

## Subject: Literature in English

### Week 2: Literary Appreciation

---

#### Lesson Objectives

By the end of this lesson, students should be able to:

1. Define the concept of **literary appreciation**.
  2. Understand the **purpose and importance** of appreciating literature.
  3. Identify and interpret key **literary elements** such as theme, setting, characters, and literary devices.
  4. Practice **analyzing and evaluating** basic literary texts (poetry, prose, drama).
- 

#### 1. Meaning of Literary Appreciation

**Literary appreciation** is the **ability to understand, analyze, interpret, evaluate, and enjoy a literary piece**. It involves reading not just for the plot or entertainment, but for the **message, artistic style, and deeper meaning** behind a text.

In other words, to appreciate literature means to go beyond what is said, to how it is said and why it matters.

#### Example:

In the poem “*The Village Schoolmaster*” by Oliver Goldsmith, literary appreciation involves recognizing:

- The humor in how the teacher is described,
  - The poetic devices like rhyme and imagery,
  - And the theme of respect for education.
- 

#### 2. General Appreciation of Literature


To appreciate literature generally means to have a **basic understanding of how to engage with any literary work**—whether it is a poem, a play, or a novel.

Let's break it down into key components:

---

### ◆ A. Subject Matter (What is it about?)

This refers to the **main content** of the story, play, or poem. It includes what happens, to whom, where, and how.


 *Example:* A poem might be about **love**, **war**, or **freedom**. A novel might tell a story about a young girl growing up in a strict society.

---

### ◆ B. Theme (The deeper message or lesson)

This is the **central idea** or **message** the writer conveys. It could be:


- Love
- Betrayal
- Justice
- Oppression
- Patriotism
- Loss
- Hope

 *Example:* In Chinua Achebe's *Things Fall Apart*, one major theme is the **clash between tradition and change**.

---

### ◆ C. Setting

This is the **time and place** in which a story takes place. It helps us understand the background of the story and the behavior of the characters.

 *Example:* A novel set during the Nigerian Civil War will reflect tension, survival, and patriotism.

---

### ◆ D. Characterization


This refers to **how the author presents and develops the characters** in a story.

Characters can be:

- Protagonists (main heroes)
- Antagonists (villains or opposing forces)
- Static (unchanging) or dynamic (changing)

We ask:

- What kind of person is this character?
- What are their motivations and actions?
- Are they realistic?

 *Example: Okonkwo in *Things Fall Apart* is strong but too proud, and this leads to his downfall.*


---

#### ◆ E. Style

This refers to the **writer's choice of words, tone, sentence structure, and literary techniques**.

Some authors write:


- Simply or elaborately
- Poetically or conversationally
- Using symbolism, irony, dialogue, or sarcasm

 *Example: Wole Soyinka often uses vivid imagery and African proverbs in his works.*

---

#### ◆ F. Tone and Mood

- **Tone** is the author's attitude toward the subject or audience (serious, humorous, angry, sympathetic).
- **Mood** is the emotional effect the writing has on the reader (joyful, sad, tense).

 *Example: In a poem about war, the tone may be bitter and the mood may be somber.*

---

## ◆ G. Literary Devices

These are **techniques writers use to beautify or strengthen their expression.**

Device	Meaning	Example
<b>Simile</b>	Comparison using <i>like</i> or <i>as</i>	"He is as brave as a lion"
<b>Metaphor</b>	Direct comparison	"Life is a journey"
<b>Personification</b>	Giving human qualities to non-human things	"The wind whispered"
<b>Irony</b>	When the opposite of what is expected happens	A fire station burns down
<b>Symbolism</b>	Using something to represent a deeper meaning	A dove symbolizes peace

---

## Why Is Literary Appreciation Important?

- It improves your **critical thinking**.
  - It helps you **understand people, cultures, and history**.
  - It teaches **moral lessons and values**.
  - It enhances your **vocabulary and expression**.
  - It allows you to **enjoy literature more deeply and insightfully**.
- 

## Sample Literary Appreciation Practice

Read this short poem:

*"The sun sets low beyond the hills,  
A quiet hush the evening fills.  
The children's laughter fades away,  
As night prepares to rule the day."*

### ➤ Appreciation Guide:

- **Subject matter:** A description of sunset and the coming of night.
- **Theme:** The transition of time; the beauty of nature.
- **Mood:** Calm and peaceful.

- **Literary Devices:**

- **Personification:** "Night prepares to rule"
- **Imagery:** Descriptions of sunset and laughter