

WORD ART

An Approach to Literary Appreciation

For students of
B.A.English Literature - III Semester
(University of Madras)



Board of Editors

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Literary Appreciation

INTRODUCTION

1.3 Brief Survey of Literatures in English

Read and Respond 1

Literature Aptitude Check

1. Do you think reading is necessary for a life lived well?
Substantiate your answer.
2. What kind of books do you like to read?
3. What do you look for in a book/ story?
4. Do you like discussing the books you have read with someone?
Give reasons.
5. What do you expect to learn from this textbook?

1.4.4 Narrative Forms

Read and Respond 2

Choose the correct answer.

1. _____ is the 'Father of English Prose.'
 - a. John Dryden
 - b. King Alfred
 - c. Ben Johnson
 - d. Joseph Addison
2. The author is both a participant and a commentator in a _____.
 - a. Diary
 - b. Periodical essay
 - c. personal essay
 - d. autobiography

3. The Tatler and The Spectator were _____ periodicals of the times
 - a. influential
 - b. famous
 - c. attractive
 - d. infamous
4. Pamphlets were popular among the _____.
 - a. classical writers
 - b. Elizabethans
 - c. Romantics
 - d. Puritans
5. _____ introduced the Diaries as a form of prose writing.
 - a. Samuel Pepys
 - b. Charles Lamb
 - c. Jonathan Swift
 - d. Richard Steele
6. _____ is considered to have written the first picaresque novel in English
 - a. Samuel Richardson
 - b. Henry Fielding
 - c. Daniel Defoe
 - d. Thomas Nash
7. Pamela; or Virtue Rewarded was the first novel to be written in the _____ form.
 - a. Gothic
 - b. Epistolary
 - c. Picaresque
 - d. Historical
8. A genre that emphasises on emotions, blending terror and horror with pleasure is _____.
 - a. Historical novels
 - b. Domestic Novels
 - c. Gothic Novels
 - d. Fantasy
9. If most part of the setting happens in a particular place it is called _____ novels.
 - a. Regional
 - b. Social
 - c. Historical
 - d. Psychological

10. _____ is more of an experimental work of fiction.
- | | |
|------------------|---------------|
| a. Bildungsroman | b. Picaresque |
| c. Anti-novel | d. Epistolary |

1.6 Assignment

Read and Respond 3

Answer the following in a word:

1. In an acrostic poem the first letters spell out a verb or phrase. True/False
2. A literary work in which characters are devised to represent abstractions is -----.
a) symbol poem b) lyric c) allegory
3. _____ is a competition in which performance poets compete.
4. A villanelle is a poem written in _____ followed by a _____.
5. An epigram is a brief, forceful remark with a funny twist at the end. True/False
6. Tennyson's "The Lady of Shallot" is an example of a _____.
a) idyll b) dramatic monologue c) metrical romance
7. The metrical romance includes elements of _____ and _____.
8. A pattern poem is a type of concrete poem. True/ False
9. The _____ aims to create a pictorial effect.
a) idyll b) villanelle c) rondeau
10. _____ is a short, humourous sometimes witty poem of five lines.
11. _____ is a very popular blogsite.

12. _____ form of writing is based on original research.
13. The oldest form of writing for communication purposes are_____.
14. Writing in the social media platforms like Twitter is called _____.
15. _____ is a brief account of or a story about an individual or an incident.
16. The Thousand and One Nights is an example of _____.
17. _____ are a narration intended to express moral values.
18. A form of drama that plays around with the chronology of events is _____.
19. Mime comes from the Greek word for _____.
20. A genre of plays where the characters feel threatened are called _____.

Unit - II

**Reading and Appreciating
POETRY**

2.5 Assignment

Read and Respond 4

1. Read the given passage and answer the questions that follow: (5 marks)

*My mistress' eyes are nothing like the sun;
Coral is far more red than her lips' red;
If snow be white, why then her breasts are dun;
If hairs be wires, black wires grow on her head.
I have seen roses damasked, red and white,
But no such roses see I in her cheeks;
And in some perfumes is there more delight
Than in the breath that from my mistress reeks.
I love to hear her speak, yet well I know
That music hath a far more pleasing sound;
I grant I never saw a goddess go;
My mistress, when she walks, treads on the ground.
And yet, by heaven, I think my love as rare
As any she belied with false compare.*

1. What is the form of this poem?
2. What is the rhyme scheme?

3. What is the stanza pattern?
4. Identify the figures of speech used.
5. Can you identify the theme of this poem? Substantiate your answer.

II. Fill in the blanks: (5 marks)

1. Most English poetry is written in _____ pentameter.
2. The quatrain is a stanza with _____ lines.
3. Alliteration refers to the _____ of speech sounds in a sequence of nearby words.
4. _____ is the use of a word that through its sound as well as sense represents what it defines.
5. _____ is a figure in which an abstract concept is endowed with human attributes or feelings.

Read and Respond 5

Answer the following:

1. Mention any two figures of speech that play with words, sounds and structures to achieve an effect. Give examples.
2. Mention any two figures of speech that use comparison, association and wordplay to play with the meanings of words. Give examples.
3. Write a brief note on imagery in poetry.
4. Briefly explain symbolism in poetry.
5. What is poetic license?

Read and Respond 6

I. Fill in the blanks:

1. A _____ is the grouping of lines in a poem
2. A stanza with ten-syllable iambic pentameter rhyming lines in pairs is called a _____.
3. A _____ is a controlling structural factor in a ballad.
4. At the heart of a _____ is the medium which connects the subject of the utterance with the quality being evoked is an image: a rose, a bird.
5. An oxymoron is a logically _____ utterance.

II. Give one word for the following:

1. When a part is used to designate the whole.
2. When inanimate natural objects are ascribed human traits.
3. When one thing is used to indicate something else.
4. Use of a word that through its sound as well as sense represents what it defines
5. Repetition of the initial sounds of words in a line of verse.

Unit - III

**Reading and Appreciating
PROSE**

**3.1.1 Writing Styles of the Nineteenth and Twentieth
Century**

Read and Respond 7

I. Fill in the blanks.

1. The writing style that is outside the purview of Literature is _____.
2. _____ and _____ Styles dominated Elizabethan and Jacobean prose
3. Dryden and Dr. Johnson's style of writing is described as being _____ and _____
4. Joseph Addison's style in the eighteenth century is called _____.
5. Lynd, Gardiner, E V Lucas resurrected the _____ form.
6. The word Euphuus is derived from the name of a character in the _____ prose romances Euphuus: The Anatomy of Wit
7. _____ is a feature of Euphuistic style.

8. Minimum words are used to convey maximum message is a characteristic of _____ style.
9. Francis Bacon is a pioneer of the _____ Style.

II. State whether the following statements are true or false.

1. A very important feature of Bacon's style is one sentence one idea
2. Satire is a style of writing that admires a subject with an aim to highlight the follies of human nature.
3. Samuel Butler's Erewhon aimed at satirising the Romantic Age.
4. In the indirect form of literary satire, the author's intent is revealed through the characters and dialogues within the narrative and its story.
5. A satire is that style of writing that seeks to highlight human vice and foolishness using humour.
6. The use of criticism aids in highlighting the follies of the people in a satire.
7. The author's creativity and imagination are seamlessly blended with facts in a argumentative style.

III. Complete the following

1. Descriptive form of writing is used to _____.
2. Analytical Style of writing is the ability to _____.
3. Persuasive Style of Writing aims to _____.
4. comedy : laughter :: satire : _____.

3.2.2. Critical Analysis of *My Lost Dollar* with reference to Theme and Structure

Read and Respond 8

Read the following passages and answer the questions below.

1. Let me relate what happened. Todd borrowed this dollar last year on the 8th of April (I mention the date in case this should ever meet Todd's eye), just as he was about to leave for Bermuda. He needed a dollar in change to pay his taxi; and I lent it to him. It happened quite simply and naturally, I hardly realised it till it was all over. He merely said, "Let me have a dollar, will you?" And I said, "Certainly. Is a dollar enough?" I believe, in fact I know, that when Todd took that dollar he meant to pay it.
 - a. What narrative device is used in this passage? Write a note on it with reference to the passage.
 - b. Why do you think the narrator used direct speech to state what conversation happened between him and his friend? What will the effect be if he had reported the conversation?
2. He sent me a note from Hamilton, Bermuda. I thought when I opened it that the dollar would be in it. But it wasn't. He merely said that the temperature was up to nearly 100. The figure misled me for a moment.
 - a. What figure of speech is used here? Write a note on it.
 - b. How does the narrator relate this incident to the central idea?
3. In all this I bear Todd no grudge. I have simply added him to the list of men who owe me a dollar and who have forgotten it. There are quite a few of them now. I make no difference in my demeanour to them, but I only wish that I could forget.
 - a. How does the narrator evoke self sympathy in this passage?
 - b. Which words/ phrases are suggestive of self sympathy?

4. I have long immodestly considered myself the inventor of the term 'prepone'. I came up with it at St Stephen's in 1972, used it extensively in conversation and employed it in an article in JS magazine soon after. Prepone, as a back-construction from postpone, seemed so much simpler, to a teenage collegian, than saying, "could you move that appointment earlier?" or "I would like to advance that deadline". Over the years, I was gratified to see how extensively its use had spread in India. Now, in an era where too many claim credit for other's work, I feel it may be time to clarify the word's origins. Is anyone aware of an earlier usage?
 - a. What narrative device common in personal essays do you find the author using in this passage?
 - b. Why does the author end the paragraph with a question? Who is it addressed to? Why?
5. Some things are simply wrong. The Indian habit of saying "I will return back" is an unnecessary redundancy: if you return, you are coming back.
 - a. What form of writing do these lines suggest?
 - i. Persuasive ii. Argumentative iii analytical
 - b. Explain its features.

3.3.1 Critical appreciation of *Kindly Adjust our English* with reference to form and devices, theme and structure

Read and Respond 9

Give one word:

1. the use of slang in writing
2. collating ideas to produce a creative work
3. final comments

4. a transient state of mind or feeling
5. an angle of thinking; somebody's personal opinion
6. forming an idea without basing it on evidence
7. a mark or character
8. a style of writing used in news reports
9. details that are true
10. the style adopted in *The Confessions of an English Opium Eater*.

Unit - IV

**Reading and Appreciating
DRAMA**

4.1.2. Dramatic Conventions

Read and Respond 10

I. Answer the following in a word.

1. _____ is a line whispered to the audience not meant to be heard by all the characters onstage.
2. _____ is a bit of humour injected into a serious play to relieve the heavy tension of tragic events.
3. _____ introduces the action of a play. It is usually at the beginning and literally means “first words”.
4. _____ occurs when the audience knows something that the character onstage is unaware.
5. _____ are lines that give a hint or clue to future events.
6. _____ is a single character onstage thinking out loud
7. _____ lines that are written out for the characters to speak.
8. _____ is a sequence of related events
9. _____ is A devise that a playwright uses to present a dramatic performance on stage that the audience accepts as realistic.

10. The setting of a play is called _____.
11. Setting provides the social, historical _____ for the play.
12. "If in Act One you have a pistol hanging on the wall, then it must fire in the last act." – this is an example of _____.
13. To the Greeks, Chorus meant _____. (Priests/Altar/ Song)
14. _____ is "god from a machine".

II. Answer the following in 100 words.

1. Define Plot.
2. What is the difference between stereotypes and stock characters?
3. How does the general setting contribute to the theme of the play? Give an example
4. How is dialogue different from monologue.
5. What is the purpose of the Principle of Three Unities?

III. Answer the following in 200 words.

1. There is a convention in Modern Theatre called "Breaking the Fourth Wall". Write down what you can learn about this convention.
2. What was the historical reason for Shakespeare's use of disguise in his plays?
3. What is the purpose of a soliloquy? How is it different from a monologue?
4. What do you think is the difference between a plot twist and a Deus ex Machina? Explain with an example.

4.2.1. Critical Analysis – Form & Devices, Theme & Structure

Read and Respond 11

I. Answer the following in a word

1. Whose picture does Raina hold up?
2. Name the Petkoff's maid.
3. How does Bluntschli enter Raina's room?
4. Which country is Bluntschli from? Who does he fight for in the war?
5. Bluntschli confesses to carrying _____ in his pockets when he goes to war.
6. Who does Bluntschli compare the soldier leading the Bulgarian cavalry to?
7. Louka notices a _____ on the ottoman when she leaves the room with the officer.
8. What does Raina offer Bluntschli to eat?
9. Who does Raina go to fetch?
10. What does Bluntschli do by the time she comes back?

II. Answer the following in 200 words.

1. What is the irony in the title of the play?
2. Identify one element of farce in the scene prescribed.
3. Compare and contrast the two soldiers – Sergius & Bluntschli.
4. What is the context of the play?
5. What is the dramatic significance of Act One?

4.3.1. Critical Analysis – Theme & Structure, Form & Devices

Read and Respond 12

I. Answer the following in a word.

1. Name the bank official and his assistant.
2. What does the bank official suffer from?
3. Why does the old woman come to the bank?
4. Where was her husband employed? Why was he laid off?
5. Describe the demeanour of the old woman when she enters the bank.
6. What is the old woman's quarrel with her sister?
7. Her husband's employers had deducted _____ from his pay.
8. What is the reason given for the deduction in pay.
9. What does she offer as proof of her husband's illness?
10. Does she succeed in getting the money from the bank official?

II. Answer the following in 200 words.

1. Comment on the irony in the title.
2. What are the characteristic features of a farce that you see in the play?
3. How does Kistunov receive the woman initially? How do things change?
4. How do you think the bank official could have responded differently to the old woman?
5. Compare and contrast – Kistunov and the old woman.

Unit - V

**Reading and Appreciating
FICTION**

5.1.4. Style – Figurative Language

Read and Respond 13

I. Choose the appropriate option.

- Which of the following is not a narrative type?
 - Linear,
 - Non-linear
 - viewpoint
 - direct
- In a linear narrative the events in a story unfold in the _____.
 - reverse chronological order
 - back and forth
 - ascending order
 - order in which they actually happened.
- Which of the following is a narration designed to express a subjective personal experience of the any of the fictional characters in the story
 - Quest narration
 - first person narration
 - objective narration
 - omniscient narration
- Which narration is like giving a running commentary of what happens in the story
 - third person narration
 - Omniscient narration
 - first person narration
 - linear narration

5. Textbooks are good examples of _____.
 - a. First person narration
 - b. Third person narration
 - c. Second person narration
 - d. Omniscient narration

II. State whether True or False. If False give the correct answer.

1. The subjective first person narrative states what he/she witnesses, and does not present personal views of the character
2. A non-participating third person who switches between the characters to present the story in their point of view is the feature of an omniscient view point narrative.
3. The five major narrative elements are – plot, theme, setting, character and tone
4. The theme reveals the order of events in the story.
5. The theme gives the surface storyline while the plot, the underlying truth.

III. Substitute a single word for the following:

1. It stands for that combination of place, historical time, and social milieu that provides the general background for the characters and plot of a literary work.
2. Malgudi is a good example of this.
3. They are either flat or round.
4. It indicates the attitude of the writer toward the subject matter and audience.
5. It is the friction between two or more entities.

IV. Match the word in Column A with those in Column B and Column C.

Write a sentence connecting the three terms.

A	B	C
Direct or explicit	language	abstract concepts
Foreshadowing	message through symbols	character
dialects	backstory, Flashback	flow of thought in words
An Allegory	Stream of Consciousness	Indirect or implicit
narrative style	characterisation	relevant to plot

5.2.1. Critical Appreciation with reference to form, devices, theme and structure

Read and Respond 14

I. Choose the appropriate answer for the following:

1. “The Bet” uses a fable-like form to emphasize the negative effects of _____.
a) greed b) wealth c) gambling
2. Chekhov uses the _____ technique in “The Bet”.
a) documentary b) descriptive c) flashback
3. The lawyer agrees to spend fifteen years in a _____ at the banker’s house.
a) prison b) cellar c) garden lodge
4. The lawyer was permitted to smoke, drink and play the _____.
a) piano b) guitar c) shepherd’s pipe
5. The lawyer wrote a note in the _____ languages that he had learnt.
a) five b) three c) six

II. Answer the following:

1. Briefly sketch the character of the banker.
2. Discuss the evolution of the lawyer's character from the time he makes the bet to when he renounces his winnings.
3. Discuss Chekhov's use of the flashback technique. How does it contribute to the narration?
4. Describe the setting of the story.
5. Do you think Chekhov's use of the foreshadowing technique contributes to the surprise ending?
6. . How and why does Santiago find himself in front of the crystal merchant's shop?
7. Why does the merchant agree to take him on?
8. What are the changes Santiago brings to the shop?
9. Why is the merchant unable to pursue his dream of visiting Mecca?
10. Sketch the character of the Crystal Merchant.

5.4 Glossary of Fiction Devices

Read and Respond 15

Give one word.

1. Describing real-world events with magical trappings
2. The other word for flash forward.
3. The opening of the story captures the attention of the reader
4. A sudden and abrupt transition in style from the sublime to the banal
5. Presenting a familiar object in an unfamiliar manner.

6. Reward for the good and punishment for the evil
7. The story begins somewhere in the middle of a sequence of events.
8. A certain distraction to mislead an investigation in a detective novel.
9. Warning of an impending danger
10. The narrator of the story misleads the reader.