages that have not been developed to the level at which they could be used in literature.

- ii. Absence of government language policies.

In Africa, there are no government policies that could encourage the use of African languages in literature.

- iii. Lack of promotion of African languages in employment and education system.

There is no African country where a credit pass in an African language is a criterion for promotion in the civil service, admission to university or employment.

- iv. The issue of multilingualism in Africa.

It is estimated that there are 2035 African languages at present. This situation is possibly responsible for the lack of government policies that could encourage the use of African languages in literature.

- v. The cost of developing African languages

To develop a language is capital intensive. It is therefore difficult to develop all the languages of Africa to be used in literature.

- vi. Lack of market for literary works written in African languages.

In other words, it is hard to put most African languages in written form. This is a major factor that affects the commercial values of the literary works written in the languages.

- vii. The problem of publication

Most publishers are not willing to publish works written in African languages. Publishers of literary works in African languages are a biggest challenge. Most publishing houses are reluctant to publish these works because they have no experts in these languages.

e) Importance of language in literature

Language is important in literature due to the following reasons;

- i. Language is the medium of literature. It is the road, carrier or vehicle through which literature is conveyed either as oral or written one.
- ii. Literature is created by language. This means there would be no literature

if there was no language. When the text uses language in an artistic or peculiar way, it is called literature or literary text.

- iii. Literature transforms and intensifies ordinary language into creative one. In doing so, literature deviates systematically from everyday speech to figurative language.
- iv. Language is improved when reading literature. So, reading is an aid for language development. We read different literary text to improve language.
- v. Language helps students to develop textual analysis skills of various literary works.
- vi. Language in literature helps to expose students to samples of real-life setting in various literary works.

08. LITERARY DEVICES

A literary device refers to artistic language structures used by writers to give a deeper meaning and flavor to their literary works. They include figures of speech and musical or sound techniques like rhyming scheme, alliteration etc.

A figure of speech is an expression of things that deviated from ordinary language. Figures of speech make literary works appear colorful and attractive to read.

Roles of literary devices in literature

- i. They sake for comparison. Example, metaphor and simile.
- ii. They sake for emphasis. Example, reiteration or repetition.
- iii. They sake for clarity
- iv. They sake for freshness
- v. They differentiate literary works from other works
- vi. They sake for beauty

The most common literary devices used in literature

a) Metaphor

It is a figure of speech that makes a direct comparison between two unlike things without using the words *"like or as"*. It suggests that one thing is another thing or is equal to another thing. Example;

- i. *He was a lion*
- ii. *The lord is my shepherd*

b) Simile

It is a figure of speech that makes a comparison between two unlike things by using the words *"like", "as", "than" or "resembles"*. Example;

- i. *As white as snow*
- ii. *Life is just like ice-cream, enjoy it before it melts*

c) Irony

Is the use of words in such a way that the intended meaning is completely opposite to their literal meaning. It can happen or used intentionally or unintentionally to make the audience think about what has just been said or to emphasize a certain idea. Example;

- i. *Bread is soft as a stone*
- ii. *A bank lends you money provided you show that it is not needed.*

Types of irony

There are three types of ironies;

- i. Verbal irony

Is the type of irony in which words are used to suggest the opposite of their usual

meaning. It occurs when the intended meaning of the statement or works is different (often the opposite of) what the statement or work literary says. For example, Ibsen's *An Enemy of the People* is ironically used since Dr. Stockman who is the declared an enemy, is in really sense and is a friend of the people. Example; *'the bread is soft as a stone'*.

ii. Dramatic irony

Is a failure of a character to see or understand what is obvious to the audience. Also, refers to a contradiction in a play between what a character thinks and what the reader or audience knows to be true. Dramatic irony is the moment when the narrator and the audience share the knowledge or experience that a character is ignorant of it. Example, *'in Oedipus the King by Sophocles where Oedipus fails to realize what the audience knows that he marries his mother'*.

iii. Situation irony

It occurs when what happens is contrary to what is expected; or the actual outcome of a situation is the opposite of what is expected. Example;

✓ *The son of the English teacher fails English exam.*

✓ *The daughter of a rich merchant is expelled from school for lack of school fees of 20,000shs*

d) Satire

Is a literary technique which principally ridicules its subject which includes individuals, organization, or states often as an intended means of provoking or preventing changes. It is a piece of writing that uses devices such as irony.

e) Sarcasm

Is a bitter cutting speech intended to wound someone's feelings. It is intended by a speaker to give pain to a person addressed. Example,

STUDENT: I don't understand

TEACHER: Well I wouldn't expect you too

f) Personification

Is the representation of inanimate objects or abstract ideas as living beings. It connects readers with the object that is personified. *Example; The mountains cried, the valleys wept, and hills waited all mourning the death of Nyerere.*

g) Apostrophe

Is a direct address to the dead or an inanimate object creating an emotional surge. Example;

- ✓ *Nyerere, only if you were alive*
- ✓ *O heart of man-made God*

h) Rhetorical question

Is the act of asking questions not to gain information but just for emphasis. No answer in fact is expected by the speaker. Example;

- ✓ *Did you help me when I needed help?*
- ✓ *Did you once offer to intercede in my behalf?*
- ✓ *Did you do anything to listen my lord?*

i) Hyperbole/overstatement

Is a figure of speech in which the truth is exaggerated for emphasis or for humorous effect. Example;

- ✓ *I am so hungry that I can eat a whole cow.*

- ✓ *She wept and wept until there was a sea of tears.*

j) Litotes/understatement

Is the use of a negative or weak statement to emphasize a positive meaning. Or is a figure of speech that uses an understated statement of an affirmative by using a negative description. Example;

- ✓ *I was not feeling unhappy – I was happy*

- ✓ *I am not unmindful – I mind*

k) Euphemism

Is a figure of speech which avoids the use of taboo or unpleasant words. Example;

- ✓ *Rest room for toilet*

- ✓ *Pass away for die*

- ✓ *Hole for virgin*

- ✓ *1,200 for penis*

l) Metonymy

Is the substitution of a word with another word that is close related to it. It is a figure of speech that associates the name of one thing with that of something with that of something else. Example;

- ✓ ***Crown** for king/government ruled by a king*

- ✓ *We waited hopelessly for two **sunsets**. **Sunsets** implies two days*

- ✓ *He has good **name**. **Name** refers to reputation*

m) Synecdoche

Is a figure of speech in which the whole is represented by a part or a part by the whole. Example;

- ✓ *He has several **mouths** to feed. **Mouths** represent people*
- ✓ *The best **brains** in the country. **Brains** represent intellectually brilliant persons*
- ✓ *50 **head** of cattle. **Head** represents whole animal*

n) Onomatopoeia

Is the use of words which imitate the natural sounds of objects or things. Example;

- ✓ *The **humming** bee*
- ✓ *The **cackling** hen*
- ✓ *The **whizzing** arrow*
- ✓ *The **buzzing** saw*
- ✓ *The **hissing** snake*
- ✓ *The **splashing** water*
- ✓ *The **bang** of a door*

o) Climax

Is the arrangement of ideas in an increasing order of their importance. It is the arrangement of words, clauses or sentences in the order of their importance. Example;

- ✓ *He came, he saw, he conquered her village, her state, her nation were her pride*
- ✓ *Eat, drink and sleep*

p) Imagery

Is a figure of speech which creates mental pictures that appeal to readers' five senses. Writers use sensory details to make readers imagine how things look/feel/smell/sound and test.

Types of imagery

- i. Visual image: this means an image of sight. Example,
 - ✓ *greater than the rift-valley*
- ii. Organic image: this is an image of feeling. Example,
 - ✓ *More painful than the yell.*
- iii. Auditory image: this is an image of sound. Example,
 - ✓ *I plead the cry of the nation.*
 - ✓ *The scream of a man.*
- iv. Kinesthetic image. This is an image of motion. Example,
 - ✓ *It is faster than camera film.*
- v. Tactile image: this is an image of touch. Example,
 - ✓ *Standing hard and ready*
- vi. Olfactory image: this is an image of smell. Example,
 - ✓ *A stinking room.*
- vii. Gustatory image: this is an image of taste. Example,
 - ✓ *In search of sweetness.*

q) Anadiplosis

Is the repetition in which the last expression of one statement becomes the first expression in the following statement. Example, as in the poem "AFRICA" by David Diop,

The blood of your sweat,

The sweat of your work,

The work of your slavery,

The slavery of your children.

r) Symbolism

Is a literary device that uses one object to stand for something else or to mean something else. Example;

- ✓ *Washing hands; to indicate non-environment*
- ✓ *Crown; to mean superiority*
- ✓ *Sunrise; to symbolize the beginning of the struggle*

s) Pun

It is a humorous play on two or more meaning of the same word or on two different words with the same sound. Example;

"When my love swears that she is made of truth". He says; therefore, I lie with her and she with me"

t) Allegory

Is a form of extended metaphor in which objects, persons and actions in a narrative are equated with the meanings that lie outside the narrative itself. Thus, an allegory is a story with two levels of meanings; a literal meaning and a symbolic meaning. Example,

George Orwell's ANIMAL FARM which on the surface level is about a group of animals which take over their farm but on the deeper level is an allegory of the Russian revolution and the short comings of the communisms.

u) Anastrophe/inversion

Is a sentence or a poetic expression which reverses or changes the order of words for greater emphasis. Example,

- ✓ *Ten thousand saw I at a glance – I saw ten thousand at a glance.*

- ✓ *And away they go – and they go away.*

v) Anaphora

This is the repetition of the word at the beginning of consecutive lines, verses or sentences. Example,

- ✓ The word “Africa” in the first three lines of the poem AFRICA by David Diop;

Africa my Africa

Africa of proud warriors in ancestral savannahs

Africa of whom my grandmother sings.

w) Oxymoron

Is a figure of speech which includes words/phrases/ideas opposite in meaning placed one after the other. These are words which contradict itself. It combines two contradictory words. Example,

- ✓ *True lie*
- ✓ *Silent noise*
- ✓ *Light darkness*

x) Paradox

Is a figure of speech which includes a statement or sentence which contradict itself. Example,

✓ *They have been burning us with a cold fire*

✓ *Look at those walking corpses*

y) Suspense

Is a lack of certainty on the part of a concerned reader/audience about what is going to happen to character with which the reader has established a bond of sympathy. It is a feeling of worry or excitement that you have when you feel that something is going to happen.

z) Taboo words

These are words which have prohibited to be used in normal or public speech. It is also known as ***dysphemism***. Example,

✓ *Uncircumcised baboon*

✓ *Penis/vagina*

✓ *Rotten penis*

aa) Allusion

Is a reference made by a writer in a literary work to a person, place or book without explicit identification. Example,

✓ *Reference from holy books*

Types of allusion

✓ Historical allusion

✓ Biblical allusion

ab) Antithesis

Is a literary technique in which the opposite or contrasting statements are balanced for emphasis. Example;

- ✓ *Man proposes, God disposes*
- ✓ *Speech is silver, but silence is golden*

09. ELEMENTS OF LITERATURE

Any literary work is made of two elements namely;

- a) Form
- b) Content

A) FORM

Form refers to the superstructure of a literary work. It is the principle that determines how a literary work is arranged and organized. Form consists of five elements or subparts which are;

- a) Plot
- b) Style (technique)
- c) Setting
- d) Character and characterization
- e) Diction (language use)
- f) Point of view

a) Plot

Plot is the arrangement of events in a literary work in terms of cause and effect. Is the way events and actions in a literary work has been rendered and ordered toward achieving particular artistic and emotional effects.

Types of plot

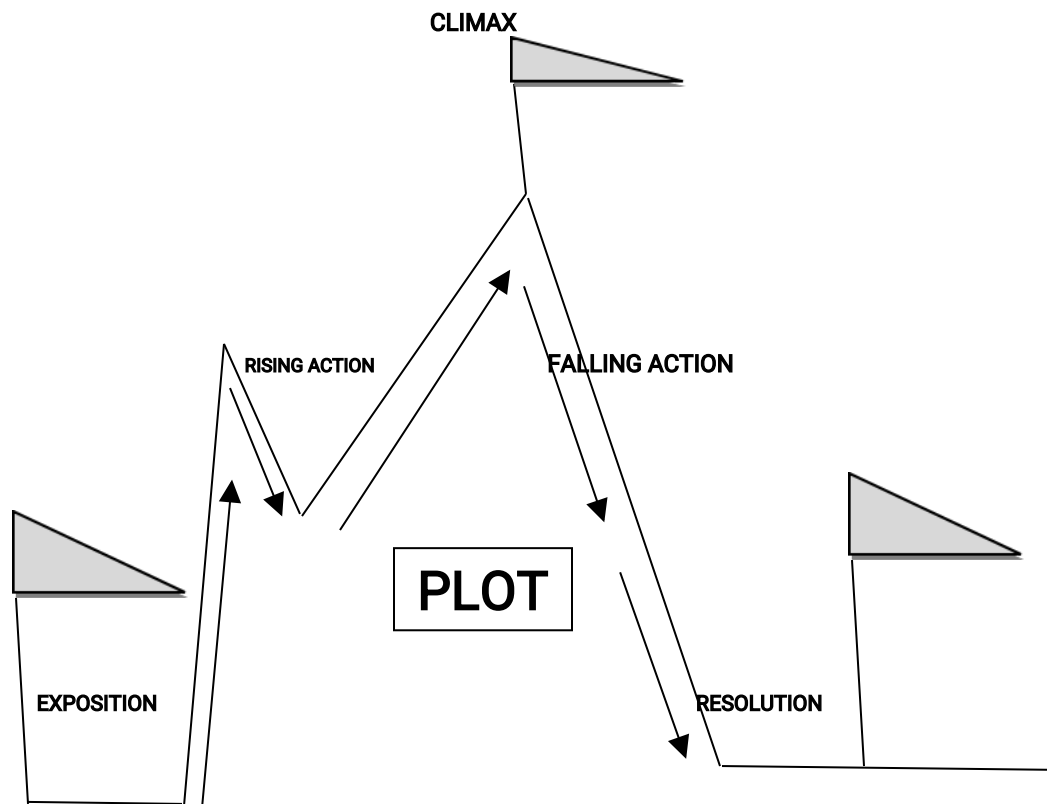
- ✓ **Chronological plot:** this is a straight forward plot in which events move from the beginning to the end.
- ✓ **Non-chronological/flashback plot:** this is a plot in which events are not sequentially arranged. Events may start at end, middle and then finish with the beginning.

Parts (elements) of plot

- ✓ **Exposition:** it is the foundation of the story in which settings, characters and basic situations are introduced.
- ✓ **Rising action:** it is the second part of the plot where suspense grows among the characters as the complications of the conflict starts.
- ✓ **Climax:** it is the highest point in which the conflict reaches its peak. It is the part which creates interest or suspense to the readers or audience. It is the moment of greatest danger or decision making for the protagonist. In other words, *climax is the most exciting moment in the story.*
- ✓ **Falling action:** it is a part of plot which shows what happens to the character after the climax. Normally one side among the two conflicting parts loses power and hence tensions decreases.
- ✓ **Resolution (denouement):** it is the final part of the story as conflicts are resolved and some mysteries are unraveled.

Freytag pyramid of plot

Parts of plot can be summarized using Freytag pyramid as follows;



b) Style (technique)

Style/technique refers to the quality that distinguishes an author's work from the work of another author. It includes the writer's choice and employment of figures of speech in a literary work.

In other words, technique refers to the way a literary work has been constructed and brought to the reader. In most cases, literary works are presented in;

- ✓ Dialogue or
- ✓ Monologue (soliloquy)

There are a variety of styles used by different artists in literature, but the most important technique is narrative technique.

Types of narrative techniques

- i. *Oral traditional narrative technique*: it is a style which refers to the retelling of a story that resembles the traditional way of telling that have beginning styles like once upon a time..., a long time ago..., many years ago... etc.
- ii. *Straight forward narrative style*: it is a narration of a story that relates to what is taking place in the story from the beginning to the end of story. It is common in many novels.
- iii. *Flashback*: it is a narrative style in which the end or middle of the story is found at the beginning and vice versa.
- iv. *Foreshadowing*: it is a narrative style in which a certain character makes the predictions of the things that really happen later in the book's event.

c) Setting

Setting refers to the time and place where and when events take place in a literary work. Basically, setting is the locale, historical time and social circumstances in which the actions of the work of art occur. Example, one can write the setting as *"in Tanzania after independence"*

Types of setting

- i) *Real setting*: is the setting of the literary work to a real place known to people. It makes a literary work more realistic. Example, "*The Lion and the Jewel is set in Nigeria*."
- ii) *Imaginary setting*: it is a setting of the literary work to unreal places which are unknown to people.

Elements of setting

- i. *Geographical setting*: this is the place setting. Example, Tanzania, Nigeria, Kenya, etc.
- ii. *Temporal setting*: this is the time setting. It can be pre-independence, during colonialism, or after independence.
- iii. *Social setting*: this is a situational or environmental setting. It deals with conflicts. Example, exploitative environment, the conflict between the poor and the rich, educated and educated.

NOTE: the elements of setting can be also types of setting where geographical setting is divided into real and imaginary setting.

d) Character and characterization

Character is any participant in the action of a literary work. It can be human being or inanimate.

Types of characters

- i. *Main/major/central characters*: these are characters that play an

important role in a story. They are the drivers of the story in which the plot and resolution of conflicts resolve around them.

- ii. *Minor characters:* these are characters that do not play an important role in a story. These are characters that take small part but help the main characters to develop events.

Classification of characters

- a) *Protagonist:* is the central character in a story and is often referred to as the story's main character. He/she is faced with a conflict that must be resolved. Is a character with positive traits and the audience loved him/her.
- b) *Antagonist:* is a character who opposes the protagonist. He/she is the one who makes the story to move on. In other words, the antagonist is an obstacle that the protagonist must overcome at the final stage of the story.
- c) *Dynamic/developing character:* is a character that changes over time, usually as a result of resolving a central conflict or major crisis.
- d) *Static character:* is a character that does not change over time. His/her personality does not transform or evolve or change. There is not much to learn from about such character.
- e) *Round character:* is a character that has complex personality. He/she is often portrayed as a conflicted and contradictory person.
- f) *Foil character:* is a character usually the antagonist that shows contrast against the protagonist. He/she is usually a minor character

that has traits in aversion to the main character and frustrates the main character.

- g) *Flat character*: is a character whose personalities are not complex. He/she is presented only in an outline without much individualized details.
- h) *Stock/stereotype character*: is a character that occurs repeatedly in a particular literary genre, and so are recognizable as part of the form. In other words, stock character is a character borrowed from other literary works recognized by readers.
- i) *Expository character*: is a character that is described or discussed either by the author or by another character.
- j) *Dramatic character*: is a character in action. From his/her speech and recorded sounds, we make deductions about his or her personality, attitude and relationship with other characters.
- k) *Symbolic character*: is a character whose presence in the work of art stands for an idea such as corruption, dictatorship, greed etc. in the society.
- l) *Realistic character*: is a character that features true human traits. They are imaginary characters but they resemble true human beings in their behaviors. Using these characters make a work of art to reflect reality.
- m) *Non-realistic character*: is a character that does not feature true human traits.

Characterization: is the process of describing a character in a work of art. It involves the process of assigning a certain duty to character in order to achieve a particular purpose by a writer or narrator.

Types of characterization

- ✓ *Direct characterization:* here a writer tells the character's traits like brave, corrupt, weak etc.
- ✓ *Indirect characterization:* here a *writer* depends on the reader to draw conclusion or judgments about the character's traits using the evidence the writer gives through different methods. (*As explain in the following sub topic*).

Methods of describing or identifying a character

In literary work, a character can be identified in the following ways;

- ✓ Through what they think
- ✓ Through what they say
- ✓ Through what they do
- ✓ The way they behave towards others
- ✓ Through what other characters say about them
- ✓ Through what the author says about them

e) Diction (language use)

Diction refers to the choice and arrangement of words in a literary work. It is the choice and use of words for artistic effect in a literary work. It also, refers to how language has been used/employed in a work of art. In any literary work, language is commented as simple though in other way it can be complex.

f) Point of view

Refers to an angle or position from which a literary work is narrated. It is also refers to who tells the story. Therefore, it is the speaker, voice, narrator or persona of a work of art from where we get the story.

Types of point of views

- ✓ *First person point of view:* is a type of point of view in which the narrator is one of the characters in a literary work. The pronoun “I” is employed in narrating the story. This narrator tells us his or her experiences. Therefore, the reader sees everything from that character’s eyes and experiences.
- ✓ *Second person point of view:* is a type of point of view in which the pronoun “you” is employed in narrating the story. It is rarely used in works of literature.
- ✓ *Third person point of view:* is the type of point of view in which the narrator is outside the story. This is very common point of view. The narrator uses the pronouns such as he, she or they. Thus, the narrator is not a character in the story, but an outside observer. It is grouped into two groups, namely;
 - Third person limited point of view: it is a point of view in which

the narrator tells a story by using only one character in the whole work of art.

- Third person omniscient point of view: it is a point of view in which the narrator reports on what several or many characters are thinking and feeling. The narrator seems to know everything about the characters of the story. This type is also known as ALL KNOWING POINT OF VIEW and the narrator is an all-knowing being.

Importance of point of view

- ✓ They are crucial foundation for any piece of writing.
- ✓ They provide the context and back-story you need for the audience to understand the scene.
- ✓ They help the audience best see the writer's characters and interpret the material in the way the writer intends.
- ✓ First person point of view brings inspiration for creating drama and emotion.

B) CONTENT

Content refers to what is being said or conveyed in a literary work. It also refers to what is being described in the literary work. In literature, content includes the following elements;

a) Theme

A theme is a central or dominant idea or purpose in a literary work. It is usually stated in a statement form. It is the abstract concept that is made

concrete through its representation in a person, action and image in the work of art. The common themes in African literature include betrayal, African traditions, colonialism, position of women, corruption, classes, racial segregation, protest, neo-colonialism etc.

Themes are categorized into two types which are;

- ✓ The main or major themes
- ✓ The minor themes

Any literary work has only one main theme which is built by the minor ones. Therefore, minor themes are the builders of the main themes.

b) Message

A message refers to what is learnt from a literary work. A message we get from literary work is about our experience in life. The writer typically writes to accomplish one or more of the following;

- ✓ To persuade
- ✓ To criticize
- ✓ To inform
- ✓ To explain
- ✓ To entertain
- ✓ To describe
- ✓ To tell a story etc.

c) Conflict

A conflict is the struggle, quarrel, or misunderstanding between the characters in a work of art. Conflicts build up a certain amount of suspense that makes the reader to desire the knowing of what and how the next event will happen.

Types of conflicts

- ✓ *Economic conflict*: it a type of conflict from which characters are portrayed differing in interests, opinions, beliefs and ideas because of having some ambitions over a certain economic wealth. For example, land or property ownership conflict.
- ✓ *Philosophical conflict*: it is a type of conflict used in literature to mean the author's belief on the work he/she has written to the audience. Therefore, it is the conflict between the author and the audience.
- ✓ *Political conflict*: it is the type of conflict from which characters are shown in disagreement which is resulted from ambition of power, misuse of power or dictatorship. For instance, the ruling party versus the opposing party or citizens versus their government.
- ✓ *Social conflict*: it is the type of conflict in which characters from a certain class can be shown opposing the other class. For example, the educated versus the uneducated, the poor versus the rich etc.
- ✓ *Family conflict*: it is the type of conflict in which characters who are family members are shown differing in ideas, interests, opinions as well as thoughts. For example, parents versus children, one family versus another family etc.

- ✓ ***Personal or intra-personal conflict:*** it the type of conflict in which a character is portrayed regretting upon his or her act, choice or decision. Personal conflict can be easily identified as the character is in dilemma over some matters.

d) Climax

Climax is the term used to refer the part of the story or any literary work where the tension or action reaches its highest point.

e) Moral lesson

Refers to the teachings a reader gets from a literary work. It usually moral teaching that the literary conveys to the intended reader or audience.

f) Philosophy

It is the belief or stance of a writer which is resulted from citing some realistic beliefs in human experience. For example, a writer may have the philosophy that in life, to be prosperous we need peace and love.

g) Crisis

It is the darkest or difficult time when a disaster's tough decision needs to be made or given to rescue a situation. Climax is the result of crisis.

QUIZZES

Quiz 1: "Writing literature in local language is the only way to make sure that it

reaches every individual in the society. Argue for or against this statement. Give eight (8) points.

Quiz 2: The subject of literature is different from other subject taught at school.

What are the differences between literature and other subjects in the secondary school curriculum?

Quiz 3: Support the view that the society makes literature and literature holds

Society.

Quiz 4: Show how literature is the reflection of life. Give six (6) points.

Quiz 5: Discuss on five (5) roles of characters in a literary work.

#####END#####

BY SIR;

DASTAN MWESIGE CLEMENCE BIKACHWEKA,
CHRIST THE KING NYANTAKUBWA GIRLS SECONDARY SCHOOL,
P.O.BOX 04, Sengerema.
MWANZA-TANZANIA.
(LITERATURE DEPARTMENT)

TOPIC 2: ORAL LITERATURE

01. MEANING OF ORAL LITERATURE

Oral literature is a type of literature that is handed down or presented orally through the words of mouth from one generation to another.

Historically, oral literature was practiced much before the invention of writings. Until today oral literature is still dominant in various societies. Sometimes, in literature, oral literature is called **folklore** because the former has more and inclusive meaning than the later one.

Folklore; by definition refers to the collection of traditional stories, customs, beliefs and culture of a particular society or country. It is any of the beliefs, customs and traditions that people pass on from one generation to the

next.

02. FORMS OF ORAL LITERATURE

Oral literature is still dominant in various societies due to the existence of different forms or types of folklores in the societies as follows;

a) Folktales

These are the traditional stories about animals or human beings that are usually passed down from one generation to another in a particular society. Most of these tales are not set in any particular time or place and they begin and end in a certain way.

For example, they begin with expressions like “once upon a time...” and end with “they live happily ever after”. The story of SINDERELLA is one of the examples of folklores.

b) Fables

These are animal stories that try to teach people how to behave. They are a particular type of narrative in which animals, plants or similar characters are anthropomorphized or made to seem as if they were human. Fables are sometimes called **beast stories**.

Fables often deliver a moral lesson which may or may not be explicitly stated at the end. The best known collection of fables is **Aesop's fables**. Examples of fables are “The Hare and the Tortoise”, “The Lion and the Mouse” and others.

c) Fairy tales

These are fictional stories that usually involve magic and mythical

creatures such as witches and fairies which possess supernatural powers. Fairy itself is an imaginary creature.

Fairy tales have magic powers to perform good and bad deeds and are set in imaginary land, long time ago and far away. They also contain imaginary creatures like evils, goblins and troll. They also feature fantastical elements and they have a happily ever after ending.

The famous fairy tales are CINDERELLA, SNOW WHITE, THE SEVEN DWARVES and SLEEPING BEAUTY. Fairy tales are meant for entertainment.

d) Trickster tales

These are folktales in which a trickster is a hero. Most tricksters are animals which act like human being by playing tricks to other animals and human beings as well. Trickster tales are ones of the most popular folktales because they are found in every culture. Every culture has its own trickster hero or character. In Africa, tricksters include tortoise, the hare, and Anansi the spider.

In east Africa the hare (kalulu in Kiswahili) is the most famous trickster hero. The book "Kalulu the Hare" by Frank Worthington has a lot of wonderful stories about the clever and cunning hare.

e) Parables

These are religious stories that teach a basic truth, a moral lesson or religious principle. They usually involve ordinary people who are faced with a moral dilemma or who make a moral decision and then deal with the effects of that decision. Examples of parables include "The Man and His Two Wives and all biblical stories.

f) Legends

These are old and well-known stories that tell about brave people, adventure or magical events. Legends are told from one generation to another as though they were true. They are set in a real world and in relatively recent times.

Many legends tell about human beings how meet supernatural creatures such as fairies, ghosts, vampires and witches. They are also associated with the famous people who have died.

Examples of legends include;

- ✓ Paul Bunyan who as a child, he could clap hands and breaks the windows in his house.
- ✓ Davy Crockett who is said that he was the frontiersman and he killed his first bear when he was just three years old.

g) Myths

These are traditional stories usually religious stories that explain how the world and humanity developed into the present form. Many myths describe the creation of the earth and they are different from other types of folk stories because they are considered to be true among the people who develop them.

Myth itself by definition is an idea or story that many people believe but which is not true. A number of myths describe the creation of human race and the origin of death. Every society has its own myth. Examples of myths are “African myths about Anansi the Spider” by Abbey Baker.

h) Anecdotes

These are short, amusing and interesting stories about real incidents or people's life. It is used to illustrate a point. Anecdotes are short stories that are told but that are not always published or given out.

For example, parables from the bible like THE GOD SAMARITAN could be called an anecdote because it is presented and based on a real incident involving actual persons whether famous or not but usually in an identifiable place.

Like parables, anecdotes are often used by philosophers and teachers of schools and religions to point out truths about real life. For instance, in the daily life you may tell others about yourself but you can give them an anecdote when you were suddenly caught by your mother stealing a piece of bread.

i) Epics

These are long narrative poems, books, or films that tell a long story about brave actions and exciting events done by the hero. The epic hero is usually a man of high social status and who have a great historical and legendary importance. Epics often involve supernatural events, long time journeys, distant journeys and life and death struggle between good and evils.

In Africa, the most common epic is that of SUNDIATE (an African epic about an old Mali Empire).

j) Tall tales

A tall tale is folklore about a larger-than-life hero who solves an over-the-top problem in a humorous or outrageous way. Tall tales are typically feature highly exaggerated, improbable details and were created by several culture including the ancient Greeks, Romans and Celts.

American folk heroes like Paul Bunyan, Davy Crockett, Pecos Bill and John Henry are also regarded as tall tale heroes.

k) Ballads

These are short stories in form of poems or songs in which there are two or more people speaking in turn. It is a dramatic type of poem as it presented like drama. The purpose of a ballad is to tell a story, so all elements of a story are included that is plot, character, narrator, dialogue, setting, drama and so on. Examples of ballads include BALLAD OF THE LANDLORD by Langston Hughes and BALLAD OF JOHN HENRY.

l) Riddles

These are puzzling questions; statements especially ones intended to test the cleverness of those who wishing to solve them. They are very confusing and have humorous or clever testing ingenuity in divining its answer or meaning and every culture has its riddles which were passed down orally from one generation to another. A successful riddle often

fancifully describes an inanimate object as if it were a living thing.

Examples of riddles and their answers

- ✓ I have three hands, but just one face. I will link arms with you as I run my race... THE WRISTWATCH
- ✓ I wear my jacket all the time. I stand with my back to you, showing my spine...A BOOK.
- ✓ I am all over the place, but I know where I am at. My life goes in circles, but I never feel flat... that is GLOBE
- ✓ I have the voice of a dog and the pages of a book. I have the chest of an elephant and you will find me if you look... that is A TREE.
- ✓ I will take you to the top; I will wear my hair in plaits. But if you cannot stop I will burn you and after, leave you flat...that is CLIMBING ROPE.
- ✓ What has to be broken before you can use it...? AN EGG
- ✓ It goes up but never comes down...AGE
- ✓ It gets wet while drying... TOWEL
- ✓ I shave every day, but my beard stays the same...A BARBER
- ✓ I have branches but no fruits, trunk or leaves... A BANK
- ✓ It cannot talk but will reply when spoken to...AN ECHO
- ✓ The more of this there is, the less you see...DARKNESS
- ✓ David's parents have three sons; Snap, Crackle and what is the name

of the third son? ... DAVID

- ✓ I follow you all the time and copy your every move, but you cannot touch me or catch me. What I am? ... SHADOW
- ✓ What has many keys but cannot open a single lock? ...PIANO
- ✓ What is black when it is clean and white when it is dirty? ... CHALKBOARD
- ✓ It gets bigger when more is taken away... A HOLE
- ✓ I am light as a feather, yet the strongest person cannot hold me for five minutes. What I am? ... I AM A BREATH
- ✓ If you have got me, you want to share me; if you share me, you have not kept me. What I am? ... I AM A SECRET
- ✓ What has one eye but cannot see? ... A NEEDLE
- ✓ What has lots of eyes but cannot see ...A POTATO
- ✓ What has hands but cannot clap? ... A CLOCK
- ✓ What has many needles but does not sew? ... CHRISTMAS TREE
- ✓ What has legs but does not walk? ... A TABLE
- ✓ What has one head, one foot, and four legs? ... A BED
- ✓ What kind of band never plays music? ... A RUBBER BAND
- ✓ What has many teeth but cannot bite? ... A COMB
- ✓ What has a head and a tail but no body? ... A COIN

- ✓ What has thumb and four fingers but has not a hand? ... A GLOVE
- ✓ It stalks the countryside with ears that cannot here... CORN

m) Sayings

These are well-known short statements that express ideas that most people believe are true and wise. In other words, sayings include proverbs and idioms.

n) Proverbs

These are phrases which contain above all wisdoms, truth, morals, experience, lessons and advice concerning life and which has been handed down from generation to generation.

Proverbs are also defined as short well-known sayings that state a general truth or give advice and they can be orally transmitted or put in written forms. They can help you perfect your conversational English skills and deepen your understanding as they often come up in conversation.

Some common examples of proverbs

- ✓ You cannot judge a book by its cover
- ✓ Do not run before you can walk
- ✓ Do not teach an old dog a new trick
- ✓ As you sow, so you shall reap
- ✓ Beggars cannot be choosers
- ✓ A short cut is often a wrong cut

- ✓ Rome was not built in one day
- ✓ Keep your mouth shut and ears open

o) Idioms

An idiom is defined as a group of words that has a special meaning that is different from the ordinary meaning of each separate word.

It is also defined as a phrase or sentence that is not clear from the meaning of its individual words and which must be learnt by heart as a whole unit. Therefore, the meaning of a whole unit of idiom is not clear, that is its expression has a meaning other than its literal meaning.

Some common examples of idioms

- ✓ Kick the bucket: DIE
- ✓ Under the weather: BEING ILL/HEALTH UNFIT
- ✓ On the fence: UNDECIDED/DILEMMA
- ✓ Hold your horses: BE PERTIENT
- ✓ Give the cold shoulder: IGNORE ONE'S PRESENCE
- ✓ Bite your tongue: AVOID TALKING
- ✓ Blue moon: A RARE EVENT
- ✓ Do not like a fish: DRINK HEAVILY
- ✓ Tie the knot: GET MARRIED
- ✓ Till the cows come home: A LONG TIME

p) Tongue twister

These are words, phrase or sentences that are difficult to articulate because of a succession of similar consonantal sounds. They are great way to practice and improve pronunciation and fluency to children.

Some examples of tongue twisters

- ✓ Peter Piper picked a peck of pickled peppers
- ✓ Betty Bother bought some bitter
- ✓ How much wood would a wood luck chuck if a woodchuck could chuck wood?
- ✓ She sells seashells by the seashore
- ✓ How can a clam cram in a clean cream can?
- ✓ I scream, you scream, we all scream for ice cream
- ✓ I saw Susie sitting in a shoeshine shop
- ✓ If a dog chews shoes, whose shoes does he choose

03. FEATURES OF ORAL LITERATURE

- ✓ Oral literature is passed through a word of mouth.
- ✓ It involves live performance such as dancing, clapping hands and singing.
- ✓ It involves both the performer and audience as both the narrator and listener come together during presentation.

- ✓ It takes place in an actual setting for instance during evening, the folktales can be handed at home after work.
- ✓ It is owned by the whole society as all society members (literate and illiterate) individual have chance to access it.
- ✓ It is dynamic such that it adopts changes depending on time and place.

04. ADVANTAGES OF ORAL LITERATURE

- ✓ Oral literature entertains people through music (sacred/folksongs), riddles and proverbs.
- ✓ It promotes cultural identity in the society.
- ✓ It identifies the society it dwells in.
- ✓ It broadens people's thinking in the society.
- ✓ It preserves and transmits peoples' culture.
- ✓ It educates people through its dynamism.
- ✓ It creates employment to people.

05. THE NEGATIVE IMPACTS OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY ON ORAL LITERATURE.

Oral literature has encountered many challenges in the course of development from time it immersed. Some of the challenges include the

following;

- ✓ It becomes expensive if preserved or stored in modern storage devices like DVD, tapes recorders, computers etc.
- ✓ There is no face to face interaction between the artist and the audience since it preserved in modern devices.
- ✓ There is a delay in feedback. It is very difficult for the artist to get feedback from the audience.
- ✓ It changes the medium of presentation because there is the absence of performance effect and actions are not heard.
- ✓ Due to copyright issues, it is no longer belonging to the whole community.
- ✓ It does not involve the all members of the community due to science and technology.
- ✓ The vulnerability of storage devices like CD, DVD, and VCD may undergo serious damage endangering the intactness of oral literature.

QUIZZES

Quiz 1: Does oral literature still exist in the Tanzania society today? Discuss Your arguments basing on nature and transmission.

Quiz 2: what are the positive impacts of science and technology on oral Literature? Give at least five (5) points.

*****END*****

BY SIR;

DASTAN MWESIGE CLEMENCE,

CHRIST THE KING NYANTAKUBWA GIRLS SECONDARY SCHOOL,

P.O.BOX 04, SENGEREMA.

MWANZA-TANZANIA.

(LITERATURE DEPARTMENT)

TOPIC 3: WRITTEN LITERATURE

01. INTRODUCTION

Written literature is the form of human expression through writing. That is to say, it is a literature which is expressed or conveyed through written form. This kind of literature began with the invention of writing.

02. THE CONCEPTS OF FICTION AND NON FICTION.

Since literature is generally defined as anything written, the concepts of fiction and non-fiction are also anything written. The major difference between them is that **fiction is a work of art which deals with the creation of imagined materials or events** while **non-fiction is a work of art which deals with real materials or events.**

a) Fiction

The word “fiction” comes from the Latin word “fictio” which means “a making or fashioning”. Generally, fiction is a story or writing that is created from an author’s imagination. Thus, it is a narrative based upon the imagination of the author. It deals with non-factual materials/events. A writer may include facts about real people or events, but can combines these facts with imaginary setting and situations. Examples of fiction

works includes;

- ✓ Novels and short stories
- ✓ Plays
- ✓ Poems
- ✓ All forms of oral literature

b) Non-fiction

It is a form of literature that deals with factual materials or events. It is the factual writing which is written by the writer who uses facts in his or her work. Purposefully, nonfictional literature designates writings intended to instruct, to impart knowledge, wisdom or faith, and especially to please.

Forms of nonfiction literature

- ✓ ***Letters and journals***
- ✓ ***Biographies***: these are writings that tell the life of someone written by another person. A biography is the story of a person's life written by someone else.
- ✓ ***Autobiographies***: these are the writer's account of his/her own life. An autobiography is the narrative in which the author tells the story of his or her own life. The word "autobiography" comes from Greek words; 'auto' meaning 'self', 'bios' meaning 'life' and 'graphein' which means 'to write' thus meaning to write one's own life.
- ✓ ***Memoirs***; these are person's record of experiences from his/her own life.
- ✓ Media accounts like newspapers, magazines, television, or radio.
- ✓ Essays

- ✓ Articles
- ✓ History
- ✓ Diary

THE DIFFERENCES BETWEEN FICTION AND NON-FICTION

FICTION	NON-FICTION
a) It talks about imaginary people, places, ideas, and experience.	It talks about real people, places, ideas, and experience.
b) Some common forms of fiction are novels, plays, poems, and folktales.	Some common forms of non-fiction are letters, biographies, autobiographies etc.
c) Audiences of fiction are people who look for non-factual information but that give them knowledge and pleasure.	Audiences of non-fiction are the people who look for factual information (facts).
d) The purpose of fiction is to deliver the message of the	The purpose of non-fiction is to explain, inform, persuade, and

writer that can instruct and entertain the readers.	entertain the readers.
e) Most fiction writings are narrative, persuasive and entertaining writings.	Most non-fiction writings are argumentative, narrative, and informational/explanatory writings.

03. MAJOR GENRES OF WRITTEN LITERATURE

By definition, **genre** is defined as the kind or style of something especially of art or literature. The three (3) main genres of written literature are:

- a) Prose (novels, novella, novelette and short stories)
- b) Drama (play)
- c) Poetry

A) PROSE (NOVELS AND SHORT STORIES)

A prose is an extended writing that is continuous written in paragraphs. In other words, a prose is any kind of writing that is not poetry or that is not presented in verse or stanza form.

SHORT STORIES

A short story is a brief work of fiction that can be read in one setting. It is a story usually about imaginative characters and events that is short enough to be read from the begin to the end without stopping.

It is usually focuses on one or two main characters that face a single problem or conflict. Examples of short stories include MABALA THE FARMER by Richard S. Mabala and THE VOTER by Chinua Achebe.

A short story has three main elements which are:

- ✓ Plot
- ✓ Characters
- ✓ Theme

Other minor elements include;

- ✓ Conflict
- ✓ Point of view
- ✓ Symbolism
- ✓ Flashback
- ✓ Fictions quality

NOVELLA

Is a short prose fiction shorter than a novel but longer than a short story. For example, Alex La Guma's A WALK IN THE NIGHT.

NOVELETTE

Is a short novel that is often about romantic relationships and is usually not very serious. A novelette is longer than a short story but shorter than a novella. It has 7,500 to 19,000 words.

NOVEL

A novel is a fiction work that is longer and more complex than a short story. It is a fictional prose usually consisting of more than fifty thousand words.

Generally, **a novel is a long narrative story which is written or arranged in chapters.**

In novels; setting, plot, characters and themes are fully developed in great details. Like short stories, a novel has four main elements which are setting, plot, characters and themes. A person who writes novels is called **novelist**.

Examples of selected novels

- ✓ *A Walk in the Night - Alex La Guma*
- ✓ *Houseboy – Ferdinand Oyono*
- ✓ *The Old man and the Medal - Ferdinand Oyono*
- ✓ *The Concubine – Elech Amadi*

Characteristics of a good novel

- ✓ It is presented in narrative form. It uses narration in representing a story i.e. they are no actions.
- ✓ It is divided into chapters. The main divisions of the story in the novel are called chapters.
- ✓ It employs a very complex plot. It is very long with many characters each carry a certain message hence it is difficult to judge the beginning, the rising action (conflict), the climax and the resolution.
- ✓ It has specific point of view normally uses third person omniscient point of view.
- ✓ It is very long enough to fill a complete book. It ranges from 70 pages and above.

Types of novels

a) Social novel

It is a type of novel that focuses on behavior of characters. It shows how characters' actions are reflected in a literary work. It also, focuses on values of society i.e. social issues like norms, culture, traditions etc.

b) Psychological novel

It is a type of novel that focuses on psychological problems/effects and intends to observe the inner self of a character. Mainly, it is used to talk on personal conflict.

c) Education novel

It is a type of novel that describes stages in the life of the main characters and its main purpose is to educate or to learn something from the growth or development of character from early to maturity.

d) Philosophical novel

It is a type of novel that intends to attempt philosophical problem. It normally maintains the doctrine of a certain class of people. It question on freedom and the value of human effort and wisdom that is a central to a certain society.

e) Popular novel

It is a type of novel that meant for entertainment i.e. whatever has been written is for entertainment. It talks on fantasy as well as romantic ministrations.

f) Historical novel

It is a type of novel that gives the history of a certain society. It also, documents on past issues that are memorable to a certain society.

g) Romantic novel

It is a type of novel that is love oriented.

Categorization novels according to word count

Classification	Word count
Novel	Over 40,000
Novella	17,500
Novelette	7,500 – 17,500

Short story	Under 7,500
-------------	-------------

B) DRAMA (PLAY)

A drama is a piece of writing that is designed in the way that it can be acted on the stage before the audience. It is a piece of writing that is intended to be acted in a theatre. It is a literary composition of any length, ordinarily written to be performed by actors who impersonate the characters, speak in the dialogue and enact the appropriate actions.

A play is a piece of writing that is designed in the way that it can be read by the readers. Therefore, a play is a written script of drama.

ORIGIN OF DRAMA

The word “**drama**” comes from Greek word “**dran**” which means to do or to act. It refers to the story told in a way that it can be acted by the casts before audience. It is a kind of communication between the playwright and the audience through casts of characters.

ELEMENTS OF DRAMA

- i. **The cast of characters (actors/actress):** these are people presented in the play in order to peruse the plot. Every character who is involved in a play can have his/her own distinct personality, age, appearance, beliefs, socio-economic background and language. Therefore, through the way characters are involved in a play is where a reader can refuse or accept them basing on the way and what they represent.

- ii. **The audience:** these are people who pay attention or listen or watch to what is acted on the stage/theatre by the actors.
- iii. **Action (plot):** refers to the series of events in a play in terms of cause and effect. It is the way in which an artist organizes the events in his play or drama.
- iv. **Setting:** is the time and place where the play events are taken. It can be a name of any place such as Tanzania, Kenya etc.
- v. **Themes:** these are what the play or drama means. A theme can be clearly stated in the title or sometimes it can be stated through dialogue by actors as the playwright's voice. On the other hand, a theme maybe identified after some study or thought. Thus, themes are abstract or underlying meaning, issues and feelings that grow out of the dramatic action.
- vi. **Diction/language:** refers to the choice of words made by the playwright and the communication of the actors of the language.
- vii. **Spectacle:** refers to all of the aspects of scenery, costumes and special effects in a production. They include visual elements of the play created for theatrical event.
- viii. **Dialogue:** is the conversation of more than one dramatic character in a drama or play. It is useful in developing the plot of a dramatic story.
- ix. **Mime:** refers to dramatic action without words. It the process of acting without speaking.
- x. **Costumes:** refers to special kinds of attires or clothes worn by characters purposely for dramatic performance.
- xi. **Props:** refers to hand tools or instruments used to accompany the performance on the stage. It indicates realism in the story. Example of props includes sticks, whistles, stones, etc.

- xii. **Makeup:** these are kind of decorations that are prepared to accompany the performance during dramatization. They include colors, powder, lipsticks etc.
- xiii. **Enactments:** is the situation of imitating according to the demand of a story.
- xiv. **Spectator:** refers to visual elements of a play that is very elements that is individual sees.
- xv. **Stage directions:** it is a dramatic technique which gives the actors/actress and the directors the instructions on how to perform the play. It must tell the actors where to move or how to speak in a certain event. Also, it might describe the setting and the sound effects. It has the following functions;
 - ✓ It shows physical location or setting.
 - ✓ It indicates the action done by the actors/actress.
 - ✓ It shows time to describe the stage voice.
 - ✓ It shows the entrance and existence of characters.
 - ✓ It shows physical appearance of characters.
- xvi. **Catastrophe:** refers to the final event in a drama. It can be death or marriage of a character.
- xvii. **Comic relief:** refers to a bit of human in a serious play in order to indicate or bring relief.
- xviii. **Nemesis:** is an agent of retribution/a person who is thinking/a way of letting audience know the character's mind.
- xix. **Soliloquy:** refers to an intensive thinking of a certain character. It is when a certain character speaks alone in the stage.
- xx. **Allusion:** is the situation whereby something that is said or written refers to or mention another person or subject on an indirect way. It

categorized into two types namely;

- ✓ Historical allusion
- ✓ Biblical allusion

- xxi. **Illusion:** is a literary technique that means something many people believe that is false.
- xxii. **Light and curtain:** refers to dramatic technique that is employed in a play in order to show the end of one episode.
- xxiii. **Curtain:** is the heavy material that screens/blocks the stage from the audience. It is sometimes defined as a piece of thick, heavy cloth that hangs in front of the stage in the theatre.
- xxiv. **Dramatic irony:** refers to a dramatic technique that occurs when an audience knows something which the character on the stage is not aware.
- xxv. **Music (sound effect):** refers to the voice of actors as they speak. Music in drama has the following functions;
 - ✓ It helps the audience to concentrate to the stage
 - ✓ It accompanies the actions
 - ✓ It is used to show whether the action is sad or happy
 - ✓ It is used to attract the audience and pay attention
 - ✓ It is used to entertain the beginning and end of action
 - ✓ It is used to entertain the audience
 - ✓ It is used to identify the culture
 - ✓ It increases the mood of actors or actress
- xxvi. **Season:** refers to the phase in the cycle of life of human being. It can be death, old age, pain, loneliness, despair or an end.
- xxvii. **An episode:** refers to a narrative unit within a large dramatic work or documentary production such as series intended for radio, television

or on-line consumption.

- xxviii. **Film:** is a story or event recorded by a camera as a series of moving images and shown in a cinema or on television.
- xxix. **Act:** refers to the major division of a play or drama.
- xxx. **Scene:** is a subdivision of an act of a play in which the time is continuous and the setting is fixed. Shortly, a scene is one of the parts into which a play or a film maybe divided. Each scene has its own beginning, middle and end and has key elements like conflict, resolution, characters, setting, dialogue and action.
- xxxi. **Script:** this is a written text of a play, film/movie, that guides the actors how to act the drama.

FEATURES OF DRAMA/PLAY

- a) A play/drama has strong visual elements or the story and image of human nature reproducing the passions and human humour. On the stage, we see pictures and images which hold our attention and increase interest and entertainment to the message of the play. Events in a play cannot be easily forgotten.
- b) It exposes to the audiences the immediate and existing experience in the society.
- c) It is easily understood since it imitates what really happens in the society and people have some experience in it.
- d) In drama, the development of themes, plot, characters etc. takes place swiftly from the beginning to the end of the play.
- e) Drama is full of actions unlike other genres. It is easy to be reproduced or copied by the audience.
- f) Drama tends to bring the whole world on stage and hence helps us to

learn what other people do or even make comparison and later effect some changes in the society.

TYPES OF DRAMA/PLAY

There are about seven types of plays namely;

a) Tragedy:

Is a type of drama which shows serious actions and always a protagonist endangers his or her life. It is a dramatic representation of serious actions which eventuate in a disastrous conclusion for the protagonist (the chief character). He/she become faced by death or isolation. Example, *"Kinjeketite" by Ibrahim Hussein* and *"Oedipus the King" by Sophocles*

b) Comedy

It is a type of drama which is funny or humorous because it always make the audience laugh. Example, *"The Government Inspector" by Nicolai Gogol*.

c) Tragic-comedy

This is a kind of drama which combines the elements of both tragedy and comedy. In this type of drama/play a heroine does not endanger his/her life. I.e. does not end in catastrophe (death or danger).

d) Historical drama

This is the type of drama which expresses the history of a certain society. Also in this type of drama, the reader will find the elements of tragedy and comedy. Example, *"Kinjeketite" by Ibrahim Hussein*

e) Melo-drama

This is a type of drama produced with musical accompaniment for entertainment. It is a drama with songs accompanying the actions.

f) Teleplay

This is the play to be shown in televisions where acts and scenes may change quickly and dramatically.

g) Dumb play

This is the type of play in which only gestures are used to convey a message without speech. It is just a piece of action given in mimes and the actors do not speak.

EXAPLES OF SELECTED PLAY

- a) The Lion and the Jewel – Soyinka, W*
- b) The Trials of Brother Jero- Soyinka, W*
- c) The Dilemma of a Ghost – Aidoo, A.A*
- d) The Government Inspector – Gogol, N*

C) POETRY

Poetry is a form of literature that uses aesthetic and rhythmic qualities of language to evoke the meaning in portraying the human social realities. It involves different poems which are written in form of verses and stanzas.

Poem is a piece of writing in verses form especially expressing deep feelings in an artistic language.

NOTE:

Poetry is the art of composing or collecting poems *while* a poem is a piece of writing in verse and stanza form especially expressing deep feelings in an artistic language.

FEATURES OF POETRY (POEM)

- a) Poetry is rich in figures of speech
- b) It evokes emotions
- c) It is made up of verses and stanzas
- d) It is made up in rhyme and rhythms
- e) It meant to be sung
- f) It gives moral lessons

TYPES OF POETRY (POEM)

Poems can be categorized basing on the two elements of literature namely;

- a) Form
- b) Content

a)Basing on form

Basing on form, one can divide poems into two types;

- ✓ Traditional (closed poems)
- ✓ Modern (open poems)

✓ Traditional (closed) poems

This refers to those poems which adhere strictly to the traditional rules of composing poems like rhyming schemes, rhythmic pattern, and equal number of syllable, verses and stanza.

✓ Modern (open) poems

This refers to those poems which ignores the structural patterns of composing poems. These poems are also called the free verse poems.

b) Basing on content

Under the content, the division of poetry bases on what a particular poem addresses to the audience.

Some of such categories are;

- i. **Narrative poem:** is a poem that tells a story.
- ii. **Descriptive poem:** is poem which tells on what someone or something is like.
- iii. **Lyric poem:** this is a poem which expresses personal deep thought and feelings.
- iv. **Elegy poem:** this is a mournful or plaintive poem especially a lament for the dead or a funeral song. They are sad and sorrowful poems which are sung mainly for remembering someone who has dead.
- v. **Sonnet poem:** this is a poem which is made of fourteen lines with a particular pattern of rhyme.
- vi. **Ode poem:** this is a poem which expresses the writer's thoughts and feeling about a person or a certain subject. It a serious song of single theme. Ode is serious expression of a single theme.
- vii. **Song:** is a poem set to music.
- viii. **Dramatic poem:** this is poem in which a person

is talking to another person or other persons.

- ix. **Ballad poem:** this is a narrative poem in which there are two or more people speaking in turn.
- x. **Epic poem:** this is a long poem that deals with actions of great men and women or history of nations. They tell a story of heroic deeds.
- xi. **Didactic poem:** this is a poem designed to give instructions to readers. They are mainly for political and social messages. Example, ***your pain by Armando Guebuza.***
- xii. **Haiku poem:** is a Japanese form of poetry consisting of three unrhymed lines of five, seven and five syllables.
- xiii. **Diamond poem:** this is a poem about two opposite topics. Example a poem whose topic A is birth while topic B is death.
- xiv. **Limerick poem:** this is a funny or humorous poem consisting of five lines. It has the rhyming pattern of ***"aabba"***.

IMPORTANT TERMS USED IN THE STUDY OF POETRY

a) **Verse:** is a single line in a poem which forms a stanza or a part of a stanza.

b) **Stanza:** is the combination or collection of verses which form a poem or a part of a poem. Stanzas are commonly named according to the number of verses/lines as follows;

✓ ***Monostich***; it is one verse stanza

✓ ***Couplet***; it is two verses stanza

✓ ***Tercet***; it is three verses stanza

✓ ***Quatrain***; it is four verses stanza

✓ ***Cinquain***; it is five verses stanza

✓ ***Sestet***; it is six verses stanza

✓ ***Heptastich***; it is seven verses stanza

✓ ***Octave***; it is eight verses stanza

c) **Poet:** is a man who composes poems.

d) **Poetess:** is a woman who composes poems.

e) **Persona:** is a person who speaks in a poem.

He/she is also called dramatist.

f) **Rhyme:** is the repetition of similar sounds at the end of words in a stanza.

Types of rhyme

✓ ***Perfect/exact rhyme:*** it occurs when the sounds match exactly mostly at the end. E.g. came and fame.

✓ ***Partial/imperfect/approximate/slant/near rhyme:*** it occurs when the sounds do not match exactly. E.g. hunger and plumber.

✓ ***Eye rhyme;*** it occurs when words seem to rhyme but they are not. E.g. enough and through.

✓ ***Internal rhyme;*** it occurs within or in the middle of a line. E.g. 'they were singing, bringing the ring', 'I need my kid to bed'

✓ ***End rhyme;*** it occurs at the end of the lines.

g) **Rhyme scheme:** is the regular pattern of rhyming words in a poem. Rhyme scheme can

be represented by different letters to show each rhyming sound. For example, in Claudie Mckay's IF WE MUST DIE, the rhyme scheme goes ABAB, CDCD, EFEF, and GG.

Types of rhyme scheme

- ✓ ***Regular rhyming scheme***; it is a kind of rhyme scheme that follows a particular consistent order in a poem. Eg, "If we Must Die" by Claud Mckay.
- ✓ ***Irregular rhyming scheme***: it is a rhyme scheme that does not follow a particular consistent order in a poem. Eg, A Dying Child by Piter Lwamba.
- h) **Rhythm**: these are regular movements of beats occurring in the poem as the result of the rising and falling of sounds.
- i) **Refrain**: this is the repeated line which appears at the end of each stanza in the poem.
- j) **Tone**: is the attitude of the poet or persona

towards the subject matter being addressed in a poem. It can express love, hatred, pity, sarcasm, sad, angry, romantic, humorous, nostalgic, etc.

k) Mood: is the feeling the reader gets through the prevailing tone. Mood is what the reader feels after reading a poem. I.e. the feelings of the reader after reading the poem. In the long run, the reader can be happy, sad, angry, sympathetic, ironical, etc.

l) Meter: this refers to the general regular patterns of stressed and unstressed syllable in poetry. It is the result of rising and falling of sounds which made a persona to stress the words differently.

m) Foot; is a group of two or three syllables which form the basic unit of poetic rhythm.

n) Alliteration: is the repetition of the initial consonant sounds of two or more words which are nearby in a line of a poem. E.g. 'darling Derrick dead dearly', 'feel free friendly Freddy'

- o) Consonance:** this is the repetition of consonant sounds at the end of words in stressed syllables. E.g. 'I needu my kid to bed', 'you hurtt my heartt'.
- p) Assonance:** is the repetition of similar vowel sounds within words close to one another with different consonant sounds. E.g. 'they sell the wedding bells, base and fade'
- q) Reiteration:** is the repetition of the same word for emphasis.
- r) Title:** is the name of a poem.
- s) Poetic license:** is the freedom that poets and poetess has in violating some facts and grammatical rules when composing poems.
- t) Poetic diction:** refers to the way words are chosen and arranged aesthetically in a poem to portray human realities.

POETIC DEVICES

Poetic devices refer to the features that define

poetry (poem). OR, are devices used to show how the poem is constructed or composed. There are three classifications of poetic devices, namely;

a)Sense devices

b) Structural devices

c)Sound devices

a)Sense devices

These are poetic devices that bring an image to the mind of the reader of the poem. They include all figurative or imaginary language like hyperbole, understatement, allusion, irony, imagery, simile, analogy etc.

Note:

Analogy; is a comparison between two objects that are essentially different but have at least one common quality.

b) Structural devices

These are poetic devices that determine the structure of a poem and show how the poem is

formed or structured. They include;

- ✓ Polysyndeton; is the use of several conjunctions in a close succession especially where some might be omitted. E.g. he runs and jumped and laughed for joy.
- ✓ Asyndeton; is the omission of conjunctions where they would normally be used. E.g. he run jumped laughed for joy.
- ✓ Repetition
- ✓ Stanza
- ✓ Verses
- ✓ Punctuation marks etc.

c)Sound devices

These are devices that detect sounds in the poem. They make a poem/song to be sung. They include alliteration, assonance, consonance, idiophones, onomatopoeia, rhymes, and rhythm.

PROCEDURES OF INTERPRETING A POEM

- a) Look and observe at the poem carefully. This helps in identifying;
- ✓ Number of stanzas and verses in a whole poem.
 - ✓ Type of stanza
 - ✓ Rhyme and rhyming patterns/scheme.
- b) Read the whole poem carefully.
- c) Re-read the poem carefully while identifying the difficulty words used in it.
- d) Find the meaning of difficulty words used in the poem.
- e) Re-read the poem carefully relating the meaning of difficulty words to the context of the poem.
- f) Ask yourself on what the poem is all about.
- g) Identify the themes portrayed in the poem.
- h) Comment on the mood and tone of the persona.
- i) Identify the message found in the poem.
- j) Comment on the poetic diction (devices)

employed in the poem.

k) Relate the poem read to your personal and national life experience.

THE DIFFERENCE BETWEEN POETRY AND A POEM

a) Poetry is the literary work in which the expression of feelings and ideas are given intensity by the use of distinctive style and rhythm; set poem collectively as a genre of literature, WHILE poem is a piece of writing in which the expression of feelings and ideas are given intensity by particular attention to diction i.e. rhythm and imagery.

b) Poetry is a literary form that covers a wide range, WHILE a poem is a written piece of literary work.

c) Poetry is an art form, WHILE a poem is a composed literary work.

- d) Poetry is made of poems, WHILE a poem is a fundamental unit of poetry.
- e) Poetry is a collective term used to indicate many pieces of individual poems, WHILE a poem is a collective verse used in the sense of an individual piece of work.
- f) Poetry is an artistic ability of composing poems, WHILE a poem is a work that result from the exercise of poetry.

IMPORTANT ITEMS TO BE CONSIDERED IN THE CRITICIM OF A POEM.

In the criticism of any literary work, we have to consider two (2) elements of literature that are;

- a) Form and
- b) Content

Under these elements we have to analyze the sub-elements of both elements.

- a) Form

In form, we have to analyze the items like

- ✓ The title of the poem
- ✓ The structure (form) of the poem
- ✓ The language used (figures of speech)
- ✓ The tone of the poet/poetess
- ✓ The mood of the poet/poetess
- ✓ The relevance of the poem

b) Content

In the content, we have to analyze the items like;

- ✓ Message and
- ✓ Themes

EXAMPLES OF SELECTED BOOKS OF POETRY USED

Selected Poems- Tanzania Institute of Education.

Growing Up with Poetry – David Rubadiri.

*****END*****

BY SIR;

DASTAN MWESIGE CLEMENCE,

CHRIST THE KING NYANTAKUBWA GIRLS SECONDARY SCHOOL,

P.O.BOX 04, Sengerema.

MWANZA-TANZANIA.

(LITERATURE DEPARTMENT)