

LITERATURE-IN-ENGLISH

WEEK 2

JSS1

INTRODUCTION TO LITERATURE

1. **DEFINITIONS:** The word “Literature” originates from a Latin word “litera” which means printed material. However, literature as a field of study can be defined as the expression of one’s mind or feelings or it is an artistic way of composition in prose and verse. Literature is also referred to as the mirror of life.
2. **TYPES OF LITERATURE:** There are two types of literature which are oral and written.
 - A. **Oral literature** is the type of literature that is not written down but said orally with the use of mouth. It is spoken or sung as opposed to that which is written. Examples of oral literature include folktale, songs, lamentations, myth, legend, oral narrative, riddles, historical recitation, etc.
 - B. **Written literature** refers to literature that is written down. Examples of written literature are novels, novellas, plays, prose passages, newspapers, reports, etc.
3. **IMPORTANCE OF LITERATURE**

Literature as a field of study is important in the following ways:

 - A. Literature serves as a means of learning English Language. As you learn literature, you improve generally in your use of English Language.
 - B. Literature is a means of preserving the culture and history of a people.
 - C. Literature is entertaining. You enjoy the stories, poems and plays you read at school and at your leisure.
 - D. Literature is educative. By reading literary works, children as well as adults acquire education academically, socially and morally.
 - E. Literature encourages imagination and creativity.
 - F. Literature develops critical thinking skills.
 - G. Literature helps to reduce stress.

HOME WORK

1. In your own understanding, what is literature?
2. Differentiate between oral and written types of literature.
3. Briefly explain FIVE (5) importance of literature.