

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 an imaginative way. Unlike academic or technical writing, its primary purpose is to entertain, inspire, or provoke thought.

Key features

- * Imagination and originality
- * Use of literary devices
- * Focus on characters, emotions, and storytelling
- * Personal voice and style
- * Creative freedom in form and language

2. Elements of Creative Writing

a) Plot

The sequence of events in a story. Usually follows:

1. Exposition
2. Rising Action
3. Climax
4. Falling Action
5. Resolution

b) Character

People/figures who drive the story.

Types:

- * Protagonist (main character)
- * Antagonist (opposing force)
- * Flat, round, dynamic, static characters

c) Setting

Time and place of the story.

Includes: historical period, environment, social context, weather, geography.

d) Theme

The central idea/message of the work.

Examples: love, freedom, identity, betrayal, courage.

e) Point of View (Narration)

* First-person ("I")

* Second-person ("You")

* Third-person limited

* Third-person omniscient

f) Style

Author's unique way of writing:

Tone, diction (word choice), sentence structure, imagery, rhythm, etc.

3. Literary Devices (Figures of Speech)

Simile

Comparison using like or as.

Example: Her smile was like sunshine.

Metaphor

Direct comparison.

Example: Time is a thief.

Personification

Giving human traits to non-human things.

Example: The wind whispered secrets.

Alliteration

Repetition of consonant sounds.

Example: Silent skies softly sang.

Imagery

Creating sensory images—visual, auditory, tactile, etc.

Example: The aroma of warm bread filled the room.

Hyperbole

Exaggeration for effect.

Example: I've told you a million times.

4. Forms of Creative Writing

1. Poetry

- * Uses rhythm, imagery, sound devices

- * Forms: sonnet, free verse, haiku, narrative poem, lyric poem

Features

- * Concentrated language

- * Emotions and ideas

- * Use of metaphorical language

2. Short Story

A brief narrative focusing on a single incident or theme.

Characteristics

- * One main plot

- * Few characters
- * Builds quickly to climax
- * Strong emotional impact

3. Drama (Playwriting)

Writing meant for performance on stage.

Elements

- * Dialogue
- * Stage directions
- * Acts and scenes
- * Conflict and action

4. Fiction (Novels)

Longer narrative form, complex plot and characters.
Includes genres: romance, fantasy, mystery, science fiction, etc.

5. Creative Non-Fiction

Real stories told using creative techniques.

Examples:

- * Memoir
- * Travel writing
- * Personal essays
- * Biography

5. The Writing Process

1. Prewriting

- * Brainstorming
- * Research
- * Outlining

- * Character sketches

2. Drafting

- * Writing the first version
- * Focus on ideas, not perfection

3. Revising

- * Improve structure, clarity
- * Add/remove content
- * Strengthen characters and plot

4. Editing

- * Grammar, punctuation, spelling
- * Style and sentence flow

5. Publishing

- * Final version shared with audience

6. Tips for Good Creative Writing

- * Read widely to understand styles and techniques
- * Build strong characters with depth
- * Show, don't tell
- * Use active voice
- * Create vivid descriptions
- * Maintain consistency in POV and tone
- * Practice regularly (journals, prompts)

7. Sample Creative Writing Prompts

Try these for practice:

1. A stranger leaves a mysterious letter at your doorstep.

2. Write a poem about a memory that still feels alive.
3. Describe the world 100 years from now.
4. Write a short story in which the weather reflects the protagonist's emotions.