IIT ROORKEE

NPTEL ONLINE CERTIFICATION COURSE

EFFECTIVE WRITING

Lecture 20: Creative Writing

BINOD MISHRA

DEPARTMENT OF HUMANITIES AND SOCIAL SCIENCES



What is Creativity?

- Creativity is the act of turning new and imaginative ideas into reality.
- Creativity is characterised by the ability to perceive the world in new ways:
  - To find hidden patterns
  - To make connections between seemingly unrelated phenomena
  - To generate solutions

What is Creative Writing?

- Writing that expresses ideas and thoughts in an imaginative way.
- It is the art of making things up or putting a creative splash on history, as in creative non-fiction.
- It is an art form which transports us to a new realm, inspired by our mental meanderings.
- It is a medium to express feelings and emotions instead of cold, hard facts, as we do in academic writing.

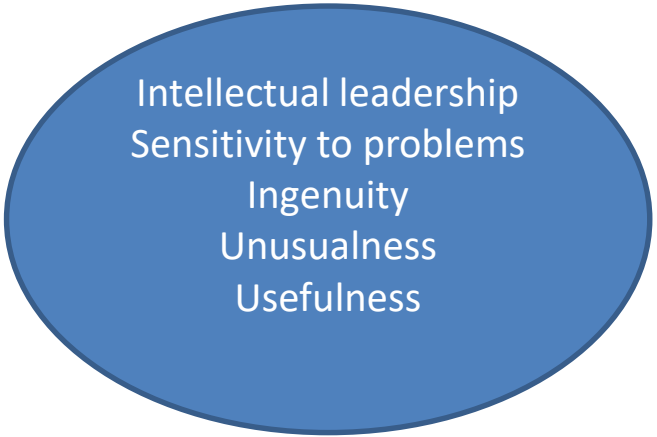


On Creativity

- ✓ Creative writing is an education in the craft of writing in a larger sense.
- ✓ All writing at its best is creative writing.
- ✓ Creative writing as a discipline can create synthesis between work in universities and non-academic professions.
- ✓ Creative writing allows us to tell the story of our species.

Measuring Creativity

- Fluency
- Flexibility
- Originality
- Elaboration

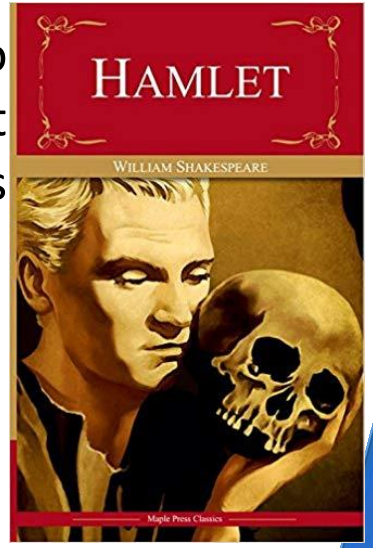


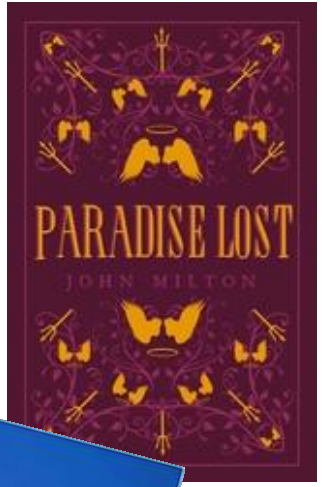
Artistic Achievement

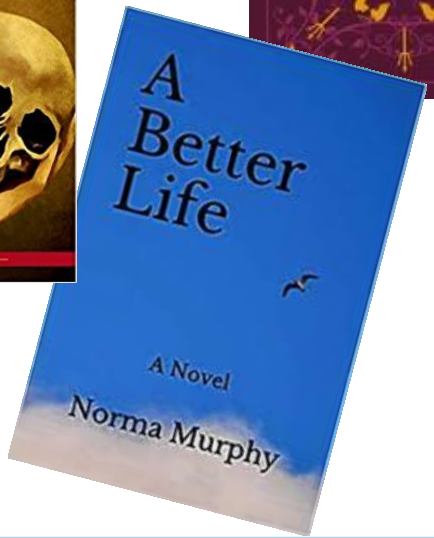
- Inspiration and Agency
- Creativity and Resistance
- Art and propaganda
- Creativity and Madness

Types of Creative Writing

- The best way to define creative writing is to give a list of things that are and are not considered creative writing. Here are things that do fall within this category:
  - Poetry
  - Prose
  - Drama
  - Epics
  - Short stories
  - Novels
  - Screenplays
  - Songs
  - Television scripts







Aiming at Creative Writing

- Creative writers should first be creative readers.
- As a creative writer, one should aim at bringing pleasure and purpose to the lives of our readers.
- Creative writing lends us an alternate awareness. It has a therapeutic benefit.
- The key to writing is not to wait, not to let today slip away in the evanescent hope that tomorrow somehow we will have the knowledge, the real plan and the confidence to commence our story with vivid élan and muscular gusto.

Craft of Writing

Use of Tropes

- Metaphor
- Simile
- Metonymy
- Synecdoche
- Irony
- Personification
- Hyberbole
- Litotes

Figures of Speech

- Antithesis
- Chiasmus
- Apostrophe

Speech and Sound

Figures of Speech

- Metonymy
- Synecdoche
- Litotes

Figures of Sound

- Alliteration
- Assonance
- Consonance

Metonymy and Synecdoche

- Metonymy: A Greek word meaning ‘name change’. It establishes relationships of contiguity.

  The stage, The crown, The bench etc.

- Synecdoche: Greek word meaning ‘interpreting together’. When something is indirectly referred to by naming a part to describe the whole, it is called Synecdoche.

  With thunders from her native oak,

  She quells the flood below.

  (Thomas Campbell, Ye Mariners of England)

Litotes

- Litotes (Gk. Litos meaning single, simple, meagre) an understatement for emphasis, used in everyday speech with laconic or ironic intentions. It often uses double negatives.

I am **not unaware** how the productions of the Grub Street brotherhood have of late years fallen under many prejudices."

(Jonathan Swift, *The Tale of a Tub*)

Figures of Speech

- Antithesis: (Gk. Opposite meaning) Use of contrasting ideas by opposing them.

  To be or not to be : that is the question
  Whether tis nobler in the mind to suffer
  the slings and arrows of outrageous fortune
  Or to take arms against a sea of troubles
  And by opposing end them?

- Chiasmus: (Gk., placing crosswise): reversal of grammatical structures in phrases or clauses.

  By the day the frolic, and the dance by night (Dr. Johnson, *The Vanity of Human Wishes*)

- Apostrophe: (GK. turning away) A figure of speech used to address an abstract quality, an idea, a dead person, as if present and capable to understand.

  O judgment! Thou art fled to brutish breasts *(Julius Caesar*)

  Milton! Thou should' st be living at this hour…. (*London 1812*)

Figures of Sound

- Alliteration(L. repeating the same letter) repletion of consonant sounds in the beginning of a word.

  The fair breeze blew, the white foam flew,
  The furrow followed free;
  We were the first that ever burst
  Into that silent sea.” (Rime of the Ancient Mariner)

- Assonance (Latin meaning ‘ to answer to): Repetition of the vowel sound at close intervals, in the middle or end of words.

  “I wandered l**o**nely as a cloud
  That fl**oa**ts on high **o**‘er vales and hills,
  When all at once I saw a crowd,
  A h**o**st, of g**o**lden daff**o**dils;
  Beside the lake, ben**ea**th the tr**ee**s,
  Fluttering and dancing in the br**ee**ze…”

- Consonance : Close repetition of consonant sounds before and after vowel sounds, such as slip-slop, flip-flop, creak-crook etc.

Poetry

- A poem is a verbal artefact that must be a skillfully and solidly constructed as a table or a motorcycle. (W.H. Auden)
- It is actually the line that distinguishes our experiences of poetry as poetry.
- Lines can be end-stopped and enjambed.
- The start and end of a line matter.

- A little learning is a dangerous thing;
  Drink deep, or taste not the Pierian spring.
  There shallow draughts intoxicate the brain,
  And drinking largely sobers us again."

Components
- ✓ Line
- ✓ Length
- ✓ Music
- ✓ Metrics
- ✓ Literary devices

Enjambed Lines

"A thing of beauty is a joy forever:
Its loveliness increases; it will never
Pass into nothingness but still will keep
A bower quiet for us, and asleep
Full of sweet dreams, and health, and quiet breathing."

-(Keats, "Endymion“)

I saw the best minds of my generation destroyed
by madness, starving hysterical naked,
dragging themselves through the negro streets at dawn
looking for an angry fix….

(Allen Gingsberg’s ‘Howl’)

Prose

- Short stories and novels
- A work having around two lac or more words can be classified as epic.
- Novel can have around 60,000 or more words.
- Originated from Italian ‘novella’ meaning tale or piece of news, a novel is a prose narrative.
- Novelette is a work of fiction and is shorter than a novel and longer than a short story.
- Short stories are shorter and can have between one thousand to two thousand words.

Drama

- Drama represents the ways of the world; the picture of our people's speech and manners; it is the Veda accessible to all the castes in a society.
- Gk. Word 'drao'
- The drama is in the dialogue.
- Drama is multi-voiced.

Requisites of Drama

Drama as art

- A spectator art
- A dramatic art
- A visual art
- An auditory art
- A physically produced art
- A continuous art

Drama as performance

"A dramatic performance is clearly more than "a reflection "of the dramatic text; on the contrary… it is a transformation of the text into a unique product, which involves reworking it in accordance with the specific demands and conditions of theatrical performance… what has intervened… is a transformative labour."

-

Terry Eagleton

The material of the dramatist's trade is imagination and dialogue, dialogue and imagination.

“Read, read, read. Read everything -- trash, classics, good and bad, and see how they do it. Just like a carpenter who works as an apprentice and studies the master. Read! You'll absorb it. Then write. If it's good, you'll find out. If it's not, throw it out of the window.”

— William Faulkner

Thank You