**SUBJECT: Literature - In – English**

**CLASS: SS1 WEEK 3**

**Genres of Literature: Drama and Prose**

1. **Definition**: Drama is the branch of literature that is usually acted on stage. Drama as a representation of life is not complete until it is acted out.
2. **Types of Drama:** The following are types of drama and they are:

* **Tragedy:** This is a serious play with a sad ending, often involving the death of a protagonist. Examples: **Macbeth by Shakespeare and The Gods Are Not To Blame by Ola Rotimi**
* **Comedy:** This is a play with a happy scene and full of amusement. Comedic plays are made for entertainment of audience. Example: **Our Husband Has Gone Made Again.**
* **Tragic-comedy:** It is a play which combines the qualities of a tragedy together with that of a comedy. Example: **Twelfth Night by Shakespeare.**
* **Farce:** It is a humorous play that imbues people with laughter. This can be effective by using characters that are funny in action.
* **Epic Drama:** This type of play dramatizes the action of great men in history.
* **Melodrama:** It is a play that is accompanied by a song. It normally has a happy ending and it carries actions that are very exciting and emotional.
* **Closet Drama:** This is a type of drama that is designed only to be read and not for acting.
* **Mimic Drama:** It is a play in which its actions are displayed in silence.

1. **Elements of Drama**: The following are the elements of drama and they are:

* **Theme:** It is the subject matter of a play. It is also the underlying message which the playwright wants to pass across to his audience.
* **Setting:** Generally, setting in drama refers to the element through which one knows the location and period within which a dramatic work takes place.
* **Plot**: This is the sequential arrangement of events in a creative work.
* **Playwright or Dramatist**: This is a name given to a person who writes a play. Example: **Ola** **Rotimi, Wole Soyinka, etc.**
* **Cast/Dramatic Personae:** They are the actors and actresses that perform different roles in the play.
* **Soliloquy:** This is a situation in which a character speaks his thought without addressing a person.
* **Protagonist:** This is the hero or principal character in a play around whom the whole action resolves.
* **Prologue:** It is the introductory part of a play.
* **Epilogue:** It is the concluding part of a literary work mostly in drama.
* **Mime:** In drama, mime is action without words mostly the use of facial expression, body movement and gesture.
* **Flashback:** It is the presentation of past actions or events by the dramatist.
* **Characters:** They are imaginary people a writer creates in his work.
* **Suspense:** This is a dramatic device in which the audience is kept waiting for next action hooked with expectation and anxiety.
* **Dialogue:** This is a conversational situation in which two people are involved.
* **Tragic Flaw or Hubris:** It is the weakness or fault in a tragic hero that leads to his downfall. Examples: It could be pride as in **“Coriolanus”** and inordinate ambition as in “**Macbeth”.**
* **Climax:** It is the greatest intense moment of tension in a drama. It is also the time when a situation comes to its peak or highest point.
* **Dramatic Monologue:** This is the act of talking to oneself without interruption.
* **Dramatic Irony:** It is a situation where a character is ignorant of his action while his audiences understand the true situation of what is happening on the stage.
* **Tragic Hero:** It is a heroic victim who loses his life out of crisis.
* **Interlude:** It shows the interval between two events in a play usually accompanied by music for audience entertainment.
* **Audience:** They are those who read or watch a play.
* **Conflict:** This is the struggle, argument or disagreement between two characters in a play mainly the protagonist and the antagonist.
* **Dilemma:** It is a dramatic device in which a given character has to make a very difficult choice between things of equal importance.
* **Costume:** This is simply the attire of actors and actresses while acting a play.
* **Villain:** This is the bad character in a play who delights in doing evil to other characters.
* **Aside:** This is a situation when a character makes a snappy remark to an audience especially when the play is in progress on stage.
* **Theatre:** It is a playhouse where all performances take place.
* **Heroine:** She is the most important female character in a literary piece.
* **Hero:** He is the most important male character in any given work. He is referred to as the **protagonist**.
* **Catharsis:** In drama, catharsis refers to purging of emotion.

**PROSE**

Prose is a form of expression that is written or spoken without material structure. It is written in chapters and paragraphs. Prose expresses ideas, thoughts and actions in sentences. Prose is classified into two main areas which are:

1. **Prose Fiction:** It is any work of art that is based on imagination. The characters do not really exist and the stories are not a reality.
2. **Non-Prose Fiction:** It is based on the actual lives of people and not imagination. Examples are autobiographies and biographies of people.

**OTHER ASPECTS OF PROSE**

1. NOVEL: It is a long fictive work peopled by imaginary characters in which events are artistically presented in a continuous piece of writing as if they actually took place. Novels contain at least thirty-five thousand words. Examples are “The Stillborn” by Zaynab Alkali, “The New Man” by Femi Ademiluyi etc.
2. SHORT STORY: As the name implies, it is a prose fictional work that is short. Examples of short stories are: **The Will to Die** byCain Thembaand **A Forest of Flower** by Ken Saro-Wiwa.
3. **NOVELLA**:This is a type of prose narrative that is shorter than the novel, but longerthan a short story. It can be called novelette.
4. **AUTOBIOGRAPHY:** This is the profile or true life story of a person written by the person himself.
5. **BIOGRAPHY:** It is a life story of a person written by another person.

**CHARACTER:** This is an imaginary person or persons a writer creates in his work. Characters are of different types, viz:

1. **Flat or simple characters:** These are characters not fully developed in the work as the author only presents one side of them. They are usually known as minor characters.
2. **Round or Complex Character:** This type of character is very complex to understand. He is prone to changes at any given time depending on the situation or circumstance.
3. **Major Character:** This is the main character in the story. For example in **Second Class Citizen,** **Adah** is the major character of the novel.
4. **Minor Characters**: These characters are not well recognised in the story. They are known for minor roles.

**CHARACTERISTICS OF PROSE**

1. It discusses the affairs of human life.
2. Prose works are designed in plots.
3. It is mostly an imaginative story.
4. It is developed in paragraphs.
5. Prose narrative usually deals with imaginary characters.

**TYPES OF PROSE**

1. **Romantic Prose**: This is a type of fictional work that deals with love affair. Example: **Pride and** **Prejudice** by Jane Austin.
2. **Didactic Prose**: This type of prose narrative ends to teach moral lessons.
3. **Epistolary Prose:** These are novels written in form of a letter. Example: Tides by Isidore Okpewho.
4. **Historical Prose:** These are prose works that deal with historical events.
5. **Sociological Prose:** This type of prose deals mainly with social events. Example: **Black Boy** by Richard Wright.

**HOME WORK**

Write short note on the following concepts:

1. Drama
2. Tragedy
3. Playwright
4. Protagonist
5. Prologue
6. Dialogue
7. Tragic flaw
8. Prose
9. Novella
10. Autobiography