



SHORT STORY

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WHAT IS A SHORT STORY?

- a brief fictional prose narrative
- usually presents a single significant episode
- creates a single, dynamic effect
- involves a limited number of characters and situations
- characters disclosed in action and dramatic encounter but seldom fully developed.
- may concentrate on the creation of mood rather than the telling of a story.
- encourages economy of setting and concise narration.
- usually has between 2,000 and 10,000 words.

Short Story Elements: Setting

Setting is the time and place of the story's action. Setting includes ideas, customs, values, and beliefs.

- *Ex: Long ago, in a galaxy far, far away*

Short Story Elements: Characters

Characters are the actors in a story's plot. They can be people, animals, or whatever the writer chooses.

- The **protagonist** is the main character.
The **antagonist** is in conflict with the main character. Not all stories have antagonists.

Ex. The characters in *Little Red Riding Hood* are LRRH, the Big Bad Wolf, Grandma, and the woodsman.

Protagonist: Little Red Riding Hood

Antagonist: The Big Bad Wolf

Short Story Elements: Conflict

- **Conflict** is the struggle between opposing forces in a story or play.
- **External conflict** exists when a character struggles against some outside force.
- **Internal conflict** exists within the mind of the character.

Common application:

- Man vs. man
- Man vs. self
- Man vs. nature
- Man vs. society
- Man vs. technology
- Man vs. fate

Short Story Elements: Point of View

Point of View refers to the relationship of the narrator, or storyteller, to the story.

- In **first-person point of view**, the narrator is a character in the story, and referred to as “I”
- In **third-person**, the narrator reveals the thoughts of only one character, referring to them as “he” or “she”
- In **third-person omniscient** the narrator knows everything about the story’s events and can reveal thoughts of all characters.

Short Story Elements: Theme

Theme is the central idea or message of a story often a perception about life or human nature.

- **Stated theme** are directly presented in a story.
- **Implied theme** must be inferred by considering all the elements of a story and asking what message about life is conveyed.

Short Story Elements: Plot

Plot is the sequence of events in a story. Each event causes or leads to the next.

- Most plots develop in five stages:
- **Exposition** introduces the stories characters, setting, and conflict.
- **Rising action** occurs as complications, twists, or intensifications of the conflict occur.
- **Climax** is the emotional high point of the story
- **Falling action** is the logical result of the climax
- **Resolution** presents the final outcome of the story

Literary Forms

Unit V

Essay

Definition:

The essay can be defined as a ‘work of prose art’. Dr. Johnson defined the essay as “a loose sally of the mind”. The Oxford English Dictionary defines the essay as “A composition of moderate length on any particular subject or branch of subject”.

Origin of Essay:

Roman writers Cicero and Seneca wrote letters and these letters are considered as essays. In 16th century, the French writer Montaigne used the term “essay” for the first time. The word “essay” comes from the Latin word “assay” which means “an attempt”. It was Francis Bacon who first wrote essays in English. He followed the model of Montaigne. But there is a difference between Bacon’s essays and Montaigne’s essays. Montaigne’s essays are personal or subjective in nature. Bacon’s essays are impersonal or objective in nature.

Aphoristic Essay:

Francis Bacon wrote aphoristic essays. An aphoristic essay is short and contains crisp sentences. They are didactic in nature. Bacon called his essays as, ‘counsels, civil and moral’. In aphoristic essays there is a precise style. Sentences flow rapidly, one after another like strokes of a hammer. There are no unwanted words. “Some books are to be tasted, others to be swallowed, and some few to be chewed and digested”.—Bacon’s lines as an example of aphoristic essay.

Periodical Essay:

In 18th century, the essay began to appear in periodicals. The Tatler and The Spectator were the first periodicals to appear in England. Sir Richard Steele started ‘The Tatler’ in 1709 and it was replaced by ‘The Spectator’ in 1711.

Addison and Steele were the major contributors of 'The Spectator'. For the first time the essay was used to teach people how to behave in society. The famous quotation, "Essays served to bring philosophy out of closets and libraries, schools and colleges, to dwell in clubs and assemblies, at tea-tables and in coffee houses" speaks clearly about the contribution made by periodical essays. The character Sir Roger de Coverley jointly created by Addison and Steele appeared both in 'The Tatler' and 'The Spectator'. Jonathan Swift wrote satirical essays. Dr. Johnson wrote essays in 'The Rambler' and 'The Idler.' Oliver Goldsmith wrote a series of letters under the title 'Citizen of the World' .

Personal Essays:

During the 19th century, many writers wrote like Montaigne in a personal or subjective style. The chief among them was Charles Lamb. His famous collection of essays is titled "Essays of Elia". These essays are a blend of autobiography, fancy, humour, pathos and sentiment. In "Dream Children" there is a touch of pathos. "The South-Sea House" is an example of autobiographical essay. These essays are confessional in tone. There were other writers like Leigh Hunt, Hazlitt and R. L. Stevenson who wrote personal essays but Lamb was superior to all of them.

Critical Essays:

John Dryden introduced the critical essay during the Restoration period. The theme of the critical essay is literary criticism. 'The Prefaces' written by Dryden are all critical essays. They are mainly objective in nature. Hazlitt, Matthew Arnold, Carlyle and Ruskin are the other writers who wrote critical essays. In 20th century, T.S. Eliot and F.R. Leavis are the most important essayists.

20th Century Essay:

In 20th century, there are a large number of periodicals and newspapers and so the essay form is flourishing. The essays appear in the form of articles. The articles are later collected and published as books. The essays are written in simple conversational style on a variety of themes. The writers make use of humour, satire and wit. G. K. Chesterton, E.V. Lucas, A.G. Gardiner, Robert Lynd and J. B. Priestly are the famous 20th century essayists.

Conclusion:

Thus the essay, as a literary form is popular even in the present day. People read and enjoy the essays written on a variety of topics.

Unit V : THE NOVEL

Introduction:

The word novel comes from an Italian word "**novelle**" which means a **fresh story**. A novel is generally written in **prose**. **F Marion Crawford**, a famous "**American novelist**" described the novel as "**a pocket theatre**", meaning a novel has all the elements of a drama but it doesn't need a stage or an audience. Novel is also described as "**a long narrative in prose detailing the actions of fictitious people**". It is also a **reflection of reality**. The novel contains **the art of poetry, the details of history and the general experience of philosophy**.

The structure of a novel:

A novel, like a drama, has a **plot, character** and **dialogue**. The story need not be symmetrical in exposition, crisis and denouement. The novel does not have a rigid framework and it may begin with a crisis. However, there is an artistic unity and balance in **narrative, description, characterisation and dialogue**. **The narrative style of an author plays an important role in a novel**. The novel also has a setting or background. In any part of the world and in any time, past, present or future. For example, **Sir Walter Scott wrote about the place "Waverley" and these novels are called as "Waverley novels"**. **H G Wells wrote about the future in his novels and all the historical novels are set in the past.**

Growth of the novel:

In **1678, John Bunyan's "Pilgrim's Progress"** was published. It was written in prose and so some considered it as a novel. But **Daniel Defoe's "Robinson's Crusoe" (1719)** is considered as the first **English novel**. **Jonathan Swift's "Gulliver's Travels" (1726)** is also an important work of fiction.

In the **eighteenth century Samuel Richardson and Henry Fielding** were the famous novelist. **Oliver Goldsmith's only novel "Vicar of Wakefield"** is an **example of domestic fiction**. In the **nineteenth**

century Jane Austen started a new trend by writing about the respectable English country society. The Bronte Sisters added the elements of mystery and terror to their stories. Walter Scott wrote historical novels. With Charles Dickens, novel went with a new phase in its history. The plot of his novels were complex and he depicted the life of London in the early nineteenth century. There were many characters in his novels. Humour and Pathos were combined with each other. He used novel as a platform for social reform. Thackeray excelled in the novel of ideas. "Vanity Fair" is his masterpiece. George Eliot widened the scope of the novel by including religion, politics and social conventions. In the later nineteenth century Thomas Hardy attained great fame. His novels deal with the "spiritual growth of man". In America, Henry James found a unique place for himself by dealing with the psychological aspects of his characters.

The World wars made a great impact on the novelist. The influence of Marxism and Freudian psychology on twentieth century novel has been great. Virginia Woolf and James Joyce experiment with "the stream of consciousness" technique to their novels. The other famous novelists of the twentieth century are: D H

Lawrence, Aldous Huxley, Somerset Maugham, E M Forster and Graham Greene.

Kinds of Novel

The Picaresque Novel:

The Picaresque Novel is perhaps the earliest form of novel. It is episodes. It is written in first person. It is a story of a Picaro (Rogue) whose adventure gives hope to the author for satirizing the society. Examples of Picaresque Novels are: Defoe's *Moll Flanders*, Fielding's *Jonathan Wild*, Charles Dickens' *Pickwick Papers* and Saul Bellow's *The Adventure of Augie March*.

The Historical Novel:

In Historical Novel, there is a blend of history and fiction. The author shows perfect fidelity to historical facts. For example, King Richard I, his brother John and the England of his period formed the plot in Walter Scott's novels. His "*Waverley Novels*" made him very famous. *Ivanhoe*, *Kenilworth* and *The Talisman* are a few of his famous novels. Charles Dickens' "*A Tale of Two Cities*" is a famous historical novel of the Victorian Age. Leo Tolstoy's "*War and*

"Peace" is considered as the greatest among the historical novels.

The Social Novels:

Novels dealing with **social problems** are very common because the novelist is concerned about the society around him. **Charles Dickens** chose many of the **social evils** as the **subject of his novels**. "**Oliver Twist**", "**David Copperfield**" and "**Hard Times**" are typical sociological novels. **Mulkraj Anand's "Coolie"** and "**The Untouchable**" deals with the evils of class and caste system in India.

The Regional Novels:

The Regional Novel presents the habits, speech, manners and custom of the geographical area in which the story takes place. **Thomas Hardy's "Wessex novels"** are good examples of the regional novel. **Bronte Sisters** and **George Eliot** also wrote regional novels.

The Psychological Novel:

The Psychological Novel emphasizes the internal rather than the external action of the characters. It is concerned with the thoughts, motives and emotions of characters. **Sigmund Freud** and his "**Theory of Psycho Analysis**" was used by the novelists to prove

into the minds of the characters. James Joyce in his novel "Ulysses" records the thought process of his hero, "Leopard Bloom". Joyce and Virginia Woolf also made use of the "Stream of consciousness technique" in the psychological novel.

Science Fiction:

Science fiction began to acquire importance in the later part of the nineteenth century with the writings of Jules Verne and H G Wells. Jules Verne's novel "Around the World in 80 Days" and H G Well's "The Time Machine" set the new trend of science fiction. The other famous writers are Issac Asimov and Arthur C Clarke. The robot series and extra terrestrials are the other important science fiction series.

The Detective Novel:

The Detective Novel is the one in which the story and plot are woven around a crime which is solved by a detective. Edgar Allan Poe launched the detective novel using "Auguste Dupin" his detective character. In 1887, Sherlock Holmes series by Sir Arthur Conan Doyle began to appear and continued upto 1927. Doyle created the greatest detective in English fiction, Sherlock Holmes and his companion Dr Watson. Agatha Christie wrote novels of suspense with her

detective character "Hercule Poirot". This type of novel became more popular and eight thousand (8000) titles appeared in 1940 and 1950.

Conclusion:

The novel as a literary form continues to remain popular even today. With the publication of "**Harry Potter**" series there is a renewed interest in the habit of reading, especially among the younger generation. **The novel continues to capture the imagination of readers all around the world.**

BIOGRAPHY



- An art-form- lives of Caesars by Suetonius
- Dryden – in 1683 – the history of particular men's lives
- Oxford dictionary- history of the lives of individual men as a branch of literature
- Harold Nicolson – a truthful record of an individual , composed as a work of art
- Differs from history – it is a study sharply defined by two definite events, birth and death.
- A central hero and other characters- without and within – his achievements & his personality.

- Character and exploits
- Caso of Johnson- empire building
- Panegyric than a diatribe
- Faithful picture of its subject, both virtues & faults neither praising nor condemning to transmit personality

PURE & IMPURE BIOGRAPHY

- Impure- honour the dead, to conceal the evil& perpetuate the memory.
- Obtrusion of the author's views & prejudices.
- Pleasing mode
- Relate faithful history of the human soul, without any warping of the truth for purposes either of panegyric or invective
- A true narrative

BASIS OF THE BIOGRAPHICAL INSTINCT

- Proper study of mankind is man.- pope.
- Psychological element –more interesting & significant rather than mere record of events.

DIFFICULTIES OF THE BIOGRAPHER

- A well-written life – Carlyle
- Boswell – friend of Johnson
- Lockhart- Scott's son-in-law
- Forster – dickens
- Lives of their heroes
- Objective view- physical, intellectual, moral & spiritual- doing full justice.

MODERN TENDENCIES

- Lytton Strachey's eminent Victorians
- Debunking human weaknesses- set on lofty pedestals
- Deliberately chosen a hero whose life bears a superficial resemblance to his own , created him in his own image
- Biographer- Social Historian, philosopher & psychologist in one.
- Biography deals with the source of thought & emotion.

AUTOBIOGRAPHY

- His own life & achievements, Successful presentation of personality- suffer from a congenital effect- knows better about himself- motives prompted moments, secret hopes, & ambitions, his real aspirations.
- - Dr. Johnson preferred this-
- Objective & subjective – from the outward to inward, eg St. Augustin's confessions
- C18th – David Hume, Edward Gibbon, & Benjamin Franklin

DIFFICULTIES OF THE AUTOBIOGRAPHER

- Very difficult to be objective
- Must omit details of daily life, must concentrate on striking or exceptional.