Creative Writing
Quarter 3 – Module 6:
Elements of Fiction

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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 fiction.

As the word implies, fiction refers to a body of literary work that focuses on events that are not real, and although these were created by the writer’s imagination, attention is given to make them relatable to readers.

This module is made for you to understand the elements of fiction 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 device in various modes of fiction. HUMSS_CW/MPlg-i-11

What I Need to Know

Directions: Choose the letter of the best answer. Write your answer on a separate sheet of paper.

1. Long fiction is also known as?
   a. the film
   b. the novel
   c. the short story
   d. the nonfiction

2. The main element of fiction.
   a. character
   b. climax
   c. conflict
   d. catharsis

3. The structure/framework of fiction.
   a. narration
   b. plot
   c. theme
   d. summary

4. A type of narration that presents the thoughts of a character to the audience/reader.
   a. objective
   b. omnipresent
   c. omniscient
   d. operative

5. The part of the plot where the solution to the conflict is revealed.
   a. introduction
   b. inflation
   c. deflation
   d. resolution
The literary arts come in three groups – prose, poetry, and drama – and creative writing helps us distinguish the two. The previous modules dealt extensively on poetry to distinguish it from prose—a body of literature that is both narrative in style and declarative in form. Prose is further classified as fiction and nonfiction. Fiction consists of works that are based on fabricated events and experiences, as opposed to the factual nature of nonfiction.

Fiction is divided into the short and long type, obviously based on their differences in length and word count. Long fiction is also known as the novel, while short fiction, though popularly named as short story, can also be a novella, novelette or flash fiction.

Fiction contains certain symbolic and thematic features known as “literary merits.” In other words, fiction narrates a story, which aims at commenting on something significant related to social, political, or human related issues.

In this module, we shall be focusing on the elements of fiction. These ingredients create works that are both entertaining and enlightening.

What’s In

Directions: Below is the illustration of Freytag’s Pyramid or also known as the plot structure. Study it and answer the succeeding questions.
1. The part of the plot where the setting is identified.
   a. exposition
   b. rising action
   c. falling action
   d. resolution

2. The part of the plot where the conflict is introduced.
   a. exposition
   b. rising action
   c. falling action
   d. resolution

3. The part of the plot that is also known as denouement.
   a. exposition
   b. rising action
   c. falling action
   d. resolution

**What’s New**

Directions: Place a check mark beside the statement that describes fiction.

___ 1. It is meant to be performed on stage or dramatized by actors.
___ 2. It follows a chronological sequence of events or timeline.
___ 3. It is based on empirical data obtained through sampling methods.
___ 4. It may have chapters or a prologue and epilogue to divide the flow of its plot.
___ 5. It observe a strict and formal syntax to ensure the rhythm of letter sounds.

**What Is It**

This module will discuss five of the elements of fiction.

1. Plot. Also known as the structure or framework of the story, or the sequence or timeline of events as they transpire, the plot comes in five parts: (1) **introduction**, (2) **inflation** (or rising action), (3) **climax**, (4) **deflation** (or falling action) and (5) **resolution** (or denouement).

   The **setting** (either **place setting** or **time setting**) of the story is made known in the **introduction**. The main characters are also introduced here. The conflict begins to reveal in the **inflation**. The highest point of fiction is the **climax**, which is followed by the **deflation** where a solution to the conflict begins to happen. The conclusion of the story is called the **resolution**.

2. Characterization. The primary source of action and dialogue in a work of fiction are its characters. How these characters are revealed or detailed to the readers/audience is called **characterization**. The main or major character is also known as the **protagonist** because the conflict revolves around him or her. The source of this conflict is the
**antagonist.** A special type of character is the **antihero,** who initiates conflict in the story but also happens to be its main character.

In terms of prominence, a character may be **main/major, supporting, participant** (has one or two lines) or **mentioned** (has no lines but is mentioned). In terms of development, a character may be described as **static** (there is no change that occurs in the role/portrayal) or **dynamic** (there is change).

A character’s description in a story can be termed as **round or flat.** The former involves details of a character’s past or attitude/behavior. A flat character is only described through physical features.

3. **Conflict.** Conflict is the heart of fiction. It can either be **internal or external.** Internal conflict suggests that the main character is facing a **dilemma** or needs to choose between two options of equal weight and consequences. External conflict, being the more common, can be in any of the following forms:

   - man vs. man
   - man vs. society
   - man vs. nature
   - man vs. time
   - man vs. the unknown

4. **Narration.** Narration is the voice that guides the reader throughout the progress or flow of a story. A narrator can be **omniscient,** meaning the thoughts and memories of a character or characters are presented to the readers. **Limited omniscient** is similar, though limited to the main character or protagonist. **Objective** narration only presents actions.

   In terms of **point of view,** a **First Person** type means that the narrator is a character in the story as it uses the personal pronouns (I, we). **Second Person** point of view is rarely used, as this utilizes the pronoun you. A **Third Person** point of view on the other hand means that the narrator is either an observer or a secondary character. This uses the pronouns he, she, they.
Activity 1: MODIFIED ACROSTIC

Directions: Describe fiction through sentences or phrases that begin in the following letters that spell the word FICTION.

F ____________________________
I ____________________________
C ____________________________
T ____________________________
I ____________________________
O ____________________________
N ____________________________

Activity 2: EMPATHY TABLE

Directions: Read the following excerpt from Nanking Store by Macario D. Tiu and fill out the Empathy Table below it.

I was happy to see that she had begun to stir herself to life. It was ironic that she would do so only after her husband’s death. But at the same time, we feared for her. Her mother-in-law’s hostility was implacable. She blamed Linda for everything. She knew about the scandal all along, and she never forgave Linda for making Peter the laughing stock of the community, forcing him into the arms of a Bisayan girl of an unsavory reputation and producing half-breed bastard sons.

We waited keenly for the showdown that was coming. A flurry of emissaries went to Nanking Store but Linda stood pat on her decision to stay. Then one morning, her mother-in-law herself came in her flashy Mercedes. We learned about what actually happened through our domestic helper who got her story from the stay-in salesgirls. That was how the entire community learned the details of the confrontation.

According to them, Linda ran upstairs to avoid talking to her mother-in-law. But the older woman followed and started berating her and calling her names. Linda kept her composure. She did not even retaliate when the older woman slapped her. But when the mother-in-law grabbed Linda’s hair, intending to drag her down the stairs, Linda kicked her in the shin. The old woman went wild and flayed at Linda. Linda at first fought back defensively, but as the older woman kept on, she finally slapped her mother-in-law hard in the face. Stunned, the older woman retreated, shouting threats at her. She never showed her face in Santa Ana again.

While some conservative parties in the community did not approve of Linda’s actions, many others cheered her secretly. They were sad, though, that the mother-in-law, otherwise a good woman, would become a cruel woman out of desperation to protect and perpetuate the family name.
Since the enmity had become violent, the break was now total and absolute. This family quarrel provided an interesting diversion in the entire community; we followed each and every twist of its development like a TV soap opera. When the in-laws hired a lawyer, Linda also hired her own lawyer. It was going to be an ugly fight over property.

Meanwhile, Linda’s transformation fascinated the entire community. She had removed her scarf and made herself visible in the community again. I was glad that every time I saw her, she was getting back to her old self. Indeed, it was only then that I noticed how beautiful she was. She had well-shaped lips that needed no lipstick. Her eyes sparkled. Color had returned to her cheeks, accentuating her fine complexion. Blooming, the women said, seeming to thrive on the fight to remain in Nanking Store. The young men sat up whenever she passed by. But they would shake their heads, and say “What a pity, she’s barren.”

Then without warning the in-laws suddenly moved to Manila, bringing with them the two bastard sons. They made it known to everybody that it was to show their contempt for Linda. It was said that the other woman received a handsome amount so she would never disturb them again.

We all thought that was that. For several months an uneasy peace settled down in Nanking Store as the struggle shifted to the courts. People pursued other interests. Then to the utter horror of the community, they realized Linda was pregnant.

Like most people, I thought at first that she was just getting fat. But every day it was getting obvious that her body was growing. People had mixed reactions. When she could not bear a child, she was a disgrace. Now that she was pregnant, she was still a disgrace. But she did not care about what people thought or said about her. Wearing a pair of elastic pants that highlighted her swollen belly, she walked all over Santa Ana. She dropped by every store on our block and chatted with the storeowners, as if to make sure that everybody knew she was pregnant.

There was no other suspect for her condition but the driver. Nobody had ever paid him any attention before, and now they watched him closely. He was a shy mestizo about Peter’s age. A very dependable fellow, yes. And good-looking, they now grudgingly admitted.

“Naughty, naughty,” the young men teased him, some of whom turned unfriendly. Unused to attention, the driver went on leave to visit his parents in Iligan City.

One night, I arrived home to find Linda talking with Mother.

“Hoa, Tua Poya! You’re so tall!” she greeted me. “Here are some oranges. I know you like them.”

I said my thanks. How heavy with child she was!

“How old are you now?”

“Twelve,” I said.
“Hmm, you’re a man already. I should start calling you Napoleon, huh? Well, Napoleon, I’ve come here to say goodbye to your mother, and to you, too.”

She smiled; it was the smile I remembered when I was still very young, the smile of my childhood.

“Tomorrow, I’m going to Iligan to fetch Oliver. Then we’ll proceed to Cebu to visit my parents. Would you like to go with me?”

I looked at Mother. She was teary eyed. Linda stood up and ruffled my hair.

“So tall,” she said.

That was two years ago. We have not heard from Linda again. Nanking Store remains closed. The store sign has streaked into pastel colors like a stale wedding cake. First Brother says it is best for Linda to stay away. As for me, I am happy for her but I keep wondering if she had given birth to a boy.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th><strong>What are you thinking?</strong></th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>What are you feeling?</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>What are you seeing?</strong></td>
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<td><strong>What are you saying?</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>What are you doing?</strong></td>
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To **empathize** means ‘to share and understand the feelings of another.’ Think as if you were Linda, and then fill in the empathy table. This can help you understand him or her more deeply.
What I Have Learned

Directions: Read the texts and fill the gaps. Choose the answer from the words inside the box.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>third person</th>
<th>dilemma</th>
<th>protagonist</th>
<th>conflict</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>plot</td>
<td>narration</td>
<td>deflation</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>physical</td>
<td>round</td>
<td>time</td>
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The ______ comes in five parts: (1) introduction, (2) inflation (or rising action), (3) climax, (4) _______ (or falling action) and (5) resolution (or denouement). The setting (either place setting or ______ setting) of the story is made known in the introduction. The main character is also known as the ______ because the conflict revolves around him or her. The source of this ______ is the antagonist.

A character’s description in a story can be termed as ______ if it involves details of a character’s past or attitude/behavior. A flat character is only described through ______ features. Internal conflict suggests that the main character is facing a ______ or needs to choose between two options of equal weight and consequences. ______ is the voice that guides the reader throughout the progress or flow of a story. A ______ point of view on the other hand means that the narrator is either an observer or a secondary character.
**What I Can Do**

Directions: Ask your parents or any elder in your neighborhood about a popular tall tale or legend. Write it down and identify the parts of its plot using Freytag’s Pyramid as guide.
Assessment

Directions: Read the questions and circle the letter of the best answer.

1. It is also termed as the “timeline” or “sequence” of narration in a story.
   a. plot
   b. prose
   c. prosody
   d. plough

2. The highest point of a story.
   a. climax
   b. deflation
   c. inflation
   d. resolution

3. At this stage of the story, the conflict is starting to get resolved.
   a. climax
   b. deflation
   c. inflation
   d. resolution

4. A type of narration that includes the trauma experienced by a character in childhood.
   a. objective
   b. omniscient
   c. omnipresent
   d. operative

5. The type of narration limited to the actions and movements of the characters.
   a. objective
   b. omniscient
   c. omnipresent
   d. operative

6. The narrator being the protagonist will have which of the following point of view?
   a. first person
   b. second person
   c. third person
   d. fourth person

7. If the narrator is giving orders or commands, the point of view is most likely?
   a. first person
   b. second person
   c. third person
   d. fourth person

8. “Once upon a time…” is an example of ___?
   a. mental setting
   b. place setting
   c. psychological setting
   d. temporal or time setting

9. A “rags-to-riches” story will have this type of character development.
   a. dynamic
   b. flat
   c. round
   d. static

10. The character’s physical qualities are the only information presented by the narrator.
    a. dynamic
    b. flat
    c. round
    d. static
Directions: Continue the story given the opening line from *Moments Earlier* by Kate Doyle. Decide which character you will be or what narration you will use.

Kelly lands in a heap when she falls down the stairs—she falls half a flight at least, hits the entryway tile.
**Answer Key**

**Assessment**

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

**Activity 2 (Answers may vary)**

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

**Activity 1 (Answers may vary)**

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

**What I Know**

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

Electronic Sources


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