

LITERATURE IN ENGLISH

JSS 2

WEEK 2

PROSE: MEANING, FORMS AND FEATURES OF PROSE

1. **DEFINITION:** A prose is a written or spoken language that typically follows the natural flow of speech. Prose is written in sentences and chapters. A person who writes prose is called a novelist.
2. **forms** of prose are:
 - a. **Narrative prose** are prose passages that tell well-defined stories. Examples are short stories, folklore, fables and legends. All stories must have a beginning, a middle and an end.
 - b. **Descriptive prose** are prose passages that detailed description of characters, setting, places, things or incidents. Example of descriptive prose is “Two on the Trail”.
3. **Features of prose** are:
 - a. **Style:** The language of prose is the ordinary form of the written or spoken language. It is without rhythm and is similar to everyday communication.
 - b. **Diction:** This refers to the choice of words used by writers. For instance, writers of short stories, like children’s stories, usually use simple words that children easily understand.
 - c. **Theme:** This is the main subject or the main idea in a text that the writer wants to share with the reader.
 - d. **Plot:** This refers to the arrangement of events that form the main story of a book. It’s also refers to as the story line of a literary work. A plot can be simple or complex.
 - e. **Setting:** Setting refers to the place, time and environment where the events in a story take place.
 - f. **Characterisation:** This is the means writers use to describe a character to the reader. Characters are in stories to perform certain roles. Writers make these characters – men or women or even animals seem like real persons so as to perform their unique roles.
 - g. **Point of view:** This refers to the writer’s mode of narration or the narrative voice used to tell the story.

HOME WORK

1. What is prose?
2. Differentiate between narrative and descriptive prose.
3. List and explain **FIVE** features of prose.