

Introduction to Literature/ *Lesson four*

Hello Everyone,

I hope that you all had a good time off Literature and belated happy Eid to all of you. Thank you for all of you who sent their work. Here is the third lesson.

As you studied that Literature is of THREE main genres (types): **Poetry**, **Drama**, **Prose** which is divided into **Fiction** and **Non-fiction**. We will study **Poetry** and **Fiction** for this course.

We need first to know what is poetry and what are the elements of poetry, or what are those elements that make a piece of writing poetry.

Poetry is the elevated expression of elevated thought or feeling in metrical form. Therefore, the main purpose of poetry is to show feelings and emotions. The writer of poetry is called a poet, and the piece of poetry is called a poem. One line of poetry is called verse. There are long and short poems and there are many different types of poems also.

We will study four types only of poetry this course, they are:

1. **Lyric**: which are poems to be sang as songs
2. **Sonnets**: short poems of 14 lines only.
3. **Narrative poems**: poems that tell a story.
4. **Dramatic poetry**: poems that are written in blank or free verse.

Please watch the following video for more simple introduction of poetry:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=JmkgAWAGtbE>

For any piece of writing to become poetry it needs **rhythm** (the beat or music of the words) and **two types of elements**. They are:

1. **Figurative Language**: It is the artistic language that a poet use to write poetry, they often express things that are not real, but emotional. We will study five main types of them:
 - a. **Simile**: comparing using “like” and “as”, e.g. “**she is like a rose.**”
 - b. **Metaphor**: comparing without like and as, e.g. “**she is a rose.**”
 - c. **Symbolism**: when things have stronger meaning, e.g. “**my mother is my home.**”
 - d. **Personification**: comparing things or animals to humans, e.g. “**the sea talks to me**”
 - e. **Hyperbole**: is exaggeration, e.g. “**I am burning with anger.**”

2. **Sound Devices:** they are the elements that give the poem its music, we will also study **five of those**:
- Alliteration:** is when the poet repeats the first letter in words, e.g. “the door danced in the dark.”
 - Assonance:** is when the poet repeats the vowel sound in the middle of the word, e.g. “we are proud, living in the cloud
 - Repetition:** is when the poet repeats his words, e.g. “she sang from noon to noon.”
 - Onomatopoeia:** when the sound of the word is its name, e.g. the snake is hissing.”
 - Rhyme:** is when the last sound of the words are similar, e.g. “I will try, not to cry.”

Please watch the following video for more simplified explanation:

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=jC6MsRf_1k

With each poem we are going to study, I want you to try and answer three questions, using all these elements and types of poetry I explained above. These questions are:

- What is the general meaning of the poem?** What the poem talks about, general idea.
- What is the detailed meaning of the poem?** What each line in a poem said to you.
- What is the intention of the poet?** What do you think the message that the poet wants to tell us as readers.

Your homework is: I want you to write **four lines only** of an **Arabic poetry or English poetry**, that you like most and answer the following:

- What is the general meaning of your poem?
- What is the detail meaning of the **first line** of your poem?
- What is the intention of the poet that you like?

I will be the first one to do the homework for you:

One of the poems that I like in Arabic says:

دَعِ الْأَيَّامَ تَفْعَلْ مَا تَشَاءُ
وَطِيبْ نَفْسًا إِذَا حَكَمَ الْقَضَاءُ

وَلَا تَجْزَعِ لِحَادِثَةِ اللَّيَالِي
فَمَا لِحَوَادِثِ الدُّنْيَا بَقَاءُ

1. What is the general meaning of the poem?

The poet is accepting fate and he is happy with it.

2. What is the detailed meaning of the first line?

The poet is saying that let the days be as the fate decides.

3. What is the intention of the poet?

Happiness can come when we are content with what fate gave us.

Please submit your homework on the task posted on your class after the lecture.

Best wishes and take care.

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