

LESSON NOTE ON LITERATURE-IN-ENGLISH WEEK 5

SUBJECT: English Language

TOPIC: Prose: meaning and types of prose

CLASS: JS1

WEEK: 5

MEANING OF PROSE

A prose text is a plain writing that is free from rhythmic patterns or technical arrangements. It is a long narrative with a wide range of characters, events and experiences, written in a straight forward language. A prose text is written in paragraphs and chapters and a person who writes prose is called a novelist or an author. Examples of prose are: Things Fall Apart by Chinua Achebe, Purple Hibiscus by Chimamanda Adiche, etc.

Types of prose

There are two main types of prose: narrative and descriptive.

- 1) Narrative Prose: these are passages in a story which tell a well-defined story following a chronological order; from the beginning, the middle and the end.
- 2) Descriptive prose: these are passage in a story which provides full description of persons, places, things or events using descriptive word like adjectives.

Other types of prose can be classified under narrative and descriptive prose.

They include:

- I. Short stories: these are short narrative and the characters are well-known.
- II. Novella/novelette: this is a short prose text that is longer than a short story but shorter than a novel.
- III. Novel: this is prose on a bigger scale. Examples are: Purple Hibiscus by Chimamanda Adiche, Things Fall Apart by Chinua Achebe.
- IV. Folktale: this is a kind of fictional narrative concerned with human beings and animals. The stories about human beings deal with situations in our everyday experiences. The stories about animals deal with actions in the animal kingdom. The function of folktales is to entertain and teach children morals. Examples are “the singing vulture, “The greedy girl and the eagle”.

