

## Chapter 2: Stories in Verses - Exploring Narrative Poetry



### Knowledge Bridge – Recall and Reconnect

Answer the following questions based on the lesson. Provide clear explanations and examples to support your answers.

- What are some key elements used in lyric poetry to create emotion and rhythm, as seen in works like *Sa Aking Mga Kabata*?
- How can poetry be used in everyday life to express emotions or connect with others?

Now that we have immersed ourselves in the musicality and expressive depth of lyric poetry, let's venture further into the realm of poetry where storytelling takes center stage.



## Your Path to Discovery

In this chapter, we'll dive into the fascinating world of narrative poetry, exploring its key concepts and practical application. You'll gain insights into how poetry serves as a powerful storytelling medium, shaping cultures, preserving history, and conveying emotions. We'll walk through real-world examples, including classic Filipino epic poems like "Ibong Adarna," "Biag ni Lam-ang," and "Hudhud ni Aliguyon", to solidify your understanding. Whether you're new to the subject or looking to deepen your appreciation of poetic storytelling, this chapter has something for everyone.

At the end of this chapter, you will be able to do the following:

- define narrative poetry and explain how it differs from other forms of poetry, focusing on its structure, elements, and purpose;
- analyze classic examples of Filipino narrative poetry, exploring their themes, motifs, and cultural significance;
- identify and interpret patterns and motifs in epic poetry, understanding how they contribute to storytelling and more profound meaning;
- evaluate the role of diction, tone, and mood in shaping the reader's experience, and analyze how poets use language to enhance their narratives;
- apply critical thinking skills to answer comprehension and reflection questions about narrative poems, connecting their lessons to real-life experiences;
- develop creative writing skills by composing your own narrative poem, incorporating a strong theme, poetic devices, and a clear structure; and
- express understanding through creative projects, such as dramatic performances, visual storytelling, or digital media presentations.

Get ready to expand your horizons and master the art of storytelling through poetry like never before!



# LESSON 1

## NARRATIVE POETRY: TELLING STORIES THROUGH RHYMES

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## Path to Understanding

Have you ever heard a story told in the form of a song or poem? That's called narrative poetry! Narrative poetry is a special kind of poem that tells a story, but written in beautiful, rhythmic verses. It features characters, a setting, and a plot, similar to movies and fairy tales. This ancient form of storytelling originated from oral traditions, with people sharing poems about heroes, adventures, and life lessons. In the Philippines, epics like *Biag ni Lam-ang* and *Hudhud ni Aliguyon* are examples of narrative poetry, reflecting the values and beliefs of pre-colonial Filipinos.

Did You Know? Long ago, people didn't have books or the internet to share stories. Instead, they performed them aloud using poems! In the Philippines, we're lucky to have many famous examples of narrative poetry. One of these is "Ibong Adarna," a story about three brothers who go on an exciting adventure to find a magical bird that can heal their father, the king. Let's take a glimpse at the summary of "Ibong Adarna."

" **Once upon a time**, in the grand Kingdom of Berbania, there lived a noble<sup>1</sup> king named Fernando and his three sons: Don Pedro, Don Diego, and Don Juan. The kingdom<sup>2</sup> was known for its prosperity and peace, but dark clouds loomed over it when King Fernando fell gravely<sup>3</sup> ill. No physician could cure him, and despair spread throughout the land. It was then that an old wise man revealed the only remedy<sup>4</sup> to heal the king—a magical bird called the Ibong Adarna. This wondrous creature, with feathers that shimmered<sup>5</sup> like gold, silver, and precious gems, possessed a song so enchanting it could lull anyone into deep slumber. However, capturing this elusive bird was no simple task; it resided atop Mount Tabor, guarded by perilous trials.

The king summoned his sons one by one, entrusting them with the mission to bring back the Ibong Adarna. Each son vowed to fulfill their father's wish, beginning with the eldest, Don Pedro. Armed with courage and determination, he set off on his journey toward Mount Tabor. Along the way, he encountered various challenges but eventually reached the fabled tree where the bird perched<sup>6</sup>. As night fell, the Ibong Adarna sang its mesmerizing<sup>7</sup> melody, causing Don Pedro to fall asleep. When he awoke, he found himself transformed into stone—punished for failing to capture the bird.

**Distraught**<sup>8</sup> at his brother's fate, Don Diego, the second son, resolved to succeed where Don Pedro had failed. He embarked on the same treacherous<sup>9</sup> path, facing similar obstacles along the way. Upon reaching the sacred tree, he too succumbed to the bird's hypnotic song and suffered the same cruel punishment as his elder brother. News of both failures reached the youngest prince, Don Juan, who wept bitterly for his siblings' plight. Despite his youth, he felt compelled to try, driven by love for his father and brothers.

Don Juan began his quest, guided by humility and kindness. On his journey, he met a hermit who offered him wisdom and advice. "Be steadfast and pure of heart," the hermit<sup>10</sup> counseled. "Do not let greed or pride cloud your purpose." With these words echoing in his mind, Don Juan pressed onward until he finally arrived at Mount Tabor. There, beneath the towering<sup>11</sup> tree, he prepared himself for the arrival of the Ibong Adarna.

As twilight descended, the mystical bird appeared, glowing brilliantly<sup>12</sup> against the dark sky. Its voice rang out, sweet and haunting, weaving spells through the air. Remembering the hermit's warning, Don Juan fought against the drowsiness<sup>13</sup> overtaking him. Using sharp wit, he devised a plan: he cut his arm slightly and let the pain keep him awake. Thus, while the bird sang, Don Juan remained vigilant, observing every detail of its movements.