

## **Optional English DSC1**

### **Unit 1 What is Literature? Defining Literature - ?**

#### **A) What is literature**

'Literature' is a modified form of a Latin word (littera, litteratura or litteratus) that means 'writing formed with letters'. Let us look at what is literature in definition.

Literature generally can be any written work, but it especially is an artistic or intellectual work of writing. It is one of the Fine Arts, like Painting, Dance, Music, etc which provides aesthetic pleasure to the readers. It differs from other written works by only its one additional trait: that is aesthetic beauty. If a written work lacks aesthetic beauty and serves only utilitarian purpose it is not literature. The entire genre like poetry, drama, or prose is blend of intellectual work and aesthetic beauty of that work. When there is no any aesthetic beauty in any written work that is not literature.

Literature is the imaginative work that pictures the human life in society which can be enjoyed, understandable, and used by the society also. The author will write the result of this imagination in a form of literary works. The form of those literary work such as drama, poem, short story and also novel. The literary work has its own definition taken from each different literature expert. According to Pradopo (1994: 26) the literary work is as the picture of the world and human life, the main criteria that is putted on the literary work is 'truth', or everything that wants to be pictured by the author. Through that process, the reader of their literary work will be able to catch the characteristic of the author related with the world around him/her.

The relationships between literary work and social life, such as the author uses social background in their literary work, such novel, they sometimes tell about the phenomenon around them. The phenomenon can be the social problem related. With the politic issue, culture issue, crimes, etc. The form of the novel – style, structure, narrative techniques expresses its value system. The work of fiction imitates a world that precedes the text, and critics should recapture that world primarily by formal analysis of the text, although knowledge of the historical context and author are often important (Schwarz, 1986: 4). Based on the above explanation related with the relation between literary work and social life, people can critic everything in literary wok. People can critic using many of approach in a form of study analysis, such as sociological analysis and psychological analysis. Literary works consist of many forms such as poem, novel, drama, songs etc

#### **B) Why Do we study literature?**

Studying literature enables one to better understand social situations, history, one's own emotions, and various cultural practices. It also makes one more empathetic. Literature introduces you to a rich language, helps you develop and discover good skills and words, discover a new self, sense the problems in society by a critical view, explore texts with new perspectives, read about culture, understand the value of poetry, gain the literary skills of classics, and develop

a good . Literature develops in students enduring values, such as integrity, compassion, loyalty and responsibility. Literature plays a significant part in human life. Literature works with direct or implied moral on us. Literature influences us and makes us understand the every walk of life. Narratives, in particular, inspire empathy and give people a new perspective on their lives and the lives of others.

### **C) Definition of literature according to different writers**

Throughout the history of Literature, many of the great writers have defined it and expressed its meaning in their own way. Here are the few famous definitions of literature by timeless celebrated authors.

Virginia Woolf: Virginia defined literature in a perfect way. "Literature is strewn with the wreckage of those who have minded beyond reason the opinion of others."

Ezra Pound: "Great literature is simply language charged with meaning to the utmost possible degree."

Alfred North Whitehead: "It is in literature that the concrete outlook of humanity receives its expression."

Henry James: "It takes a great deal of history to produce a little literature." Chesterton: "Literature is a luxury; fiction is a necessity."

Forster: The definition of literature by Forster is much interesting. "What is wonderful about great literature is that it transforms the man who reads it towards the condition of the man who wrote." (1)

All of these definitions of literature by great writers present different aspects of it, and shows that in how many ways it can be effective.

### **D) Literature and society**

That literature is a reflection of the society is a fact that has been widely acknowledged. Literature indeed reflects the society, its good values and its ills. In its corrective function, literature mirrors the ills of the society with a view to making the society realize its mistakes and make amends. It also projects the virtues or good values in the society for people to emulate. Literature, as an imitation of human action, often presents a picture of what people think, say and do in the society. In literature, we find stories designed to portray human life and action through some characters who, by their words, action and reaction, convey certain messages for the purpose of education, information and entertainment. It is impossible to find a work of literature that excludes the attitudes, morale and values of the society, since no writer has been brought up completely unexposed to the world around him. What writers of literature do is to transport the real-life events in their society into fiction and present it to the society as a mirror with which people can look at themselves and make amends where necessary. Thus, literature is not only a

reflection of the society but also serves as a corrective mirror in which members of the society can look at themselves and find the need for positive change. It is necessary to take a close look at some works of literature, in order to understand how literature actually reflects the society.

It might sound strange that what is literature's relation with a society could be. However, literature is an integral part of any society and has a profound effect on ways and thinking of people of that society. Actually, society is the only subject matter of literature. It literally shapes a society and its beliefs. Students, who study literature, grow up to be the future of a country. Hence, it has an impact on a society and it moulds it.

Literature has had a major impact on the development of society. It has shaped civilisations, changed political systems and exposed injustice. Literature gives us a detailed preview of human experiences, allowing us to connect on basic levels of desire and emotion.

According to different definitions of literature by authors, it literally does the depiction of society; therefore, we call it 'mirror of society'. Writers use it effectively to point out the ill aspects of society that improve them. They also use it to highlight the positive aspects of a society to promote more goodwill in society.

### **E) According to Terry Eagleton What is Literature?**

Terry Eagleton, is an English literary theorist, critic, and public intellectual. In his essay challenges all the definitions of Literature that have been put forth and challenges the basic understanding of literature that we have. In fact he rejects the idea of any "basic understanding" of what is literature.

**According to him literature mean :**

#### **1)Literature as Imaginative writing**

He begins with Literature being defined as imaginative writing.

With imaginative/fictional/creative writing such as works by Shakespeare, Milton etc. other works which were not exactly fiction or imaginative writing were included as a part for English Literature.

#### **2) Literature as 'writing' that uses peculiar language**

It is because Literature uses the language in peculiar ways that it is different from everyday 'normal' way of speech. Roman Jakobson, speaks of Literature as "organised violence committed on ordinary speech".

In other words “It was language ‘made strange’; and because of this estrangement, the everyday world was also suddenly made unfamiliar”.

### **3) Literature as something special**

Then literature was looked by the formalists as a ‘special’ kind of language in contrast to the ‘ordinary’ language that we commonly use.

But the problem here arises is that there is no universal ‘ordinary’ language. In other words the so called ordinary/common language is different for different classes, gender, region, status and so on.

### **4) Literature as a non-pragmatic discourse**

When we read a poem referring to a woman as lovely as a rose, the poet is telling about women and love in general. Therefore we look at literature as non-pragmatic/practical as against a physics textbook.

### **5) It’s Value-Judgements**

Consider literature as being a highly valued kind of writing. If this were true, then any writing can be considered as literature. For me a letter written by my mother to be will hold a value higher than any piece of writing by Shakespeare. Therefore a value given to any writing must be subjective.

By which Eagleton suggests that the value that any writing enjoys is the value given to it by certain literary canon, or authority and is subject to change.

## **Unit II. Poetry:**

**Forms poetry :** A poetic form is a set of rules that dictate the rhyme scheme, structure, rhythm, and meter of a poem. The form may also guide the purpose and tone of a poem. When the message and form fit together, you can produce a poem that is truly powerful.

**Different Forms of Poetry are : Lyric, Sonnet, Ballad, Epic, Elegy, Mock-Epic**

### **A) Lyric**

Lyric is non-narrative, short poem that reveals the speaker’s personal feeling, emotion, mode, state of mind, expression, thought, attitude, perception etc. in a first person narrative. Lyric poetry does not tell any story, rather it is very personal and solely focused on the speaker’s personal feeling and ideas. The speaker in a lyric poem always uses first person. For example: I, My love, etc. So, in lyric poetry, the speaker directly addresses the readers, invoking his own personal feeling and expressions.

The word ‘Lyric’ comes from the Greek word ‘Lyre’, a stringed musical instrument. Initially, Lyric poems were meant to be sung, and poets were used to singing lyric with the lyre. Originally, Lyric poets tended to be musical. In fact, musicality is one of the characteristics of lyric. However, over the time, the meaning of lyric has been changed and it no longer means music. Rather, lyric poetry is now largely meant for reading.

## **Types of Lyrics**

### **I) Sonnet**

A sonnet is a fourteen line poem with a fixed rhyme scheme. Often, sonnets use iambic pentameter: five sets of unstressed syllables followed by stressed syllables for a ten-syllable line. Sonnets were invented by the Italian poet Giacomo da Lentini during the 1200s. The word sonnet is derived from Italian word soneto meaning "little song."

## **Types of Sonnets**

Two sonnet forms provide the models from which all other sonnets are formed: the Petrarchan and the Shakespearean.

### **1) Petrarchan Sonnet**

The first and most common sonnet is the Petrarchan, or Italian. Named after one of its greatest practitioners, the Italian poet Petrarch, the Petrarchan sonnet is divided into two stanzas, the octave (the first eight lines) followed by the answering sestet (the final six lines). The tightly woven rhyme scheme, abba, abba, cdecde or cdcdcd, is suited for the rhyme-rich Italian language, though there are many fine examples in English. Since the Petrarchan presents an argument, observation, question, or some other answerable charge in the octave, a turn, or volta, occurs between the eighth and ninth lines. This turn marks a shift in the direction of the foregoing argument or narrative, turning the sestet into the vehicle for the counterargument, clarification, or whatever answer the octave demands.

### **2) Shakespearean Sonnet**

The second major type of sonnet, the Shakespearean, or English sonnet, follows a different set of rules. Here, three quatrains and a couplet follow this rhyme scheme: abab, cdcd, efef, gg. The couplet plays a pivotal role, usually arriving in the form of a conclusion, amplification, or even refutation of the previous three stanzas, often creating an epiphanic quality to the end.

## **II) Elegy**

The word elegy originated from the Greek word 'elegeia,' which means to lament or to be sorrowful.

Elegy, meditative lyric poem lamenting the death of a public personage or of a friend or loved one. It's a song or poem expressing sorrow or lamentation especially for one who is dead.

A typical Elegy jade three stages of grief: **sorrow, admiration and acceptance**

## **Types of Elegy**

### **1) Pastoral elegy**

**Pastoral Elegy** is a poem which dwells upon the combined subject of death and sublime country life. This form of poetry usually includes shepherds who express their emotions. The pastoral elegy takes the pastoral or rural components and connects them to expression of sorrow on a loss.

Wxple : Elegy Written in a Country Churchyard” by Thomas Gray.

## **2.Latin Elegy**

Ennius introduced the elegiac couplet into Latin. Lucilius used the metre of epitaphs and other short poems descriptive of slaves. An anecdote in Aulus Gellius offers an early glimpse of elegiac epigram on erotic themes, Hellenistic in flavor.

Latin Love Elegy, by Robert Maltby.

Elegies are also categorised into two kinds: **Personal Elegy** and **Impersonal Elegy**. In a personal elegy the poet laments the death of some close friend or relative, and in impersonal elegy in which the poet grieves over human destiny or over some aspect of contemporary life and literature.

## **III) Ode**

A formal, often ceremonious lyric poem that addresses and often celebrates a person, place, thing, or idea. Ode is a short poetical composition proper to be set to music or sung.

For example, “**Ode on a Grecian Urn**” by John Keats.

## **B) Ballad**

A ballad is a type of poem that tells a story and was traditionally set to music. English language ballads are typically composed of four-line stanzas that follow an ABCB rhyme scheme. It's Popular narrative song passed down orally. In the English tradition.

Types of Ballads :

### **1) Folk or Traditional Ballad**

Folk or traditional ballad is a kind of ballad, which was developed by anonymous poets in the ancient times and handed down to our generation by word of mouth. It has no written form. It is a verbal sort of poetry, which underwent reasonable changes during the course of time due to new circumstances and conditions. In every new age, it altered a lot and absorbed many traits of the contemporary age.

Traditional ballads are : The Nut-Brown Maid and Chevy Chase.

### **2) Literary ballad**

Literary ballad is actually an imitation of the traditional ballad. The only difference between the two ballads is the authorship. The author of the literary ballad is a known personality, while the author of the traditional ballad is anonymous. The author of the traditional ballad may be a

common man or a shepherd, villager or a farmer. Nobody knows about the real author of the traditional ballad.

For instance, look at John Keats's ballad *La Belle Dame sans Merci*:

### **C) Epic**

A long narrative poem in elevated style recounting the deeds of a legendary or historical hero. An epic is an extensive and prolonged narrative in verse. Epic poetry tells a dramatic story in a poem. There are characters in the story. It is usually long, and takes place in different settings.

**Beowulf** is a typical example of Epic. written in Old English. Well-known people who wrote epics were Homer, Virgil, Ovid, Dante, Edmund Spenser and Milton.

Examples : **The Odyssey** by Homer, **The Aeneid.** by Virgil. John Milton's **Paradise Lost**, Indian epis are : **Mahabharata, Ramayana** etc

### **Characteristics of Epic**

- The hero is outstanding. They might be important, and historically or legendarily significant.
- The setting is large. It covers many nations, or the known world.
- The action is made of deeds of great valor or requiring superhuman courage.
- Supernatural forces—gods, angels, demons—insert themselves in the action.
- It is written in a very special style (verse as opposed to prose).
- The poet tries to remain objective.
- Epic poems are believed to be supernatural and real by the hero and the villain

### **D) Mock-epic,**

Mock-epic, also called mock-heroic, form of satire that adapts the elevated heroic style of the classical epic poem to a trivial subject. It use humor in order to make a new point. Because it draws on well-known heroes or literary themes, mock-epic poetry is often able to form observations about contemporary culture, religion, and social issues in a funny, meaningful style. It also known as a **mock-heroic** poetry draws heavily on the technique of satire, which means that it uses irony, exaggeration, and sarcasm to mock its original subject, usually in an undignified and grandiose manner.

One famous example is '**The Rape of the Lock**' by Alexander Pope and its connection to Homer's *The Iliad*.

## **II Figurative Language**

Figurative language refers to the use of words in a way that deviates from the conventional order and meaning in order to convey a complicated meaning, colorful writing, clarity, or evocative comparison. It uses an ordinary sentence to refer to something without directly stating it.

figurative language is an important to understand any literary works. It's used in both verse and prose.

Fiction writers use figurative language to engage their audience using a more creative tone that provokes thinking and sometimes humor. It makes fiction writing more interesting and dramatic than the literal language that uses words to refer to statements of fact.

### **Types of Figurative Language**

There are several types of figurative languages that are used in modern writing. They include:

#### **1. Simile**

A simile is a figure of speech that **compares** two unlike things and **uses the words "like" or "as"** and they are commonly used in everyday communication. A simile is used with the aim of sparking an interesting connection in the reader's mind.

An example of a simile is, "The cat sat in the chair like a king overlooking his kingdom." The cat's sitting posture is compared to that of a king who relaxes in a special chair that is reserved for him and not any other person in the kingdom.

Other examples of similes include:

The boy was as brave as a lion in the jungle.

The new teacher is as tall as a giraffe.

The new neighbor is as curious as a cat; nothing escapes her attention.

#### **2. Metaphor**

A metaphor is a statement that **compares** two things that are not alike. Unlike similes, metaphors **do not use the words "like" or "as."** Such statements only make sense when the reader understands the connection between the two things being compared.

An example of a popular metaphor is "Time is money." The statement compares time and money, and it does not literally mean that the amount of time you have equals the money that you have. Instead, it means that time is a valuable resource, and it should be used effectively to earn money. Any time wasted means that a person loses the chance to make more money.

Other examples of metaphors include:

The warrior has a heart of stone.

Love is a battlefield.

Baby, you are my sunshine.

#### **3. Hyperbole**



Hyperbole is an exaggeration that is created to emphasize a point or bring out a sense of humor. It is often used in everyday conversations without the speaker noticing it. The exaggeration is so outrageous that no one would believe that it is true. It is used to add depth and color to a statement.

An example of hyperbole is, "I would die for you." The sentence does not necessarily mean that one person is literally willing to die for the other, but it is used to exaggerate the amount of love that one person has for another person. Death is only used to show the extent of affection.

Other examples of hyperbole are:

I have told you a million times to wash the dishes.

The afternoon is so bright that the sun would have to wear sunglasses.

You snore like a freight train.

#### **4. Personification**

Personification is the attribution of **human characteristics to non-living objects**. Using personification affects the way readers imagine things, and it sparks an interest in the subject.

An example of personification is, "The sun greeted me when I woke up in the morning." The sun is a non-human object but has been given human characteristics since greetings can only be performed by living creatures.

Other examples of personification include:

April is the cruelest month of the year.

The radio stared at me.

The car stopped with a groaning complaint.

#### **5. Synecdoche**

Synecdoche is a type of figurative language that uses one part to refer to the whole, or the whole to refer to the part. For example, a set of wheels can be used to refer to a vehicle and a suit can refer to a businessman. When referring to a car as a set of wheels, the wheels are only a part of the car and not the whole thing. Similarly, a typical businessman wears a suit alongside other accessories such as a watch and a briefcase.

Other examples of synecdoche include:

**Bread** can be used to refer to **food** in general or money.

**Head** can refer to **counting cattle or people**.

**Hired hands** can be used to refer to **workers**.

#### **6) Euphemism**

A euphemism is a form of figurative language. These idiomatic, indirect expressions replace harsh, impolite, taboo, or unpleasant terms with more delicate phrases. They can be used humorously or to downplay or mask a situation, causing some to find the device deceitful or counterproductive.

Example: When firing someone, an employer might say, "We're going to have to let you go." That unemployed person might then say they are "between jobs" rather than admit they were fired. When sick or unwell, a person might tell their friend, "I'm feeling under the weather."

Example: When sick or unwell, a person might tell their friend, "**I'm feeling under the weather.**"

### **7) Irony**

Irony is a literary device in which contradictory statements or situations reveal a reality that is different from what appears to be true.

One of the most famous examples of irony in literature comes from The Gift of the Magi by O. Henry.

There are many forms of irony as a literary device, its three main forms are

#### **1.) Verbal Irony**

Verbal irony sets forth a contrast between what is literally said and what is actually meant

**Ex :**Telling a rude customer to "have a nice day"

#### **2.) Dramatic Irony**

**In** Dramatic irony, the state of the action or what is happening as far as what the reader or viewer knows is the reverse of what the players or characters suppose it to be.

**Ex:** In Romeo and Juliet play , the audience knows that Juliet is only asleep-not dead-but Romeo does not, and he kills himself.

#### **3.) Situational Irony .**

In Situational irony refers to circumstances that turn out to be the reverse of what is expected or considered appropriate.

**Ex:** Marriage counselor divorcing the third wife.

### **8) paradox**

A paradox is a statement that appears at first to be contradictory, but upon reflection then makes sense. This literary device is commonly used to engage a reader to discover an underlying logic in a seemingly self-contradictory statement or phrase. As a result, paradox allows readers to understand concepts in a different and even non-traditional way.

Paradox in everyday conversation and writing.

**Ex:** Less is more

**Ex:** Do the thing you think you cannot do.

**Ex:** the enemy of my enemy is my friend.

Paradox is also found in many examples of poetry, prose, drama, lyrics, and clever quotations. Here are some famous examples of paradox:

“I can’t live with or without you” (With or Without You, lyrics by U2)

“Whatever you do in life will be insignificant, but it is very important that you do it” (Ghandi)

### **9) Oxymoron**

Oxymoron is a figure of speech pairing two words together that are opposing and/or contradictory.

oxymoron, a word or group of words that is self-contradicting,

Oxymorons are similar to such other devices as paradox and antithesis and are often used in poetry and other literature.

oxymoron has the effect of creating an impression, enhancing a concept, and even entertaining the reader.

Common Examples of Oxymoron are:

Wise fool, Same difference , Black light, bittersweet , plastic glass Etc .

### **Unit III: Drama**

Drama in literature refers to the performance of written dialogue and stage action. It’s a literary genre that allows actors to act out a writer’s words directly to an audience.

Drama is the specific mode of fiction represented in performance: a play, opera, mime, ballet, etc., performed in a theatre, or on radio or television.

The term “drama” comes from a Greek word “draō” meaning “to do / to act

The difference between Drama and Play

#### **The difference between Drama and play**

The primary difference between play and drama is that play is a dramatic performance on the stage, whereas drama is a literary composition in the form of prose or verse, that portrays dialogue showing conflict which the main character attempts to resolve.

#### **A) Types of Drama**

##### **I) Tragedy**

Tragedy, branch of drama that treats in a serious and dignified style the sorrowful or terrible events encountered or caused by a heroic individual.

Aristotle first defined tragedy in his Poetic around 330 BC. He defined tragedy as “the imitation of an action that is serious and also as having magnitude, complete in itself,” in the medium of

poetic language and in the manner of dramatic rather than of narrative presentation, involving “incidents arousing pity and fear wherewith to accomplish the catharsis of such emotion.”

Aristotle says that the tragic hero will evoke pity and fear if he is neither thoroughly good nor thoroughly bad but a mixture of both but is certainly “better than we are in the sense that he is of higher than ordinary moral worth. Such a man is exhibited as suffering a change in fortune from happiness to misery because of his mistaken choice of an action, to which he is led by his hamartia, the tragic flaw or the error of judgment or a moral weakness in character. The plot evokes tragic pity and fear. In this way tragedy relieves the spectators of harmful emotion. The dramatist depicts incidents which arouse pity and fear for the protagonist, bringing the plot to a logical and foreseeable conclusion. This explains how an audience experiences satisfaction even from an unhappy ending. Example: SRomeo and Juliet,” “Hamlet,” “Othello,” “King Lear” and “Macbeth, etc.

First, tragedy begins by asking the ultimate questions: why are we here? Does life have meaning or purpose? Can life have meaning in the face of so much suffering and evil in the world? Does death negate the significance of the protagonist’s life and the goals he/she was seeking? Tragedy offers no singular solution: people suffer because of their own actions.

Second, tragedy pushes the individual to the outer limits of existence where one must live or die by one’s convictions. Facing the end of life, a person quickly recognizes life’s ultimate values. Tragedy depicts men and women who dissatisfied with the hand destiny has dealt with them, challenge the rules of the game.

## **Types of Tragedy**

### **i.)Revenge tragedy**

Revenge tragedy or the tragedy of blood which derives from Seneca its materials of murder, revenge, ghosts, mutilation and carnage. It was a dramatic genre that flourished in the late Elizabethan and Jacobean period. Kyd’s The Spanish Tragedy (1586) established this popular form, later to be followed by Marlowe’s The Jew of Malta (1592), Webster’s The Duchess of Malfi (1612) and Shakespeare’s Hamlet (1602).

### **ii.)Domestic tragedy**

Domestic tragedy was written in prose and presented a protagonist from the middle or lower social ranks who suffer a commonplace or domestic disaster. This was popularized by eighteenth century writers. For example, George Lillo’s The London Merchant.

### **iii) Social tragedy**

Social tragedy revolved around an issue of general social or political significance. These represent middle class or working class heroes and heroines. Notable tragedies of nineteenth and twentieth centuries are Henrik Ibsen's *A Doll's House* and, *Ghosts*, and Arthur Millers *Death of a Salesmen* (1949).

iv) **Melodrama**

Melodrama is originally applied to musical plays including opera. The protagonists are flat types. Here drama relies on implausible events and sensational action. Continuous action drives the plot through a series of adventures. It thrives on thrills. Excitement, suspense and rescues. The conflict is external and everything is delineated as black or white. Melodrama appears to deal with serious subjects, but its seriousness is only pretence. Most of the serious dramas never reach the heights of tragedy and thus become melodramas. Adventure films are examples of this.

v) **Romantic tragedy:**

Romances which end unhappily or with the death of the hero and heroine are categorised as romantic tragedies e.g. Shakespeare's *Romeo and Juliet*.

vi) **Heroic drama**

Heroic dramas may not look deeply into the philosophical questions of good, evil, man's relation to supernatural, etc. but they abide by the rule of poetic justice and portray swash-buckling adventures. E.g. *The Count of Monte Cristo*.

**B) Comedy**

Comedies are usually humorous plays. But being funny isn't the only way to define a comedy! The elements of a comedy include: **Lighthearted tone, Clever wordplay or turns of phrase, Serious topics addressed in a humorous way, Comical misunderstandings, Happy ending.**

At the most fundamental level, comedy focuses on pleasure and amusement. The spectators are made to feel confident that no great disaster will occur and usually the action turns out to be happy for all.

**Allardyce Nicoll describes three techniques of comedy** which create a comic detachment (i.e. we laugh at the hardships of comic characters because the author sets them at a psychological distance): **derision, incongruity and automatism.**

**Derision** takes aim at human frailties such as stupidity, hypocrisy and arrogance, knocking the victim off his self-built pedestal. The character too pretends more, thus setting himself up for the fall. With insults and sarcasm, comedy's sharp wit seeks to pierce the over-inflated egos of pompous politicians, bragging generals and haughty aristocrats. Derision creates distance by placing its subjects beneath us as contemptible and foolish. Shakespeare's *Twelfth Night* is a classic example of this.

**Incongruity** provokes laughter by means of ridiculous contrast in situation, character or dialogue. The unexpected element takes us by surprise. Misplaced words or statements are also a source of laughter. For instance, Shakespeare's *A Midsummer Night's Dream* or Gogol's *The Inspector General*.

**Automatism** occurs when people are depicted as acting without thinking. Comic characters often have annoying habits or mannerisms. They lose the ability to interact naturally.

### **Types of Comedy**

#### **1. Farce**

It is a type of comedy designed to provoke the audience to hearty laughter — 'belly laugh.' This employs highly exaggerated or caricatured type of characters, puts them into improbable and ludicrous situations, and makes free use of sexual mix-ups, broad verbal humour, and physical bustle and horseplay.

A farce is a type of broad comedy. It depends less on a narrative storyline and more on physical humor, sight gags, silly jokes. Here are the parts of a farcical comedy: Exaggerated humor, Slapstick gags, Nonsensical storyline, Improbable events, One or two settings, Humor is often crude and inappropriate. Characters in farce are usually single minded, seeking to satisfy their cravings with reckless desperation. Little emphasis is on depth of characters. Thus comedy which focuses on physical humour or "slapstick" is called farce. Plot complications, mistaken identities and miscommunication make it effective. Facial expressions and body gestures bring farce to life. Farce is effective in performance than as literature. Comedians like Charlie Chaplin and Keaton became masters of farce.

#### **2. Comedy of Manners**

It is the most prominent form of high comedy as it holds the customs of aristocratic society up to ridicule. It uses verbal wit and sarcasm to depict the charm and reveal the pretensions of its characters. It exhibits two contrasting impulses: to celebrate and to criticize. The comic vision professes both hope and discouragement about the human condition, looking for the best but expecting the worst. It originated in the New Comedy of the Greek Menander as distinguished from the Old Comedy of Aristophanes. Shakespeare's *Loves Labour Lost* and *Much Ado About Nothing* are examples of comedy of manners. The comedy of manners, as its name implies, concentrates upon the depiction of men and women living in a social world ruled by convention.

#### **3. Sentimental comedy**

Sentimental comedy grew out of this comedy of manners. It represented the 18<sup>th</sup> century middle class life and its reaction against what had come to be considered the immorality of a situation and indecency of dialogue. Goldsmith's *She Stoops to Conquer*, Sheridan's *The Rivals* and *A School for Scandal* and Wilde's *The Importance of Being Ernest* deleted the indecency, revived the wit and gaiety of Restoration comedy.

#### **4.Comedy of Humour**

Comedy of Humour was a type of comedy developed by Ben Jonson based on the ancient physiological theory of the 'four humours' the primary fluids i.e. blood, phlegm, choler (yellow bile) and melancholy (black bile) whose mixture was held to determine both a person's physical condition and character type. Thomas Shadwell had a flair and skill in depicting humorous types. This is also called the 'satiric comedy' or the 'corrective comedy'. It tends to see the dark side of humanity and uses laughter as a satiric weapon. Jonson's Volpone is an example of this comedy which exposes the false premises on which people stand.

#### **5.Tendency comedy**

Tendency comedy is another mode of the comic in which one is made to laugh at a person not merely because he is ridiculous but because he is being ridiculed; the laughter is derisive with contempt and malice.

**5.Festive comedies:** They emphasized celebration; the victory symbolized the process of renewal and regeneration which allows life to continue. Shakespeare's Twelfth Night is a perfect example of love found, lost and regained and the traditional wedding at the end of comedy represents the continuance of life itself. This was also categorized as the Romantic comedy. As You Like It and A Midsummer Night's Dream by Shakespeare are examples of romantic comedy as they represent a love affair which goes topsy-turvy due to problems or disguises but ends in a happy union.

#### **C) Tragic-comedy**

Tragicomedy is a literary genre that blends aspects of both tragic and comic forms. Most often seen in dramatic literature, the term can describe either a tragic play which contains enough comic elements to lighten the overall mood or a serious play with a happy ending.

It can be a tragedy with a happy ending, or it can be a tragedy with enough comic relief that the mood of the entire play is improved.

Tragic-comedy has following points

- A serious storyline told in a humorous, sardonic, or snide way
- Tragically flawed characters whose actions don't result in death
- An ambiguous theme
- Broad characters who act in classically comical ways
- Neither a happy nor a comic ending
- Classic dramas mainly dealt in clear-cut comedy, tragedy, or melodramatic styles. But many modern dramas are considered complex enough to be tragicomedies.

Examples of Tragicomedy: **Shakespeare's The Merchant of Venice is a tragicomedy.**

According to Horace Walpole, "Life is a comedy to those who think, a tragedy to those who feel". Not all plays fit into a single category; in fact most plays consist of elements from two or more genres. It was a type of Elizabethan and Jacobean drama which intermingled both the standard characters and subject matter and the standard plots of tragedy and comedy.

#### **D) A one-act play**

A one-act play is a play that has only one act, as distinct from plays that occur over several acts. One-act plays may consist of one or more scenes. The 20-40 minute play has emerged as a popular subgenre of the one-act play, especially in writing competitions. A one-act play must have the following characteristics and components: The story must revolve around, or focus on one event. The action of the play should move fairly quickly. There is no time to have a lengthy introduction. Various problems connected with the life of the individual are discussed in it. Thus various sort of things **love, marriage, divorce, justice, crime, punishment, law, superstitions, customs and manners** are all suitable themes for a One-Act Play.

Samuel Beckett's **Endgame** and **And Jack Fell Down** are examples of a one-act play.

According to its theme the One-Act Play can be divided into different types as – **realistic plays, problem plays, phantasies, costume plays, satire, romance, etc.** In short, the playwright has a large and varied choice of subjects which can be discussed equally well in the One-Act Play.

### **Unit IV. Prose**

#### **What is prose**

Generally it is Written or spoken language in its ordinary form, without metrical structure.

An example of prose writing, as is most human conversation, textbooks, lectures, novels, short stories, fairy tales, newspaper articles, and essays.

#### **Types of prose**

##### **1- Novel**

A novel is a relatively long work of narrative fiction, typically written in prose and published as a book. The novel in the modern era usually makes use of a literary prose style. The development of the prose novel at this time was encouraged by innovations in printing, and the introduction of cheap paper in the 15<sup>th</sup> century.

Novel, an invented prose narrative of considerable length and a certain complexity that deals imaginatively with human experience, usually through a connected sequence of events involving a group of persons in a specific setting.

#### **Types of Novel in English Literature**

##### **1) The Gothic Novel**

Gothic Novel is a "genre of fiction characterized by mystery and supernatural horror, often set in a dark castle or other medieval setting.



It is a genre or mode of literature that combines elements of both horror and romance. Gothicism's origin is attributed to English author Horace Walpole, with his 1764 novel *The Castle of Otranto*, subtitled "A Gothic Story".

### **Characteristics of Gothic Novels**

- An atmosphere of mystery and suspense pervaded by threatening feeling
- An ancient and obscure prophecy may be connected with the castle or its inhabitants (either former or present).
- Character may have Omens, portents, visions.
- Supernatural or otherwise inexplicable and dramatic events may occur.
- Characters may have high, even overwrought emotion resulting in crying and emotional speeches.
- Female characters are often in distress and are oppressed in order to gain sympathy of the readers.
- Women are threatened by a powerful and tyrannical male.

A few good examples of Gothic fiction are Ann Radcliffe's *The Mysteries of Udolpho* (1794) and *The Italian* (1797). Matthew Gregory Lewis's *The Monk*

### **2) An Epistolary Novel**

In an epistolary novel, the story is told through the form of love letters, diary entries, newspaper clippings, telegrams, or other documents. A modern novel in the epistolary form may include electronic documents such as emails or text messages.

Novels written in an epistolary format are often less dialogue-driven, with more emphasis on thoughts, feelings, and emotions. Instead of being in the action with the protagonist, most "scenes" are filtered through the character and presented as memories.

Prominent examples of novels in the epistolary style include: *World War Z: An Oral History of the Zombie War* by Max Brooks.

### **3) The Picaresque Novel**

The picaresque novel is a genre of prose fiction. It depicts the adventures of a roguish, but "appealing hero", usually of low social class, who lives by his wits in a corrupt society. Picaresque novels typically adopt a realistic style. There are often some elements of comedy and satire.

#### **Characteristics**

- A picaresque narrative is usually written in first person as an autobiographical account.
- The main character is often of low character or social class. They get by with wits and rarely deign to hold a job.

- There is little or no plot. The story is told in a series of loosely connected adventures or episodes.
- There is little if any character development in the main character. Once a pícaro, always a pícaro. Their circumstances may change but these rarely result in a change of heart.
- The pícaro's story is told with a plainness of language or realism.
- Satire is sometimes a prominent element.

Examples: Charles Dickens's *The Pickwick Papers* (1836–37), Nikolay Gogol's *Dead Souls* (1842–52), Mark Twain's *Huckleberry Finn* (1884), and Thomas Mann's *Confessions of Felix Krull* (1954).

#### **4) The Domestic Novel**

A Domestic Novel is a type of fiction that was prevalent in the early-to-mid-nineteenth century, and was primarily read by women.

This body of writing is also known as “sentimental fiction” or “woman's fiction”.

Examples : Jane Smiley's **A Thousand Acres**,

**Pride and Prejudice** does focus primarily on emotional matters, which is the hallmark of a domestic novel.

The Domestic Novel has certain characteristics:

- Focusing on a particular type of heroine; specifically, either the angel or the practical woman. This heroine is frequently contrasted with an incompetent or cowardly woman, or with an ignorant beauty;
- The novel documents the heroine's struggle for self-mastery, particularly in relation to her emotions and desires; the heroine is seen as struggling to control her feelings and her wants;
- She may undergo religious struggles in the submission of her emotions and wants;
- She may suffer abuse by persons in positions of power;

#### **5) The Psychological Novel**

A novel that focuses on the complex mental and emotional lives of its characters and explores the various levels of mental activity.

It is a narrative genre that emphasizes interior characterization and motivation to explore the spiritual, emotional, and mental lives of the characters. The mode of narration examines the reasons for the behaviors of the character, which propel the plot and explain the story.

One of the greatest writers of the genre was Fyodor Dostoyevsky. His novels are : **The Brothers Karamazov and Crime and Punishment.**

#### **6) Mysteries Novel**

The mystery genre is a genre of fiction that follows a crime (like a murder or a disappearance) from the moment it is committed to the moment it is solved. Mystery novels are often called

“**whodunnits**” because they turn the reader into a detective trying to figure out the who, what, when, and how of a particular crime.

Mystery is a fiction genre where the nature of an event, usually a murder or other crime, remains mysterious until the end of the story.

Examples: **The Complete Sherlock Holmes**. by Arthur Conan Doyle. **The Da Vinci Code**. by Dan Brown. **The Alienist** by Caleb

### **7) Romances Novel**

A romance novel or romantic novel generally refers to a type of genre fiction novel which places its primary focus on the relationship and romantic love between two people, and usually has an emotionally satisfying and optimistic ending.

Examples : The Legend of King Arthur, **Pride and Prejudice** by Jane Austen. ...**Emma** by Jane Austen. ...**Sense and Sensibility** by Jane Austen

### **8) Science Fiction Novel**

Science fiction, abbreviation SF or sci-fi, a form of fiction that deals principally with the impact of actual or imagined science upon society or individuals.

It is speculative fiction which typically deals with imaginative and futuristic concepts such as advanced science and technology, space exploration, time travel, parallel universes, and extraterrestrial life.

A sci-fi novel can be about space, time travel, aliens, or time-traveling aliens in space. Etc.

Examples: **A Journey to the Center of the Earth**. By Jules Verne. ... **The War of the Worlds**. By H.G. Wells. ...

### **9) Fantasy Novel**

Fantasy is a genre of literature that features magical and supernatural elements that do not exist in the real world.

Fantasy is a genre of speculative fiction involving magical elements, typically set in a fictional universe and sometimes inspired by mythology and folklore. Its roots are in oral traditions, which then became fantasy literature and drama.

Examples : The Arabian Nights.

Le Morte d'Arthur by Thomas Malory.

Alice's Adventures in Wonderland by Lewis Carroll.

### **10) Thriller Novel**

Thriller is a genre of fiction, having numerous, often overlapping subgenres. Thrillers are characterized and defined by the moods they elicit, giving viewers heightened feelings of suspense, excitement, surprise, anticipation and anxiety.

**Thrillers generally keep the audience on the "edge of their seats"** as the plot builds towards a climax. The cover-up of important information is a common element. Literary devices such as **red herrings, plot twists, unreliable narrators**, and cliffhangers are used extensively.

Thrillers strive for heightened emotions and emphasize the sensations of what might be called an **obstacle race and a scavenger hunt."**

Examples : **Strangers on a Train** by Patricia Highsmith; **Gone Girl**. By Gillian Flynn, **Misery**. By Stephen King.

### **1. Short story**

Short story, brief fictional prose narrative that is shorter than a novel and that usually deals with only a few characters. The short story is usually concerned with a single effect conveyed in only one or a few significant episodes or scenes. It is a fictional work with a thematic focus which depicts the character's conflicts.

The short story is one of the oldest types of literature and has existed in the form of **legends, mythic tales, folk tales, fairy tales, tall tales, fables and anecdotes** in various ancient communities around the world. The modern short story developed in the early 19<sup>th</sup> century.

### **2. Characteristics of Short Story**

Short stories tend to be less complex than novels. Usually, a short story will focus on only one incident, has a single plot, a single setting, a limited number of characters, and covers a short period of time. In longer forms of fiction, stories tend to contain certain core elements of dramatic structure: exposition (the introduction of setting, situation and main characters); complication or turning point (the event of the story that introduces the conflict); rising action, crisis (the decisive moment for the protagonist and their commitment to a course of action); climax (the point of highest interest in terms of the conflict and the point of the story with the most action); resolution or dénouement (the point of the story when the conflict is resolved); and moral.

### **3. Five major elements of short story :**

#### **1) SETTINGS WITH TIME AND PLACE**

The setting is the time and physical space where the characters are placed and the story happens. Short stories take place in any setting the author makes. It can be imaginary fantasy worlds or outer space or any modern day cities.

#### **2) CONFLICT**

The readers follow the main character or protagonist who is in a conflict with another character. The conflict can also be internal with some hostile spiritual or psychological force. Conflict is the point of tension within the story.

### **3) SUBJECT**

Few persons often mistake the subject of a story for its theme. The common subjects for modern short fiction normally include class, ethnic status, race, gender, and social issues like poverty, violence, divorce, and drugs.

### **4) Theme**

Theme is the element of a short story that gives a higher meaning to the conflict and events between characters. The diverse subjects facilitate the writer to write about the larger theme which is the center of the fictional work.

### **5) CHARACTERS**

Characters are the people, animals, and sometimes spirits machines or robots. Actually the characters make the world of the short story. Authors can include a range of different characters in the text. The story itself revolves around one character which is known as the protagonist. The main person who provides conflict or opposition to this main character is called the antagonist.

## **4. Types of Short Stories**

### **1) Anecdote**

An anecdote is a short account of something interesting and amusing, which usually tells a story about a real person and/or incident.

### **2) Drabble**

A drabble is an exceptionally short piece of fiction, usually of exactly 100 words in length – not including the title.

A drabble example, by the lovely Matty, is available over at Sugar and Blood: Light as a Feather. In fact, Matty has many drabble stories.

### **3) Fable**

Fable, narrative form, usually featuring animals that behave and speak as human beings, told in order to highlight human follies and weaknesses. A moral—or lesson for behaviour—is woven into the story and often explicitly formulated at the end.

A story in which animals speak and act like people and which is usually meant to teach a lesson. The most well-known example of a fable would be any of the many told in **Aesop's Fables**.

### **4) Feghoot**

A feghoot is an interesting short story type also known as a story pun or a poetic story joke. It is a humorous piece ending in an atrocious pun.

This one is a good example and totally groan-worthy as the format requires: The Buck of the Draw.

### **5) Frame Story**

A frame story is also known as a frame tale or a nested narrative. It is a literary technique of placing a story within a story( story within a story).

Examples : Chaucer's The Canterbury Tales is a frame story.

### **6) Story Sequence**

A story sequence, also called a short story cycle or a composite novel, is a group of short stories that work together to form a longer piece,

Examples : The Foundation books and I, Robot by Isaac Asimov

### **7) Sketch Story**

A sketch story is a shorter than average piece containing little or no plot. It can be merely a description of a character or a location. Character sketches are common, and a good way to build a character that will eventually be part of a longer piece.

Example : Washington Irving's Most popular for The Sketch Book of Geoffrey Crayon.

### **8) Vignette**

A vignette is a short, impressionistic piece that focuses on a single scene, character, idea, setting, or object. Example : A Hemingway Vignette on a Matador's Death.

### **9) Flash fiction**

Flash fiction is a fictional work of extreme brevity that still offers character and plot development.

## **5. Essay**

An essay is a piece of writing that is written to convince someone of something or to simply inform the reader about a particular topic. Essay is an analytic, interpretative, or critical literary composition usually much shorter and less systematic and formal than a dissertation or thesis and usually dealing with its subject from a limited and often personal point of view.

### **Types of Essay**

**Expository Essay** – In an expository essay, the writer gives an explanation of an idea, theme, or issue to the audience by giving his personal opinions. This essay is presented through examples, definitions, comparisons, and contrast.

**Descriptive Essay** – As it sounds, this type of essay gives a description about a particular topic, or describes the traits and characteristics of something or a person in detail. It allows artistic freedom, and creates images in the minds of readers through the use of the five senses.

**Narrative Essay** – Narrative essay is non-fiction, but describes a story with sensory descriptions. The writer not only tells a story, but also makes a point by giving reasons.

**Persuasive Essay** – In this type of essay, the writer tries to convince his readers to adopt his position or point of view on an issue, after he provides them solid reasoning in this connection. It requires a lot of research to claim and defend an idea. It is also called an argumentative essay.

## **6. Biography**

A biography is a detailed description of a person's life. It involves more than just the basic facts like education, work, relationships, and death; it portrays a person's experience of these life events. Commonly considered nonfictional, the subject of which is the life of an individual.

A biography is a true story about someone's life. Biographies tell about famous people, or ordinary people who have done exciting things. They usually center on one person's life and how they have contributed to the world. Biographies written about anyone and by anyone.

## **7. Biography Characteristics**

Since biographies are real-life stories, they are considered a genre of non-fiction books. Genres are categories or types of books that have similar characteristics. Non-fiction books give information, and biographies give facts specifically about important people.

Biographies often include the dates that the person was born (and died, if they're no longer living) and accomplished something. They describe a person's importance to the world or why they are famous.

Biographies may describe the person's early life. They include descriptions of the person's personality and what they were like, so the reader can feel like they have met the person in real life. Biographies also use photos to show what a person looked like at different times in their life.

## **Biography Examples**

Helen Keller: a girl who overcame lots of difficulties to inspire others

Dr. Seuss: a famous children's author.

## **Autobiography**

An autobiography is a self-written account of one's life. The biography of oneself narrated by oneself. Autobiographies are usually book-length, since the author usually covers the events of his or her entire life. Most autobiographies are written in chronological or time order: birth, childhood, teenage years, young adulthood, adulthood, old age.

Examples : "**The Story of My Experiments with Truth**, the autobiography of Mahatma Gandhi, is a very popular and influential book.

"**I Know Why the Caged Bird Sings**" by Maya Angelou.

An autobiography may be placed into four very broad types: **thematic, religious, intellectual, and fictionalized.**

## **8. Travelogue**

A travelogue is a film, book written up from a travel diary, or illustrated talk describing the experiences of and places visited by traveler.

This genre of travel literature encompasses outdoor literature, guide books, nature writing, and travel memoirs. Travel writing generally gives detailed information about the attractions of a place so that people get tempted to go there on their vacations. A travelogue is a truthful account of an individual's experiences traveling, usually told in the past tense and in the first person.

**Mark Twain's The Innocents Abroad** is a good example of a travelogue in book form.

Because a travelogue aims to be a true account of an individual's experiences traveling, descriptions of what the traveler sees, hears, tastes, smells, and feels in the external world while traveling are essential components.

## **Unit V**

### **Poem 1: The World Is Too Much with Us**

**By William Wordsworth**

The world is too much with us; late and soon,  
Getting and spending, we lay waste our powers;  
Little we see in Nature that is ours;  
We have given our hearts away, a sordid boon!  
This Sea that bares her bosom to the moon,  
The winds that will be howling at all hours,  
And are up-gathered now like sleeping flowers,  
For this, for everything, we are out of tune;  
It moves us not. Great God! I'd rather be  
A Pagan suckled in a creed outworn;  
So might I, standing on this pleasant lea,  
Have glimpses that would make me less forlorn;  
Have sight of Proteus rising from the sea;  
Or hear old Triton blow his wreathèd horn.

### **Summary**

"The World Is Too Much with Us" is a sonnet by the English Romantic poet William Wordsworth. In it, Wordsworth criticises the world of the First Industrial Revolution for being absorbed in materialism and distancing itself from nature.

The poet says that the people of this world have become money minded. Their only aim of life is to earn money and then to spend it. They care only to earn lots of money and then to spend it in



whatever way they like. In this way they are wasting away their spiritual powers. They are getting away from nature and are now a days unable to enjoy the beauty of nature. According to the poet nature should be very important for their lives. The people have become too money-minded and they do not find beauty and peace in nature. They have given their hearts to the god of wealth which is not good. According to the poet, people have lost their capacity to enjoy the beauty of nature. The beautiful scene of moonlight falling on the surface of the sea does not attract their attention to it. The wind which blows very strongly in the day making lot of noise but when the night comes it becomes calm and blows lightly. But they do not find these beautiful scenes pleasurable. For us there is nothing special in these scenes. They have no interest left in those natural scenes. The beauty of nature does not fill their heart with pleasure and joy anymore.

The poet is not at all happy with this attitude of people towards nature. He does not like it. He is very sad. He wants people to respect and love nature. He prays to God that he would like to become a Greek Pagan. As a Pagan he would worship nature. He will live in nature and will be happier than what he now is. He will also watch the Proteus, the sea god in Greek mythology, rising from the sea. He will also hear the Triton, the son of Poseidon and Amphitrite, blowing his horn to calm down the angry sea waves. In this respect the Greek paganism was better than Christianity that has made people money-minded.

### **Analysis**

The title of the sonnet "The World is Too Much With Us" gives an idea about the theme of the sonnet. In this sonnet, Wordsworth tells us about man's love for money which is hardly useful for his life. The poet says that now a days man gives all importance to money only. All the other things for him are less important. Even nature which used to be very beautiful for him does not attract him. But in the past it was not like this. In the past man used to enjoy the beauty of nature. He used to enjoy very much the scene of moonlight falling on the surface of the sea. But in the present time he does not enjoy this also. He also used to love the thrilling sound of the wind in the day time and the light wind blowing at night. But today he does not feel attracted towards these scenes. These beautiful scenes of nature have no importance left for man. Now he does not like the beauty of nature. The poet is not happy with this change in man. According to the poet, man has started worshipping money instead of nature. The poet does not like it. The poet wants man to love nature more. The poet also wants man to respect nature. According to the poet, if man loves nature he will become happier and will be closer to God. His life will also become better. He will feel happier more, peaceful and more satisfied. But now a days man has forgotten his love for nature. He does not remember the joy he used to have when he used to love and enjoy nature. But the poet still wants to love and enjoy nature. So he prays to God that he would prefer to be Pagan to his remaining a Christian. A Pagan is a person whose religion is not Christian. The poet also says that if he becomes a Pagan, he will enjoy freely the beauty of nature. This will make him feel happy. The poet also tells about his love for nature gods in Greek mythology. The poet says he will then be able to see Proteus who in Greek mythology is a sea

god. He will watch him rising from the sea. The poet will also watch Triton who is the son of Poseidon and Amphitrite in Greek mythology. Triton had the ability to calm down the angry waves of the sea by blowing his horn. In this way, the poet will be able to live in nature and will be happier than what he is today in the company of the money minded people.

**A. Very Short Answer Questions:**

**1 Mark**

**1. Who has penned the poem "The world is too much with us"?**

**Ans:** William Wordsworth is the poet who wrote the poem "The World is Too Much With Us."

**2. Write the meanings of the words used in the poem**

**a) Lea**

**Ans:** A grassy or arable region that is available to the public.

**b) Forlorn**

**Ans:** Lonely or pitifully unhappy and abandoned

**c) Sordid**

**Ans:** Involving unethical or dishonest motivations and acts; provoking moral aversion and scorn

**d) Wreathed**

**Ans:** To make a wreath out of

**3. What does the poet want to see Triton doing?**

**Ans:** Triton blowing his wreathed horn is what the poet desires to witness.

**4. What does the poet want to be instead of being a part of this materialistic mankind?**

Class XI English

**Ans:** Instead of being a member of this worldly humanity, the poet wishes to be a "pagan."

**5. Where does the poet expect Proteus to come from?**

**Ans:** Proteus is supposed to ascend from the water, according to the poet.

**B. Short Answer Questions**

**2 marks**

**6. Who is a pagan?**

**Ans:** A pagan is a person whose religious beliefs do not correspond with the major religions practised around the world. The pagan symbolises a primaeval world that was close to nature and admired its beauty.

**7. What is meant by „getting and spending“?**

**Ans:** "Getting and spending" denotes a materialist way of life in which people are alienated from nature as a result of consumerism's expanding impact. They are only concerned with their monetary well-being and lack the time or desire to appreciate and love nature and its beauty.

**8. What does "Proteus rising from the sea" signify?**

**Ans:** Proteus is a Greek mythological character who had the ability to take on various forms. The phrase "Proteus rising from the sea" in the poem refers to the sea's rising waves. The poet, like Proteus, wishes to see sea waves of many shapes rise from the sea.

**9. Explain the term "late and soon".**

**Ans:** The term "late and soon" refers to the years of our lives that we waste pursuing worldly pleasures in our latter years. We are preoccupied with earning and spending and pay no attention to the natural beauty that surrounds us.

**10. Describe the significance when the poet says "hear old Triton blow his wreathed horn."**

**Ans:** According to Greek mythology, Proteus is a sea god who is frequently shown blowing a conch shell. Triton blowing his horn in the poem signifies the wind that howls and makes noise when it blows. The poet considers the wailing of the winds to be as pleasant as Triton's trumpet.

**C. Short answer questions**

**3 marks**

**11. Why does the poet use the term "sordid boon"?**

**Ans:** The phrase "sordid boon" is a contradiction in terms. The term "boon" alludes to a monetary advantage, whereas the adjective "sordid" refers to something nasty that causes moral disgust and distaste. The poet uses the terms sarcastically to suggest that humanity has given its heart to materialistic desires and that humans have gotten so busy that they are oblivious to the natural world around them.

**12. What does the poet mean when he says "We have given our hearts away"?**

**Ans:** The poet is dissatisfied with the materialistic world. He claims that materialism has taken over humanity's heart, causing people's lives to be ruined by buying and spending. People have become estranged from nature. They are less interested in nature and are more interested in buying and spending. We have surrendered our souls to the materialistic way of life.

**13. "I'd rather be a Pagan suckled in a creed outworn". Explain the meaning of this sentence.**

**Ans:** The materialist society that has resulted from fast industrialisation disturbs Wordsworth. People do not take the time to appreciate and interact with nature because they are too busy. As a result, he wishes to be a Pagan who represents a primal world in which man had an inextricable bond with nature. He wishes to become a Pagan in order to be closer to nature and appreciate its beauty.

**14. What are the things that the poet wants to glimpse at that will make him less miserable?**

**Ans:** The poet aspires to be a primordial world Pagan who appreciates the beauty of nature. The poet want to stand atop a grassy location and see Proteus rise from the sea to alleviate his loneliness. He'd like to hear old Triton blast his wreathed horn. Their presence would make his life easier.

**15. Why does the poet say that “we are out of tune”?**

**Ans:** The inhabitants of the society, trapped in the vicious circle of materialism, have no appreciation for nature and its beauty. They don't admire the sea, which soars high enough to touch the moon, or the wind, which howls constantly but is now silent like sleeping flowers. As a result, Wordsworth claims that we are out of tune because we are unable to recognise and appreciate the hypnotic beauty of nature all around us.

**D. Long Answer Questions**

**5 marks**

**16. Describe the setting of the poem.**

**Ans:** The poem "The World is Too Much with Us" by William Wordsworth is focused on society during the Industrial Revolution. The poet is troubled by society's rising predisposition toward materialistic well-being and materialism, as well as the increasing disrespect of environment. He urges people to appreciate nature's beauty and wonders rather of focusing just on buying and spending and chasing after life's artificial pleasures. People are out of touch, he claims, because they have sold their souls to the material world and turned their backs on nature. He claims that rather than dismissing nature's beauty, humans should admire it.

**17. How does the poet describe the beauty of nature around us?**

**Ans:** The sea and the wind are used by William Wordsworth to depict the beauty of nature. According to him, the sea waves rise high in the air as if they desire to embrace the moon high in the sky. Like sleeping flowers, the wind is said to be silent. When the wind is awake, it howls all around us. However, the poet continues, "We are not fit to adore such beauties of nature since we are not in tune with nature but with the material goods around us," implying that we are not in tune with nature but with the material products around us.

**18. Why does the poet want to be a Pagan?**

**Ans:** The rising materialistic manner of life disturbs Wordsworth. He, like Pagan, wishes to be near to nature in order to appreciate its beauty. He wishes to return to the Pagan's simple way of life in order to escape the consumerism-driven civilization. He wishes to be awestruck by nature's splendour. He wants to stand over a lea and observe the beauty of the sea and the breeze to counteract the darkness brought on by increasing materialism.

**19. What does the poet describe as a „sordid boon“?**

**Ans:** The poet refers to the industrial revolution and the changes it has brought to society as a "sordid boon" in a contradictory sense. The civilised society has detached itself from nature and its mesmerising beauty as a result of increased avenues of livelihood. Consumerism has been a blessing to society, but it has also taken away the society's heart. The only thing that matters in society is how much money you make and how much money you spend. The beauty of nature is

no longer admired. They've put some distance between themselves and it. This has angered the poet, who wishes for society to realise itself and its beauty.

**20. Why does Wordsworth declare the society to be out of tune?**

**Ans:** Consumption and materialism are driving forces in the society around Wordsworth. People are primarily interested in making money and spending it. They have lost touch with nature and its alluring beauty. They don't have time to appreciate the beauty of the sea as its waves reach out to meet the moon high above in the sky. Civilized society is so preoccupied with its material well-being that it does not have time to notice the wind, which howls all the time but is now silent like sleeping flowers.

As a result, the poet claims that civilization is out of tune because it is unable to appreciate the beauty of nature. The mesmerizing beauty of nature that surrounds us has no effect on us.

**One act play : Helena's Husband  
By Philip Moeller**

**About writer**

Philip Moeller (25 August 1880 – 26 April 1958) was an American Stage Producer, director, Playwright and screenplay writer born New York and educated at New York University and Columbia University.

This play is a hilarious presentation of the primary cause behind the Trogen War: the abduction of Helen, the wife of the Spartan king, Menelaus, by Paris, the prince of Troy

**THE CHARACTERS**

HELENA: the Queen.

TSUMU : a black woman, slave to Helena.

MENELAUS: the King.

ANALYTIKOS: the King's librarian.

PARIS: a shepherd.

**Summary**

Philip Moeller's Play, 'Helena's Husband' is a hilarious presentation of the primary cause behind the Trojan War. Helena, the wife of the Spartan King, Menelaus, eloped with Paris, the prince of

Troy. This incident of elopement infuriated Menelaus and his brother Agamemnon declared war against Troy with the help of allied forces of Grecian kingdoms. A host of Greek warriors battled against Troy to reclaim Helena. After ten years of bloodshed and siege, the Greeks finally penetrated the invincible fortress of Troy and burned it down.

This hilarious comic play, 'Helena's Husband' discusses the reasons behind the elopement of Helena with Paris. Menelaus is so fed up with his wife, Helena and her stupidity though she is astonishingly beautiful woman in the entire Spartan Kingdom and he desires to get rid off her, but he lacks the will to do it. Right on the cue, there enters a young man who introduces himself as Paris, a shepherd living in the hills. He announces that he dreams to have a glimpse of Helena and desires to possess her. Menelaus delighted with Paris's intention and arranges the meeting of Helena and Paris. Helena has fallen in love with Paris by his good looks and charming conversations. Both Paris and Helena elope to Troy with the help of the Menelaus, the husband of Helena.

Menelaus has only a few minutes of ecstasy and happiness believing that his wife has run away with the shepherd. His ecstasy and happiness fade away when he has come to know the truth that Paris is not a shepherd but Prince of Troy. Though, Menelaus is not happy with the disloyalty and betrayal of his wife, he refuses to declare war on Troy by giving all sorts of excuses. But, the play ends with Analytiko's (The King's Librarian) addressing the Spartans and declaring war on Troy ignoring Menelaus's protests.

**Short story : The Eyes are Not Here**  
**By Ruskin Bond**

**About writer**

Ruskin Bond born on 19 May 1934 in Kasauli, Himachal Pradesh, and raised in Shimla, Jamnagar, Dehradun, and Mussoorie is a noted Indian writer of fiction in English. He spent four years as a young man on the Channel Island and in London. He was awarded the 'Sahitya Academy award in 1992 and the Padmashri in 1999.

The most of Bond's writings are heavily influenced by the social life of the hill stations near the foothills of the Himalayas, where he spent his youth. His debut work, "The Room On the Roof," was written at the age of seventeen and published at the age of twenty-one.

**Introduction:** "The Eyes Are Not Here" is a marvelous short story written by Ruskin Bond and was first published in Contemporary Indian English Stories. The narrator of this story, a blind man with sensitive eyes to light and darkness, was travelling by train to Dehradun when he met and

chatted with a female. The narrator discovers the girl's blindness only after she has departed and another passenger has entered the compartment.

This story describes traveling experience in life in a light-hearted and simple style. The blind narrator is not self-pitying. He is very matter-of-fact about his disability. This is what makes them so touching. The reader is struck by the pathos of the incident. The narrative ends with an unexpected and startling revelation. The story gives us a glimpse of the world as experienced by a visually challenged person. We are reminded of Helen Keller and her story about how she overcame her handicap through will and courage.

### **Summary**

The narrator is alone in the compartment. A girl enters the compartment at that station. Her parents bid her farewell and counsel her on her safety, directing her on where to store her possessions, not to lean out the window, and to avoid strangers. In this passage, the narrator unexpectedly discloses that he is blind. Once the train departs from the platform, the narrator approaches the girl and inquires about her trip to Dehradun. She is taken aback by the voice, as she had assumed she was alone in the cabin. The girl informed him that she would be travelling to Saharanpur to meet her aunt. The narrator speaks about Mussoorie, the destination he was on his way to, describing the area's beauty in October (the month in which the story takes place).

Throughout the conversation, the narrator maintains the conscious pretence of having an excellent vision. Though he is generally circumspect in his word choice, he recalls at one point that he came dangerously close to giving up due to some sloppy remarks. Following some more fascinating conversation, the narrator boldly informs her that she has an fascinating face. She cheerfully responds that it was a wonderful diversion from the frequently repeated comment, "You have a pretty face." Soon, the girl's train arrives at her destination, and she bids farewell. The author then overhears a disturbance near the carriage's door and an apology from a man.

The man then enters and apologises to the narrator for not being as beautiful as the last travel companion. When the narrator asks how the girl's hair was worn, the other person says that he only saw her eyes, which were beautiful but useless to her because she was blind. The man asks the narrator if he had noticed it too. The story wraps up with the narrator resuming his game of posing as a person with sight.

### **Short Answer Questions**

1. Why did the narrator think that the couple who saw the girl off were her parents?

A: The couple seemed to be very anxious about the girl's comfort. They fussed over her and gave her detailed instructions about how to take care of herself and her belongings.

2. Why was the narrator unable to tell what the girl looked like?

Ans. The narrator was totally blind. His eyes were sensitive only to light and darkness.

3. How did he know that the girl wore slippers?

Ans. The slippers made a slapping noise as they hit her heels.

4. What did the narrator like about the girl?

Ans. He liked the sound of her voice and even the sound of her slippers.

5. Why, according to the narrator, was the girl startled when he spoke to her?

Ans. The girl may not have seen the narrator sitting in the dark corner.

6. What was the real reason for the girl not seeing the narrator?

Ans. She was blind.

7. Why do people with good eyesight fail to see what is right in front of them?

Ans. They have too much to observe through their five senses.

8. How are blind people different in the way they observe things?

Ans. Blind people observe only the essential things right in front of them. Having only four senses, they take in the powerful impressions created by them.

9. How did the blind narrator plan to keep his blindness from the girl?

Ans. The blind narrator decided not to get up from his seat.

10. Who would be meeting the girl at her destination?

Ans. She would be met by her aunt.

11. Why did the narrator say that he would not talk to the girl too much?

Ans. The girl said that she would be met by her aunt at her destination. At this, the narrator humorously remarked that he would not be too friendly with her as aunts are frighteningly protective people.

12. What was the narrator's destination?

Ans. The narrator was going to Dehra Dun and from there to Mussoorie.



13. Why did the girl remark that the narrator was lucky?

Ans. The narrator was lucky to go to a beautiful place like Mussoorie.

14. What did the girl like about Mussoorie?

Ans. The girl liked its beautiful hills, especially in October.

15. Why is October the best time to be in Mussoorie?

Ans. In October the hills are covered with wild dahlias and delightful sunlight. It is peaceful.

16. Why did the narrator feel that the girl would consider him to be a romantic fool?

Ans. The narrator described Mussoorie as if he enjoyed the peaceful beauty of nature. His preference for solitude and the lovely sights of nature might make him look like a romantic fool.

17. What was the mistake the narrator made?

A: The narrator forgot his decision not to reveal to the girl that he was blind. He asked her how the landscape looked.

18. Why did the narrator feel that the girl might have noticed that he was blind?

Ans. The girl did not seem to think it strange when he asked her how the scenery outside looked.

19. What made him sure that she did not know about his blindness?

Ans. When the narrator asked the girl about the scenery outside, she responded by telling him to look for himself.

20. How did the narrator keep his blindness from the girl when she asked him to view the landscape?

Ans. The narrator moved easily along the berth, felt for the window and pretended to study the landscape.

21. What did the narrator see in his mind's eye?

Ans. The narrator imagined the telegraph posts flashing by.

22. Why did the narrator think that it was safe to make a personal remark about her face?

Ans. The narrator was of the opinion that girls like to be flattered.

23. What was the girl's reaction to the narrator's comment about her face?

Ans. She laughed and said that it was a pleasant change to be told that her face was interesting. She was tired of being told that she had a pretty face

24. How did the narrator find out that his companion was pretty?

Ans. When the narrator remarked that she had an interesting face, the girl laughingly told him that it was nice to be described as interesting.

She was tired of people telling her she was pretty.

25. Why did the girl say that the narrator was a gallant young man?

Ans. The narrator flattered her by saying that she had an interesting and pretty face.

26. What did the thought of laughter evoke in him?

Ans. The thought of laughter made him feel troubled and lonely.

27. How does the narrator describe the girl's voice?

Ans. The girl's voice had the sparkle of a mountain stream.

28. What impact did meeting the girl have on the narrator?

Ans. The narrator wanted to continue listening to her voice. He felt that he would not forget the girl for a long time. Her memory would linger around him like a perfume.

29. Why was the girl glad that it was a short journey?

Ans. The girl hated long train journeys. She could not bear to sit for more than two or three hours.

30. Who got into the compartment when the girl got off?

Ans. A man got in.

31. How did the narrator occupy himself on such journeys?

Ans. The narrator played a guessing game using hints dropped by fellow travelers to form an idea about them and the surroundings.

32. Why did the fellow travelers think that the narrator must be disappointed?

Ans. The man said this because he had replaced the attractive girl as the narrator's traveling companion.

33. What was the shocking revelation of the new traveling companion?

Ans. The man told him that the girl's beautiful eyes were sightless.

34. What evidence have we to believe that the narrator was not blind all his life?

Ans. The narrator says that he was “totally blind at the time”. This means that earlier he could see and that he had lost his vision gradually.

### **Paragraph Questions and Answers**

1. Describe the narrator’s meeting with the girl?

Answer: The narrator met the girl on a train journey. Her parents who came to see her off fussed over her. She told him that she would be received by her aunt at the end of her journey. When he told her that he was going to Mussoorie, they exchanged their views about that place. The narrator took care not to reveal his disability to the girl. He did this by making only general remarks which were safe. When the girl got off at her station, another man got into his compartment. It was then that the narrator came to know that she was blind like him

2. What were the narrator’s thoughts and impressions about the girl who was his traveling companion?

Answer: The narrator liked the sound of her voice which he felt had the sparkle of a mountain stream. She was a friendly and pleasant girl. She had a clear ringing laugh. When she responded with silence to his emotional description of Mussoorie, he was afraid that she would think of him as a romantic fool. He learned from her that she was considered to be pretty. When she left the compartment her perfume lingered on. He would have liked to go on talking to her. He found her very interesting.

3. What hints can we pick up from the narrative about the girl’s blindness?

Answer: The girl’s parents gave her detailed instructions as to where to keep her things. They seemed to be very anxious about her traveling alone. She had not seen the narrator in the compartment and was started to hear his voice. She became silent when he gave a vivid description of Mussoorie probably because she was deprived of such visual pleasure. She did not find it strange when the narrator asked her what the view outside the window was like. She asked him if he saw any animals outside. When she was stepping out of the window, there was some confusion in the doorway and the man who was entering stammered an apology. These hints point to the girl’s disability but the blind narrator did not notice anything.

4. What do you understand about the character of the narrator?

Answer: Blindness made the narrator sensitive to minute things in his surroundings. As he said, lack of sight makes the other four senses more acute. He liked to play guessing games about the people and places around him. Though he seemed to take his disability philosophically, the presence of the girl made the youth in him want to keep it a secret. His description of Mussoorie shows him as a nature-lover. He made sense of things by giving an imaginative colour to the hints dropped by people and knowledge gained through the other four senses. He was serious and never laughed much. The thought of laughter made him feel troubled and lonely.

**B A I sem Optional English notes, sub: DSC1 ( Introduction to English Literature)**  
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