

LESSON NOTE ON LITERATURE-IN-ENGLISH WEEK 10

SUBJECT: Literature-in-English
TOPIC: Seen and unseen prose and poetry
CLASS: SS2
WEEK: 10

Introduction

What is unseen prose?

An unseen prose can be defined as a passage from a novel or a short story which must be explained or translated without prior knowledge of the reader. This type of passage is set to examine the students' ability to appreciate written literature.

What is unseen poetry?

It is comparing the poets' ideas and language in two short modern poems you have not seen before.

Difference between seen prose and poetry and unseen prose and poetry

A seen passage or poem is already read by you,. This means that you know what is in it while an unseen passage or poem is a paragraph or stanza which is not much familiar to you and you do not know much about it.

Examples

A model Unseen prose passage

I have an image of a coconut in mind. The shell on the outside is hard and rough and has prickly fibers. Its inside has a lot of water and a little flesh. It sits high above the ground and is rare in Kenya because it only grows in the coastal area. When the coconut matures, people come from far to have a taste of its delicacies. Those who cannot, have to contend with the unfairness of the middlemen. In most coastal areas too, you find big, tasty mangoes. While not all people may enjoy the coconut, I am yet to hear a disclaimer on the mango except rotten ones. Everybody loves the mango. Unlike the coconut, it is fleshy and easy to peel. It is juicy too. Although, mangoes are generally available, as they are grown in other parts, mangoes from the coast are more popular because they are bigger and juicier, compared to the coastal mango,. The coconut knows it has little to offer aesthetically. I imagine that it vulnerable to low self-esteem. Unlike the mango which is beautiful and attractive, it has to work hard to be noticed. So it sits high above the ground to be easily sighted.

(Winnie Ivy Cherop Klrui, "The Coconut", Daughters Who Become Lovers, p. 31.)

Questions

1. The passage is
 - A. expository
 - B. narrative
 - C. descriptive
 - D. argumentative
2. The dominant point of view is
 - A. first person point of view
 - B. second person point of view
 - C. third person point of view
 - D. the omniscient point of view
3. I imagined that it is vulnerable to low self-esteem is an example of what figure of speech
 - A. personification
 - B. simile
 - C. metaphor
 - D. metonymy
4. What kind of imagery is “shell on the outside is hard and rough and has prickly fibres”?
 - A. tactile imagery
 - B. visual imagery
 - C. auditory imagery
 - D. olfactory imagery

A model unseen poetry passage

I am the helpless fish
Frying in your bowl of cooking
You lean against the kitchen wall
Smiling with the thoughts of coming feasts
But nature in time will come
You'll render account squatting on your heels
Your hunger returns with new demands
And I will not be there to
Feed the needs of
Recurrent appetite

Questions

1. The theme of this poem is _____
 - A. fishing

- B. hunger
 - C. oppression
 - D. hatred
2. 'I am the helpless fish...' is an example of _____
- A. metaphor
 - B. simile
 - C. personification
 - D. alliteration
3. 'Feed the needs...' Is an example of _____
- A. internal rhyme
 - B. personification
 - C. repetition
 - D. alliteration
4. the tone of this poem is _____
- A. celebratory
 - B. happy
 - C. joyful
 - D. melancholic
5. this poem is written in the form of _____
- A. a ballad
 - B. a panegyric poem
 - C. a sonnet
 - D. a dramatic monologue