

**NSANGI SECONDARY SCHOOL**  
**PROSE AND POETRY**  
**LITERATURE PAPER ONE**

**NOTES**

**FORM AND STRUCTURE**

***External structure***

These are the observable features of a given text. They include; The title, the paragraphing/ stanzas, the sentence structure, Punctuation, diction, lineation, sound devices etc.

***SOUND DEVICES***

This analyses the **rhyme** and **rhythm**

Rhyme is the matching of sounds in particular words. It involves using words that have similar sounds.

Rhyme can be categorized as internal or end **Internal Rhyme**

This involves repeating certain sounds within lines, verses and sentences. It can be in form of Alliteration, Assonance or consonance.

**Alliteration**

It is where similar consonantal sounds at the beginning of words in the same line.

The initial consonants are repeated. Example,

Yes! Man must manoeuver Monarchs also

Waging war abroad, need fast friends at home.

Private policy is a public profit;

Dignity still shall be dressed with decorum. (T.S. Elliot)

The sounds /m/, /w/, /f/, /p/, and /d/ appear in the initial position of particular words in particular lines. This is alliteration. **Assonance**

This involves repeating particular vowel sounds in words and lines.

Consider the poem below;

**THE CROW**

Crows on the wing!

What grace as they swing. Rising and  
diving

Like fish in the billows,

In the willowy air; Or  
softly as feathers from  
broken pillows.

Crows on the wing;

What sympathy sings

The wind in their wings  
As they swoop and they rise  
To the sea: to the skies;  
As they float in the light  
Air, like fragments of the night.

*(Barnabas J Ramon)*

### **Activity**

Identify the vowel sounds repeated in particular lines and words.

### **Consonance**

Similar consonantal sounds are repeatedly used in lines and words not necessarily at the beginning of words.

The consonant sounds are repeated within words.

### **Activity**

Analyze the [poem below in terms of rhyme and rhythm

#### **TARANTELLA**

Do you remember an inn, Miranda?

Do you remember an inn?

And the tedding and spreading of the straw for a bedding,

And the flees that tease in the high Pyrenees,

And the wine that tasted of the tar,

And the cheers and the jeers of the young muleteers

Under the vine of the dark verandah? Do you

remember an inn, Miranda, Do you remember an  
inn?

And the cheers and the jeers of the young muleteers,

Who hadn't got a penny?

And who weren't paying any?

And the hammer at the doors, and the din; And

the Hip! Hop! Hap! Of the clap

Of the girl gone chancing,

Glancing,

Dancing,

Backing and advancing,

Snapping of the clapper to the spin,

Out and inn,

And the Ting! Tong! Tang! Of the guitar?  
Do you remember an inn, Miranda?  
Do you remember an inn?  
Never more;  
Miranda, Never  
more!  
Only the high peaks hoar,  
And Aragon a torrent at the door;  
No sound in the wall of the hall, where falls The  
tread of the feet of the dead to the ground, No sound:  
Only the boom  
Of the waterfall like doom.  
(Hilaire Belloc)

## **THE VOICE**

### ***The persona***

The one who is saying the words or thinking in the poem is the persona/speaker.

The persona is created by the poet.

The person speaking may use the voice in different ways.

This is called the Tone.

Tone is the manner in which words are spoken. It is the quality of the speakers voice in order to express the feelings towards the subject matter.

When describing tone, we use different adjectives such as;

Angry, bitter, sad, somber, optimistic, regretful, reflective, arrogant, depressed  
ironic, lighthearted, mocking, nostalgic objective, proud, scornful, sarcastic,  
romantic, straight forward, critical etc

**NSANGI SECONDARY SCHOOL**  
**LITERATURE PAPER 3**

**THE VOTER; CHINUA ACHEBE**

It is a compilation of 12 short stories. Each story forms a chapter and this is part of the writer's structure. This is therefore one of his narrative techniques.

The stories are on different issues/ themes;

For example

1. Girls at war, looks at the effects of war on people/women and girls. 2.

The voter; handles political hypocrisy 3. Education versus cultural beliefs.

Etc

Each of the stories, the author uses different characters, techniques and setting for the different messages/themes.

**1. THE MADMAN**

It is a story about cultural beliefs and other cultural practices in Africa such as polygamy

The writer uses symbolic setting, that is ;

- The road/ highway
- The market
- Nwibe's polygamous homestead which is characterized by quarrels
- The madman who steals Nwibe's clothes and chases him while naked. People mistake Nwibe as the one who is mad because of his nakedness (Can a madman tell whether he is mad?)
- The people including women, villagers and the market folk on a market day who think that Nwibe is mad instead of the madman.

**Characters**

- The madman whose interest is to follow the endless road and later steals Nwibe's clothes as he was having a bath at the stream.
- Nwibe , the farmer whom people could not believe that he was sane.
- Nwibe's wives that is Udenkwo and Mgboye who are quarrelling all the time; Could this impy madness?
- The medicineman; the mad doctor

## **The techniques**

### ***Irony***

-The madman steals Nwibe's clothes while bathing at the stream. When he chases him to get his clothes, people in the market place think that he is the one who is mad.

- The mad doctor/ medicine man who again has to cure those who have run mad.

### Description

The road, the characters, homestead, the market etc. **Symbolism** What do you think these stand for?

- Nwibe's homestead
- The road
- The market
- Women characters

## **2. The voter**

The major characters for this chapter are Rufus Okeke a.k.a Roof. He is a former bicycle repairer In Port Harcourt and now a consultant when it comes to voting issues an campaigning for others.

Another important character is Honorable Marcus Ibe, Minister of culture and a former school teacher.

Its time for elections- election mood.

The atmosphere is characterized by loud music, campaigns, promises (schools, Education), night meetings, band music

The elders of the area are ready to vote for Marcus but this time round, need money and not promises. They think and know that Marcus is not the former school teacher whom they voted for free. He now has the money and want their share this time. It is time to make money by the electorate. The candidates are ready to give money for the votes and the voters are waiting for the money. What does this imply?

Poverty, greed, moral decay.

It is party politics PAP versus POP. The question is, Can the opposition win an election?

Public address providers think that this is their time to make money as they are hired by politicians. They instruct to play loud music. The question is, Is it the music people are interested in or the services to be offered?

What is the impact of music during campaigns?

The author notes that if one is to win an election he has to part with money for instance Roof is bought by the POP to vote for Maduka instead of Marcus because Maduka gives pounds not shillings.

All the candidates are anticipating landslide victory.

What is your view about Roof tearing the ballot paper into two thinking that he is voting for the two candidates? **3. Marriage is a private affair**

Nene and Nnaemeke intend to wed but Nnaemekes parents don't like the girl just because of the girls father and the fact that the girl is a teacher. They choose another spouse in the neighbourhood- Ugoye whom he doesn't want.

The parents reject Nene because she is a teacher.

Why do you think teachers are not preferred for marriage?

Could it be because they are low salary earners, cannot make good wives, they ever busy at school etc.

Despite the refusal of the parents, they wed and bear children.

The hatred of the father keeps on until when Nene writes a letter to him that the grand children want to see him. This haunts him.

The question is,

Why should one hate his child's spouse to the extent of hating even the grandchildren? The answer lies in the fact that Cultural rigidity is a vice.

The author uses Nnaemeke's home in Lagos and Okeke's home in the village to bring out the theme of culture rigidity and marriage being a private affair.

What do you think about the contrast between

Parents and their children, parents and the grandchildren where the grandchildren are on the neck of their mother to see their grandfather yet the grandfather is haunted because he cannot change his position.

(Muttankappa S Serunkuma)

**NSANGI SECONDARY SCHOOL**  
**LITERATURE NOTES**  
**PROSE AND POETRY**

**FORM AND STRUCTURE**

***Sample question***

Comment on the form and structure of the passage/poem.

Note

There is both internal and external structure

External structure looks at items including

- The title whether denotative, connotative, literary, symbolic etc
- Diction that is word choice whether words are simple, specialized, jargon, argots, register etc.
- Punctuation especially the prominence of certain punctuation marks and why they were used.
- Sentence structure, the use of simple, complex and the grammar -The rhyme and rhythm.

Internal structure

Internal structure analysed among others the following

- The genres/ Types of poems or passages
- The voice
- The feelings
- The point of view

Etc

Poetry genres

This is the category or classification of a particular poem. There are three major categorises; that is; Narratives, Drammatic and Lyrics

**(A) Narratives**

These are poems that tell stories. They mainly appear in form of Epics or Ballads. An epic is a long poem in form of a story about a person or people who have done supernatural tasks and come out victoriously.

Consider the poem below;

## **LIKE A HAWKER**

Dawn gets him out of his crib,  
Trotting down the dusty road,  
Like a hawker, he minds time  
For his station, that station and  
Another station.

They move well equipped with  
All that is needed;  
FOR THE FUTURE,  
As they whisper to themselves while Blowing the  
nose to clear the morning chill.

The shoe brush and polish for a  
Clean shining pair of shoes to  
Win the confidence of their clients,  
The milk white handkerchief to  
Wipe the sweat all over,  
The tool box of the bag to keep reference and spares  
Together with a bun! For lunch gets him moving  
Like a hawker.

There's no time and move as you eat Call  
it bad manners; but  
Like a hawker, there's no time to waste In an effort  
to impart knowledge for the future.  
(Muttankappa Sserunkuma)

### **Question**

1. WHAT IS THE ABOVE POEM ABOUT
2. Analysed the poem in terms of internal structure.

ballads

a ballad is a long poem built on romantic adventures  
consider the poem bellow;

## TRUE BLUE

Unto your name

The name I baptize you for genuine intimacy. Those  
glittering rolling eyes that give one a clear View of  
all.

Those lips that send any into a world of agape  
The sweet deep husky voice that sends many in ecstasy  
And that covetousness to satisfy ones  
Expectations and imaginations A true  
blue you are.

Is that colour a real blue one?  
Is that glitter a real one?  
Is that voice a composition of sincerity?

I always vividly recall that resonate name  
That literally mean a visitor  
And indeed you always visit the heart and soul  
Though a sole visit  
Yet I meant a permanent company

I always vividly recall that famous well  
Formed syllabic name in your name,  
Similar to my own father-son and  
The twin sibling of my revered one  
Who are the elders in line of your mum  
Who is their next of kin I mean  
my mother in law Yes, I  
presuppose by law of nature You  
can't say no.

A true blue you're!

Anyway these lines I jot with A  
bottle beside me, I mean What  
don't you know about your Distant  
lover.

(Muttankappa Sserunkuma)

## Question

Analyse the poem in terms form and structure.

### (B) Dramatic genre

Such poems normally focus on character. The poem uses the element of a person in a physical or mental state of conflict.

Consider the poem below

### POIGNANT

On scribbled chits, its all good new I read. From my wife, the news is good.  
Our first son has developed abysmal demeanor And a week ago was dismissed  
from school. He was caught behaving mischievly A girl in a dark corner.  
He served suspension for two weeks This news  
I received.

He returned to school with half tuition fees.  
For only a week he is allowed in school For  
money is needed to run school affairs This news  
I perceived.

Then a call I received to inform me Important urgent  
news.

My seven months old child developed watery diarrhea.  
But two days later,  
She called to inform me that The child was  
developing pre-molar teeth I read the news.

Meanwhile, my twins were about  
To get the first sacrament and  
The catechist needed the funds,  
I should not forget the new  
Clothes to bless the occasion,

Then another Christ read that  
The mother of my children is Seriously  
disturbed by a toothache She needs  
urgent attention of a dentist.  
But

I am disturbed by this man He  
takes and brings the mother of My  
children to and from work!  
He is not my relative!  
Who could this be?

Then these neighbours who encroach On my  
plot makes my head turn round.

My brother sent me a message on phone The other  
day;

“You have forgotten us.” It stated,  
“We don’t wish bad of you,  
But always keep in touch with us,  
The last funeral rite for our late Mother  
was near-  
Funding was needed.”

My mother –in-law needed a handbag  
For an occasion while  
My cousins and nephews needed attention If  
they’re to remain in school.  
All this, over and over again  
Received and read and No news is  
bad news.  
(Muttankappa Sserunkuuma)

### **Questions**

Analyze the poem in terms of form and structure.

### **POINT OF VIEW**

Who is telling the story/who is talking?

- It’s the stand point from which the story is told.
- There are mainly three points of view i.e.
  - 1) Omniscient
  - 2) First person
  - 3) Third person

4)

***Omniscient*** – (The know it all)

The narrator is outside the story and knows everything that happen and everything that goes on in the minds of the characters.

He can describe thoughts and feelings of different characters. He may also reveal unknown information to the rest of the characters including what is happening in different places at the same time.

***First person*** – the „I“ narrator (Me, Me, Me)

It's the 1<sup>st</sup> person used when telling stories about their own lives e.g. letters, diary autobiographies.

***Third person*** – (He said, she said)

The story is told from a single characters stand point – the character in referred to in the third person, as he or she.

***Non participant narration***

This is where the story teller is part of the characters in the story – such narrators are indicated by the use of first and second person singular and plural pronouns.

(Use of „I“ and „We“)

**Non Participants Narration**

The Narrator does not appear in the story at all. Such narrators use the third person pronouns (He, She, They) (Muttankappa Sserunkuuma)