

ST MARKS COLLEGE NAMAGOMA

SENIOR ONE

LITERATURE IN ENGLISH NOTES

2020.

ORAL LITERATURE

Activity.

Oral literature is literature that was or is expressed by word of mouth. Do you remember the traditional stories your grandparents, aunties and mothers used to tell you when you were young; they are good examples of oral literature. Share with your neighbor any of the stories that you recall, and prepare to make a presentation to the class about one that you loved so much.

Oral literature sometimes referred to as folk literature is literature that is spoken or sung as opposed to that which is written. However much of oral literature has been transcribed. Oral literature is characterized by oral transmission.

Oral literature is traced far in the pre- literate societies, since written literature was not available in that era. However even to date, oral literature is still active and it's very essential in our society.

Activity.

What are (is) the difference between oral and written literature?

CHARACTERISTICS OF ORAL LITERATURE.

Even though some of the characteristics below maybe similar to those in written literature, in oral literature, they are more unique. They include performance, verbal variability, audience and dynamism. Let's explain them below.

1. Verbal variability.

You will notice that each oral artist performs a common text in an individual way. Even if the oral narrative is well know, each artist will perform it in a given way by adding some information and removing other segments. This is influenced by the artist skills at composition and improvisation. It's also determined by the audience and the purpose of a performance. Therefore each performance is regarded as original.

2. Performance.

This is the most basic characteristic of oral literature. Oral literature is dependent on a performer who formulates it in words accompanied with actions on a specific occasion.

3. Audience.

In normal circumstances, there can be no performance without audience to participate in it. This does not discount the songs we sing to ourselves as we work. Nevertheless, in oral literature, a physical audience is required to be present and allowed to take part actively or passively basing on the conventions of the performance. An artist is always face to face with the audience.

4. Oral literature is dynamic.

Oral literature as a product of the process of convergence between an individual, willed creativity and communal life can never be irrelevant. As a creation of the society, oral literature changes with time to accommodate the new challenges. Not long ago, oral literature focused on morals, but nowadays, themes in oral literature have expanded to cater for issues like AIDS, conflicts, tragedies accompanied with use of modern day technology.

Note. So long as men and women live and they have the power of speech, they will create and render their thoughts verbally. Therefore oral literature shall never die. It can suffer neglect.

Genres of oral literature.

The main oral literature genres include;

- Folktales
- Folksongs
- Folk drama
- Proverbs
- Tongue twisters
- Riddles.

FOLKTALES.

Folktale is a genre that typically consists of stories passed down from generation to generations orally.

The categories of such stories include;

a. Fables

A fable is a story that features animals, legendary creatures, plants, inanimate objects, or forces of nature that are given human qualities and that illustrates or leads to a particular moral lesson.

The Boy Who Cried Wolf

There once was a shepherd boy who was bored as he sat on the hillside watching the village sheep. To amuse himself he took a great breath and sang out, "Wolf! Wolf! The Wolf is chasing the sheep!"

The villagers came running up the hill to help the boy drive the wolf away. But when they arrived at the top of the hill, they found no wolf. The boy laughed at the sight of their angry faces.

"Don't cry 'wolf', shepherd boy," said the villagers, "when there's no wolf!" They went grumbling back down the hill.

Later, the boy sang out again, "Wolf! Wolf! The wolf is chasing the sheep!" To his naughty delight, he watched the villagers run up the hill to help him drive the wolf away.

When the villagers saw no wolf they sternly said, "Save your frightened song for when there is really something wrong! Don't cry 'wolf' when there is NO wolf!"

But the boy just grinned and watched them go grumbling down the hill once more.

Later, he saw a REAL wolf prowling about his flock. Alarmed, he leaped to his feet and sang out as loudly as he could, "Wolf! Wolf!"

But the villagers thought he was trying to fool them again, and so they didn't come.

At sunset, everyone wondered why the shepherd boy hadn't returned to the village with their sheep. They went up the hill to find the boy. They found him weeping.

"There really was a wolf here! The flock has scattered! I cried out, "Wolf!" Why didn't you come?"

An old man tried to comfort the boy as they walked back to the village.

"We'll help you look for the lost sheep in the morning," he said, putting his arm around the youth, "Nobody believes a liar...even when he is telling the truth!"

ACTIVITY.

The African community is endowed with plenty of fables. Write down one fable story from you're your community/tribe.

b. Fairy tales

A fairy tale refers stories that typically feature entities such as dwarfs, dragons, elves, fairies, giants, mermaids, talking animals, unicorn, witches, and usually magic or enchantment.

Example of a fairy tale.

CINDERELLA.

ONCE UPON A TIME a girl named Cinderella lived with her stepmother and two stepsisters. Poor Cinderella had to work hard all day long so the others could rest. It was she who had to wake up each morning when it was still dark and cold to start the fire. It was she who cooked the meals. It was she who kept the fire going. The poor girl could not stay clean, from all the ashes and cinders by the fire.

“What a mess!” her two stepsisters laughed. And that is why they called her “Cinderella.”

One day, big news came to town. The King and Queen were going to have a ball! It was time for the Prince to find a bride. All of the young ladies in the land were invited to come. They were wild with joy! They would wear their most beautiful gown and fix their hair extra nice. Maybe the prince would like them!

At Cinderella’s house, she now had extra work to do. She had to make two brand-new gowns for her step-sisters.

“Faster!” shouted one step-sister.

“You call that a dress?” screamed the other.

“Oh, dear!” said Cinderella. “When can I—“

The stepmother marched into the room. “When can you WHAT?”

“Well,” said the girl, “when will I have time to make my own dress for the ball?”

“You?” yelled the stepmother. “Who said YOU were going to the ball?”

“What a laugh!” said one step-sister.

“Such a mess!” They pointed at Cinderella. All of them laughed.

Cinderella said to herself, “When they look at me, maybe they see a mess. But I am not that way. And if I could, I WOULD go to the ball.”

Soon the time came for the stepmother and step-sisters to leave for the big part

Their fine carriage came to the door. The stepmother and step-sisters hopped inside. And they were off.

“Good-bye!” called Cinderella. “Have a good time!” But her stepmother and step-sisters did not turn around to see her.

“Ah, me!” said Cinderella sadly. The carriage rode down the street. She said aloud, “I wish I could go to the ball, too!”

Then – Poof!

All of a sudden, in front of her was a fairy.

“You called?” said the fairy.

“Did I?” said Cinderella. “Who are you?”

“Why, your Fairy Godmother, of course! I know your wish. And I have come to grant it.”

“But...” said Cinderella, “my wish is impossible.”

“Excuse me!” said the Fairy Godmother in a huff. “Did I not just show up out of thin air?”

“Yes, you did,” said Cinderella.

“Then let me be the one to say what is possible or not!”

“Well, I think you know I want to go to the ball, too.” She looked down at her dirty clothes.

“But look at me.”

“You do look a bit of a mess, child,” said the Fairy Godmother.

“Even if I had something nice to wear,” said the girl, “I would have no way to get there.”

“Dear me, all of that is possible,” said the Fairy. With that, she tapped her wand on Cinderella’s head.

At once, Cinderella was all clean. She was dressed in a beautiful blue gown. Her hair was set up high on her head inside a golden band.

“This is wonderful!” said Cinderella.

“Who said I was done?” said the Fairy Godmother. She tapped her wand again. At once, a beautiful carriage came to be, with a driver and four white horses.

“Am I dreaming?” said Cinderella, looking around her.

“It is as real, as real can be,” said the Fairy Godmother. “But there is one thing you must know.”

“What is that?”

“All of this lasts only to midnight. Tonight, at the stroke of midnight, it will all be over. Everything will go back to how it was before.”

“Then I must be sure to leave the ball before midnight!” said Cinderella.

“Good idea,” said the Fairy Godmother. She stepped back. “My work is done.” And with that, the Fairy Godmother was gone.

Cinderella looked around her. “Did that even happen?” But there she stood in a fine gown, and with a golden band in her hair. And there were her driver and four horses before her, waiting.

“Coming?” called the driver.

She stepped into the carriage. And they were off.

Over at the ball, the Prince did not know what to think. “Why do you have that sad look on your face?” the Queen said to her son. “Look around you! You could not ask for finer maidens than these.”

“I know, Mother,” said the Prince. Yet he knew something was wrong. He had met many of the young women. Yet after he said “hello,” one by one, he could find nothing more to say.

“Look!” Someone pointed to the front door. “Who is that?”

All heads turned. Who was that lovely maiden stepping down the stairs? She held her head tall and looked as if she belonged. But no one knew her.

“There is something about her,” said the Prince to himself. “I will ask her to dance.” And he walked over to Cinderella.

“Have we met?” said the Prince.

“I am pleased to meet you now,” said Cinderella with a bow.

“I feel as if I know you,” said the Prince. “But of course, that is impossible.”

“Many things are possible,” said Cinderella, “if you wish them to be true.”

The Prince felt a leap in his heart. He and Cinderella danced. When the song was over, they danced again. And then they danced again, and yet again. Soon the other maidens at the ball grew jealous. “Why is he dancing all the time with her?” they said. “How rude!”

But all the Prince could see was Cinderella. They laughed and talked, and they danced some more. In fact, they danced for so long that Cinderella did not see the clock.

“Dong!” said the clock.

Cinderella looked up.

“Dong!” went the clock again.

She looked up again. “Oh, my!” she cried out. “It is almost midnight!”

“Dong!” rung the clock.

“Why does that matter?” said the Prince.

“Dong!” called the clock.

“I must go!” said Cinderella.

“Dong!” went the clock.

“But we just met!” said the Prince. “Why leave now?”

“Dong!” rung the clock.

“I must GO!” said Cinderella. She ran to the steps.

“Dong!” said the clock.

“I cannot hear you,” said the Prince. “The clock is too loud!”

“Dong!” rung the clock.

“Goodbye!” said Cinderella. Up, up the stairs she ran.

“Dong!” went the clock.

“Please, stop for a moment!” said the Prince.

“Oh, dear!” she said as one glass slipper fell off her foot on the stair. But Cinderella kept running up.

“Dong!” said the clock.

“Please wait a moment!” said the Prince.

“Dong!” rung the clock.

“Goodbye!” Cinderella turned one last time. Then she rushed out the door.

“Dong!” The clock was quiet. It was midnight.

“Wait!” called the Prince. He picked up her glass slipper and rushed out the door. He looked around but could not see her blue dress anywhere. “This is all I have left from her,” he said, looking down at the glass slipper. He saw that it was made in a special way, to fit a foot like none other. “Somewhere there is the other glass slipper,” he said. “And when I find it, I will find her, too. Then I will ask her to be my bride!”

From hut to hut, from house to house, went the Prince. One young woman after another tried to fit her foot inside the glass slipper. But none could fit. And so the Prince moved on.

At last the Prince came to Cinderella’s house.

“He is coming!” called one step-sister as she looked out the window.

“At the door!” screamed the other step-sister.

“Quick!” yelled the stepmother. “Get ready! One of you must be the one to fit your foot in that slipper. No matter what!”

The Prince knocked. The stepmother flew open the door. “Come in!” she said. “I have two lovely daughters for you to see.”

The first step-sister tried to place her foot in the glass slipper. She tried hard, but it just would not fit. Then the second step-sister tried to fit her foot inside. She tried and tried with all her might, too. But no dice.

“Are there no other young women in the house?” said the Prince.

“None,” said the stepmother.

“Then I must go,” said the Prince.

“Maybe there is one more,” said Cinderella, stepping into the room.

“I thought you said there were no other young women here,” said the Prince.

“None who matter!” said the stepmother in a hiss.

“Come here,” said the Prince.

Cinderella stepped up to him. The Prince got down on one knee and tried the glass slipper on her foot. It fit perfectly! Then, from her pocket Cinderella took out something. It was the other glass slipper!

“I knew it!” he cried. “You are the one!”

“WHAT?” shouted a step-sister.

“Not HER!” screamed the other step-sister.

“This cannot BE!” yelled the stepmother.

But it was too late. The prince knew that Cinderella was the one. He looked into her eyes. He did not see the cinders in her hair or the ashes on her face.

“I have found you!” he said.

“And I have found you,” said Cinderella.

And so Cinderella and the Prince were married, and they lived happily ever after.

c. Myths

These consist of narratives that play a fundamental role in a society such as foundational tales. The main characters in myths are usually gods, demigods or supernatural humans.

d. Legends

This is a genre of folklore that consists of a narrative featuring human action perceived or believed both by the story teller and listeners to have taken place within human history. They demonstrate human values, the events maybe possible and others may appear as miracles. Many legends operate within the realm of uncertainty, never being entirely believed by participants, but also never being resolutely doubted.

Sample story;

Kibuka omumbale.a "god of war"

Once upon a time, there lived a man called Kibuka Omumbale. Kibuka omumbale was mukasa's brother. Mukasa is the god of all lakes and waters in the world.

Buganda kingdom waged war of expansion on bunyoro kingdom. In this war king Nakibinge "ssekabaka Nakibinge" asked for help from mukasa the god of lakes. Mukasa asked his brother kibuka the god of war to fight for Buganda.

Kibuka stationed himself in a cloud and threw arrows to bunyoro fighter's. And they were defeated marking

Buganda victorious in the war against bunyoro. There were a number of captives or prisoners of war and a variety of things captured from bunyoro like royal regalia this earned Buganda wealth.

Kibuka omumbale' death

After the war, among the captives there was a gorgeous beautiful lady .kibuka admired the lady and fall in love within the lady this made kibuka to get the lady into his hut. The lady asked kibuka how he managed to win the war. He told him his hiding place in clouds. The lady linked

the information to bunyoro fighter's. In the next battle the bunyoro rised their bows and arrow to kibuka's cloud. Kibuka died at war.

e. Ogre stories.

These are stories that depict large, hideous, man-like beings that eat ordinary human beings, especially infants and children.

Once upon a time in the land of ogres there lived a boy called Mbui.

Mbui lived with his grandmother. The ogres had eaten up all the other human beings but spared the old woman since she fetched water and firewood for them.

The king of the ogres had vowed to one day eat up the little boy and this made the grandmother very worried.

"Make sure you never open the door for anyone when I am away," Mbui's grandmother warned him.

One afternoon, Mbui heard a knock on the door. "Mbui! This is your grandmother. Open the door!" a strange voice called.

Mbui shouted back: "Go away! My grandmother does not talk like you. You are the ogre and you want to eat me."

But the ogre burst out laughing.

"Just put your hand outside the window and touch me. You will feel it is your grandmother," he told Mbui.

Mbui put his hand out of the window and the ogre bit it off.

When grandmother came back in the evening, she found Mbui with only one hand. She reprimanded him for disobedience.

The following day, the ogre came back and called out: "Mbui, this is a friend of your grandmother's. Please open for me."

Mbui replied that he was afraid to open the door because an ogre had bitten off his hand.

"I'm sorry my boy. I can give you another hand. Just show me the size of your hand and I will give you one that fits," the ogre said.

Mbui put his hand through the window and the ogre bit it off.

Grandmother was very angry. She decided tie Mbui against the bed when she left.

The following day, the ogre came and in a sweet voice called out to Mbui.

"Mbui, this is a beautiful girl that has been sent by an angel to keep you company because you are lonely."

Mbui was excited and he wriggled out of the ropes that tied him. He passed his legs under the door so as to get out to the girl.

The ogre immediately bit off the legs and went away laughing loudly.

Today, Mbui is a grown man but he has no hands and legs because he refused to heed the advise of his grandmother.

This story is usually told to disobedient children.

Activity.

List down five moral lessons you have learnt from the story.

Activity of integration.

The stories which we have shared with the class can also be role played. In this way they turn into short plays or what is also known as drama in literature. In groups, look at the stories you shared and prepare to present as a short play or skit on the story.

PROVERBS.

A proverb is a simple, concrete, traditional saying that expresses a perceived truth based on common sense.

Many African proverbs are strongly tied to the earth and animals, conveying lessons of life and learning often through daily, seemingly menial, procedures. An example of a Zimbabwean proverb is “there is honey but no bees” — describing a situation when you find something free for the taking and without consequence.

Here’s a list of African proverbs from around the continent. Some are known to come from specific tribes, ethnic groups, or countries, and others have an unknown source and are listed simply as “African proverbs.” Have a read and pluck out some ancestral insight from the motherland to carry with you today.

1. A bird that flies off the earth and lands on an anthill is still on the ground. — Igbo proverb
2. He that beats the drum for the mad man to dance is no better than the mad man himself. — African proverb
3. Where water is the boss there the land must obey. — African proverb
4. No matter how beautiful and well crafted a coffin might look, it will not make anyone wish for death. — African proverb
5. When the shepherd comes home in peace, the milk is sweet. — Ethiopian proverb
6. A spider’s cobweb isn’t only its sleeping spring but also its food trap. — African proverb
7. If you do not have patience you cannot make beer. — Ovambo proverb

8. He who runs after good fortune runs away from peace. — African proverb
9. Teeth do not see poverty. — Masai proverb
10. You have little power over what's not yours. — Zimbabwean proverb
11. If you pick up one end of the stick you also pick up the other. — Ethiopian proverb
12. Better little than too little. — Cameroonian proverb
13. You must attend to your business with the vendor in the market, and not to the noise of the market. — Beninese proverb
14. When you befriend a chief remember that he sits on a rope. — Ugandan proverb
15. The night has ears. — Masai proverb
16. The child you sired hasn't sired you. — Somali proverb
17. A doctor who invoked a storm on his people cannot prevent his house from destruction. — Nigerian proverb
18. An intelligent enemy is better than a stupid friend. — Senegalese proverb
19. The young bird does not crow until it hears the old ones. — Tswana proverb
20. If you carry the egg basket do not dance. — Ambede proverb
21. The food which is prepared has no master. — Malagasy proverb
22. The worlds of the elders do not lock all the doors; they leave the right door open. — Zambian proverb
23. Even the best cooking pot will not produce food. — African proverb
24. The child of a rat is a rat. — Malagasy proverb
25. Where you will sit when you are old shows where you stood in youth. — Yoruba proverb

26. He who is unable to dance says that the yard is stony. — Masai proverb
27. You cannot name a child that is not born. — African proverb
28. Do a good deed and throw it into the sea. — Egyptian proverb
29. When the roots of a tree begin to decay, it spreads death to the branches. — Nigerian proverb
30. Slander by the stream will be heard by the frogs. — Mozambican proverb
31. A child is a child of everyone. — Sudanese proverb
32. Even the lion, the king of the forest, protects himself against flies. — Ghanaian proverb
33. Birds sing not because they have answers but because they have songs. — African proverb
34. If your only tool is a hammer, you will see every problem as a nail. — Gambian proverb
35. When you show the moon to a child, it sees only your finger. — Zambian proverb
36. It is crooked wood that shows the best sculptor. — African proverb

37. One who bathes willingly with cold water doesn't feel the cold. — Fipa proverb
38. Earth is the queen of beds. — Namibian proverb
39. Be a mountain or lean on one. — Somali proverb
40. A flea can trouble a lion more than a lion can trouble a flea. — Kenyan proverb
41. Wisdom is like a baobab tree; no one individual can embrace it. — Ewe proverb
42. The death of an elderly man is like a burning library. — Ivorian proverb
43. Anger and madness are brothers. — African proverb
44. Do not follow a person who is running away. — Kenyan proverb
45. An orphaned calf licks its own back. — Kenyan proverb

46. Even as the archer loves the arrow that flies, so too he loves the bow that remains constant in his hands. — Nigerian proverb

47. He who burns down his house knows why ashes cost a fortune. — African proverb

48. If you are building a house and a nail breaks, do you stop building or do you change the nail?
— Rwandan proverb

49. You cannot build a house for last year's summer. — Ethiopian proverb

50. We desire to bequeath two things to our children; the first one is roots, the other one is wings.
— Sudanese proverb

Activity.

1. “Among the Ibo the art of conversation is regarded very highly, and **proverbs** are the **palm-oil** with which words are eaten.” Chinua Achebe, *things fall apart*.

In African tradition, **proverbs** are highly used to pass words of wisdom, counsel and sometimes to pass warning to an intended audience or person. But...

- i. As a senior one student, what is a/are **proverb/s**?
- ii. Mention at least five importance of **proverbs** to you as a student.
- iii. African societies are endowed with a variety of proverbs, write down at least ten (10) **proverbs** from your community. Using your knowledge, explain the meaning of each of the **proverbs** mentioned.

2. Write down a collection of at least 30 proverbs from your community/tribe on any of the following themes.

- i. Work
- ii. Love and relationships
- iii. Morals

TONGUE TWISTERS

This is a phrase that is designed to be difficult to articulate properly and can be used as a type of spoken or sung word game. Some tongue twisters produce results that are humorous when they are mispronounced while others simply rely on the confusion and mistakes of the speaker for their amusement.

Tongue twisters are a great way to practice and improve pronunciation and fluency. They can also help to improve accents by using alliteration, which is the repetition of one sound. They're not just for kids, but are also used by actors, politicians, and public speakers who want to sound clear when speaking. Below, you will find some of the most popular English tongue twisters. Say them as quickly as you can. If you can master them, you will be a much more confident speaker.

5. Peter Piper picked a peck of pickled peppers
6. A peck of pickled peppers Peter Piper picked
7. If Peter Piper picked a peck of pickled peppers
8. Where's the peck of pickled peppers Peter Piper picked?
9. Betty Botter bought some butter
10. But she said the butter's bitter
11. If I put it in my batter, it will make my batter bitter
12. But a bit of better butter will make my batter better
13. So 'twas better Betty Botter bought a bit of better butter
14. How much wood would a woodchuck chuck if a woodchuck could chuck wood?
15. He would chuck, he would, as much as he could, and chuck as much wood
16. As a woodchuck would if a woodchuck could chuck wood
17. She sells seashells by the seashore
18. How can a clam cram in a clean cream can?
19. I scream, you scream, we all scream for ice cream

20. I saw Susie sitting in a shoeshine shop
21. Susie works in a shoeshine shop. Where she shines she sits, and where she sits she shines
22. Fuzzy Wuzzy was a bear. Fuzzy Wuzzy had no hair. Fuzzy Wuzzy wasn't fuzzy, was he?
23. Can you can a can as a canner can can a can?
24. I have got a date at a quarter to eight; I'll see you at the gate, so don't be late
25. You know New York, you need New York, you know you need unique New York
26. I saw a kitten eating chicken in the kitchen
27. If a dog chews shoes, whose shoes does he choose?
28. I thought I thought of thinking of thanking you
29. I wish to wash my Irish wristwatch
30. Near an ear, a nearer ear, a nearly eerie ear
31. Eddie edited it
32. Willie's really weary
33. A big black bear sat on a big black rug
34. Tom threw Tim three thumbtacks
35. He threw three free throws
36. Nine nice night nurses nursing nicely
37. So, this is the sushi chef
38. Four fine fresh fish for you
39. Wayne went to wales to watch walruses
40. Six sticky skeletons (x3)
41. Which witch is which? (x3)
42. Snap crackle pop (x3)
43. Flash message (x3)
44. Red Buick, blue Buick (x3)
45. Red lorry, yellow lorry (x3)
46. Thin sticks, thick bricks (x3)
47. Stupid superstition (x3)
48. Eleven benevolent elephants (x3)
49. Two tried and true tridents (x3)
50. Rolling red wagons (x3)

51. Black back bat (x3)
52. She sees cheese (x3)
53. Truly rural (x3)
54. Good blood, bad blood (x3)
55. Pre-shrunk silk shirts (x3)
56. Ed had edited it. (x3)
57. We surely shall see the sun shine soon
58. Which wristwatches are Swiss wristwatches?
59. Fred fed Ted bread, and Ted fed Fred bread
60. I slit the sheet, the sheet I slit, and on the slitted sheet I sit
61. A skunk sat on a stump and thunk the stump stunk, but the stump thunk the skunk stunk
62. Lesser leather never weathered wetter weather better
63. Of all the vids I've ever viewed, I've never viewed a vid as valued as Alex's engVid vid

Activity.

How are tongue twisters important to a senior one student? Using PowerPoint presentation, present your answers to the class.

RIDDLES.

Is a statement or question or phrase having a double or veiled meaning, put forth as a puzzle to be solved. Examples of riddles include; below is a list of 100 riddles... list those ones that you know.

1. Riddle: What has to be broken before you can use it?

Answer: An egg

2. Riddle: I'm tall when I'm young, and I'm short when I'm old. What am I?

Answer: A candle

3. Riddle: What month of the year has 28 days?

Answer: All of them

4. Riddle: What is full of holes but still holds water?

Answer: A sponge

5. Riddle: What question can you never answer yes to?

Answer: Are you asleep yet?

6. Riddle: What is always in front of you but can't be seen?

Answer: The future

7. Riddle: There's a one-story house in which everything is yellow. Yellow walls, yellow doors, yellow furniture. What color are the stairs?

Answer: There aren't any—it's a one-story house.

8. Riddle. What can you break, even if you never pick it up or touch it?

Answer: A promise

9. Riddle: What goes up but never comes down?

Answer: Your age

10. Riddle: A man who was outside in the rain without an umbrella or hat didn't get a single hair on his head wet. Why?

Answer: He was bald.

11. Riddle: What gets wet while drying?

Answer: A towel

12. Riddle: What can you keep after giving to someone?

Answer: Your word

13. Riddle: I shave every day, but my beard stays the same. What am I?

Answer: A barber

14. Riddle: You see a boat filled with people, yet there isn't a single person on board. How is that possible?

Answer: All the people on the boat are married.

15. Riddle: You walk into a room that contains a match, a kerosene lamp, a candle and a fireplace. What would you light first?

Answer: The match

16. Riddle: A man dies of old age on his 25 birthday. How is this possible?

Answer: He was born on February 29.

17. Riddle: I have branches, but no fruit, trunk or leaves. What am I?

Answer: A bank

18. Riddle: What can't talk but will reply when spoken to?

Answer: An echo

19. Riddle: The more of this there is, the less you see. What is it?

Answer: Darkness

Riddles for Kids

20. Riddle: David's parents have three sons: Snap, Crackle, and what's the name of the third son?

Answer: David

21. Riddle: I follow you all the time and copy your every move, but you can't touch me or catch me. What am I?

Answer: Your shadow

22. Riddle: What has many keys but can't open a single lock?

Answer: A piano

23. Riddle: What can you hold in your left hand but not in your right?

Answer: Your right elbow

24. Riddle: What is black when it's clean and white when it's dirty?

Answer: A chalkboard

25. Riddle: What gets bigger when more is taken away?

Answer: A hole

26. Riddle: I'm light as a feather, yet the strongest person can't hold me for five minutes. What am I?

Answer: Your breath

27. Riddle: I'm found in socks, scarves and mittens; and often in the paws of playful kittens. What am I?

Answer: Yarn

28. Riddle: Where does today come before yesterday?

Answer: The dictionary

29. Riddle: What invention lets you look right through a wall?

Answer: A window

30. Riddle: If you've got me, you want to share me; if you share me, you haven't kept me. What am I?

Answer: A secret

31. Riddle: What can't be put in a saucepan?

Answer: It's lid

32. Riddle: What goes up and down but doesn't move?

Answer: A staircase

33. Riddle: If you're running in a race and you pass the person in second place, what place are you in?

Answer: Second place

34. Riddle: It belongs to you, but other people use it more than you do. What is it?

Answer: Your name

35. Riddle: What has lots of eyes, but can't see?

Answer: A potato

36. Riddle: What has one eye, but can't see?

Answer: A needle

37. Riddle: What has many needles, but doesn't sew?

Answer: A Christmas tree

38. Riddle: What has hands, but can't clap?

Answer: A clock

39. Riddle: What has legs, but doesn't walk?

Answer: A table

40. Riddle: What has one head, one foot and four legs?

Answer: A bed

41. Riddle: What can you catch, but not throw?

Answer: A cold

42. Riddle: What kind of band never plays music?

Answer: A rubber band

43. Riddle: What has many teeth, but can't bite?

Answer: A comb

44. Riddle: What is cut on a table, but is never eaten?

Answer: A deck of cards

45. Riddle: What has words, but never speaks?

Answer: A book

46. Riddle: What runs all around a backyard, yet never moves?

Answer: A fence

47. Riddle: What can travel all around the world without leaving its corner?

Answer: A stamp

48. Riddle: What has a thumb and four fingers, but is not a hand?

Answer: A glove

49. Riddle: What has a head and a tail but no body?

Answer: A coin

50. Riddle: Where does one wall meet the other wall?

Answer: On the corner

51. Riddle: What building has the most stories?

Answer: The library

52. Riddle: What tastes better than it smells?

Answer: Your tongue

53. Riddle: What has 13 hearts, but no other organs?

Answer: A deck of cards

54. Riddle: It stalks the countryside with ears that can't hear. What is it?

Answer: Corn

55. Riddle: What kind of coat is best put on wet?

Answer: A coat of paint

56. Riddle: What has a bottom at the top?

Answer: Your legs

57. Riddle: What has four wheels and flies?

Answer: A garbage truck

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Math Riddles

58. Riddle: I am an odd number. Take away a letter and I become even. What number am I?

Answer: Seven

59. Riddle: If two's company, and three's a crowd, what are four and five?

Answer: Nine

60. Riddle: What three numbers, none of which is zero, give the same result whether they're added or multiplied?

Answer: One, two and three

61. Riddle: Mary has four daughters, and each of her daughters has a brother. How many children does Mary have?

Answer: Five—each daughter has the same brother.

62. Riddle: Which is heavier: a ton of bricks or a ton of feathers?

Answer: Neither—they both weigh a ton.

63. Riddle: Three doctors said that Bill was their brother. Bill says he has no brothers. How many brothers does Bill actually have?

Answer: None. He has three sisters.

64. Riddle: Two fathers and two sons are in a car, yet there are only three people in the car. How?

Answer: They are a grandfather, father and son.

65. Riddle: The day before yesterday I was 21, and next year I will be 24. When is my birthday?

Answer: December 31; today is January 1.

66. Riddle: A little girl goes to the store and buys one dozen eggs. As she is going home, all but three break. How many eggs are left unbroken?

Answer: Three

67. Riddle: A man describes his daughters, saying, "They are all blonde, but two; all brunette but two; and all redheaded but two." How many daughters does he have?

Answer: Three: A blonde, a brunette and a redhead

68. Riddle: If there are three apples and you take away two, how many apples do you have?

Answer: You have two apples.

69. Riddle: A girl has as many brothers as sisters, but each brother has only half as many brothers as sisters. How many brothers and sisters are there in the family?

Answer: Four sisters and three brothers

70. Riddle: What five-letter word becomes shorter when you add two letters to it?

Answer: Short

71. Riddle: What begins with an “e” and only contains one letter?

Answer: An envelope

72. Riddle: A word I know, six letters it contains, remove one letter and 12 remains. What is it?

Answer: Dozens

73. Riddle: What would you find in the middle of Toronto?

Answer: The letter “o”

74. Riddle: You see me once in June, twice in November and not at all in May. What am I?

Answer: The letter “e”

75. Riddle: Two in a corner, one in a room, zero in a house, but one in a shelter. What is it?

Answer: The letter “r”

76. Riddle: I am the beginning of everything, the end of everywhere. I’m the beginning of eternity, the end of time and space. What am I?

Answer: Also the letter “e”

77. Riddle: What 4-letter word can be written forward, backward or upside down, and can still be read from left to right?

Answer: NOON

78. Riddle: Forward I am heavy, but backward I am not. What am I?

Answer: The word “not”

79. Riddle: What is 3/7 chicken, 2/3 cat and 2/4 goat?

Answer: Chicago

80. Riddle: I am a word of letters three; add two and fewer there will be. What word am I?

Answer: Few

81. Riddle: What word of five letters has one left when two are removed?

Answer: Stone

82. Riddle: What is the end of everything?

Answer: The letter “g”

83. Riddle: What word is pronounced the same if you take away four of its five letters?

Answer: Queue

84. Riddle: I am a word that begins with the letter “i.” If you add the letter “a” to me, I become a new word with a different meaning, but that sounds exactly the same. What word am I?

Answer: Isle (add “a” to make “aisle”)

85. Riddle: What word in the English language does the following: The first two letters signify a male, the first three letters signify a female, the first four letters signify a great, while the entire word signifies a great woman. What is the word?

Answer: Heroine

Really Hard Riddles

86. Riddle: What is so fragile that saying its name breaks it?

Answer: Silence.

87. Riddle: What can run but never walks, has a mouth but never talks, has a head but never weeps, has a bed but never sleeps?

Answer: A river

88. Riddle: Speaking of rivers, a man calls his dog from the opposite side of the river. The dog crosses the river without getting wet, and without using a bridge or boat. How?

Answer: The river was frozen.

89. Riddle: What can fill a room but takes up no space?

Answer: Light

90. Riddle: If you drop me I'm sure to crack, but give me a smile and I'll always smile back.
What am I?

Answer: A mirror

91. Riddle: The more you take, the more you leave behind. What are they?

Answer: Footsteps

92. Riddle: I turn once, what is out will not get in. I turn again, what is in will not get out. What am I?

Answer: A key

93. Riddle: People make me, save me, change me, raise me. What am I?

Answer: Money

94. Riddle: What breaks yet never falls, and what falls yet never breaks?

Answer: Day, and night

95. Riddle: What goes through cities and fields, but never moves?

Answer: A road

96. Riddle: I am always hungry and will die if not fed, but whatever I touch will soon turn red.

What am I?

Answer: Fire

97. Riddle: The person who makes it has no need of it; the person who buys it has no use for it.

The person who uses it can neither see nor feel it. What is it?

Answer: A coffin

98. Riddle: A man looks at a painting in a museum and says, "Brothers and sisters I have none, but that man's father is my father's son." Who is in the painting?

Answer: The man's son

99. Riddle: With pointed fangs I sit and wait; with piercing force I crunch out fate; grabbing victims, proclaiming might; physically joining with a single bite. What am I?

Answer: A stapler

100. Riddle: I have lakes with no water, mountains with no stone and cities with no buildings.

What am I?

Answer: A map

101. Riddle: What does man love more than life, hate more than death or mortal strife; that which contented men desire; the poor have, the rich require; the miser spends, the spendthrift saves, and all men carry to their graves?

Answer: Nothing

Activity.

1. *Prepare a power point presentation of six slides explaining the importance of studying oral literature.*
2. *Write down a story, in it include ten proverbs.*
3. *Hold a story session with your friends or family from which you should tell one fable in your native language*

POETRY

1. Using the internet, define what poetry is.
2. Write notes on the different types and forms of poetry
3. Compose a poem of not less than twenty lines on the topic education.
4. Using the poem you have composed in 6 above, shot a three minutes video, reciting the poem you have written.

Read the poem below carefully.

Food! Food!
Life is about you
We toil so as to put you on our tables
We work hard because of you

Food! Food!
We can never have enough of you
Even after a heavy meal
We are soon in need of you!

Food! Food!
We need you from the time we are born
We need you even when we are about to die

Kutesakwe Miriam.

The separate parts of a poem are called stanzas instead of paragraphs. This poem has got 3 stanzas. Look at any poems either in the library or those that you have read before. They all have stanzas. Some have got only one stanza while others have more than one. This is one of the features of a poem and it makes poems different from plays or stories.

Activity.

Using the above poem, answer the following questions.

5. What is this poem about?
6. What are the other features of this poem?
7. Give a suitable title for this poem.

Share with your partners how different poems are from stories. You could use a table like the one below to give three differences. An example has been given to you.

Poetry	Story
• Short sentences	• Long sentences
• Has got rhymes	• Has no rhymes
•	•
•	•
•	•

Below are two poems. Read them carefully and make a comparison between them.

- a. What is similar between them?
- b. What is different?

Children at work.

Children at work

To be filled with luck

If you don't work

What to eat you will luck

Happy are those who are hard at work

If you don't work the future will be dark

So don't tire of doing some work

For life will be hard if you do not work.

Kutesakwe Miriam

The song of the engine

With a snort and pant the engine
Dragged
Its heavy train uphill,
And puffed these words the while she
Puffed
And labored with a will:

‘I think- I can – I think – I can,
I’ve got – to reach – the top
I’m sure – I can – I will – get the re
I simply must not stop

And last the top was reached and passed,
And then how changed the song!
The wheels all joined in the engine’s joy
As quickly she tore along!

‘I knew I could do it, I knew I could win,
O rickety, rack!
And now from a roaring rushing race
On my smooth and shinning track!

E Worsely Benson

Activity.

Using the internet or books in the library, read and choose poems written by the western world and those written in Africa. After reading the poems in groups identify;

1. The main ideas which are called themes, in the poems you have read.
2. The way in which the poems are written.
3. The main difference between the poems written by Africans and those written by non- Africans.

Read the poem below aloud.

Life in our village

In our little village
When elders are around
Boys must not look at girls
And girls must not look at boys.
Because the elders say
That is not good.

Even when night comes
Boys must play separately.
Girls must play separately,
But humanity is weak
So boys and girls meet.

The boys play hide and seek
And girls play hide and seek
The boys know where the girls hide
And the girls know where the boys hide
So in their hide and seek,
Boys seek girls,
And each to each sing
Songs of love.

Markwei Martie, Ghana.

1. Discuss with your partner the differences between a poem, story and a play. Write those differences and share them with another pair.
2. Write a poem of your own in your exercise book, about either urban or rural life.

A POEM ABOUT THE SCHOOL.

Literature introduces you to the different ways in which we can write. We have seen that you may use drama as in the role plays that we have used this year; we could have stories and poems.

The way we decide d to write is determined by what the message is and who it is meant for.

Here is a poem that you should read aloud to get the rhythm and the message. A poem has got verses instead of paragraphs and in each stanza there are lines instead of sentences. Sometimes the lines are not written in correct grammar but they still make meaning. After reading, answer the questions that follow.

First day at school

A million billion willion miles from home

Waiting for the bell to go.

Why are they all so big, other children?

So noisy? So much at home they

Must have been born in uniform.

Lived all their lives in play grounds.

Spent the years inventing games

That don't let me in. games

That are rough, that swallow you up.

(First verse of poem by Roger Mcgough)

Questions.

1. How many verses does this poem have?
2. How many lines does the poem have?
3. Which words in the poem rhyme?
4. Which words do you think are made up by the poet?
5. In one sentences say what you think the poem is about.

DRAMA.

In this chapter, you are going to be introduced to drama or plays in literature. What do you know about drama? Using drama books in the library, read them carefully identify and define the following features which are connected to plays.

- a. Stage directions
- b. Characters

- c. Dialogue
- d. Monologue
- e. Themes
- f. plot