

B. A.- III
Semester- V
INTRODUCTION TO LITERARY CRITICISM-I
(MM-08: Major Mandatory)

Syllabus & Question Paper Pattern

- **Course Category:** Major Mandatory
- **Course Code:** BAU0325MML403E08
- **Credits:** 04
- **Total Marks:** 100 (Semester End: 80, Internal Assessment: 20)
- **Core Focus:** This is a theoretical paper introducing students to the principles of literary criticism. It covers the nature and function of criticism, classical criticism (Aristotle's Theory of Imitation and Ideal Tragic Hero), and key literary terms (Irony, Satire, Humour, Paradox). The practical skill developed is writing a critical appreciation of an unseen poem.
- **Module Details:**
 - **Module 1:** An Introduction to Literary Criticism (Nature & Function of Criticism)
 - **Module 2:** Classical Criticism (Theory of Imitation, Ideal Tragic Hero)
 - **Module 3:** Literary Terms (Irony, Satire, Humour, Paradox)
 - **Module 4:** Critical Appreciation of an Unseen Poem

Question Paper Pattern (from June 2026 Onwards):

- Q.1 A:** Multiple Choice Questions (10) covering Modules I to IV – (10 Marks)
- Q.1 B:** Answer in one word/phrase/sentence (5 out of 7) covering Modules I to IV – (10 Marks)
- Q.2:** Answer in about 250-300 words (A or B) on Module I – (15 Marks)
- Q.3:** Answer in about 250-300 words (A or B) on Module II – (15 Marks)
- Q.4:** Write short notes (Any 3 out of 5) on Module III – (15 Marks)
- Q.5:** Write a Critical Appreciation of an unseen poem (Module IV) – (15 Marks)

Module I

AN INTRODUCTION TO LITERARY CRITICISM

WHAT IS LITERARY CRITICISM?

Definition:

- Literary criticism is the **study and evaluation** of literature.
- It is the **interpretation** of literary works.
- It helps us **understand** and **appreciate** literature better.
- The word "criticism" comes from Greek word "**kritikos**".
- It means "**one who judges**" or "**one who discerns**".

Simple Meaning:

- It is the **art of judging** literature.
 - It is the **analysis** of literary texts.
 - It involves **reading, thinking, and responding** to literature.
 - It tells us **why** a work is good or bad.
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IMPORTANCE OF LITERARY CRITICISM

1. It Helps Us Understand Literature

- Criticism explains **hidden meanings**.
- It reveals the **deeper layers** of a text.
- It helps us **understand** complex ideas.

2. It Guides Our Reading

- Criticism **directs** our attention.
- It points out **important** aspects.

- It helps us **focus** on key elements.

3. It Evaluates Literary Works

- Criticism **judges** the quality of a work.
- It decides what is **good** and what is **bad**.
- It helps us **appreciate** great literature.

4. It Connects Literature to Life

- Criticism links literature to **society**.
- It shows the **relevance** of literature.
- It helps us see literature in **context**.

5. It Creates a Dialogue

- Critics **share** their views.
- They **argue** and **debate**.
- This creates a **living tradition** of discussion.

6. It Helps Writers Improve

- Writers learn from **criticism**.
- They improve their **craft**.
- They understand their **strengths** and **weaknesses**.

NATURE OF LITERARY CRITICISM

1. Critical Activity is an Art and a Science

As an Art:

- Criticism requires **creativity** and **insight**.
- It is **subjective** and **personal**.
- The critic uses **imagination** and **intuition**.
- The critic's **vision** shapes the interpretation.

As a Science:

- Criticism uses **methods** and **principles**.
 - It is **systematic** and **organized**.
 - The critic uses **tools** of analysis.
 - It follows **rules** of interpretation.
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2. Criticism is Interpretive

- Criticism **interprets** literary texts.
 - It explains the **meaning** of a work.
 - It reveals **themes** and **symbols**.
 - It translates the text for the **reader**.
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3. Criticism is Evaluative

- Criticism **judges** literary works.
 - It decides if a work is **good** or **bad**.
 - It uses **standards** of excellence.
 - It provides a **reasoned** judgment.
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4. Criticism is Analytical

- Criticism **breaks down** literary works.
 - It studies the **parts** of a work.
 - It examines **structure**, **style**, and **content**.
 - It looks at **language**, **imagery**, and **form**.
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5. Criticism is Historical

- Criticism looks at the **historical context**.

- It studies the writer's **age** and **society**.
 - It considers the **influences** on the writer.
 - It examines how the work fits its **period**.
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6. Criticism is Comparative

- Criticism **compares** different works.
 - It compares **authors** and **periods**.
 - It finds **similarities** and **differences**.
 - It places a work in a **larger context**.
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7. Criticism is Theoretical

- Criticism uses **theories** to explain works.
 - It applies **concepts** and **frameworks**.
 - It builds **systems** of interpretation.
 - It creates **methods** of reading.
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FUNCTIONS OF LITERARY CRITICISM

1. Interpretive Function

- Criticism **interprets** literary works.
- It explains the **meaning** of a text.
- It reveals the **author's intention**.
- It clarifies **confusing** or **complex** passages.

Examples:

- Explaining what a **symbol** means.
- Interpreting a **theme** in a novel.

- Clarifying a **difficult** poem.
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2. Evaluative Function

- Criticism **judges** the quality of literature.
- It separates **good** from **bad**.
- It decides what is **great** literature.
- It creates a **canon** of classics.

Standards of Evaluation:

- **Originality** - Is it new and fresh?
 - **Sincerity** - Is it honest and genuine?
 - **Power** - Does it move the reader?
 - **Beauty** - Is it well-crafted?
 - **Truth** - Does it reveal truth?
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3. Explanatory Function

- Criticism **explains** why a work is good.
 - It provides **reasons** for judgment.
 - It supports its claims with **evidence**.
 - It makes the reader **understand** the quality.
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4. Educational Function

- Criticism **teaches** readers.
 - It helps them **appreciate** literature.
 - It trains them to **read** carefully.
 - It develops their **critical thinking**.
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5. Cultural Function

- Criticism **preserves** literary heritage.
 - It connects literature to **culture**.
 - It shows the **values** of a society.
 - It reveals the **spirit** of an age.
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6. Corrective Function

- Criticism **corrects** wrong interpretations.
 - It points out **errors** in reading.
 - It challenges **bad** criticism.
 - It refines our **understanding**.
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7. Creative Function

- Criticism **inspires** new creations.
 - It sparks **imagination**.
 - It encourages **experimentation**.
 - It pushes the boundaries of **literature**.
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TYPES OF LITERARY CRITICISM

1. Theoretical Criticism

- It builds **theories** about literature.
 - It asks: "**What is literature?**"
 - It defines **principles** of interpretation.
 - It creates **methods** of analysis.
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2. Practical Criticism

- It **applies** theories to specific works.
 - It **analyzes** individual texts.
 - It **interprets** and **evaluates** works.
 - It is also called **applied criticism**.
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3. Historical Criticism

- It studies the **historical background**.
 - It looks at the **author's life** and **times**.
 - It examines **sources** and **influences**.
 - It places the work in **historical context**.
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4. Biographical Criticism

- It studies the **author's life**.
 - It connects the work to the **author's experience**.
 - It uses **biography** to explain the text.
 - It assumes the work is **autobiographical**.
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5. Sociological Criticism

- It examines the **social context**.
 - It looks at the **society** in the work.
 - It studies **class**, **gender**, and **race**.
 - It connects literature to **social issues**.
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6. Psychological Criticism

- It uses **psychology** to analyze works.

- It studies the **characters' minds**.
 - It explores the **author's psychology**.
 - It uses theories of **Freud** and **Jung**.
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7. Formalist Criticism

- It focuses on the **form** of the work.
 - It studies **language, structure, and style**.
 - It ignores the **author** and **context**.
 - It looks at the work **alone**.
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WHO IS A CRITIC?

Definition:

- A critic is a person who **judges** literature.
 - He or she **analyzes** and **evaluates** literary works.
 - The critic is a **specialist** in literature.
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Qualities of a Good Critic:

1. Knowledgeable

- The critic knows literature **well**.
- He or she has read **widely**.
- The critic understands **different periods**.

2. Sensitive

- The critic has **sensitivity** to beauty.
- He or she responds to **emotion**.
- The critic appreciates **art**.

3. Impartial

- The critic is **fair** and **just**.
- He or she does not have **bias**.
- The critic judges **objectively**.

4. **Clear Thinker**

- The critic thinks **logically**.
- He or she analyzes **carefully**.
- The critic is **precise**.

5. **Good Writer**

- The critic writes **clearly**.
- He or she uses **effective** language.
- The critic persuades the **reader**.

6. **Moral Sense**

- The critic has **values**.
- He or she judges **morally**.
- The critic sees the **good** in art.

7. **Open-Minded**

- The critic is **flexible**.
- He or she can appreciate **different** views.
- The critic is not **dogmatic**.

IMPORTANT TERMS

Term	Meaning
Critic	A person who judges literature.
Criticism	The act of judging literature.

Term	Meaning
Aesthetics	The study of beauty in art.
Canon	A list of great literary works.
Judgment	The decision about quality.
Interpretation	The explanation of meaning.
Analysis	The breaking down of a work.
Evaluation	The assessment of worth.
Theory	A system of ideas about literature.
Method	A way of analyzing literature.

LITERARY CRITICISM VS LITERARY THEORY

Literary Criticism	Literary Theory
Focuses on specific works .	Focuses on general principles .
Interprets and evaluates texts.	Explains and defines concepts.
Practical application.	Abstract reasoning.
Asks: "Is this work good?"	Asks: "What is literature?"
Examples: Dr. Johnson's criticism.	Examples: Aristotle's Poetics.

IMPORTANT CRITICS TO KNOW

Classical Critics:

- **Aristotle** - Greek philosopher, wrote "Poetics".
 - **Plato** - Greek philosopher, criticized poetry.
 - **Horace** - Roman poet, wrote "Ars Poetica".
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Renaissance Critics:

- **Sir Philip Sidney** - Defended poetry.
 - **Ben Jonson** - English playwright, wrote criticism.
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Neo-Classical Critics:

- **John Dryden** - English poet, wrote "Essay of Dramatic Poesy".
 - **Alexander Pope** - English poet, wrote "An Essay on Criticism".
 - **Dr. Samuel Johnson** - Wrote "Lives of the Poets".
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Romantic Critics:

- **William Wordsworth** - Wrote "Preface to Lyrical Ballads".
 - **Samuel Taylor Coleridge** - Wrote "Biographia Literaria".
 - **Percy Bysshe Shelley** - Wrote "A Defence of Poetry".
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Modern Critics:

- **Matthew Arnold** - Wrote "The Function of Criticism".
 - **T.S. Eliot** - Wrote "Tradition and Individual Talent".
 - **I.A. Richards** - Wrote "Principles of Literary Criticism".
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QUICK REVISION POINTS

- ✓ Literary criticism is the **study and evaluation** of literature.
- ✓ It helps us **understand, interpret, and appreciate** literary works.
- ✓ Criticism is both an **art** and a **science**.
- ✓ The nature of criticism is **interpretive, evaluative, analytical, and historical**.
- ✓ Criticism has **seven key functions**:
 - Interpretive
 - Evaluative
 - Explanatory
 - Educational
 - Cultural
 - Corrective
 - Creative
- ✓ Criticism can be **theoretical** or **practical**.
- ✓ **Historical criticism** looks at the author's time.
- ✓ **Biographical criticism** looks at the author's life.
- ✓ **Sociological criticism** looks at society.
- ✓ **Psychological criticism** uses psychology.
- ✓ **Formalist criticism** focuses on the text alone.
- ✓ A good critic is **knowledgeable, sensitive, impartial, and clear-thinking**.
- ✓ Literary criticism is the **judgment** of literature.
- ✓ Literary theory is the **philosophy** of literature.
- ✓ Aristotle is the **father** of literary criticism.

- ✓ Matthew Arnold said criticism should be "**disinterested**" (fair and impartial).
- ✓ The word "criticism" comes from Greek "**kritikos**" meaning "one who discerns".
- ✓ **Good criticism** illuminates the text.
- ✓ **Bad criticism** imposes the critic's own biases.
- ✓ Criticism is essential for the **understanding** of literature.

MODULE II

(MM-08: Major Mandatory)

CLASSICAL CRITICISM

WHAT IS CLASSICAL CRITICISM?

Definition:

- Classical criticism is the **earliest form** of literary criticism.
- It comes from **Ancient Greece** and **Rome**.
- It was developed by great thinkers like **Aristotle** and **Plato**.
- It asks: "**What is good literature?**"
- It sets **standards** for judging literature.

Importance:

- It is the **foundation** of all literary criticism.
- It created the **first theories** of literature.
- It defined **genres** like tragedy and comedy.
- It influenced **centuries** of writers and critics.

ARISTOTLE (384-322 BC)

About Aristotle:

- He was a **Greek philosopher**.
- He was a student of **Plato**.
- He was the teacher of **Alexander the Great**.
- He wrote about **science, politics, and literature**.
- He is the **father of literary criticism**.

His Major Work:

- He wrote "**Poetics**".
- It is the **first systematic** work on literature.

- It defines the **principles** of poetry and drama.
 - It is the **most important** work on tragedy.
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THEORY OF IMITATION (MIMESIS)

What is Imitation?

- Imitation means "**mimesis**" in Greek.
 - It means **copying** or **representing**.
 - Literature **imitates** life and nature.
 - Poets **mirror** the real world.
 - Aristotle believed all art is **imitation**.
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Aristotle's View vs Plato's View:

Plato's View

Art is a **copy** of a copy.

Art is **unreal** and **deceptive**.

Poets should be **banished**.

Imitation is **bad**.

Poetry is **harmful** to society.

Aristotle's View

Art is a **representation** of reality.

Art is **real** and **truthful**.

Poets should be **honored**.

Imitation is **good** and **natural**.

Poetry is **useful** to society.

Key Points of Aristotle's Theory:

1. Art is a Form of Knowledge

- Poetry teaches us about **life**.

- It shows us **universal truths**.
- It reveals the **essence** of human nature.
- It is more **philosophical** than history.

2. Imitation is Natural

- Humans have a **natural instinct** to imitate.
- We learn through **imitation**.
- We enjoy watching **imitations**.
- Imitation brings **pleasure**.

3. Imitation Creates Pleasure

- We enjoy seeing **representations**.
- Even painful things are **pleasing** in art.
- We learn and enjoy at the **same time**.
- Art provides **intellectual** pleasure.

4. Imitation is Selective

- Poets do not copy **everything**.
- They choose the **best** parts.
- They create a **better** version of reality.
- They show the **ideal** world.

5. Poetry is More Important Than History

- History tells us **what happened**.
- Poetry tells us **what could happen**.
- Poetry deals with **universal truths**.
- History deals with **particular facts**.

THEORY OF TRAGEDY

Definition of Tragedy (Aristotle's Definition):

- Tragedy is an **imitation** of a serious action.
 - It is **complete** and **whole**.
 - It has a certain **length**.
 - It uses **language** with rhythm and song.
 - It uses **action** not narrative.
 - It evokes **pity and fear**.
 - It provides **catharsis** (emotional purification).
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Six Parts of Tragedy:

Parts	Meaning
1. Plot	The sequence of events. The most important part.
2. Character	The people in the play.
3. Thought	The ideas and themes.
4. Diction	The language and words.
5. Song/Music	The musical elements.
6. Spectacle	The visual elements.

1. Plot (Most Important):

- Plot is the **soul** of tragedy.
- It is the **arrangement** of events.
- It must have a **beginning, middle, and end**.

- Events must be **logically connected**.

Unity of Plot:

- A good plot must have **unity**.
- All events must be **related**.
- Nothing should be **unnecessary**.
- The plot must be **complete** and **whole**.

Parts of a Good Plot:

- **Peripeteia** - Reversal of fortune.
 - **Anagnorisis** - Recognition of truth.
 - **Pathos** - Suffering and pain.
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2. Character:

- Characters should be **good**.
 - They should be **appropriate** to their role.
 - They should be **consistent**.
 - They should be **true to life**.
 - The **tragic hero** should be noble.
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3. Thought:

- Thought is the **intellectual** content.
 - It is the **ideas** in the play.
 - It shows the **themes** and **arguments**.
 - It reveals the characters' **philosophy**.
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4. Diction:

- Diction is the **language** of the play.

- It includes **word choice**.
 - It includes **rhythm** and **sound**.
 - It should be **appropriate** to the characters.
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5. Song/Music:

- Music adds **emotion** to tragedy.
 - It includes **chorus** songs.
 - It enhances the **mood**.
 - It provides **relief** and **emphasis**.
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6. Spectacle:

- Spectacle is the **visual** element.
 - It includes **scenery** and **costumes**.
 - It includes **acting** and **gestures**.
 - It is the **least important** part.
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THE IDEAL TRAGIC HERO

Characteristics of the Ideal Tragic Hero:

1. Noble Birth

- The hero is of **high status**.
- He is a king, prince, or nobleman.
- His fall is **great and dramatic**.
- His suffering is **significant**.

2. Hamartia (Tragic Flaw)

- The hero has a **tragic error**.

- It is a **mistake** or **weakness**.
- It leads to his **downfall**.
- It is not pure **evil**.

3. Goodness

- The hero is **basically good**.
- He is not perfect, but **virtuous**.
- His misfortune is **undeserved**.
- He makes us feel **pity**.

4. Peripeteia (Reversal of Fortune)

- The hero's fortune **changes**.
- He falls from **happiness** to **misery**.
- This reversal is **unexpected**.
- It creates **shock** and **fear**.

5. Anagnorisis (Recognition)

- The hero **realizes** his mistake.
- He sees the **truth** clearly.
- This recognition is **painful**.
- It leads to his **downfall**.

6. Suffering

- The hero **suffers** greatly.
- He undergoes **pain** and **loss**.
- His suffering is **profound**.
- It evokes **catharsis**.

7. Catharsis

- The audience feels **pity and fear**.
- These emotions are **purified**.

- The audience leaves **relieved**.
- This is emotional **release**.

THREE UNITIES (UNITES OF DRAMA)

Unity	Meaning	Time Limit
Unity of Action	One main plot. No subplots.	-
Unity of Time	The action takes place in one day.	24 hours
Unity of Place	The action takes place in one location.	-

1. Unity of Action:

- The play must have **one plot**.
- There should be **no subplots**.
- All events must be **connected**.
- This creates **focus** and **intensity**.

2. Unity of Time:

- The action should take **one day**.
- It should not stretch over **long periods**.
- This creates **immediacy**.
- It makes the play more **realistic**.

3. Unity of Place:

- The action should be in **one place**.
- It should not move to **different locations**.

- This creates **concentration**.
 - It helps the audience **follow** the action.
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IMPORTANT CONCEPTS

1. Catharsis:

- It means **emotional purification**.
 - Tragedy purifies **pity and fear**.
 - The audience feels **relief** after watching.
 - It is the **final effect** of tragedy.
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2. Hamartia:

- It is the **tragic flaw** of the hero.
 - It is a **mistake** or **error**.
 - It is often **pride** or **arrogance**.
 - It leads to the hero's **downfall**.
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3. Hubris:

- It is **excessive pride**.
 - The hero thinks he is **better** than others.
 - He challenges the **gods**.
 - It leads to his **punishment**.
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4. Peripeteia:

- It is the **reversal of fortune**.
- The hero's luck **changes**.

- He falls from **success** to **failure**.
 - It is the **turning point** of the play.
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5. Anagnorisis:

- It is the **recognition** of truth.
 - The hero **realizes** his mistake.
 - He understands his **situation** clearly.
 - It leads to his **downfall**.
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6. Pathos:

- It is the **suffering** of the hero.
 - It evokes **pity** in the audience.
 - It is the **emotional** part of tragedy.
 - It creates **sympathy** for the hero.
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ARISTOTLE'S POETICS - SUMMARY

What is "Poetics"?

- It is Aristotle's **famous work**.
- It is about **poetry** and **drama**.
- It is the **first book** on literary criticism.
- It is still **studied** today.

Main Topics:

1. **Imitation** - Literature imitates nature.
2. **Tragedy** - Its definition and parts.
3. **Comedy** - Less serious, happy ending.
4. **Epic Poetry** - Long narrative poems.

5. **Plot** - The most important part.
 6. **Character** - Should be good and consistent.
 7. **Thought** - The ideas in the work.
 8. **Diction** - The language used.
 9. **Three Unities** - Time, Place, Action.
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QUICK REVISION POINTS

- ✓ Classical criticism started in **Ancient Greece**.
- ✓ Aristotle is the **father of literary criticism**.
- ✓ His work "**Poetics**" is the foundation of criticism.
- ✓ **Imitation (Mimesis)** means literature copies life.
- ✓ Art is **representational**, not just a copy.
- ✓ Tragedy is an **imitation of a serious action**.
- ✓ Tragedy has **six parts**: Plot, Character, Thought, Diction, Song, Spectacle.
- ✓ **Plot** is the most important part of tragedy.
- ✓ **Peripeteia** is the reversal of fortune.
- ✓ **Anagnorisis** is the recognition of truth.
- ✓ **Hamartia** is the tragic flaw of the hero.
- ✓ **Catharsis** is emotional purification.
- ✓ The tragic hero is **noble** but **flawed**.
- ✓ The hero's downfall is caused by his **own mistake**.
- ✓ The audience feels **pity and fear**.
- ✓ **Unity of Action** - one main plot.
- ✓ **Unity of Time** - action within 24 hours.

- ✓ **Unity of Place** - action in one location.
- ✓ **Hubris** is excessive pride.
- ✓ **Pathos** is suffering.
- ✓ Aristotle's "**Poetics**" is the most important work on drama.
- ✓ Classical criticism set the **standards** for literature.
- ✓ Aristotle believed poetry is **more philosophical** than history.

MODULE III

(MM-08: Major Mandatory)

LITERARY TERMS

1. IRONY

What is Irony?

Definition:

- Irony is a **contrast** between what is said and what is meant.
- It is a **difference** between appearance and reality.
- It is a **gap** between expectation and outcome.
- The word comes from Greek "**eironeia**".
- It means "**dissimulation**" or "**pretending**".

Simple Meaning:

- Irony is when we say **one thing** but mean **another**.
- It is when reality is the **opposite** of what we expect.
- It is a **twist** that surprises us.

Types of Irony

1. Verbal Irony

Definition:

- Verbal irony is when we say the **opposite** of what we mean.
- We use words to express the **contrary** of their literal meaning.
- It is a form of **speech**.
- The speaker's true intention is **hidden**.

Examples:

- Saying "**Great weather!**" when it is raining.
 - Saying "**You're so clever!**" when someone makes a mistake.
 - Saying "**I love Mondays!**" when you hate them.
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Difference Between Verbal Irony and Sarcasm:

- **Verbal irony** can be gentle or humorous.
 - **Sarcasm** is harsh and intended to hurt.
 - Sarcasm is a **form** of verbal irony.
 - But not all verbal irony is sarcasm.
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2. Dramatic Irony

Definition:

- Dramatic irony occurs when the **audience knows more** than the characters.
- The audience understands the **truth** of the situation.
- The characters are **unaware** of the truth.
- It creates **tension** and **suspense**.

Examples:

- In "**Oedipus Rex**", the audience knows Oedipus killed his father.
- Oedipus does **not know** the truth.
- In "**Romeo and Juliet**", the audience knows Juliet is not dead.
- Romeo thinks she is **dead** and kills himself.

Effects of Dramatic Irony:

- Creates **suspense**.
- Creates **sympathy** for the character.
- Creates a feeling of **superiority** in the audience.
- Enhances **emotional impact**.

3. Situational Irony

Definition:

- Situational irony occurs when the **outcome is opposite** to what is expected.
- The result is the **contrary** of what was intended.
- Fate plays a **trick** on the character.
- It shows the **unpredictability** of life.

Examples:

- A fire station **burns down**.
- A police officer is **arrested** for theft.
- A lifeguard **drowns**.
- A marriage counselor **divorces**.

Effects of Situational Irony:

- Creates **surprise**.
- Creates **humor**.
- Shows the **cruelty** of fate.
- Makes us question **expectations**.

4. Cosmic Irony (Irony of Fate)

Definition:

- Cosmic irony is when **fate** plays a cruel joke.
- It is the universe's **mockery** of human efforts.
- It suggests the **gods** are playing with humans.
- It creates a sense of **helplessness**.

Examples:

- A character tries to **avoid** a prophecy.

- His efforts **lead** to the prophecy coming true.
 - Oedipus tries to **escape** his fate.
 - His escape leads him **to** his fate.
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Importance of Irony in Literature

1. Creates Humor

- Irony makes us **laugh**.
- It reveals the **absurdity** of situations.

2. Creates Suspense

- Dramatic irony keeps us **engaged**.
- We worry about the **unaware** characters.

3. Reveals Character

- Irony shows the **true nature** of characters.
- It reveals their **hypocrisy** or **ignorance**.

4. Criticizes Society

- Irony is used for **social criticism**.
- It exposes **foolishness** and **injustice**.

5. Adds Depth

- Irony creates **multiple meanings**.
 - It adds layers to the **interpretation**.
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2. SATIRE

What is Satire?

Definition:

- Satire is a form of **ridicule** and **criticism**.
- It attacks **foolishness**, **vice**, and **corruption**.
- It uses **humor** to expose **weaknesses**.
- The word comes from Latin "**satura**".
- It means "**mixed dish**" or "**medley**".

Simple Meaning:

- Satire is when we **make fun** of something to criticize it.
 - It exposes **stupidity** or **evil**.
 - It tries to **correct** what is wrong.
 - It is a **weapon** against injustice.
-

Characteristics of Satire

1. Wit and Humor

- Satire uses **clever** humor.
- It makes us **laugh** at the target.
- The humor is **intelligent** and **sharp**.

2. Criticism

- Satire attacks **people** and **institutions**.
- It exposes **flaws** and **corruption**.
- It is a form of **moral** criticism.

3. Exaggeration

- Satire **overstates** the truth.
- It makes things **bigger** and **worse**.
- This highlights the **absurdity**.

4. Irony

- Satire often uses **irony**.

- It says the **opposite** of what it means.
- This creates a **critical** effect.

5. Moral Purpose

- Satire tries to **improve** society.
 - It points out what is **wrong**.
 - It hopes to bring **change**.
-

Types of Satire

1. Horatian Satire

Named after: Roman poet **Horace**

Characteristics:

- It is **gentle** and **amusing**.
- It is **light-hearted** and **witty**.
- It laughs at **foolishness**.
- It is **tolerant** and **humorous**.

Purpose:

- To amuse and **entertain**.
- To point out **faults** gently.
- To correct with **kindness**.

Examples:

- **Alexander Pope's** "The Rape of the Lock".
 - **Jane Austen's** "Pride and Prejudice".
-

2. Juvenalian Satire

Named after: Roman poet **Juvenal**

Characteristics:

- It is **harsh** and **bitter**.
- It is **angry** and **indignant**.
- It attacks **vice** and **evil**.
- It is **savage** and **scathing**.

Purpose:

- To attack **corruption**.
- To express **outrage**.
- To **shock** the audience.

Examples:

- **Jonathan Swift's** "Gulliver's Travels".
- **George Orwell's** "Animal Farm".

Comparison of Horatian and Juvenalian Satire

Feature	Horatian Satire	Juvenalian Satire
Tone	Gentle and amused	Harsh and angry
Purpose	To correct gently	To attack fiercely
Effect	Makes us laugh	Makes us uncomfortable
Example	Alexander Pope	Jonathan Swift
Target	Human foolishness	Human evil

Forms of Satire

1. Direct Satire:

- The satirist directly **attacks** the target.
- The criticism is **obvious** and **clear**.

2. Indirect Satire:

- The satire is **hidden** in a story.
- The criticism is **implied**.
- The reader has to **interpret** it.

Satire in Literature

Famous Works of Satire:

Work	Author	Target
"Gulliver's Travels"	Jonathan Swift	Human pride and politics
"Animal Farm"	George Orwell	Totalitarianism
"The Rape of the Lock"	Alexander Pope	Social vanity
"A Modest Proposal"	Jonathan Swift	British oppression
"Candide"	Voltaire	Optimism and religion

3. HUMOUR

What is Humour?

Definition:

- Humour is the quality that makes us **laugh**.
- It is a form of **entertainment**.

- It is the **pleasure** of the unexpected.
- The word comes from Latin "**umor**".
- It originally meant "**moisture**".

Simple Meaning:

- Humour is anything **funny**.
 - It makes us **laugh** or **smile**.
 - It brings **joy** and **amusement**.
-

Types of Humour

1. Physical Humour (Slapstick)

- It involves **physical actions**.
- It is **visual** comedy.
- It includes **falls**, **hits**, and **chases**.
- It is **exaggerated** and **ridiculous**.

Examples:

- **Charlie Chaplin's** movies.
 - **Mr. Bean's** physical comedy.
 - Clowns at a **circus**.
-

2. Verbal Humour

- It uses **words** to create laughter.
- It includes **puns**, **jokes**, and **wordplay**.
- It is **intelligent** and **clever**.
- It depends on **language**.

Examples:

- **Pun:** "I used to be a baker, but I couldn't make enough dough."
 - **Witty remarks** by Oscar Wilde.
-

3. Situational Humour

- It arises from **funny situations**.
- It is the **comedy of errors**.
- It involves **misunderstandings**.
- It creates **absurd** scenarios.

Examples:

- **"The Comedy of Errors"** by Shakespeare.
 - **"Three's Company"** TV show.
-

4. Satirical Humour

- It uses humor to **criticize**.
- It **mocks** society and its flaws.
- It is **sharp** and **pointed**.
- It makes us laugh and **think**.

Examples:

- **"Gulliver's Travels"** by Swift.
 - **"The Onion"** news satire.
-

5. Dark Humour

- It deals with **serious** and **painful** topics.
- It makes us laugh at **tragedy**.
- It is **morbid** and **ironic**.
- It is often **uncomfortable**.

Examples:

- **Kurt Vonnegut's** "Slaughterhouse-Five".
 - **Joseph Heller's** "Catch-22".
-

6. Comic Relief

- It provides **laughter** in a serious work.
- It breaks the **tension**.
- It is often provided by a **foolish** character.
- It gives the audience a **break** from tragedy.

Examples:

- **The Porter** in "Macbeth".
 - **The Fool** in "King Lear".
 - **The Gravediggers** in "Hamlet".
-

Importance of Humour in Literature

1. Provides Entertainment

- Humour makes literature **enjoyable**.
- It keeps readers **engaged**.

2. Relieves Tension

- It provides **relief** in serious plays.
- It balances **tragedy** with comedy.

3. Reveals Truth

- Humour can reveal **hidden truths**.
- It exposes **hypocrisy** and **foolishness**.

4. Makes Criticism Acceptable

- Satirical humour delivers **criticism** gently.

- It is **less offensive** than direct attack.

5. Creates Bonding

- Humour connects the **audience**.
 - We laugh together and **share** the moment.
-
-

4. PARADOX

What is Paradox?

Definition:

- Paradox is a statement that seems **contradictory**.
- It appears to be **illogical** or **absurd**.
- But it contains a **deeper truth**.
- The word comes from Greek "**paradoxon**".
- It means "**contrary to opinion**".

Simple Meaning:

- A paradox is a **seeming contradiction**.
 - It says two things that **don't go together**.
 - But it actually **makes sense**.
 - It reveals a **surprising truth**.
-

Examples of Paradox

1. "Less is more."

- It seems to say less = more.
- It means simplicity is **better**.
- It is a **design principle**.

2. **"The more you know, the more you realize you don't know."**

- Knowledge increases **awareness**.
- It reveals our **ignorance**.
- Wisdom leads to **humility**.

3. **"I must be cruel to be kind."**

- Cruelty and kindness seem **opposite**.
- But sometimes we hurt to **help**.
- It is from "**Hamlet**" by Shakespeare.

4. **"This statement is false."**

- If it is true, it is **false**.
- If it is false, it is **true**.
- It is a **logical puzzle**.

5. **"The only constant is change."**

- Change and constant are **opposites**.
- It means change is **always** happening.
- Nothing stays the **same**.

6. **"You have to lose to win."**

- Losing and winning are **opposite**.
- Sometimes failure leads to **success**.
- It is a **life lesson**.

Paradox in Literature

Famous Literary Paradoxes:

Work	Paradox	Meaning
" Hamlet "	"I must be cruel to be kind."	Sometimes harshness is love.
" Paradise Lost "	"Better to reign in Hell than serve in Heaven."	Pride over humility.
" Animal Farm "	"All animals are equal, but some are more equal than others."	Hypocrisy of power.
" The Importance of Being Earnest "	The title is ironic - the characters are not earnest.	Appearance vs reality.
Religious Texts	"The meek shall inherit the earth."	Weakness can be strength.

Difference Between Paradox and Irony

Feature	Paradox	Irony
Definition	A seeming contradiction that reveals truth.	A contrast between appearance and reality.
Focus	On the meaning of the statement.	On the situation or words .
Truth	Contains a hidden truth .	Exposes a gap between expectation and outcome.
Example	"The more you give, the more you have."	Saying "Great weather!" in a storm.

Difference Between Paradox and Oxymoron

Feature	Paradox	Oxymoron
Definition	A contradictory statement.	Two contradictory words together.
Length	A phrase or sentence.	Only two words.
Example	"The only constant is change."	"Bittersweet", "Deafening silence".

Importance of Paradox in Literature

1. Creates Surprise

- Paradox surprises the reader.
- It challenges our **thinking**.

2. Reveals Deeper Truth

- Paradox contains **wisdom**.
- It makes us **think** deeply.

3. Adds Complexity

- Paradox adds **depth** to literature.
- It creates **multiple meanings**.

4. Provokes Thought

- Paradox makes us **question**.
- It challenges **assumptions**.

5. Enhances Beauty

- Paradox is **poetic** and **beautiful**.
 - It adds **artistic** value.
-
-

QUICK COMPARISON OF ALL TERMS

Term	Definition	Key Feature	Example
Irony	Contrast between what is said/expected and what is real.	Gap between appearance and reality.	Dramatic irony in "Oedipus Rex".
Satire	Criticism using humor and ridicule.	Targets vice and foolishness.	"Gulliver's Travels" by Swift.
Humour	Quality that makes us laugh.	Creates amusement and joy.	Slapstick comedy, witty dialogue.
Paradox	Seeming contradiction that reveals truth.	Contains hidden wisdom.	"Less is more."

QUICK REVISION POINTS

Irony

- ✓ Irony is a **contrast** between appearance and reality.
 - ✓ **Verbal irony** - Saying the opposite of what you mean.
 - ✓ **Dramatic irony** - Audience knows more than characters.
 - ✓ **Situational irony** - Outcome is opposite of expected.
 - ✓ **Cosmic irony** - Fate plays a cruel joke.
 - ✓ Dramatic irony creates **suspense** and **sympathy**.
 - ✓ Irony adds **depth** and **complexity** to literature.
-

Satire

- ✓ Satire uses **humor** to criticize.
 - ✓ It attacks **foolishness** and **vice**.
 - ✓ **Horatian satire** is gentle and amusing.
 - ✓ **Juvenalian satire** is harsh and bitter.
 - ✓ Satire has a **moral purpose**.
 - ✓ It is a **weapon** against injustice.
 - ✓ Satire makes us laugh and **think**.
-

Humour

- ✓ Humour makes us **laugh** or smile.
 - ✓ **Physical humour** involves actions.
 - ✓ **Verbal humour** uses words.
 - ✓ **Situational humour** arises from circumstances.
 - ✓ **Satirical humour** criticizes through laughter.
 - ✓ **Dark humour** deals with serious topics.
 - ✓ **Comic relief** reduces tension in serious works.
 - ✓ Humour adds **entertainment** and **balance**.
-

Paradox

- ✓ Paradox is a **seeming contradiction**.
- ✓ It reveals a **hidden truth**.
- ✓ Examples: "Less is more," "The more you know, the less you know."
- ✓ Paradox creates **surprise** and **wisdom**.
- ✓ It adds **depth** to literature.

- ✓ **Paradox** is a phrase or sentence.
 - ✓ **Oxymoron** is only two contradictory words.
 - ✓ Paradox challenges our **thinking** and **assumptions**.
-

IMPORTANT QUOTES

On Irony:

- "Irony is the gaiety of reflection." - **Thomas Mann**

On Satire:

- "Satire is a sort of glass wherein beholders do generally discover everybody's face but their own." - **Jonathan Swift**

On Humour:

- "A joke is a very serious thing." - **Winston Churchill**

On Paradox:

- "The greatest truths are paradoxes." - **Oscar Wild**

MODULE IV
(MM-08: Major Mandatory)

CRITICAL APPRECIATION OF AN UNSEEN POEM

WHAT IS CRITICAL APPRECIATION?

Definition:

- Critical appreciation is the **detailed analysis** of a poem.
- It is the **interpretation** and **evaluation** of a poem.
- It examines the poem's **meaning, form, and technique**.
- It judges the poem's **quality** and **impact**.

Simple Meaning:

- It means **understanding** a poem fully.
 - It means **explaining** what the poem means.
 - It means **evaluating** how good the poem is.
 - It means **enjoying** the poem's beauty.
-

PURPOSE OF CRITICAL APPRECIATION

1. To Understand the Poem

- We read the poem **carefully**.
- We discover its **meaning**.
- We understand the **message**.

2. To Analyze the Poem

- We break the poem into **parts**.
- We study its **structure**.
- We examine its **techniques**.

3. To Evaluate the Poem

- We judge the poem's **quality**.
- We decide if it is **good** or **great**.
- We discuss its **strengths** and **weaknesses**.

4. To Appreciate the Poem

- We enjoy the poem's **beauty**.
- We admire its **craftsmanship**.
- We respond to its **emotion**.

STEPS IN WRITING CRITICAL APPRECIATION

STEP 1: READ THE POEM CAREFULLY

- Read the poem **slowly** and **carefully**.
- Read it **multiple** times.
- Read it **aloud** to hear the sound.
- Let the poem **speak** to you.

Questions to Ask:

- What is the poem **about**?
- What is the **mood** of the poem?
- What is the **theme**?

STEP 2: UNDERSTAND THE TITLE

- The title gives a **clue** to the poem.
- It prepares us for the **subject**.
- It may be **symbolic** or **direct**.

Questions to Ask:

- What does the title **suggest**?
 - Is the title **appropriate**?
 - Does it have **symbolic meaning**?
-

STEP 3: UNDERSTAND THE THEME

- The theme is the **central idea**.
- It is the **message** of the poem.
- It is what the poet **wants to say**.

Common Themes:

- **Love** and **loss**.
 - **Nature** and **beauty**.
 - **Death** and **mortality**.
 - **God** and **faith**.
 - **Time** and **change**.
 - **Life** and **human experience**.
-

STEP 4: ANALYZE THE STRUCTURE

- Structure is how the poem is **organized**.
- It includes **stanzas**, **lines**, and **rhyme**.

Elements to Examine:

1. Stanzas:

- How many **stanzas** are there?
- Are they of **equal** length?
- Are they **regular** or **irregular**?

2. Rhyme Scheme:

- What is the **rhyme pattern**?

- Examples: ABAB, AABB, ABBA.
- Is the rhyme **regular** or **irregular**?

3. Meter/Rhythm:

- What is the **rhythm** of the poem?
- Is it **regular** or **irregular**?
- Does it have a **musical** quality?

4. Form:

- Is it a **sonnet, ode, ballad**?
- Is it **free verse** or **rhymed**?

STEP 5: ANALYZE THE LANGUAGE

- Language includes **word choice** and **imagery**.
- It includes **figures of speech**.

Elements to Examine:

1. Diction (Word Choice):

- Are the words **simple** or **complex**?
- Are they **formal** or **informal**?
- Are they **poetic** or **ordinary**?

2. Imagery:

- What **images** does the poem create?
- Does it appeal to the **senses**?
- Examples: **visual, auditory, tactile**.

3. Figures of Speech:

- **Simile** - Comparison using "like" or "as".
- **Metaphor** - Direct comparison.
- **Personification** - Giving human qualities to objects.

- **Alliteration** - Repetition of consonant sounds.
- **Assonance** - Repetition of vowel sounds.
- **Onomatopoeia** - Words that sound like their meaning.

4. Symbols:

- What **symbols** are used?
 - What do they **represent**?
-

STEP 6: ANALYZE THE TONE AND MOOD

- **Tone** is the poet's **attitude**.
- **Mood** is the **feeling** of the poem.

Questions to Ask:

- What is the **tone**? (sad, happy, angry, reflective)
 - What is the **mood**? (gloomy, joyful, peaceful)
 - How does the poem make you **feel**?
-

STEP 7: DISCUSS THE MEANING

- Explain the **literal meaning**.
- Explain the **deeper meaning**.

Questions to Ask:

- What is the poem **about**?
 - What **message** is the poet conveying?
 - What **emotions** are expressed?
-

STEP 8: EVALUATE THE POEM

- Judge the poem's **quality**.
- Discuss its **strengths** and **weaknesses**.

Questions to Ask:

- Is the poem **effective**?
 - Does it **move** you?
 - Are the images **powerful**?
 - Is the language **beautiful**?
 - Does it achieve its **purpose**?
-

STRUCTURE OF A CRITICAL APPRECIATION

1. INTRODUCTION

- Introduce the **poem** and **poet**.
- State the **theme** or **subject**.
- Give a **brief overview** of the poem.

Example:

"The poem 'The Road Not Taken' by Robert Frost is about choices in life. The poet reflects on a decision he made in the past and how it shaped his life."

2. SUMMARY OF THE POEM

- Briefly **summarize** the poem.
- Explain what the poem is **about**.
- Describe the **main events** or **ideas**.

Example:

"The poet is walking in a forest. He comes to a fork in the road. He chooses the less traveled path. Later, he looks back and realizes his choice made all the difference."

3. ANALYSIS OF STRUCTURE

- Discuss the **stanzas** and **rhyme scheme**.
- Discuss the **rhythm** and **meter**.
- Comment on the **form** of the poem.

Example:

"The poem has four stanzas of five lines each. The rhyme scheme is ABAAB. The rhythm is iambic tetrameter."

4. ANALYSIS OF LANGUAGE

- Discuss **diction** and **word choice**.
- Discuss **imagery** and **figures of speech**.
- Discuss **symbols**.

Example:

"The poet uses simple, everyday language. The imagery is natural and vivid. The 'road' is a symbol for life choices."

5. ANALYSIS OF TONE AND MOOD

- Discuss the **tone** of the poem.
- Discuss the **mood** it creates.

Example:

"The tone is reflective and thoughtful. The mood is peaceful and contemplative."

6. DISCUSSION OF MEANING

- Explain the **literal meaning**.
- Explain the **deeper meaning**.

Example:

"On the surface, the poem is about a walk in the woods. But on a deeper level, it is about the choices we make in life and their consequences."

7. CONCLUSION

- **Summarize** your appreciation.
- **Evaluate** the poem's quality.
- State its **importance** or **relevance**.

Example:

"The Road Not Taken is a beautiful and thought-provoking poem. It encourages us to reflect on our own choices in life. It is a timeless and universal poem."

SAMPLE CRITICAL APPRECIATION

Poem: "The Road Not Taken" by Robert Frost

INTRODUCTION:

"The Road Not Taken" is a famous poem by the American poet Robert Frost. It was published in 1916. The poem is about the choices we make in life. It uses a simple forest scene to explore deep philosophical questions.

SUMMARY:

The poet is walking through a yellow wood. He comes to a fork in the road. He cannot take both paths. He chooses the one that looks less traveled. He plans to take the other path another day. But he knows he may never return. In the future, he will look back and say his choice made all the difference.

ANALYSIS OF STRUCTURE:

The poem has four stanzas. Each stanza has five lines. The rhyme scheme is ABAAB. The rhythm is mostly iambic tetrameter. The structure is regular and orderly. This reflects the poet's careful consideration of his choice.

ANALYSIS OF LANGUAGE:

Frost uses simple and direct language. The imagery is natural and vivid. The "yellow wood" creates a visual image of autumn. The phrase "two roads diverged" is a metaphor for life choices. The "road less traveled" is a symbol for unusual or daring choices.

ANALYSIS OF TONE AND MOOD:

The tone is reflective and thoughtful. The poet is looking back on his past. The mood is peaceful and contemplative. There is a hint of regret or nostalgia.

DISCUSSION OF MEANING:

On the surface, the poem is about a walk in the woods. But on a deeper level, it is about the choices we make in life. The poet chooses the less common path. This choice shapes his life. The poem reminds us that our choices have consequences.

CONCLUSION:

"The Road Not Taken" is a beautiful and enduring poem. It speaks to the universal experience of making choices. It is a reminder that every choice we make shapes our future. Frost's simple language and powerful imagery make this poem unforgettable.

COMMON FIGURES OF SPEECH

Figure of Speech	Meaning	Example
Simile	Comparison with "like" or "as".	"My love is like a red, red rose."
Metaphor	Direct comparison.	"All the world's a stage."

Figure of Speech	Meaning	Example
Personification	Giving human qualities to non-human things.	"The wind whispered through the trees."
Alliteration	Repetition of consonant sounds.	"Peter Piper picked a peck of pickled peppers."
Assonance	Repetition of vowel sounds.	"The rain in Spain stays mainly in the plain."
Onomatopoeia	Words that sound like their meaning.	"Buzz", "Hiss", "Bang".
Hyperbole	Exaggeration for effect.	"I have told you a million times."
Oxymoron	Two contradictory words together.	"Bittersweet", "Deafening silence"
Paradox	A seeming contradiction that reveals truth.	"The more you know, the more you don't know."

TIPS FOR WRITING CRITICAL APPRECIATION

DO's:

1. Read the poem **multiple** times.
2. **Understand** the poem before you write.
3. Use **quotations** from the poem.
4. Use **clear** and **simple** language.
5. **Organize** your thoughts logically.
6. **Analyze** not just **summarize**.

7. **Discuss** the poet's **techniques**.
8. **Evaluate** the poem's **effectiveness**.

DON'Ts:

1. Don't just **summarize** the poem.
2. Don't **ignore** the poet's techniques.
3. Don't use **complex** language.
4. Don't **impose** your own meaning.
5. Don't **miss** the deeper meaning.
6. Don't be too **vague** or **general**.

CHECKLIST FOR CRITICAL APPRECIATION

Element	Check
Title discussed	☐
Theme identified	☐
Structure analyzed	☐
Rhyme scheme noted	☐
Rhythm/meter discussed	☐
Imagery described	☐
Figures of speech identified	☐
Symbols interpreted	☐

Element	Check
Tone discussed	☐
Mood described	☐
Meaning explained	☐
Evaluation given	☐
Quotations used	☐
Clear conclusion	☐

QUICK REVISION POINTS

- ✓ Critical appreciation is **analyzing** and **evaluating** a poem.
- ✓ First **read** the poem carefully.
- ✓ Understand the **title** and **theme**.
- ✓ Analyze the **structure** (stanzas, rhyme, rhythm).
- ✓ Analyze the **language** (imagery, figures of speech).
- ✓ Discuss the **tone** and **mood**.
- ✓ Explain the **literal** and **deeper** meaning.
- ✓ **Evaluate** the poem's quality.
- ✓ Use **quotations** to support your points.
- ✓ Write in **clear** and **simple** language.
- ✓ Don't just **summarize** the poem.

- ✓ Discuss **how** the poet achieves the effect.
 - ✓ Identify **symbols** and **metaphors**.
 - ✓ Discuss the **poet's techniques**.
 - ✓ The structure should be: **Introduction, Summary, Analysis, Conclusion**.
 - ✓ A good appreciation shows **understanding** and **enjoyment**.
-

COMMON MISTAKES TO AVOID

Mistake	Correction
Just summarizing	Analyze how the poem works.
Missing the theme	Identify the main idea.
Ignoring form	Discuss structure and rhyme.
No quotations	Use evidence from the poem.
Too much opinion	Support opinions with analysis.
Vague language	Be specific and precise.
No conclusion	End with a clear evaluation.