

## CREATIVE WRITING — NOTES (UG Semester II)

### 1. What is Creative Writing?

Creative writing is a form of writing that expresses ideas, thoughts, and emotions in imaginative ways.

Unlike academic or technical writing, it focuses on:

- \*Originality

- \*Aesthetic expression

- \*Creativity

- \*Emotional impact

Forms include: poetry, short stories, novels, drama, personal essays, autobiographical writing, etc.

### 2. Characteristics of Creative Writing

1. Imagination & originality – creating something new or presenting known things creatively.

2. Expressive language – vivid descriptions, imagery, figurative language.

3. Strong narrative elements – plot, characters, setting, style, theme.

4. Focus on emotions – aims to evoke feelings in readers.

5. Subjective tone – personal voice or perspective.

6. Use of literary devices – simile, metaphor, personification, symbolism, irony, etc.

### 3. Elements of Creative Writing

#### A. Plot

The sequence of events in a story.

Common structure:

1. Exposition

2. Rising Action

3. Climax

4. Falling Action

5. Conclusion

#### B. Character

People/figures who drive the story.

Types:

- \*Protagonist (hero)

- \*Antagonist (opposing force)
- \*Static vs Dynamic characters

### C. Setting

Time and place of the story.

Includes:

- \* Physical environment
- \* Historical/social context
- \* Cultural background

### D. Theme

Central idea or message (e.g., love, conflict, identity, growth).

### E. Style

The writer's unique way of using language: tone, diction, rhythm, dialogue.

## 4. Techniques in Creative Writing

### 1. Imagery

Using sensory details (sight, sound, smell, taste, touch) to create pictures in the reader's mind.

Example: "The golden sun melted into the horizon."

### 2. Figurative Language

- \*Simile: comparison using like/as
- \*Metaphor: direct comparison
- \*Personification: giving human qualities to non-human things
- \*Symbolism: objects representing ideas

### 3. Show, Don't Tell

Instead of telling emotions, show them through actions.

Tell: "She was angry."

Show: "Her fists tightened as she slammed the door."

#### 4. Dialogue

Used to reveal character, advance plot, or build tension.

#### 5. Tone and Mood

Tone = writer's attitude

Mood = atmosphere created for the reader

### Forms of Creative Writing

#### A. Poetry

Focused on rhythm, sound, imagery, emotions.

Elements:

- \* Line, stanza
- \* Rhyme, rhythm
- \* Figurative language

Types: lyric, narrative, free verse, sonnet, haiku, etc.

#### B. Short Story

A brief narrative with a single plot and focused theme.

Features:

- \* Limited characters
- \* Unity of time, place, and action
- \* Single central conflict

#### C. Drama

Written to be performed on stage.

Elements:

- \* Acts & scenes
- \* Dialogue
- \* Stage directions
- \* Characters in conflict

#### D. Creative Non-fiction

Writing based on real events but presented creatively.

Examples:

- \* Personal essays

- \* Memoirs
- \* Travel writing
- \* Literary journalism

## 6. Steps in the Creative Writing Process

### 1. Pre-writing / brainstorming

- \* Idea generation
- \* Character sketches
- \* Research (if needed)

### 2. Drafting

Write without worrying about perfection.

### 3. Revising

- \* Improve plot, structure, language.
- \* Add details, cut unnecessary parts.

### 4. Editing / Proofreading

Correct grammar, spelling, punctuation.

### 5. Publishing / Sharing

Final version for readers.

## 7. Qualities of a Good Creative Writer

- \* Observant
- \* Curious
- \* Emotionally aware
- \* Imaginative
- \* Skilled with language
- \* Open to revision and feedback

## 8. Common Mistakes to Avoid

- \* Over-explaining instead of showing
- \* Flat characters
- \* Weak endings
- \* Clichés
- \* Inconsistent point of view
- \* Lack of editing

