Creative Writing
Quarter 3 – Module 4: Forms of Poetry

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Grade & Section: 
Name of School: 
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Creative writing is used extensively in literature. It is used to capture in words ‘significant human experiences’ or describe in vivid details feelings, emotions, and memories that may be real or not. Literature comes in three genres: prose, poetry, and drama. For this particular module, the focus will be on poetry.

Poetry as a genre of literature is considered to be the shortest in number of words involved but the most complex in terms of interpretation. It is no surprise then, that many readers find analyzing a poem quite challenging.

This module is made for you to understand the forms of poetry and it provides you with a world view of subjects, topics, and content that adds to your knowledge.

In this module, you are expected to:

- Identify the various elements, techniques, and literary devices in specific forms of poetry. HUMSS_CW/MP11/12cf-6

What I Know

Directions: Choose the letter of the best answer, and write these on a separate sheet of paper.

1. The main identifiable structure of poetry is the?
   a. the line   c. the language
   b. the persona   d. the metaphor

2. This figure of speech is a requirement in poetry.
   a. metonymy   c. metaphor
   b. meronymy   d. metathesis

3. A type of poetry that tells a story
   a. lyric   c. descriptive
   b. dramatic   d. narrative

4. A lyric poem that expresses grief at death
   a. elegy   c. enology
   b. eulogy   d. emery

5. This type of poem tells a story and connects the reader to an audience through emotions or behavior
   a. lyric   c. descriptive
   b. dramatic   d. narrative
Poetry is a form of literature that presents an awareness of one’s imagination or experience of a specific emotion or feeling through language selected and arranged to create meaning, sound, rhythm. In addition, poetry utilizes forms and conventions of language to suggest a variety of interpretations of words, or to evoke emotive responses. As such, creative writing plays an important role in the creation of poetry.

Poetry comes in three classification: (1) narrative, (2) lyric, and (3) dramatic. Under these classifications are numerous forms, some of which will be discussed in this module. We will also be analyzing some passages/excerpts from examples.

We have now defined poetry. Now, we will discuss further the classification and some forms of poetry.

What’s In

Directions: Below is a passage from the poem written by Anthony L. Tan, *Letter to Ling*. Read it and answer the succeeding questions. Write your answers on a separate sheet of paper.

I’m writing to tell you
How like my falling hair
Things are falling away from me.
Indeed, like a tired planet,
I have lost my gravity.
And as I whirl daily in space,
Like one marooned,
Things are flying away from me.
I have been flying, too,
Flying towards you,
But it only gives me this vertigo.
Tonight, across the light-years of your absence,
The silence in this room is made palpable
By the rasping of amorous lizards on the wall. (Source: deviantart.com/karle/journal/)
1. This excerpt belongs to which classification of poetry?
   a. lyric       c. descriptive
   b. dramatic    d. narrative

2. The phrase in bold in the excerpt is which type of imagery?
   a. auditory       c. kinesthetic
   b. gustatory      d. olfactory

3. What is being emphasized in this poem?
   a. data       c. emotion
   b. facts      d. information

Directions: Below is a poem written by Merlie M Alunan, Old Man at Midday. Read it and answer the succeeding questions. Write your answers on a separate sheet of paper.

Through a slit in the slats of the wood
By the kitchen stove from where I stood,
He looked no more than a thumb’s length tall.
He would not see or hear me if I call.
Among the limp shrubs stunted with the heat he merged,
A scarecrow dressed in rags, dragging
His feet (1). I seemed to hear as he passed
The gravel crunching, the hiss of dead grass
He bent, perhaps to right a twig, or gather
An old man’s poor booty in summer—
Wood to raise as evening’s humble fire.
I would never see from where I stood
What fixed his eyes past the sapling grove,
But oh, why in my gut this sudden cold? (2) (Source: merliealunan.blogspot.com/)

4. This excerpt belongs to which classification of poetry?
   a. lyric       c. descriptive
   b. dramatic    d. narrative

5. This line in bold (1) in the excerpt is which type of imagery?
   a. auditory       c. tactile
   b. gustatory      d. visual

6. This line in bold (2) in the excerpt is which type of imagery?
   c. auditory       c. organic
   d. kinesthesthetic d. visual
What’s New

Directions: Copy the following on a separate sheet of paper and draw a check mark beside the sentence that you think contains a figure of speech.

____ 1. Poetry utilizes language from factual sources to establish claims.
____ 2. Emotions and feelings are heightened in poetic language.
____ 3. The difference between prose and poetry lies in their structure.
____ 4. A poem has chapters to divide the flow of its plot.
____ 5. A poem requires the use of metaphor and other figures of speech.

What Is It

Poetry comes in three classifications, under which are different forms. This module presents some of these.

The three classifications of poetry.

1. **Narrative.** By its name, narrative poetry tells a story or a series of events. Some forms of narrative poetry include **ballad** (a short poem that often includes a dialogue through simple language), **metrical tale** (a poem with plenty of descriptions of attitudes and opinions in verse form), and **epic** (a very lengthy poem about heroes and great warriors often in fantastical and lofty language.)

2. **Lyric.** Often melodious because of the rhyming patterns that it follows, lyric poetry present emotions, feelings and/or memories and does not tell a story. Forms of lyric poetry include **reflective lyric** (a poetic response through recalling past emotions), **elegy** (dignified poem about grief and death), **ode** (formal poetic language used to commemorate an important or historical event) and **sonnet** (a poem that follows a strict rhyme scheme and structure).

3. **Dramatic.** Also known as **dramatic verse** or **verse drama,** this poetry tells a story and is meant to be spoken or acted. This classification includes **dramatic narrative** (a poem that tells a story through the point of view of a person involved in it), **dramatic monologue** (a poetic speech addressed to the audience or to an absent character) and **soliloquy** (a poetic speech of one character speaking alone, usually to him or herself).
Activity 1: MODIFIED ACROSTIC

Directions: Describe poetry through sentences or phrases that begin in the following letters that spell the word POETRY. Write your answers on a separate sheet of paper.

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Activity 2:

Directions: The following subjects belong to which classification of poetry? Choose the letter of the correct answer, and write these on a separate sheet of paper.

A. narrative  
B. lyric  
C. dramatic

1. The adventures of Hercules.
2. The death of a husband.
3. *Indarapatra and Sulayman* in the Kingdom of Mantapoli
4. Talking to Justice as if it were a real person.
5. A speech on the how the youth can emulate Rizal in the present.
6. Two farmers discussing about hardships of rural life.
7. *Romeo and Juliet*
8. Losing a beloved pet dog.
10. The important lesson of *Araw ng Kagitingan*. 
Narrative Poetry
Lyric Poetry
Dramatic Poetry

What I Have Learned

Directions: Fill out the graphic organizer to show the similarities and differences of the three classifications of poetry. Do this on a separate sheet of paper.
Directions: Narrative poems are poems that tell stories. Just like a story, narrative poems have a beginning, a middle, and an end. Study the following example and try to create your own narrative poem about your day. Narrative poems also do not have to rhyme. Use a separate sheet of paper for this activity.

**Rotten, Icky Monday Mornings** by Alison Roozeboom

Those rotten, icky Monday mornings always get my goat. This morning I woke up and had an itchy, scratchy throat, I burnt my tongue on hot cocoa, then tripped down half the stairs, forgot my lunch, forgot my books, forgot to brush my hair. At recess Billy said to me, “Ha-ha, you’re such a nerd!” I was so upset that during class I didn’t hear a word, and when the teacher called on me I had nothing to say. When class was done, Miss Johnson came to me and asked, “Bad day?” I nodded, so she smiled and said, “I thought that you seemed blue—

those rotten, icky Monday mornings get me sometimes, too.
I’ll tell you what I do to turn a nasty day around:
First, I jump a dozen times just one foot on the ground.
I scrunch my nose and purse my lips and shut my eyes so tight,
I flap my arms like chicken wings and roar with all my might.”
And sure enough, the silly jig was like a magic cure.
I did it all the way back home and I can say for sure,
those rotten, icky Monday mornings may be quite a pain,
but laughing makes it easier to pick yourself up again.
Directions: Read the questions and choose the letter of the best answer. Use a separate sheet of paper for your responses.

1. Poetry crafts language to create lines that elevate ____?
   a. scientific facts
   b. emotions or memories
   c. mathematical equations
   d. estimates and percentages

2. The structural difference of poetry from prose
   a. use of narration
   b. figures of speech
   c. presence of imagery
   d. lines instead of sentences

3. Which of the following statements describe narrative poetry?
   a. Narrative poetry exclusively deals with heightening emotions and feelings.
   b. Narrative poetry aims to be performed on stage or through actors.
   c. Narrative poetry is based on memories or recollections of the past.
   d. Narrative poetry is composed of sequences of events or a plot.

4. Which of the following poetic form is classified as narrative?
   a. haiku
   b. tanka
   c. epic
   d. sonnet

5. The following are examples of narrative poetry EXCEPT
   a. epic
   b. ballad
   c. metrical tale
   d. dramatic verse

6. Which of the following statements is a description of lyric poetry?
   a. Lyric poetry expresses attitudes and opinions.
   b. Lyric poetry utilizes the stage as platform of communication.
   c. Lyric poetry records the legendary adventures of folk heroes.
   d. Lyric poetry commemorates the value of an important event.

7. The following subjects may be made into a lyric poem, EXCEPT
   a. emotions
   b. memories
   c. recollections
   d. heroic deeds
8. Which of the following is a form of lyric poetry?
   a. elegy
   b. sonata
   c. soliloquy
   d. novelette

   a. historical basis
   b. mythical elements
   c. stage performance
   d. factual information

10. A dramatic poem where the speaker is talking to an absent listener.
    a. aside
    b. monologue
    c. soliloquy
    d. novelette
Additional Activities

Directions: Read the poem below. Determine its classification and discuss why it is such.

**The Conversion**  
*by J. Neil Garcia*

It happened in a metal drum.  
They put me there, my family  
That loved me. The water  
Had been saved just for it, that day.  
The laundry lay caked and smelly  
In the flower-shaped basins.  
Dishes soiled with fat and swill  
Pilled high in the sink, and grew flies.  
My cousins did not get washed that morning.  
Lost in masks of snot and dust,  
Their faces looked tired and resigned  
To the dirty lot of children.  
All the neighbors gathered around our  
open-aired bathroom. Wives peered out  
from the upper floor of their houses  
into our yard. Father had arrived booming  
with cousins, my uncles.  
They were big, strong men, my uncles.  
They turned the house inside-out  
Looking for me. Curled up in the deepest corner  
Of my dead mother’s cabinet, father found me.  
He dragged me down the stairs by the hair  
Into the waiting arms of my uncles.  
Because of modesty, I merely screamed and cried.  
Their hands, swollen and black with hair, bore me  
Up in the air, and touched me. Into the cold  
Of the drum I slipped, the tingling  
Too much to bear at times my knees  
Felt like they had turned into water.  
Waves swirled up and down around me, my head  
Bobbing up and down. Father kept booming,  
Girl or boy. I thought about it and squealed,  
Girl. Water curled under my nose.  
When I rose the same two words from father.  
The same girl kept sinking deeper,  
Breathing deeper in the churning void.  
In the end I had to say what they all  
Wanted me to say. I had to bring down this diversion  
To its happy end, if only for the pot of rice  
Left burning in the kitchen. I had to stop
Wearing my dead mother’s clothes. In the mirror
I watched the holes on my ears grow smaller,
Until they looked as if they had never heard
Of rhinestones, nor felt their glassy weight.

I should feel happy that I’m now
Redeemed. And I do. Father died within five years
I got my wife pregnant with the next.
Our four children, all boys,
Are the joy of my manhood, my proof.
Cousins who never shed their masks
Play them for all their snot and grime.
Another child is on the way.
I have stopped caring what it will be.
Water is still a problem and the drum
Is still there, deep and rusty.
The bathroom has been roofed over with plastic.
Scrubbed and clean, my wife knows I like things.
She follows, though sometimes a pighead she is.
It does not hurt to show who is the man.
A woman needs some talking sense into. If not,
I hit her in the mouth to learn her.
Every time, swill drips from her shredded lips.
I drink with my uncles who all agree.
They should because tonight I own their souls
And the bottles they nuzzle like their prides.
While they boom and boom flies whirr
Over their heads that grew them. Though nobody
Remembers, I sometimes think of the girl
Who drowned somewhere in a dream many dreams ago.
I see her at night with bubbles
Springing like flowers from her nose.
She is dying and before she sinks I try to touch
Her open face. But the water learns
To heal itself and closes around her like a wound.
I should feel sorry but I drown myself in gin before
I can. Better off dead, I say to myself
And my family that loves me for my bitter breath.
We die to rise to a better life.
Answer Key

Assessment

1. b
2. d
3. d
4. c
5. d
6. a
7. d
8. a
9. c
10. b

Activity 1 (Answers may vary.)

1. A
2. B
3. A
4. C
5. C
6. A
7. C
8. B
9. B
10. C

Activity 2

What I Know

1. a
2. c
3. d
4. a
5. b

What’s More

What I Know
References

Electronic Sources


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