

SENIOR  
HIGH  
SCHOOL



# Creative Nonfiction

## Quarter 1 – Module 2: The Literary Elements



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## **Creative Nonfiction**

### **Quarter 1 – Module 2: The Literary Elements**

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## QUARTER 1, MODULE 2

### • The Literary Elements

*What makes a work fiction? Or drama? Or poetry? What delineates one genre from the other? If one is interested to write poetry, how can he or she tell that it indeed is poetry? These exciting questions will be answered as you go through lesson 2 where you will be acquainted with the elements of the aforementioned genres.*

#### Learning Competencies:

1. Analyze and interpret the theme and techniques used in a particular text
2. Create samples of the different literary elements based on one's experience (e.g. metaphor to describe an emotion)

#### Learning Targets:

At the end of the lesson, you are expected to:

1. Read sample works and analyze the techniques used and the underlying themes;
2. Write sample sentences/paragraphs about a personal experience utilizing the different literary elements.

#### KEY WORDS





## VOCABULARY LIST

1. **Characters** are persons, animals and other things that make the story alive.
2. **Setting** basically refers to the time and place of the narrative. It also includes the set and background of the story or play.
3. **Plot** refers to the strings of event present in the narrative.
4. **Point of view** is the narrator's way of telling the story.
5. **Conflict** is struggle of the pre-eminent character with other characters or forces of the story.
6. **Theme** is the subject of the story.
7. **Poetry** is an art form that uses figurative languages such as simile and metaphor.
8. **Drama** is an art form that is usually done on stage.
9. **Fiction** is an art form that usually uses the ordinary language. Short story and novel are examples of fiction.
10. **Dialogue** is the exchange of ideas of the characters in a fiction.

## PRE-TEST

**Directions:** Can you guess the literary elements described below? Write your answer in your notebook.

### Part A.

1. They are the events that happen in a story.
2. It is the struggle that occurs between forces in the narrative.
3. They can be people, animals, or even things that live in the story.
4. It is the underlying truth that is conveyed by a literary work.
5. It is the perspective from which the story is told.
6. It basically refers to the time and place of the narrative.

### Part B.

1. It is the occurrence of the same sounds at the end of each line in poetry.
2. It is the pattern that is created by the rhyming words in poetry.
3. It is the term used to refer to the lines in poetry.
4. It is the term which refers to a group of verses.
5. It is the pattern created by stressed and unstressed syllables or words.

## LEARNING ABOUT IT

### Elements of Fiction

How does one say that a particular work is fiction? Generally, fiction work is not real hence writers can utilize both the imagination and complex figurative language to appeal to the readers. Fiction is also characterized by structured language, adherence to proper grammatical pattern, and correct mechanics. A work of fiction may combine fantastical and imaginary ideas from everyday life. Written imaginatively, it comprises some important elements like plot, setting, character, conflict, and point of view to lead the readers to its theme.

Because literature is basically an art and not a science, it is not always a good idea to specifically approach fiction while looking for these elements. Rather, it is better to read a fiction work and examine it closely then decide for yourself what element(s) was/were highlighted and how important and significant it is to what the writer is trying to convey.

For beginning fiction writers, on the other hand, it is important to know what makes fiction. A chef trying to cook a particular gourmet dish should know the ingredients and how each will affect the flavor of the food being prepared. This is similar to writing. With this understanding in mind, let us find out the ingredients when cooking up fiction.

#### A. Character

Characters are beings who live in the story. They can be actual people from this planet to aliens from somewhere in the outer space. At other times, they can be animals, and even inanimate objects; they can even be supernatural presences or make-believe creatures like goblins, fairies, dragons, or elves.

Characters are important in fiction because they are the ones with whom the readers empathize. Readers also look for characters to root for or against, to fall in love with, to care or to hate, and even dream to meet.

Readers come to know and understand the characters' actions, motivations, feelings and emotions through what they say, what they think, how they act, and even through what other characters say about them. A writer should therefore take this in consideration when creating the characters to life.

Characters can be flat or round. A **flat** character is not sufficiently developed, described very little, and plays very minor role in the narrative. Sometimes they are simply stock characters or those known simply as the "wicked stepmom," or the "loyal servant."

A **round** character, on the other hand, has a leading role in the narrative. In contrast with a flat character, a round character is complex, multi-dimensional, and well-developed that they seem "to come to life." These characters may undergo change through the circumstances where they are placed, hence making them lifelike.

Characters can also be static or dynamic (also called developing). A **static** character remains the same throughout the narrative while a **dynamic** one undergoes change. The change can be brought by factors and elements

experienced by the character and may impact on his or her attitudes, beliefs, or actions.

## B. Setting

Simply put, setting answers the question “where” and “when” about the narrative. Answers to these questions give rise to the two types of setting: the physical and chronological setting.

**Physical setting** refers to where the story takes place. It can be very general like in a farm, a school, or a laboratory; or it can be specific, like “in the Metropolitan Naga Cathedral,” or “at McDonald’s Diversion Road branch.”

The **chronological setting** can also be general or specific, as during the “Christmas season,” or “during the early morning of December 16 in 2019.”

Sometimes, the setting is immaterial to the story, as when the writer wants to be universal and not limited by time and space.

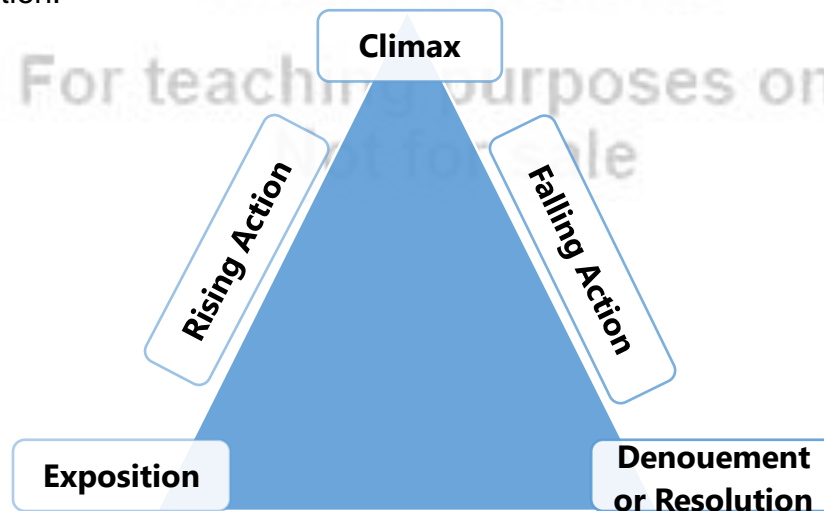
Aside from the chronological and physical setting, it also includes the following:

- a) the immediate surroundings of the characters such as props in a scene: trees, furniture, food, inside of a house or car, etc.,
- b) the weather such as cloudy, sunny, windy, snow, or rain, etc., and
- c) the geographical location including the city, state, country, and possibly even the universe, if the writer is writing science fiction.

## C. Plot

Plot is the order of events in the story. Writers usually follow a particular plot structure, called “Freytag’s Pyramid,” although this is not always the case, as some may opt to start from the middle part or ending part and go backwards to where the events began.

**Freytag’s Pyramid** is named after the German playwright of the 1800s, Gustav Freytag, and has the five-part plot structure which includes the exposition, rising action, climax, falling action, and denouement, also known as resolution.



## *Freytag's Pyramid*

- a) **Exposition** introduces the characters, time, and the problem. This occurs at the start of the story up to the point where an inciting incident happens for the main character to handle or solve. The exposition creates the beginning of the story.
- b) **Rising action** includes the happenings that the main character encounters. As each event develops, more complications arise, making the problem more complex for the character.
- c) **Climax** refers to the turning point in the story. This is usually a single event with the greatest intensity and uncertainty. Here the main character contends with the problem hence creating the peak of interest for the readers.
- d) **Falling action** are the events that unfold after the climax. The resulting events after the climax create an emotional response from the reader.
- e) **Denouement or resolution** provides closure and ties up loose ends in the story.

### **D. Conflict**

Conflict is the struggle between opposing forces or entities. The main character encounters a conflict which may be an adversary or any other force to contend with.

Generally, there are two types of conflict: **external** and **internal**. External conflict could be **man against nature** (a mother and her child evacuating at the height of typhoon Yolanda), or **man against man** (a student being harassed by a bully classmate). Internal conflict could be **man against society or culture**, or **man against himself or herself**.

Readers might find external conflict more exciting than internal conflict, but it is worthwhile to think that in real life, people experience more of the latter than of the former.

### **E. Point of view**

Who is telling the story? How is the story told? Point of view answers these questions.

There are three different types of point of view which writers use in telling fiction.

- a) **First person point of view** means that the story is told from the viewpoint of one of the characters who may be the protagonist or main character in the narrative. Here, first person personal pronouns are used like I, me, my, we, and our. By using this point of view, readers may feel an affinity and empathy for the narrator as the narration can include the narrator's motives, thoughts and feelings. On the other hand, this view may be limited as it cannot say for certain other characters' thoughts, feelings, and motives.

- b) The **second person point of view** which is seldom used, speaks to the reader as if the reader is the protagonist. At other times, the narrator may use apostrophe, a figurative language where the speaker talks to an absent or unidentified person. The second person pronouns are used here like you and your.
- c) The **third person point of view** is classified into third person limited and third person omniscient. In both types of view, the narrator is not a character nor in the story. In **third person limited**, the narrator is limited only to one of the character's thoughts. In **third person omniscient**, the narrator is "all-knowing" and "all-seeing" and knows various characters' thoughts. This view uses third person pronouns like he, she, it, and they.

## F. Theme

Theme is the underlying truth conveyed by the author through the story. Themes are usually universal which means that they are understood by readers across cultures, eras, or nationalities. Some common themes include coming of age, circle of life, prejudice, greed, good vs. evil, and beating the odds. Theme is different from the moral or lesson of a narrative.

## Elements of Poetry

### Rhyme

This is the easiest feature to identify in a poem. If the last word in the first line of poetry rhymes with the last word in the second line, or the third, you can easily identify a pattern. Rhyme does not depend upon spelling; it is a matter of sound, or pronunciation.

### Rhyme Scheme

When you can identify a repeating pattern of similar-sounding words at the ends of the lines, then you have a rhyme scheme. Simply assign a letter of the alphabet (starting with A, of course) to each word at the end of a line of poetry; rhyming words are given the same letter. Sometimes a pair of words nearly rhymes; you assign the same letter to each of these words also.

### Rhythm

Rhythm (or **meter**) is a slightly more difficult aspect of poetry for some students. There is a natural rise and fall in our language: we stress certain syllables and words more than others in order to emphasize meaning. In poetry, these patterns of stressed and unstressed syllables or words form a rhythm or meter. There is a name for each of the common patterns. In your study of poetry, it is not necessary to memorize and agonize over these lists of terms. They are presented here merely for your information and as a starting point in understanding the rhythm of poetry.

There were rules in writing poetry in the past. Poets arranged lines (also called **verses**) into groups called **stanzas**. Usually the poems were quite neat and evenly-shaped - the lines were roughly the same length, the stanzas all contained a pre-determined number of lines. The **rhyme schemes** were regular, and the **rhythm** was identifiable.



Nowadays, modern poets break all of these rules because they feel that their poetry will be stilted and artificial if they cannot write freely, hence the term **free verse**. At first glance it appears that all of the conventions of poetry have been thrown away when you read such poetry, but in many ways free verse is more difficult to write. The poet creates his or her own form, although the poem must still sound like a poem; otherwise, it is prose. The poet is free to choose whether or not to use rhyme or a natural rhythm which does not follow a set pattern.

Poetry, even more so than the other genres of literature, employs **figurative language** to the best effect. Poets use literary devices as tools to create images or vivid word pictures, for the reader. Figures of speech require fewer words to express these images, and this “compact” feature lends itself especially well to poetry, where there is usually a limit to the length of a verse. The topic on figurative language will be discussed in the succeeding lessons.

### Elements of Drama

Drama is pretty much similar in certain narrative aspects to fiction, like the presence of characters, plot, setting, conflict, and theme. Since drama is intended for performance, it has particular elements, though, which are distinct from other genres. This includes presentation elements like venue, costumes, set design, lighting design, and music.

## KEEPING YOU IN PRACTICE

### Task 1

**Directions:** Can you tell what narrative element is highlighted in the following excerpts? Write your answer in your notebook.

1. He thought about Marian. She had left him nine years ago after five years of marriage. He was fifty-two now; that would make her just under forty. Marian had dreams of becoming a musician, a folksinger.

*(Robert James Waller, The Bridges of Madison County)*

2. I'd be lying if I told you I wasn't afraid. I don't want to die, and thanks to my parents—my mother lived to ninety-six—I long assumed that I was genetically capable of growing even older than I already am. Until a few months ago, I fully believed I had half a dozen good years left. Well, maybe not good years. That's not the way it works at my age. I've been disintegrating for a while now—heart, joints, kidneys, bits and pieces of my body beginning to give up the ghost—but recently something else has been added to the mix. Growths in my lungs, the doctor said. Tumors. Cancer. My time is measured in months now, not years... but even so, I'm not ready to die just yet. Not today. There is something I have to

do, something I have done every year since 1956. A grand tradition is coming to an end, and more than anything, I wanted one last chance to say good-bye.

*(Nicholas Sparks, The Longest Ride)*

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3. At Kalispell, Montana, he stopped for the night, late. The Cozy Inn looked inexpensive, and was.

*(Robert James Waller, The Bridges of Madison County)*

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## Task 2

**Directions:** Read the following selection then identify the narrative elements present in the text. Write your answers in your notebook.

### Aries – The Ram

Athamas, the legendary king of Thessaly, had two children, Phrixus and Helle. He had remarried and Ino, the children's stepmother, began to treat them very badly. They were treated so cruelly that Hermes took pity on them and sent a magical ram to take them away and escape their stepmother's wrath.

Mounted on the ram's back, the children flew over land and sea to the east. Unfortunately, Helle failed to get a good hold on the fleece of the ram and as they flew over the strait that separates Europe and Asia, she fell off and was drowned in the sea far below. That sea is called Hellespont to this day in honor of her memory.

Phrixus landed safely at Colches, which is on the edge of the Black Sea. In gratitude for his safe deliverance, Phrixus sacrificed the ram and gave its Golden Fleece to the king of that country.

In honor of the ram's great sacrifice in saving the children, Zeus placed the ram's constellation, Aries, in the night sky. *(adapted from "Constellation Legends")*

1. Characters

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2. Setting

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3. Conflict

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4. Point of view

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5. Plot

Exposition:

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Rising Action:

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Climax:

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Falling Action:

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Resolution:

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6. Theme

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### Task 3

**Directions:** Characterize an ideal mother that will be a part of a play. This mother may be your own mother or the mother of your relative or friend. You may use a bio-data so that the characterization is clear. Write your answer in your notebook.

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### \*Rubrics

5 – Correct use of language/grammar; clear characterization as regards to the mother's attitude, thoughts and actions; localization of character

3 – Minor errors on the use of language/grammar; clear characterization as regards to the mother's attitude, thoughts and actions; localization of character

1 – Major errors on the use of language/grammar; unclear characterization as regards to the mother's attitude, thoughts and actions; localization of character

### POST-TEST

**Directions:** It seems that you have already gotten the hang of the different literary elements, especially those of fiction. That means you are ready to work on your own, while taking in consideration your personal experience as you write your answers to the following activity. In this activity, you will create samples of narrative elements based on your personal experience. To be able to do this, write 2-3 sentences for each writing prompt in your notebook. Be guided by the element being highlighted in each writing prompt.

1. Point of view

What point of view do you think would be most effective when talking about your personal experience? **(Note: Use that point of view as you answer the questions in the succeeding writing prompts.)**

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2. Theme

Think about a specific truth about life that you want to discuss.

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3. Characters

Who were two of the most memorable people you have met in life? Talk about them and describe how they look like.

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4. Setting

What particular place do you like best? What makes the place special? Think about the particular time of day you would want to go to your favorite place.

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5. Conflict

Recall an incident when you were in opposition with somebody/someone or yourself. How did it feel like? How were you able to go through the struggle?

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6. Plot

Think about the events that led you to your most embarrassing experience. Write about it following Freytag's Pyramid.

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## ASSIGNMENT

**Directions:** In this time of Pandemic, write ten (10) specific themes that appeal most to the Bicolano/Filipino readers and briefly explain why such themes are chosen. Write your answers in your notebook.

Themes on Pandemic		
	Theme	Explanation
1		
2		
3		
4		
5		
6		
7		
8		
9		
10		

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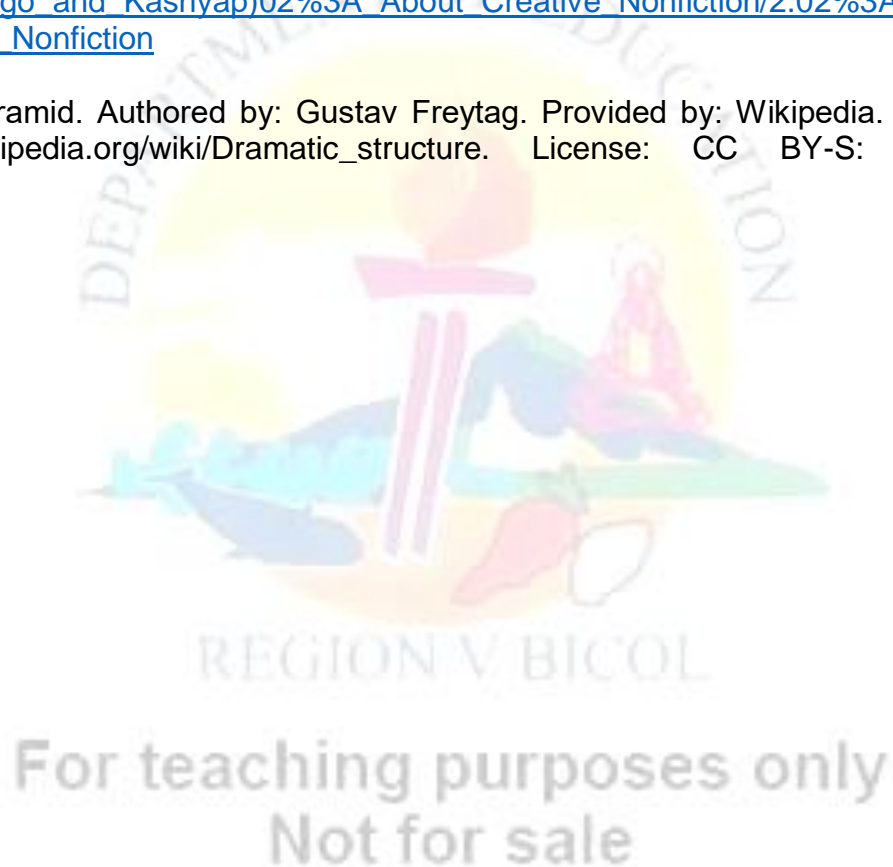
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## ANSWER KEY

### Pre-Test

#### Part A

- |               |                  |
|---------------|------------------|
| 1. Plot       | 4. Theme         |
| 2. Conflict   | 5. Point-of-view |
| 3. Characters | 6. Setting       |

#### Part B

- |                   |                 |
|-------------------|-----------------|
| 1. Rhyme          | 4. Stanza       |
| 2. Rhyming Scheme | 5. Rhythm/Meter |
| 3. Verse          |                 |

### Keeping in Practice

1. Characterization
2. Plot
3. Setting

### Task 2

- |                   |  |
|-------------------|--|
| 1. Characters:    | Athamas, Phrixus, Helle, Ino, Hermes, ram  |
| 2. Setting:       | Thessaly   |
| 3. Conflict:      | Man against Man. Ino vs Phrixus and Helle  |
| 4. Point of view: | Third Person Point-of-view   |
| 5. Plot           |  |
| Exposition:       | Athamas, the legendary king of Thessaly, had two children, Phrixus and Helle. He had remarried and Ino, the children's stepmother, began to treat them very badly.           |
| Rising action:    | Hermes took pity on the two children and sent a magical ram to take them away and escape their stepmother's wrath.   |
| Climax Action:    | Helle failed to get a good hold on the fleece of the ram and as they flew over the strait that separates Europe and Asia, she fell off and was drowned in the sea far below. |
| Resolution:       | Phrixus landed safely at Colches, which is on the edge of the Black Sea.   |

### Task 3

Answers vary.

### Post-Test

Answers vary.

### Assignment

Answers vary.