Understanding Literature

Unit 1. Introduction

1.1 Defining Literature: Any body of written work can be referred to as 'literature.' Any writing in the form of information is also referred to as literature but the intention behind such writing is not to get aesthetic excellence but to impart the information. Traditionally, the term 'literature' is applied to all those works that come under imagination. In this category we have time-tables, catalogues, text-books, travel brouchers etc. What we are concerned here is to know about 'literature proper.' Literature is an art which provides aesthetic pleasure. It is a thing of beauty which results in some kind of pleasure. Literature is a form of human expression.

Literature is a term used to describe written works that are considered to have artistic or intellectual value, often characterized by their use of language, style, and themes. It consists of various genres, forms, and styles; including poetry, drama, fiction, and nonfiction. Literature can also mean imaginative or creative writing, which is read for its artistic value. It is also related to people and community. It is a part of society, a fact that inspires authors to involve themselves in the life order of the community where they are and try to fight for the position of the social structure and the problems face in society. Literature is a method of recording, preserving, and transmitting knowledge and entertainment. It can also have a social, psychological, spiritual, or political role. Literature, as an art form, can also include works in various non-fiction genres, such as biography, diaries, memoirs, letters, and essays. Literature includes both print, digital writing and oral Literature. In recent centuries, the definition has expanded to include oral literature, much of which has been transcribed.

Definitions: The term 'literature' is derived from the Latin word 'littera,' which means 'a letter of the alphabet.' It originally meant 'the use of letters' or 'writing.' In spite of this, the term has also been applied to spoken or sung texts. Literature is often referred to especially creative writing, and poetically as 'the craft of writing.' There are various definitions of literature in

different times and perspectives. In Western Europe, prior to the 18th century, literature denoted all books and writing.

The 11th edition of Merriam-Webster's Collegiate Dictionary referred literature to be "writings having excellence of from or expression and expressing ideas of permanent or universal interest."

Willaim Pater, the 19th century critic considers literature to "the matter of imaginative and artistic literature" as a "transcript, not of mere fact, but of fact in its infinitely varied forms."

According to Emerson, "literature is a record of the best thought."

For G. K. Chestrton, "literature is a luxury, fiction is necessity."

William Henry Hudson defines, "literature is an expression of life through the medium of language."

Thomas De Quincy catogarises literature as literature of knowledge and literature of power. For him, "the books which provide knowledge are called literature of knowledge and the literature of power is related to heart while the literature of knowledge is to head."

Literature is a term used to describe written works that are considered to have artistic, intellectual and cultural value. It encompasses various forms, styles, and genres, including poetry, drama, fiction, and nonfiction. Literature is often characterized by its features:

Aesthetic Appeal: Literature is often appreciated for its beauty, creativity, and emotional resonance

Language Play: Literature often employs literary devices like metaphor, imagery, and symbolism to convey meaning beyond literal interpretation.

Themes and Messages: Literature explores universal themes, ideas, and concerns, offering insights into human experiences and the world around us.

Style and Tone: Literature can be distinguished by its unique style, tone, and voice which reflect the author's perspective and artistic vision.

Cultural Significance: Literature often reflects, shapes, or challenges cultural beliefs, values and attitudes.

Enduring Value: Literature is often considered timeless, remaining relevant and impactful across generations.

Literature can be defined by its:

Form: Novels, Short stories, poetry, plays, essays, etc.
Genre: Romance, science fiction, mystery, historical fiction, etc.
Style: Realism, surrealism, magical realism, etc.
Theme: Love, identity, morality,, social justice ,etc.
Purpose: To entertain, educate, persuade, or inspire.

Literature was first produced by some of the world's earliest civilizations—those of Ancient Egypt and Sumerian—as early as the 4th millennium BC; taken to include spoken or sung texts, it originated even earlier, and some of the first written works may have been based on a pre-existing oral tradition. As urban cultures and societies developed, there was a proliferation in the forms of literature. Developments in print technology allowed for literature to be distributed and experienced on an unprecedented scale, which has culminated in the twenty-first century in electronic literature.

Some examples of literature include:
Classical works like Homer's *Illiad* and Shakespeare's *Romeo and Juliet*
Novels like Jane Austen's *Pride and Prejudice* and Toni Morrison's *Beloved*
Poetry collections like Emily Dickinson's and Langston Hughe's
Plays like Tennessee Williams' *A Streetcar Named Desire* and August Wilson's *Fences*

Literature is a vital part of human culture. It is a rich and diverse realm that offers a window into human experiences, culture, creativity, reflecting and shaping our understanding of the world and ourselves. Literature can take many forms, including novels, short stories, poetry collections, plays, and essays. It can also span various genres, such as romance, science fiction, mystery, and historical fiction.

1.2 Literature and Society: Literature mirrors society. What happens in a society is reflected in literary works in one form or another. The literal meaning of literature is the art of written work in different forms, such as, poetry, plays, stories, prose, fiction etc. It may also consist of texts based on information as well as imagination. A society is a group of people related to one another through their continuous and uninterrupted relations governed by their own norms and values. Human society is observed and characterized by the patterns of relationship between individuals who share cultures, traditions, beliefs and values etc.

The history of literature dates back to the dawn of human civilization. The societies were formed by the human beings with objectives of fulfilling the human needs and aspirations. Setting aside which came first—the literature or society? Both have remained inseparable from each other, for literature cannot sustain without society, and likewise the society too cannot be unnoticed in literary pieces in one way or another.

Literature has the power to educate and raise awareness about social issues, inspire empathy and understanding, challenge societal norms and promote change. Literature preserves cultural heritage and historical events. It provides a platform for marginalized voices. Also shapes language and cultural identity.

Literature has the ability to shape our understanding of the world and ourselves, making it a vital part of human culture and society. Literature and society are deeply intertwined. Literature reflects society mirroring culture, value, and beliefs. Literature shapes society influencing public opinion, challenging norms, and inspiring change. Literature also provides social commentary offering critiques of social issues, politics, and cultural norms. Literature preserves history, recording events, memories, and experiences for future generations. It amplifies marginalized voices, showcasing stories and experiences of underrepresented communities.

Sometime it is noticed that many charges are labelled against literature as well as society. A literary writing is banned because an opposite section of society finds it mirroring beliefs and norms against that society. The examples of Salman Rushdie's *The Satanic Verses* and Taslima Nasrin's *Lajja* provide testimony to such charges. The paintings of Maqbul Fida Hussain were banned and burnt by a section of Indian Hindu society with the charge of tarnishing their religious devotion. In the world of film industry, both in India and abroad, many films have been banned; there has been protests and there has been protests and demonstrations against the films for wrongly presenting the themes and using undesired language which appear hostile to the feelings of a section of society

Literature in a society is not only banned or attempted to be banned because of mirroring the norms and values, not found in conformity with that society, it is sometime marginalized or vehemently opposed due to another form of language it is written by, and which is different from what people have been using. In India for example Tulsidas's *Ramcharitmanas* was looked down upon and disallowed by the Pundits of Varanasi, who had been using Sanskrit

as the only medium of literary and religious expression. In Europe, too, the literature written in native languages had received marginalized position in comparison to Greek and Latin until the native languages were widely used by the writers and accepted by the people after the Renaissance. Bacon's essays, first written in Latin and then re-written in English, exemplify this India, for example, Tulsidas"s Ram Charit Manas was looked down upon and disallowed by the then Pundits of
acon"s essays, first written in Latin and then re-written in English, exemplify this observation. overflow of powerful feelings; it takes its origin from emotions recollected in tranquillity"3In all such and many other cases the emergence of literary creativity is followed on from the acts and events in life and nature.

Thus, it appears that society acts like back up for culture and tradition of the people it reflects upon and the inhabitants of a group of society share certain similarities with regard to assumptions, beliefs, caste, creed, myths, religion etc. Literature, when combined with culture and other facets –both abstract and concrete of society, not only presents impalpable subjects like alienation, assimilation and transformation in society but also reflects the palpable issues, such as, historical, political and social facts.

1.3 Reformative Role of Literature: Literature has a significant reformative role in society, challenging norms, and promoting change. Literature is an effective tool for social reform. The Sentimental Literature of the late Nineteenth Century played crucial role in American society in the Civil War periods as in the English society of Victorian times in forming opinions about slavery, women franchisement, prison reform etc. Through literature, authors question societal norms, Critiquing cultural values, beliefs, and practices raise awareness, shedding light on social issues, injustices, and inequalities. Literature inspires empathy, encouraging understanding and connection with diverse experiences. Literature challenge oppressive systems, confronting power structures, discrimination and marginalization, imagining possibilities for more just and equitable society. Literature gives voice to the marginalized, amplifying the stories and experiences of underrepresented communities. Literature encourages critical thinking, promoting reflection, analysis, and questioning of assumptions, empathy and self-awareness.

Reformative role of literature has lead to significant social changes, such as, Abolition of Slavery (Harriet Breecher Stowe's *Uncle Tom's Cabin*), Women's suffrage (Virginia Woolf's *A Room of One's Own*), Civil Rights Movement (Toni Morrison's *Beloved*), Environmental awareness (Rachel Carson's *Silent Spring*). Literature has the power to inspire, educate, and

mobilize individuals to work towards a more just and equitable society, making its reformative role essential to creating positive change.

Unit 2: Genres of Literature: Essay

2.1 Defining Essay: Today the essay is a recognized literary genre But it took a long time to attain its present glory and status. It fills very large place in modern literature. To trace out its origin, beginning, development and kinds is an interesting study.

Origin Of Essay: The origin of the esay is found in 'Epistle' of the Roman writers Cicero and Seneca. Bacon, the father of the English essay, had also admitted that the word 'essay' is late but the thing is ancient. Montaigne, a French writer of the 16 th century used the word "Essais' for the first time. It is the same word as 'assay' meaning an attempt'. Montaingne had used it with the same sense. Thus, according to its literal derivation , the word 'Essay' has the meaning as the word 'Assay' ie. an attempt or an effort. It is an attempt of an elucidation of the subject from writer's point of view.

Many eminent critics have tried to define Essay but nobody is successful to give a really satisfactory definition. These definitions are vague and too narrow to embrace all essays so-called. The following definition may help to illustrate it.

Dr. Johnson defines it, "An essay is a loose sally of the mind , an irregular, indigested piece, not a regular and orderly preformance."

The Oxford English Dictionary exaplains it as a composition of moderate length on any particular subject, or branch of a subject; originally want of finish, but now said of a composition more or less elaborate in style, through limited in range".

Saintsbury describes it as "a work of prose art" or "the after-dinner monologue of an interesting and well-informed man."

W.H.Hudson says, The true essay is essentially personal. It belongs to the literature of self-expression. Treatise and dissertation may be objective, the essay is subjective."

J.B.Priestley defined the essay as,"a genuine expression of an original personality- an artful and enduring kind of talk."

E. V. Lucas says, “a good essay is 'more than novel, a poem, a play or a treatise, is personality translated into print between the lines must gleam attractive features or we remain cold.”

The study of these and such definitions show that, they are unsatisfatory, vague and incomplete. Essays have been written on all subjects in between heaven and earth. In the words of Hugh Walker, 'there is no subject from the stars to the dust-heap and from the amoeba to

man, which may not be dealt with an essay. Thus, the term 'essay' has been used for all manners and sorts of composition. It is used even for poetic compositions also. For example, Alexander Pope called two of his long poems, 'Essay on Man", and 'Essay on Criticism". Again, we expect that, the 'essay' is a short composition. But we find that Locke's a lengthy philosophocal treatise is named as ‘Essay Concerning Human Understanding'. Thus, the study of definitions show that such definitions are unsatisfactory. Essay is more easily distinguished by its manner than by its matter. So, it would be more fruitful to examine the chief characteristics of 'essay' as a literary form.

Characteristics: The critics and writers of the 'essay' have accepted the following features of the essay in its present from. The essay is a prose composition, brief, short or of moderate length. The essayiest with full command over his subject can express himself in a pithy and condensed language. The essay is incomplete. The essayiest does not say all that is to be said on the subject. On the other hand, he writes only on those aspects of the subject which he considers most significant, and leaves out the rest. It is personal in nature. It expresses the personal likes and dislikes, prejudices and predilections of the essayiest.

2.2 Types of English Essay: Bacon is regarded as the father of the English essay. He was the first to use the word essay in England and his volume of Essays published in 1597 was "the first work of prose composition in this genre. But Bacon himself had admitted that the word 'essay' is late but the thing is ancient. Because, Seneca's Epistles are but essays. In England the qualities of the Essay are found in the miscellaneous works of Elizabethan writer like Thomas Lodge, John Lyly and Greene, Even though the first real essayist in England, and one of the greatest is Francis Bacon.

While studying the kinds and development of the 'essay' form in English literature, we come to know that, 'the essay as a literary form is more easily distinguished by its manner than by its matter.

a) Huge Walker's Division of Essays:- Huge Walker remarks, 'Apparently, there is no subject, from the stars to the dust-heap and from the amoeba to man, which may not be dealt with an Essay'. He divides essays into two classes "essays par excellence (ie. in the highest degree), and the short, incomplete essays". The incomepleteness of essay is the outcome of treating a subject only in outline, or from handling only a branch or a division of some greater theme. In such essay, the theme is from any department of human thought. It may not be scientific or philosophical, historiacl or critical. The historical essay is an incomplete history, the philosophical essay might expand into a treatise. But besides essay in this looser sense, there are essays more strictly so called in which we do detect a special literary form. Lamb's essays are the best examples in English. Such essays could under no circumstances expand into treatises, they are complete in themeselves.

b) Aphoristic Essay Bacon is the chief exponent of this kind of essay. His essay are of the Aphoristic kind. They are often, particularly in the early edition , a string of aphorisms, or maxims , loosely connected together. Conjuctions and connectives are usually missing. The thought is closely packed. An entire paragraph is often condensed into a singal sentence, and there is remarkable brilliance of phrasing. Sentence after sentence, heavy with thought, follows each other in quick sucession and are easy to memorise. Tennyson said: "There is more wisdom compressed into that small volume than into any other books of the same size that I know. Bacon is always stately and magnificent. He regarded the essay as, "a receptacle of detached thoughts." He called them "dispresed meditations'. He was an extremely busy man of the world who was in the habit of jotting down his experiences, and his views on man and life. That is why he defined his essay as, 'counsels civil and moral.' His purpose was not to preach ideal morality, but to give valuable guidance on a variety of subjects drawn from day to day affairs of practical life. These counsels are conveyed in short, crisp sentences, that read like aphorisms. They are like chapters in Aristostle's *Ethics* and *Rhetoric*. Thus, Bacon's essays are of the aphoristic kind. His essays are regarded as the 'confidential chat' of a philosopher.

Bacon's example was followed by William Cornwallis, whose essays appeared in 1600, and by Robert Johnson, who gave Essaies in 1601. Cornwallis used the essay 'as a painter's boy a board.'

c) The Character-Writers: The character essay was developed in the early part of the 17 th century. The character-writers sketched some particular human type in each of the essays. The essays were modelled after the Greek Philosopher Theophratus and the Roman Seneca They portrayed various types of humanity with acuteness , humour, and satirical touches. The important writers among them were Joseph Hall (1574-1656), Sir Thomas Overbury (1581-1613), and John Earle, (1601-1657). In the 'character-essay, there is no self-portrayal, or it is not like the Baconian essay. It imitated the style and spirit of Sir Thmoas Browne and Abraham Cowley. The character-sketches, often very minute and humorous, of various types of people. Among them, Overbury is more concrete and vivid than others of the group. His characters are short, pithy and reveal considerable knowledge and insight into human-nature. His essay are the fore-runners of Sir Roger and the writers of the Spectator's Club. The character-writers exercised a profound influence on the essay of Addison and Steele.

d) The Critical Essay: A critical-essay, as its name signifies, is an attempt at literary criticism. It is Dryden who introduced it in the Restoration Age (1660-1700). Dryden is the fore-runner of the critical-essay. His innumerable prefaces, dedications etc., are in the nature of critical essay. Among them, the best known and having many of his critical principles is The Essay of Dramatic Poesy. His critical essays entitled him the honour of 'The Father of English Criticism'. Dryden's contribution led to the development of the middle style of English prose, a style which is more suited to miscellanious purpose than the ornate style of his predecessors. His style is remarkably free from mannerisms of any kind and its main characteristics are lucidity, ease and grace. He gave up the long-wided, cumbrous sentences of the earlier prose writers. He uesd a

simple strightforward, vigorous mode of expressing his meaning. Thus, Dryden introduced a new variety, called the Critical Essay, in the Restoration Age. The Periodical and Social Essay The periodical or the social essay is one of the important kinds of essay. It took birth and died too in the 18th century. We can study its rise, popularity and chief contributors as following:

2.3 Contribution of Major Essayists: The social or periodical essay took the birth in the early years of the 18 th century. It aimed at social reform and it was first published in the periodical press. Addison and Steele were pioneers in the field.

Aim and Name of Periodical Essay: The periodical essay is called 'periodical' because the periodical essay appeared in the journals and magazines which appeared periodically in the 18th century. It is called 'a social essay' because its aim was public rather than private. Its object was social reformation. Its aim was to inform the mind and delight the heart of the reading public. It aimed at refining the taste and tone, the cultural and moral outlook of the educated and the wealthy middle classes. It was the literature of the middle classes, for the middle classes and by the middle classes of the 18 th century. It has all the features of journalism a wider appeal, a large coverage, brevity and precision , simlpe and chaste language, delicate tone and elegant style. It had a double aim to amuse and to improve. The subjects discussed by the periodical essayists were connected with the varied aspects of the social life with the city of London in the center.

Rise and Popularity of Periodical Essay: There are many reasons which caused rise and popularity of the peridical essay. It was a very popular form of literature and communication and recreation in the 18th century because it was the mirror of the Augustan Age in England. The growth of reading public, rise of the middle classes, the rise of the two political parties (Whig and Tory), the rise of the coffee-houses as centres of social and political life, the need of social reform etc. caused the rise and popularity of the essay. The essay proved a social chronicler of the time. It gave the people what they wanted. Again its lightness and brevity were its two major popularising factors. It appealed not only to the lovers of literature and literary criticism, but also to those who were interested in men and manners, fashions and recreaction. It appealed very well to women also. It covered all accounts of gallantry pleasure, and entertainment, poetry, learning, foreign and domestic news. Lastly, the periodical essay became popular due to the chaste style of its contributors: They used simple and every day language.

Contributors The periodical essay began in the year 1709 with first periodical essay appearing in The Tatler on April 12. The contributors makers of the periodical essay were men of contrasted characters and temperaments. Almost all the great figures in the literary field contributed either occasionally or regularly to such periodicals. Prominent among them are Addison, Steele, Swift, Pope, Dr. Johnson and Goldsmith.

Contribution of Addison and Steele Joseph Addison (1672-1791) and Sir Richard Steele (1672-1729) were the originators of the periodical essay. *The Tatler* was founded by Steele. *The*

Spectator was founded by both Steele and Addison. *The Spectator* began on March 1, 1711 and ran till December 20, 1714. During this period, 635 essays were published in it. Of these Addison wrote 274 and Steele 240, the remaining 121 were contributed by various friends. The characters of Steele and Addison were curiously contrasted The purpose of writing of Steele and Addison was ethical. They tried to reform society through the medium of the periodical essay. They wrote to censor the manners and morals of the age, more particularly the frivolities of the female sex. They performed this work in a gentle good-humoured manner, and not by bitter invective They made the people laugh at their own follies and thus get rid of them. Addison wrote eighteen articles on Paradise Lost and helped the English readers to have better appreciation of Milton and his book. The character studies of Addison and Steele, in the shape of the members of the the Spectator Club - Sir Roger de Coverley and others presented actual men moving amid red scenes and taking part in various incidents. Both Addison and Steele were great masters of prose. Both wrote in a clear, lucid and simple and effective style.

Contribution of Goldsmith: Oliver Goldsmith (1728 1774) followed the true essay-manner of Addison. He contributed largely to the *Bee*. He wrote series of essays entitled the Chinese Letters in the Bee. These essays were published in a book form under the title *The Citizen of the World*. The character sketches Oliver Goldsmith, painted are remarkable for their simplicity, grace and kindly humour. For example the characters of 'Beau Tibbs' and 'Man in Black' are as great classics as Addison and Steele's Sir Roger De Coverley. His comments on English society in his essays, are simple and shrewd: They reflect the charm of his personality. His humour is all pervading, typical and artless. Thus Goldsmith's contribution to periodical essay made him one of the great essayists of England.

Contribution of Swift, Fielding and Dr. Johnson: Jonathan Swift (1667 1745) a contemporary of Addison and Steele was the great satirist of his age. He was pamphleteer rather than an essayist. His *Gulliver's Travels* and *The Tale of Tub* are the great satires and allegories. His *Journal to Stell* is an excellent commentary on contemporary charachters and political events. Henry Fielding (1707-1754) contributed to a number of periodicals. His essays are slip-shod, showing signs of haste and carelessness. However, when Fielding wanted, he could write very well. His numerous prefaces and critical articles appended to his novels are in the nature of essays. They show his greatness as the essayist. Dr. Samuel Johnson (1709- 1748) wrote essays for the Rambler. They appeared twice weekly. Again he wrote in the Idler on every Saturday for some period. He also contributed to the Adventurer and a some of other periodicals. His essays show all his manly good sense and command of majestic language. But his style is too heavy and ponderous to suit the essay form.

The Reviewers: In the beginning of the 19th century, the periodical newspaper gave place to the critical journal, commonly called the Review. It had little concern with social and personal topics. Its main content was literary and other criticism. Even it gave ample space to political criticism. The most important of these reviews were The Edinburgh Review, The Quarterly Review, Blackwood's Mangazine, The London Magazine and Fraser's Magazine'. They are of

special importance in the history of the essay, because they have been pre-eminently the medium of the essay.

The Edinburgh Review was edited by Francis Jeffre. It was a Whig organ . The Quarterly Review was edited by William Gifford. It was a Tory organ . These and such like periodicals were playing supreme role in the literary world. They attracted the best talent. Many of the writers who contributed to these papers Southey, Scott, Haztlit, Macaulay, and Carlyle. While discussing the role played by the reviews, Saintsbury says "Edinburgh and Quarterly Review had literary ability. They were the headquarters of serious discussion on politics, literature, religion, philosophy, and things in general. But, they were no fantastic or fictitious kind of writing.

The Magazine played rather wider role. As it was of a miscellany kind, we find every kind of composition, creative, critical informative, entertaining. Christopher Horth, J. G. Luckhard, Thomas de Quincey, Lamb, Coleridge, Thackeray, Carlyle, Leigh Hunt and Hazlitt were the contributors of the different magazines published at the time.

Charles Lamb (1775-1838) is called the prince of English essayists. He takes the reader into his confidence and conceals nothing from him. In his *Essays of Elia* (1823) and *Last Essays* (1833), he reveals his personality. He talks intimately to the readers about himself, his quaint whims and experiences. In his essays, he interpreted with great insight and human sympathy that crowded human life of joys and sorrows. Thus, Charels Lamb belongs to the category of personal essayists.

William Hazlitt (1778-1830) is one of the best essayists of the 19th century. His essays are autobiographical. His essays are the reflection of his personality outspoken, straightforward and frank. His *Miscellaneous Essays* are autobiographical and frankly tell about his temperament, his prejudice, his enthusiasm and his limitations.

Thomas de Quincey (1785-1859), like Charles Lamb and William Hazlitt, was frankly personal. His best essays are autobiographical in nature. He dealt with all sorts of subjects about himself and his friends, life in general, art, literature, philosophy and religion. His autobiographical sketches *Confessions of an English Opium Eater* are the most personal.

In the modern age both subjective and objective essays have been written by various writers. The 20th century proved a fertile ground for the development of the essay. The countless periodicals, journals, magazines and dailies of our times gave scope to the essay. E. V. Lucas, Robert Lynd, G. K. Chesterton, Birrel, A. G. Gardiner, Max Beerbhom, Hilaire Belloc and J. B. Priestly are only a few of the most important essayists of the modern era. The modern essay is personal and chatty. It lays bare the criticism of life. The essayists propogate their views on various aspects of life. The style of the modern essayists is simple, though dignified.

Unit 3: Genres of Literature

3.1 Defining Novella

The novella as a literary genre began to develop as a literary genre during early phase of renaissance at the hands of Giovanni Boccaccio, author of *Decameron* containing 100 tales narrated by seven men and three women published in 1353. This form was later practiced by notable princes of France Marguerite de Navarre, whose *'Heptameron'* seventy-two original French tales and was modeled after the structure of Boccaccio's *Decameron.* The Italian genre novella grew out of a rich tradition of medieval narrative forms. The Italian novella influenced many later writers, including Shakespeare. The novella influenced the development of the short story and the novel throughout Europe. In the late 19th century Henry James was one of the first English language critics to use the term novella for a story that was longer and more complex than a short story, but shorter than a novel.

A novella is a narrative prose fictional work having the length shorter than novel and longer than a short story. The term *'novella'* comes from the Italian word 'Novellae' meaning *'new'* was applied to the much shorter stories found in writings of Boccaccio's *'Decameron'*. Novella is a fictional tale in prose, intermediate in length and complexity between a short story and a novel, and usually concentrating on a single event or chain of events, with surprising turning points. Joseph Conrad's *'Heart of Darkness'*, George Orwell's *'Animal Farm'*, Ernest Hemingway's *'Old Man and the Sea'*, R.L. Stevenson's *'A Strange Case of Mr. Jekyll and Dr. Hyde'*, John Steinbeck's *'Of Mice and Men'*, Franz Kafka's *'The Metamorphosis'*, Albert Camus's *'The Strangers'*, U.R. Ananthmurthay's *'Samskara'* and William Golding's *'Lord of the Flies'* are some of the finest examples of Novella. Henry James and D.H. Laurence also practiced the form of novella.

Characteristics of Novella: a novella normally features less conflict than a novel, yet more complicated one than a short story. The conflicts also take more time to develop than in a short story. It may or may not be divided into chapters and white space is often used to divide the sections, something less common in short story. Novellas are intended to finish reading in a single sitting, like short story, hence produce a single effect on the reader. General characteristic of novella can be given as follow:

- It is a narrative work of fiction.
- It is written in prose rather than in metrical form like poetry.
- It has less conflict, concise and compressed subplots than a full-length novel.
- It can't be divided into chapters.
- Generally, it has a length between 60-120 pages.
- Word count is between 17,500 and 40,000 words.
- Usually focuses on a single plotline.
- Mainly focuses on one (or a few) chief character(s).
- It may be read in one or two sittings.

- Can be published digitally as well as in print.

3.2 Types of Novella: Like novels and short stories, novellas can be written in a variety of styles, on a range of subject matter or themes. There are very few prominent examples of novellas.

Gothic Novella: *The Strange Case of Dr. Jekyll and Mr. Hyde* by Robert Louis Stevenson is the best example of gothic novella. The Gothic element in the novella is represented through duel personality in a single character. This is revealed to the reader by the horrifying transformation of Dr. Jekyll into the atavistic murderer Mr. Hyde. The transformation is brought through the fear of regression, as both men are revealed to be the same person.

Science Fiction: *The Time Machine* by H. G. Wells is the notable example of Science fiction novella. In the novella, Wells applies Darwinian Theory of evolution to man as well as in characters in the fiction, both as a social creature and as an animal with the basic ability to adapt, adopt and adept. With a scientific perspective, Wells' Time Traveler considers the aspects of evolution that consequently results in the degeneration of human species' and it's split into two humanoid remnants.

Political Satire/allegory: Animal Farm by George Orwell is best example of political allegory. Manor Farm is allegorical of Russia and the farmer Mr. Jones is the Russian Czar. Old Major stands for either Karl Marx or Vladimir Lenin, and the pig named Snowball represents the intellectual revolutionary Leon Trotsky. Napoleon stands for Stalin, while the dogs are his secret police. It has also focused upon the plights of common man in the search of ideal state at the hands of its leader.

3.2 Introduction to Major Novellas

THE OLD MAN AND THE SEA by ERNEST HEMINGWAY

The Old Man and the Sea, one of the finest heroic novellas, is written by American short story writer and novelist Ernest Hemingway first published in 1952. Hemingway was awarded with the Pulitzer Prize. It was Hemingway's last major work to be produced and published in his lifetime which has proved itself to be one of the enduring works of American fiction. He was also awarded with the Nobel Prize for Literature in 1954. *The Oldman and the Sea* is a parable-novella about man's struggle against nature and a story of friendship between Santiago and his friend Manolin. Santiago, an old Cuban fisherman, who has gone deep into the sea for eighty-four days but couldn't catch a fish. Manolin, a teenage boy, is Santiago's friend who used to go out to sea with Santiago to learn fishing but his parents stopped him to go with Santiago as he was not getting a fish.

On eighty-fifth day, Santiago sets out on a journey far into the sea and hooks a massive fish named Marlin, bigger than his skiff, which is his life's greatest catch of fish. He was unable to pull the fish because the fish began to pull the boat with an old man. Fish pulls the boat for two days and two nights. On the third day, the fish tires and Santiago manages to pull the Marlin and kill with harpoon. Marlin's blood spreads into the sea water and sharks and many other fish

attacks on Marlin. To bring back the fish to shore, he has to fight with sharks, hunger and fatigue.

The Old Man and the Sea is one of the classics of its generation. The plot of the novel is set in Cuba, Havana. Hemingway's quote 'Man is not made for defeat. A man can be destroyed but not defeated' reflects the themes of courage, pride and determination, power of endurance, success and perseverance. The Sea, Lions, Marlin and the Sharks are the major symbols which represents different themes of the novella. On the surface an exciting but tragic adventure story, it enjoys near perfection of structure, restraint of treatment, and evocative simplicity of style.

ANIMAL FARM by GEORGE ORWELL

George Orwell is a social critic and the purpose of his writing is to present social problems. George Orwell's *Animal Farm* published in 1954 is a satire on communism and totalitarianism in beast fable form on revolutionary and post-revolutionary Russia. The animals of Mr. Jones farm assemble in a barn where Old Major, a 12-year boar, describes a dream about a world where all animals live free from the tyranny of their human masters and dies. As Mr. Jones forgets to feed the animals, they plot a rebellion against Mr. Jones, revolution takes place and Mr. Jones is expelled from the farm. Snowball and Napoleon emerge as leaders. Manor Farm is renamed as Animal Farm. The seven commandments of Animalism were painted on the barn wall. The seven commandments were-

1. Whatever goes upon two legs is an enemy.
2. Whatever goes upon four legs, or has wings, is a friend.
3. No animal shall wear clothes.
4. No animal shall sleep in a bed.
5. No animal shall drink alcohol.
6. No animal shall kill any other animal.
7. All animals are equal.

However, the pigs, dominated by Napoleon, become corrupted by power and a new tyranny replaces the old. Here, Orwell is attacking the Russian way of ruling over the people. The ultimate commandment runs *'ALL ANIMALS ARE EQUAL BUT SOME ANIMAL ARE MORE EQUAL THAN OTHERS'*. Napoleon changes the name of the farm back to Manor Farm. Napoleon, ruthless and cynical, represents Stalin whereas Snowball represents idealist Trotsky. Old Major, a boar who makes other animals aware about their rights, represents Karl Marx and Mr. Jones who exploits the animals denotes Tsar Nicholas II.

The novelist argues that power corrupts the ruler. Exploitation is possible only where common people are unware of their rights. When they realize their rights, revolution happens and with great valor the revolutionaries succeed, then starts the conflict between the two forces to rule the state; one of them defeats the other and the victorious enjoys power. Instead of establishing those ideals which propelled the revolution, the new ruler follows the traditional path of enjoying luxurious and later on becomes more corrupt than the former ruler. *Animal Farm* also tells the same story. This is one of the greatest anti-utopian novellas that reflect a portrayal of the Russian Revolution and satire on Soviet Russia and totalitarianism.

1.

2.

3. THE HEART OF DARKNESS by JOSEPH CONRAD

Joseph Conrad is a novelist and short story writer born of Polish parents in the Russian-dominated Ukraine. Conrad's short novel, *'The Heart of Darkness'* is one of the most discussed texts in postcolonial literary studies. It was first appeared in '*Blackwood's Magzine'* and published in a book form in 1902. Heart of Darkness tells a story within a story, the story begins with Marlow the protagonist of the novella who narrates his experiences that took place on Congo River in Africa to men aboard an English ship on the Thames. Marlow's story begins in the city of Europe called 'sepulchral' where the company, an unnamed organization, running a colonial enterprise in the Belgian Congo that appoints him captain of the river steamer.

Traveling in Africa to join cargo boat, Marlow exposed to the evils of imperialism, grows disgusted by what he sees of the greed of the ivory traders and their brutal exploitations of the natives. The native inhabitants of Congo suffer terribly from overwork and ill treatment at the hands of the Belgium Company's agents. Marlow hears at a company station that Mr. Kurtz, company's most successful agent, is very sick and admitted in the very heart of ivory country. Marlow sets out by steamboat in search of mysterious Mr. Kurtz. While going, his boat was attacked by tribesmen where his friend Helmsman is killed. The other agents, jealous of Kurtz's success, hope that he will not recover, and it becomes clear that Marlow's arrival at the Inner Station is being deliberately delayed.

At the Inner Station Marlow meets to Russian sailor who tells Marlow about Kurts's brilliance and the semi-divine power which he exercises over the natives. Hence, Kurtz has become a God-like figure to the natives. He has used his knowledge and his gun to reign over this dark kingdom. At the end, Kurtz dies by uttering his last words: *'The horror! The horror!'* Marlow returns with two packages to deliver first Kurtz's report for the Society for Suppression of Savage Custom and second some letters to his fiancé. When Kurtz's fiancé ask what were his words, Marlow lies that he died with her name on his lips. Marlow's story ends there. Heart of Darkness is a semiautobiographical novella, like his protagonist Marlow, Conrad's career as a merchant marine took him to the Congo River and he was profoundly affected by the human depravity that he witnessed on his boat tour of European colonialism in Africa.

4. LORD OF THE FLIES by WILLIAM GOLDING

William Golding, British novelist and schoolteacher, wrote *'Lord of the Flies'*, most acclaimed and highly influential, which is his first novel published in 1954. It deals with a recurrent theme of his fiction, the conflict between humanity's innate barbarism and the civilizing influence of reason. It is a story of a group of English schoolboys, an aeroplane carrying them crashes, pilot of the plain dies and boys who are survived are stranded on an uninhabited island. Novel begins on the island. The boys, Ralph, Piggy, Jack and Simon,free from the rules of civilization and society, attempts to set up a democratically run society under the leadership of Ralph and Piggy but fail and the savagery which rules under the dictator Jack. Some boys behave peacefully and work together to maintain order and achieve common goals while others rebel and seek only anarchy and violence.

Ralph proposes that they should build a fire on the mountain which could signal their presence to any passing ship but Jack is not concerned over long term issues of survival. Piggy wears glasses, with his intelligence, glasses used for lighting fire. One day a ship passes nearby but fire was died out, Piggy blames Jack; Jack hits Piggy; one lens of his glass breaks down.

Ralph is concerned by Jack's behavior hence he reminds boys fire is the most important thing that has to be built on top of the mountain. At night, a parachute falls down the island and pilot dies. Next morning, the twins Sam and Eric were kindling the fire when they see the flapping parachute and believe it to be a beast. Jack wants to be chief so he takes his team to castle rock and be chief there. Hunters kill a pig; Jack smears blood on Maurice's face. They cut off head of beast and leave it on a stake as offering to the beast.

Jack bribes other boys with meat and fun, Piggy, Simon, Sam and Eric joins him except Ralph. Ralph and Jack argue over who will be chief. One day, Simon rushes to tell the boys about dead pilot, the boys think he is the beast and kill him. Ralph and Piggy discuss over Simon's murder. They took part in the murder but try to justify that it happened out of fear and instinct. Being the chief, Jack tied up a boy and instills fear in the other boys by warning them about the beast and intruders. Jack wants to steal the fire from other so he steals Piggy's glasses at night. Ralph and other boys appeal to Jack as civilized people but he refuses to listen them. Roger tips a rock on Piggy, he falls down and dies. Jack declares himself as a chief, boys have become savages so Ralph runs away. Boys hunt for Ralph, set forest on the fire in order to smoke him out but Ralph hides and reaches to the beach where he finds a naval officer. Officer thinks the boys are playing and scolds them for not behaving like a responsible, civilized Britishers. Boys prepare to leave, Ralph weeps for the death of Piggy and the end of the boys' innocence.

Much of the novel is allegorical where characters and objects in the novel have symbolic significance that conveys the novel's central themes and ideas. This story of a group boys has larger implications and explores problems and questions universal to the human experience.

5. SAMSKARA by U. R. ANANTHMURTHY

U. R. Ananthamurthy was an Indian writer and critic in Kannada Language. He was awarded by Jnanpith award in 1994, sixth Kannada writer to be honoured by this award. He was also honoured by India's third highest civilian award 'Padma Bhushan' in 1998.He has authored more than a dozen books in Kannada language which includes five novels, most of them have been translated into many Indian as well as European languages. 'Samskara: A Rite for a Dead Man' is a short novel originally written in Kannada language by renowned academician U. R. Ananthmurthy which published in 1965. The word *'Samskara'* has multiple meanings: rituals, rites of Passage, transformation as well as death rites. This is one of the acknowledged masterpieces of modern literature that has been translated into English by Indian English poet, playwright and translator A. K. Ramanujan. The novella is set in Indian small village of Durvaspura that tells the story of Naranappa who belongs to India's upper class Brahmin community, dies by fever unexpectedly at the beginning of the novel and leaves his community confusion. When he was alive, he leaves his wife for a women of lower caste, eats meats and drinks alcohol and shows disrespect towards Brahmin tradition. His death creates chaos, as the other Brahmins are uncertain how to how to handle his funeral.

Praneshacharya, a member of Brahmin community, is highly regarded for his study and deep knowledge about Brahmin tradition. He has been given a task to make a final decision whether Naranappa should be buried or not in the Brahmin cemetery. Chandri, who belongs to the lower class, is lover of Naranappa. She offers her jewellery to Praneshacharya to get Naranappa proper cremation. Because of class conflict, they reject the death rites for Naranappa,

Chandri feels great sadness and she pays to a Muslim fishmonger to steal the body and cremate it.

Samskara is considered as masterpiece of modern world literature. The novel was widely read and revived by critics. It deals with the themes of Class Conflict, Desire of lust, Greed for money, Faith, Devotion, Community and Mortality. Naranappa's Corpse, Chandri's jewellery and Hypocrisy are the symbols which persist throughout the novel. Rich in allegory, *'Samskara'* is a powerful tale of caste system in India which is very much relevant even in the present times.

6. OF MCIE AND MEN by JOHN STEINBECK

John Steinbeck was one of the greatest American writers of the 20th century. He is widely known for his masterpiece of writing, Pulitzer Prize winning novel *'The Grapes of Wrath'* (1939). He won Nobel Prize for literature in 1962. He has been called as 'a giant of American letters'. *'Of Mice and Men'* is a tragic tale of George Milton and Lennie Small, two displaced migrants ranch workers who move from one place to another place in California in search of new job opportunities during the great depression in the United States. The title of the novella is taken from the poem of Scottish poet Robert Burns' *'To a Mouse'*.

Steinbeck saw a parallel between the struggle of the mouse and the struggles of the workers desperate to achieve some measures of material prosperity and ultimately failing usually due to circumstances beyond their control. At the same, he saw the American dream as a futile, impossible quest for most farm workers. George Milton and Lennie Small are the only two characters in the novella who are explained in detail. The novella opens with Childhood friends George and Lennie, two migrant workers, seek work in the agricultural field of California during the depression to fulfill their dream of owning a piece of land and a home. George is intelligent man with a dream of saving enough money to buy land, Lennie is physically strong man but unable to understand how to behave with others and doesn't know his own strength. Dreams, loneliness, alienation, struggle for existence and companionship are the major themes of the novella.

7. THE STRANGE CASE of DR. JEKYLL AND MR. HYDE by R. L. STVENSON

Robert Louis Stevenson was a Scottish novelist, essayist, short story writer, travel writer and poet. He was a qualified advocate but earned his living as a writer. He was chronically afflicted with tuberculosis and dabbled with various psychotropic drugs such as alcohol, cannabis and opium. *'Treasure Island'* (1881), *'Kidnapped'* (1886), *'The Master of Island'* (1883) are his major works. *'The Strange Case of Dr. Jekyll and Mr. Hyde'* published in 1886, is a terror-mystery novella. It is an allegory of the good and evil selves in man. It appealed even to

people to whom novels were taboo. It was the best seller of the day. It went to the four corners of the earth and made Stevenson's fortune and fame secure.

'The Strange Case of Dr. Jekyll and Mr. Hyde' is an important gothic detective fiction form and it is the prominent example of Victorian fiction. The main central theme of this novella is duality along with good and bad, pure and evil, right and wrong, joy and despair. Stevenson presents that no human has capacity to be completely good or completely bad. The novella explores how the magnificent city London becomes darker and mysterious location. The powerful city of London embodied the freedom and solitude required for the antagonist of the play. Mr. Hyde to hide his wicked behavior from the society as a whole. The names Jekyll and Hyde have become synonymous with multiple personality.

Dr. Jekyll is a good man, much admired in his profession, Mr. Hyde, meanwhile, is evil. He is a murderer. A monster who tramples upon a small girl simply because she happens to be in his way. On a deeper level, however, the comparison is not merely between good and evil but between evolution and degeneration. The strongest thing about the novella is that it is not strange at all. It deals with the everyday plight of ordinary temptations and the familiar effects of the sins they lead to. But though the sins may be familiar, we seldom behold them face-to-face.

The Strange Case of Dr. Jekyll and Mr. Hyde can be seen at various levels, as a story, it talks about the concept of good and evil that exists in all of us. At another level, it is a critique on the hypocrisy and double standards of the society. It is also an interesting study into the mind of the author and into the theories of dualism. Finally, it can be seen as a remarkable study into human psychology that presaged the structural theories as detailed by Freud.

8. NOTES FROM UNDERGROUND by FYODOR DOSTOEVSKY

Fyodor Dostoevsky was a Russian novelist, short story writer, essayist and journalist. He is considered, by most of the critic, as one of the greatest in all of world literature. He explores human conditions in the troubled political, social and spiritual atmosphere of 19th century Russia. Famous novels like *Crime and Punishment*, *The Idiot*, *Demons* and *The Brothers Karamazov* etc. are his highly influential masterpieces. His *'Notes from Underground'*, a novella, is considered as one of the first works of existentialist literature that first published in 1864. This novella is a fictional memoir written by unnamed narrator who lives as recluse under the streets of St. Petersburg and describes his life and thoughts in a series of disjointed fragments. It is a profound exploration of existential despair and the contradictions of human nature. The narrator speaks in first person narrative where he describes his own thoughts and feelings and narrates events that happened sixteen years before in his life. The opening lines of the novella are: *'I am a sick man…I am a spiteful man. I am an unattractive man.'*

This novella is structured in two parts; in the first part narrator gives detailed look at mature personality of Underground man and in the second part we get a story from his youth, an insight into his psychological background. It explores the themes of alienation, complexities of human nature, artificiality of Russian culture, reason and rationality are the major themes of the novella.

9. THE METAMORPHOSIS by FRANZ KAFKA

Franz Kafka, a prolific novelist and short story writer, was a German language writer. He is considered as one of the major figures of the 20th century, best known for his novels like *The Trial*, *Amerika* and *The Castle.* In 1921, when he was twenty-nine years old, he wrote novella *The Metamorphosis.* The Metamorphosis is an allegorical novella and it is about what happens when its protagonist Gregor Samsa transforms into a bug. It deals with the themes of alienation, anxiety, the power of change, guilt and absurdity of life.

'*The Aspern Papers'* by Henry James, '*The Stranger'* by Albert Camus*, 'The Time Machine'* by H.G. Wells and '*Death in Venice'* by Thomas Mann are some of the other popular novellas. One should read these works of fiction to understand more about the genre novella.

Unit: 4 Genres of Literature: Short Story

4.1 Defining Short Story:

Short Story is one of the popular genres of literature which consists of a singular plot, character or theme. Short story is always reader friendly that serves didactic purpose with entertainment. Though it has limited words, it has deep impact on the readers. Short story has been defined by different literary scholars based on its nature, purpose and their approach towards this genre. Here are some definitions short story as a genre byvarious celebrated English and Indian short story writers.

4.1.1 Definitions of Short Story:

a) English Authors:

Edgar Allan Poe, an American writer, poet, editor and literary critic defines short story as 'a narrative that can be read in one sitting, providing a single effect or impression'. **Brander Matthews**, a significant figure in American literary criticism argued that 'the short story should aim to leave a singular, unified impression on the reader. It is designed to focus on one particular effect or emotion'.**Henry James**, an American-British author known for his sophisticated prose style and his deep psychological insight into characters. He viewed 'short story as a vehicle for deep psychological exploration and precise expression.'He further argues that the short story can reveal the shades of human experience through a limited scope.**Katherine Mansfield**is a prominent modernist writer from New Zealand who is known for her innovative and deeply psychological short stories. Her works often explore themes of human isolation, social class and the complexities of interpersonal relationships, all while employing a distinctive narrative style that merges realism with a poetic sensibility.**Anton Pavlovich Chekhov**, one of the most celebrated Russian playwrights and short story writers focuses on everyday life. He believed in portraying life as it is, without the need for dramatic plots or overt moral lessons.

b) Indian Authors:

Many Indian English writers have contributed to the development of the short story in English. Notable contributors among them are Rabindranath Tagore, R.K. Narayan, Raja Rao, MulkRaj Anand, Ruskin Bond, Jhumpa Lahiri's, Anita Desai, Salman Rushdie, Chitra Banerjee

Divakaruni, Rohinton Mistry etc. The definitions of short story include cultural, historical and stylistic elements. Here are the definitions of short story prepared by some notable Indian English writers.

R.K. Narayan, one of the most celebrated Indian writers in English. Hedefines short story as "A short story is a piece of fiction that provides a glimpse into the lives of its characters, often highlighting the ordinary and mundane, yet revealing deeper truths about human nature." His stories are based on the imginary town of Malgudi which focus on human emotions with the help of local settings.

Ruskin Bond is another Indian short story writer who finds inspiration in nature. He defines "A short story is like a quiet stroll through the countryside, offering moments of reflection and insight. It captures fleeting emotions and experiences, often with a sense of nostalgia and simplicity." Next notable writer is **Jhumpa Lahiri,** her stories depict the themes of identity, displacement and the immigrant experience. She defines as "A short story is a concise narrative that explores the complexities of human relationships and cultural identities. It is a fragment of life that resonates deeply with universal themes, often highlighting the struggles and triumphs of individuals."**Anita Desai's** short stories often explore the inner lives of her characters. She defines short story as "A short story is a window into the inner world of a character. It reveals the nuances of their thoughts and feelings, often in moments of quiet contemplation or crisis."**Salman Rushdie's** stories present with magical realism, blending fantastical elements with historical and cultural narratives. He defines "A short story is a vibrant tapestry of imagination and reality. It weaves together disparate elements into a cohesive narrative, often challenging the boundaries of traditional storytelling."**Chitra Banerjee Divakaruni's** stories often focus on the lives of women, weaving together elements of myth, history, and contemporary issues. She defines, "A short story is an intimate glimpse into the lives of its characters, often revealing their struggles, dreams, and transformations. It merges the personal with the universal, creating a narrative that resonates on multiple levels."**Rohinton Mistry** opines, "A short story is a snapshot of life, reflecting the intricate social and cultural dynamics of its setting. It is a medium to tell powerful, poignant tales that resonate with readers on a personal and societal level." His stories are often set against the backdrop of contemporary India, exploring themes of social justice, community and individual resilience.

4.1.2Structure and Characteristics:

Origin of the Short Story is a comparatively recent development in English literature. It has become a popular form of literature in the contemporary period. It is a concise work of fiction that typically revolves around a singular plot, character or theme. Though its form is brief, it creates a powerful impact on the mind of the readers.

Structure

The short story is a short form of literature but it has all the constituents of fiction such as plot, character, and setting. The plot is confined to the essentials, the characters to the indispensables, and the setting to a few suggestive hints.Sometimes one of the three elements may predominate over the other two. In other words, the writer may construct a story of plot alone, with characters and setting confined strictly to its requirements, or of character alone, with plot and setting just sufficient to display it, or of setting alone, with plot and characters as mere subsidiaries. To illustrate from Stevenson, “The Bottle Imp” is a story of plot. “Dr. Jekyll and Mr. Hyde”, a story of character, and “The Merry Men” a story of setting. The language of the story should be a model of economy. Every word in it should contribute to its effect. There is no space for vague details in the story. Every single word serves the purpose of the writer. Descriptive passages are valuable which towards the total effect of the story.

Characteristics:

Short story is a popular literary genre that captures the essence of fiction in an impressive way. Brevity of the text requires a focus on the elements such as plot, character, theme and wide range of expression with literary devices. The short stories provide thought-provoking experiences. The characteristics of the short story are as follows:

Plot: Plot of the short story often is confined to a single event or conflict. It has a linear structure as beginning, middle and end.Important moments in the story take the narrative to its climax.

Characters: Short stories have usually limited characters which allows the readers for deeper exploration of these characters within the constraints of the shorter format. It is easy for the readers to capture the essence of the characters in brief sketches rather than detailed portraits.

Setting: The setting of the short story is usually limited to one or a few locations. It provides background to develop the suggestive narrative. The setting plays an important role in determining the mood and the tone of the story.

Theme: Short story has a single theme or a few themes which arereflected through the narrative. The themes are often related to human experiences and social or moral issues existed in the society.

Style and Tone: The style of the short story can be both simple or complex. The nature of the story is based on the purpose of the writer behind the story writing. The tone of the story can be humorous or serious. The writer skilfully transmits his message to the readers through either humorous or serious tone.

Conflict: Conflict is one of the characteristics of the story. It can be of three types such as character versus character, character versus self and character versus nature. The first kind of conflict may be two or more characters in the story. The second kind of conflict is personal dilemma of the main character in the story. The third kind of conflict depicts problems caused by the elements of nature.

Economy of Language: Economy of the language is one of the major characteristics of the short story. Here, the write has to make tightrope walking in terms of the length of the text. The writer has to choose every word with care to deliverthe message. The story has a brief depiction of all happenings. The language of the story is comprehensive to the common readers.

Impact: Short stories are short in form but they leave long lasting impression through their on the mind of the readers through their focused narrative and emotional depth. They are capable of delivering deep and memorable experiences to the readers.

4.2 Types of Short Story:

English literature covers wide variety of short stories with different styles, themes, characteristics and narrative techniques. A detailed overview of common types of short stories is as follows.

1. **Literary Short Story:**

Literary short story is a work of prose fiction which deals with human experiences and emotions. Its length is often limited which can be read in a single sitting. It focuses on character development, style and thematic depth.“The Dead” by James Joyce, “The Lottery”by Shirley Jackson and "A Good Man is Hard to Find" by Flannery O’Connor are some of the popular examples of this kind.

2. Genre Short Stories:

Genre short storiescovergenre conventions such as fantasy, mystery, horror and science fiction. Examples of each kind are as below.

a) **Fantasy:**Fantasy is a genre of fiction which comprises magical or supernatural elements.These stories often feature fantastical creatures, enchanted objects, and characters with extraordinary abilities. These stories explore the themes such as good versus evil, heroism, adventure, and the power of imagination. One of the examples of this kind is “The Lottery” by Shirley Jackson

b) **Mystery:**Mystery is a genre of fiction that revolves around solving a puzzle or a crime. The central theme of a mystery story is the element of suspense and clues that eventually lead to the resolution of the mystery. Example: “The Adventure of the Speckled Band” by Arthur Conan Doyle

c) **Horror:**A horror story is a genre of fiction that aims to evoke fear or unease in the mind of a reader. It moves around troubling events, supernatural occurrences or psychological terrors. Example: “The Tell-Tale Heart” by Edgar Allan Poe

d) **Science Fiction:**These stories explore hypothetical concepts based on scientific principles, technology or scenarios in future. Science fiction often introduces advancements or scientific principles that have not yet been realized or are theoretically possible for instance faster-than-light travel or time travel. Examples: “Dune” by Frank Herbert, “Neuromancer” by William Gibson, “The Left Hand of Darkness” by Ursula K. Le Guin.

3. Flash Fiction:

Flash Fiction is a very brief story generally written in around 1000 words which delivers a complete narrative. It has often poignant ending. Notable examples of this kind are “Harrison Bergeron” by Kurt Vonnegut, “Lydia Davis” by Ernest Hemingway and “Sticks” by George Saunders

4. Realist Short Stories:

These stories depict everyday life and ordinary events with a focus on realistic settings and characters. Notable example of this kind is "A Good Man is Hard to Find"by Flannery O'Connor.

5. Magical Realism:

Magical realism is a literary genre that interweaves magical or fantastical elements with realistic narratives. Magical realism arouses a sense of wonder and curiosity. Itmotivates readers to ponder over the limitations of reality and imagination.Magical elements carry symbolic meanings. They serve as metaphors for larger themes related to human existence. The elements of these stories often challenge the distinction between the magical and the real.The fantastical elements are used to comment on the norms of the society and human experience. Here are some notable examples of this kind of stories: "A Very Old Man with Enormous Wings"and"The Handsomest Drowned Man in the World" by Gabriel Garcia Marquez, "The Snow Child" and "The Tiger's Bride" by Angela Carter, "The Night Face Up" by Julio Cortazar, "The Hands" by Sherwood Anderson and "The Lottery" by Shirley Jackson.

6. Minimalist Stories/Micro fiction:

This kind of story usually focuses on a single incident or idea in a few sentences.It is characterized by brevity and simplicity which depicts surface description in a simple language. It presents a moment or a feeling with a few words and leaves space for imagination to fill in the details. Some of the notable examples of this kind are: Ernest Hemingway's famous six-word story: "For sale: baby shoes, never worn",Margaret Atwood's six-word story: "Longed for him. Got him. Shit", Gabriel Garcia Marquez's six-word story: "All sunsets in one evening paper" and Arthur C. Clarke's six-word story: "God said, Cancel Program GENESIS. The universe ceased to exist."

7. Southern Gothic:

Southern Gothic is a literary genre that originated in the United States in the early 20th century, focusing on unsettling and horrible themes within the context of the American South.It generally highlights the tension caused by the American Civil War, including class struggles and

racial issues.Southern Gothic literature include: William Faulkner's"The Sound and the Fury", Flannery O'Connor's"A Good Man is Hard to Find", Tennessee Williams'"A Streetcar Named Desire" and Carson McCullers's"The Heart is a Lonely Hunter". These stories present the darker aspects of human nature and society, often with a sense of fear and humour.

8. Historical Stories:

Historical stories are based on real events occurred in the past or historicalfigures. These stories are based on the historical facts. These stories describe historical events which have shaped civilizations. Example: "The Garden Party" by Katherine Mansfield

9. Psychological Stories

Psychological stories deal with the inner thoughts of the characters. These stories explore the themes such as mental illness or complex emotions. One of the notable examples of this kind is "The Yellow wallpaper" by Charlotte Perkins Gilman.

10. Experimental Short Stories

Experimental short stories are different from the traditional stories. The writers of these stories make experiment in narrative techniques, structure and language. Some of the examples of this kind are "Girl" by Jamaica Kincaid,"House of Leaves" by Mark Z. Danielewski,"The Circular Ruins" by Jorge Luis Borges.

11. Fable:

Fable is a short story in which animals, mythical creatures or plants are presented as the characters.These characters are presented with human qualities.These stories aim to teach moral lessons to the readers.Examples: "The Tortoise and the Hare" by Aesop, "The Fox and the Grapes" by Aesop

12. Fairy Tale:

A fairy tale is a traditional story having enchantments, magical creatures or supernatural elements. The characters in these stories are mainly princes, princesses, witches, talking animals and magical elements. It often depicts a struggle between good and evil. Fairy tales convey moral lessons andoftenpassed orally from generation to generation. A popular examples of fairy

tales include “Cinderella,”“Snow White and the Seven Dwarfs,”“Little Red Riding Hood,” and “Beauty and the Beast.”

13. Parable:

Parables are simple, didactic stories that preach a moral or religious lesson. It has human characters. Jesus Christ used parables in his teachings to convey spiritual truths and principles to his followers. Examples of famous parables include “The Good Samaritan and “The Prodigal Son” form the *Bible*.

14. Allegory:

These stories use symbolic figures, actions or events to convey deeper moral, political, or philosophical meanings. Examples: “Animal Farm” by George Orwell“The Masque of the Red Death” by Edgar Allan Poe

15. Epistolary:

Epistolary stories are told through a series of documents, such as letters and diary entries.Examples: “The Diary of a Madman” by Nikolai Gogol, “The Yellow Wallpaper” by Charlotte Perkins Gilman.

16. Urban Legend:

An urban legend is a modern folklore story. It is circulated among the readers through oral tradition. It is accepted as the truth even though it may not be based on factual evidence. These stories deal with strange, horrifying or mysterious events that are circulated as true accounts, often with the intent to entertain, frighten, or caution others. Examples: “The Hook” and “The Vanishing Hitchhiker”

17. Drabble:

A drabble is a very short fiction or prose which is confined to the length of 100 words. It is a challenging task for the writers to maintain brevity of the words. Drabble often focuses on a single moment or impression. It may cover multiple themes in the limited text.

4.3 Introduction to Major Short Story Writers:

4.3.1 Major English Short Story Writers:

The short story deals with human experiences, emotions and ideas. This genre of literature has gained worldwide popularity for its entertaining and didactic nature. This genre appeared on the canvas of literature in 19th century and has attracted many talented writers. Here are some of the most significant short story writers in the English language who have contributed to this genre through their writing.

Edgar Allan Poe (1809-1849)was an American writer, poet, author, editor, and literary critic who is best known for his poetry and short stories. He is known as a central figure of Romanticism and Gothic fiction of American literature. He has contributed to the development of the detective fiction and the science fiction.

Selected Short stories:

"The Black Cat"
"The Cask of Amontillado"
"A Descent into the Maelström"
"The Facts in the Case of M. Valdemar"
"The Fall of the House of Usher"
"The Gold-Bug"
"Hop-Frog"
"The Imp of the Perverse"
"Ligeia
"The Masque of the Red Death"

Nathaniel Hawthorne (1804-1864):

Nathaniel Hawthorne was an American novelist and short story writer.He was born in 1804 in Salem, Massachusetts in the United States. He entered Bowdoin College in 1821and graduated in 1825. His works often focus on history, morality, religion and exploration of moral and psychological complexities.His writing reflects the Puritanical culture of his time through the themes of sin, guilt and redemption. His celebrated stories are "Young Goodman Brown" and "The Birth-Mark".

Short story collections

Twice-Told Tales (1837)
Legends of the Province House (1838–1839)
Grandfather's Chair (1840)
Mosses from an Old Manse (1846)
A Wonder-Book for Girls and Boys (1851)
The Snow-Image, and Other Twice-Told Tales (1852)
Tanglewood Tales (1853)
The Dolliver Romance and Other Pieces (1876)
The Great Stone Face and Other Tales of the White Mountains (1889)

Henry James (1843-1916):

Henry James was an American-British author. He is recognized as a significant transitional figure between literary realism and literary modernism. He was the son of Henry James Sr. and the brother of philosopher and psychologist William James and diarist Alice James. He is known for his psychological depth and deep comprehension of the characters. His short stories focus on the inner lives of his characters.

Shorter Stories:

"A Tragedy of Error" (1864)
"The Story of a Year" (1865)
"The Pupil" (1891)
"The Figure in the Carpet" (1896)

Katherine Mansfield (1888-1923):

Kathleen Mansfield Murry was a New Zealand writer. She played an essential role in the modernist movement. Her works are recognized throughout the world and have been translated into 25 languages. She published short stories and poetry under the name Katherine Mansfield. Her stories depict anxiety, sexuality, existentialism and a New Zealand identity. When she was 19, she left New Zealand and moved to England, where she came in contact with D. H. Lawrence, Virginia Woolf, Lady Ottoline Morrell, and other Bloomsbury Group members.

Mansfield was diagnosed with pulmonary tuberculosis in 1917 and died in France at the age of 34.

Selected short stories:

"The Tiredness of Rosabel" (1908), "A Truthful Adventure" (1911), "The Journey to Bruges" (1911), "The Little Girl" (1912), "The Woman at the Store" (1912), "The Apple-Tree" (1915), "The Little Governess" (1915), "Bank Holiday" (1920), "Miss Brill" (1920), "The Young Girl" (1920), "This Flower" (1920), "An Ideal Family" (1921), "Life of Ma Parker" (1921), "The Stranger" (1921), "The Man Without a Temperament" (1921), "The Garden Party" (1922), "A Cup of Tea" (1922), "The Doll's House" (1922)

James Joyce (1882-1941):

James Augustine Aloysius Joyce was an Irish novelist, poet, and literary critic. He is one of the twentieth century's most influential and significant writers. He helped to shape the modernist avant-garde movement. He was born in Dublin to a middle-class family. He studied at the Jesuit Clongowes Wood College in County Kildare, followed by a brief period at the Christian Brothers–run O'Connell School. Despite the financial instability caused by his father, he excelled at the Jesuit Belvedere College and graduated from University College Dublin in 1902. His short stories, particularly in his collection of short stories *Dubliners*, presents a detailed portrayal of life in early 20th-century Dublin.His other writings include three collections of poetry, a drama, correspondence, and some journalism.

Short Stories:

Dubliners (1914), "The Cat and the Devil" (1965), "The Cats of Copenhagen" (2012)

D.H. Lawrence (1885-1930):

David Herbert Lawrence was a versatile English author who excelled in various literary genres such as novels, short stories, poetry, plays, literary criticism, travel writing, essays, and painting.His writings deal with the themes such as modern society, social isolation, industrialization, sexuality, vitality and instinct. His artistic preferences and opinions led to a controversial reputation, resulting in persecution and misrepresentation of his work during his lifetime. He spent much of his life in voluntary exile, which he referred to as a "savage enough pilgrimage". His stories present the complexities of human relationships, particularly those

involving themes of sexuality and power. His narratives depict a deep connection to nature and a keen understanding of the human psyche.

Short-story collections:

The Prussian Officer and Other Stories (1914), *England, My England and Other Stories* (1922), *The Complete Short Stories* (1922), *The Fox, The Captain's Doll, The Ladybird* (1923), St Mawr and Other Stories (1925), *The Woman who Rode Away and Other Stories* (1928), *The Rocking-Horse Winner* (1926), *The Virgin and the Gipsy and Other Stories* (1930), *Love Among the Haystacks and Other Pieces* (1930), *The Lovely Lady and Other Tales* (1932), *The Tales of D.H. Lawrence* (1934) and *Collected Stories* (1994).

Ernest Hemingway (1899-1961):

Ernest Miller Hemingway, born on July 21, 1899, and passing away on July 2, 1961, was a prominent American novelist, short-story writer, and journalist. He is renowned for his concise and straightforward writing style, which had a significant impact on later writers of the 20th century. The majority of his literary works were published between the 1920s and 1950s which consists of seven novels, six collections of short stories, and two non-fiction pieces. His writings have since become timeless classics of American literature. In recognition of his literary contributions, Hemingway was honoured with the Nobel Prize in Literature in 1954. Additionally, several of his novels, short-story collections, and nonfiction works were published posthumously. His stories deal with the themes such as courage, lossand existential struggle. His notable stories are "iceberg theory"and"Hills Like White Elephants."

Flannery O'Connor (1925-1964):

Mary Flannery O'Connor, born on March 25, 1925, and passed away on August 3, 1964, was a renowned American author known for her works as a novelist, short story writer, and essayist. She authored two novels, 31 short stories, along with numerous reviews and commentaries. Her stories were deeply influenced by her Roman Catholic faith, exploring themes of morality and ethics. O'Connor was recognized as a Southern writer. Her stories deal with Southern Gothic style, rich with dark humour and complex moral and religious themes.

Short story collections:

A Good Man Is Hard to Find and Other Stories (1955), *Everything That Rises Must Converge* (1965), *The Complete Stories* (1971)

Chinua Achebe (1930-2013)

Chinua Achebe was a Nigerian novelist, poet, and critic known for his significant contributions to modern African literature. His short stories offer a profound glimpse into Nigerian society, culture and the lasting effects of colonialism. His renowned work, "Marriage is a Private Affair," delves into the clash between traditional Igbo customs and modernity, illustrating generational conflicts within Nigerian families. Additionally, "Civil Peace" explores the challenges faced by individuals like Jonathan in rebuilding their lives after the Nigerian Civil War. Through these narratives, Achebe skilfully examines themes of resilience, resourcefulness, and the enduring human spirit in the face of adversity. Just like his novels, Achebe's short stories provide a deep understanding of Nigerian history and societal complexities, making them essential reads for those interested in African literature and postcolonial studies.

Short stories:

“In a Village Church”, “The Old Order in Conflict with the New”, “Dead Men's Path”

“Chike's School Days”

Alice Munro (1931-2024):

Alice Ann Munro, born on July 10, 1931, was a Canadian short story writer known for her Nobel Prize in Literature in 2013. Her writing style often involves moving back and forth in time, and her stories are typically set in her native Huron County in southwestern Ontario. Alice Munro is regarded as one of the greatest contemporary short story writers. Her stories are

celebrated for their depth and insight into the human experience.Her popular stories are “Runaway” and “The Bear Came Over the Mountain”.

There are many talented writers cross the world who have contributed to the development of short story as a genre. The above mentioned witters have significantly contributed the short story as a literary form with their unique style and thematic concerns.

4.3. 2 Major Short Story Writers in Indian English Literature:

Many Indian writers have contributed to the genre of short story through their intellectual writing. The short stories in Indian English literature focus on the themes such as contemporary issues existed in the society and human experiences. Let’s glance at the major contributors who have enriched Indian writing in English with their intellectual short stories. Outstanding contributors of this genre are: Rabindranath Tagore, R. K. Narayan, Mulkraj Anand, Raja Rao, Ruskin Bond, Jhumpa Lahiri, Anita Desai, Shashi Deshpande, Amit Chaudhuri, Khushwant Singh, Shashi Deshpande, Anjana Appachana, Mahasweta Devi, Kamala Das etc.

Rabindranath Tagore:

Rabindranath Tagore (7 May 1861 – 7 August 1941) was an Indian poet, writer, playwright, composer, philosopher, social reformer and painter of the Bengal Renaissance.His short stories are celebrated for their lyrical prose, deep philosophical insights, and exploration of human emotions and societal issues. His stories have been translated into many languages and have gained recognition worldwide. He is known as the author of "profoundly sensitive, fresh and beautiful" poetry of Gitanjali. In 1913, Tagore became the first non-European and the first lyricist to win the Nobel Prize in Literature.

Most Celebrated Stories:

“The Postmaster”,“Mashi”, “Kabuliwala”, “Subha”, “The Editor”

R.K. Narayan:

Rasipuram Krishnaswami Iyer Narayanaswami (10 October 1906 -13 May 2001),better known as R. K. Narayan. He was one of the leading authors of early Indian literature in English along with Mulk Raj Anand and Raja Rao. Narayan was a prolific short story writer. His short stories are characterized by their simplicity, humour and deep insights into human nature. He was an Indian writer and novelist known for his work set in the fictional South Indian town of Malgudi. His writing style is noted for its clarity and straightforward language to convey the truths about life and society.

Well-known short story collections:

Malgudi Days, Lawley Road and Other Stories and *A Horse and Two Goats and Other Stories*

Mulk Raj Anand:

Mulk Raj Anand (12 December 1905 - 28 September 2004) was an Indian writer in English, recognised for his depiction of the lives of the poorer castes in traditional Indian society. He is one of the pioneers of Indo-Anglian fiction.He was one of the first India-based writers in English to gain an international readership.

Short story collections

The Lost Child and Other Stories
The Barber's Trade Union and Other Stories
The Tractor and the Corn Goddess and Other Stories
Reflections on the Golden Bed and Other Stories
The Power of Darkness and Other Stories
Lajwanti and Other Stories
Between Tears and Laughter

Raja Rao:

Raja Rao was born on 8 November 1908 in Hassan, in the princely state of Mysore (now in Karnataka in South India) into a Kannada-speaking Brahmin family. He was an Indian-American writer of English-language novels and short stories.He was educated at a Muslim school, the Madarsa-e-Aliya in Hyderabad. After matriculation, he studied for his degree at

Nizam's College,Osmania University Hyderabad.Raja Rao's short stories depict the spiritual and philosophical dimensions of human existence. His stories focus on the complexities of Indian culture, traditions and the changing socio-cultural landscape of India. His writings focus on themes such as human sufferings, the struggle against societal norms and expectations.

Short story collections:

The Cow of the Barricades (1947)
The Policeman and the Rose (1978)
On the Ganga Ghat (1989)

Ruskin Bond:

Ruskin Bond was born on 19 May 1934 in Kasauli, Punjab States Agency, British India. His father, Aubrey Alexander Bond, was born in a military camp in Shahjahanpur, a small town in north India.In a small school in the Jamnagar palace for their princes and princesses, where Ruskin also studied for his first six years. He was sent to a boarding school in Mussoorie. Ruskin Bond, a renowned Indian author known for his touching writing style. He has written numerous short stories over the years.

Collection of short stories:

Delhi Is Not Far: The Room on the Roof, Vagrants in the Valley, A Flight of Pigeons, The Sensualist,

Jhumpa Lahiri:

Jhumpa Lahiri (born July 11, 1967) is a British-American author known for her short stories, novels, and essays in English and, more recently, in Italian. Herstories explore the themes of identity, belongingness, diaspora, the immigrant experience, drawing from her own background as an Indian-American. Her writing is characterized by its evocative prose style. Her notable works and collection of stories are:

Interpreter of Maladies (1999), *The Namesake* (2003),*Interpreter of Maladies* (1999),

"A Temporary Matter"

“When Mr. Pirzada Came to Dine”

“Interpreter of Maladies”

“A Real Durwan”

“Sexy”

“Mrs. Sen’s”

“This Blessed House”

“The Treatment of Bibi Haldar”

“The Third and Final Continent”

Anita Desai:

Anita Desai (24 June 1937), is an Indian novelist. She was born in 1937 in Mussoorie, India, to a German immigrant mother, Toni Nime, and a Bengali businessman, D. N. Mazumdar. She grew up speaking Hindi with her neighbours, and only German at her home. She also spoke Bengali, Urdu and English out of her house. She is celebrated not only for her novels but also for her significant contributions to short fiction. Her short stories deal with the themes of human relationships, cultural conflicts and the complexities of inner life. Many of Desai’s short stories examine the clash between traditional Indian culture and the influence of Western values. Desai employs rich symbolism and imagery in her short stories. She also highlights the experiences of women in Indian society.

Short story collections

Games at Twilight and Other Stories (1978)

Diamond Dust and Other Stories (2000)

The Artist of Disappearance (2011)

Shashi Deshpande:

Shashi Deshpande was born on 19 august 1938 in Dharwad, Karnataka. She was educated in Bombay and Bangalore. Deshpande has degrees in Economics and Law. In Mumbai, she studied journalism at the Vidya Bhavan and worked for a few months as a journalist for the

magazine ‘Onlooker’.Deshpande has written four children’s books, a number of short stories, thirteen novels, and an essay collection entitled Writing from the Margin and Other Essays.

Deshpande’s stories depict intimate portrayals of characters dealing with everyday challenges, personal conflicts, and societal expectations. She skilfully captures the nuances of relationships, particularly within the context of Indian familiessuch as gender roles, family conflicts and the quest for identity. Some of her notable short story collections include *That Long Silence, The Binding Vine,* and *Small Remedies.*

Chitra Banerjee Divakaruni:

Chitra Banerjee Divakaruni (born Chitralekha Banerjee, 1956) is an Indian-born American author, poet. Her short story collection, *Arranged Marriage,* won an American Book Award in 1996. Divakaruni was born in Calcutta, Indians. Divakaruni’s works are largely set in India and the United States, and often focus on the experiences of South Asian immigrants. Her writings explore themes of immigration, identity and the Indian-American experience. Her notable works are *Arranged Marriage, The Unknown Errors of Our Lives.*

Mahasweta Devi:

Mahasweta Devi (1926 -2016) was born in a Brahmin family on 14 January 1926 in Dacca, British India.Shewas an Indian writer in Bengali and an activist. She was a leftist who worked for the rights and empowerment of the tribal people of West Bengal, Bihar, Madhya Pradesh and Chhattisgarh states of India.She was a prolific and influential Indian writer known primarily for her powerful short stories and novels that focused on social issues, particularly those affecting marginalized and oppressed communities in India. Her writing often dealt with themes of poverty, exploitation, and the struggles of tribal communities, women, and lower-caste individuals. Her notable works are *Draupadi, Breast Stories* and *Agony of the Leaves*.

William Hazlitt (1778-1830) is one of the best essayists of the 19th century. His essays are the reflection of his personality outspoken, straightforward and frank. His 'Miscellaneous Essays' are autobiographical and frankly tell about his temperament, his prejudices, his enthusiasms and his limitations.

Thomas de Quincey (17851859), like Lamb and Hazlitt was frankly personal. His best essays are autobiographical. He dealt with all sorts of subjects about himself and his friends, life in general, art, literature, philosophy and religion. His autobiographical sketches 'Confessions of an English Opium Eater' are the most personal.

6) The Essay in 20th century Recent Times: In the modern age both sujective and objective essays have been written by various writers. The 20th century proved a fertile ground for the development of the essay. The countless periodicals, journals, magazines and dailies of our times gave scope to the essay. E.V.Lucas, Robert Lynol, G.K. Chesterton, Birrel, A.G. Gardiner, Max Beerbhom, Hilaire Belloc and J.B. Priestley are only a few of the most important essayists of the modern era. The modern essay is personal and chatty. It lays bare the criticism life. The essayists propagate their views on various aspects of life. The style of the modern essayists is simple, though dignified.

7) Conclusion Such is the origin, development, kinds and chequered career of the essay in England.