



Literature in English — Integrated Study Note

1. General Literary Principles & Terms

- **Figures of Speech:** Essential devices like **Metaphor** (direct comparison), **Simile** (comparison using 'as' or 'like'), **Personification** (giving human traits to objects), **Irony** (opposite of expectation), and **Hyperbole** (exaggeration).
- **Dramatic Techniques:**
 - **Soliloquy:** A character speaking their inner thoughts alone on stage.
 - **Aside:** A brief remark to the audience that other characters "cannot hear".
 - **Dramatic Irony:** When the audience knows something the characters do not.
- **Narrative Techniques (Prose):**
 - **Point of View:** First-person ("I") vs. Third-person/Omniscient ("He/She/They").
 - **Flashback:** Interrupting the chronological sequence to show past events.
 - **Foreshadowing:** Hints about what will happen later in the plot. [5, 6, 7, 8, 9, 10, 11]

2. The Three Genres of Literature

Genre [1, 7, 9, 10, 12, 13]	Key Features	Types to Know
Drama	Designed for performance; uses dialogue and stage directions.	Tragedy, Comedy, Tragicomedy, Farce, Melodrama.
Prose	Written in narrative form (chapters/paragraphs).	Fiction (Novel, Short Story), Non-fiction (Biography, Memoir), Faction.
Poetry	Condensed, rhythmic language written in stanzas.	Sonnet, Ode, Elegy, Ballad, Epic, Lyric, Dirge.

3. Current JAMB/WASSCE Prescribed Texts (2026 Syllabus)

- **Shakespearean Text:** [*Antony and Cleopatra*](#) (Compulsory).
- **African Drama:** [*The Marriage of Anansewa*](#) (Efua Sutherland) and [*Once Upon an Elephant*](#) (Bosede Ademilua-Afolayan).
- **Non-African Drama:** [*An Inspector Calls*](#) (J.B. Priestley) and [*A Man for all Seasons*](#) (Robert Bolt).
- **African Prose:** [*So the Path Does Not Die*](#) (Pede Hollist) and [*Redemption Road*](#) (Elma Shaw).
- **Non-African Prose:** [*To Kill a Mockingbird*](#) (Harper Lee) and [*Path of Lucas*](#) (Susanne Bellefeuille). [14, 15, 16]

4. Critical Exam Tips

- **Unseen Passages:** Practice analyzing short, unfamiliar extracts for their theme, tone, and literary devices.
- **Characterization:** Don't just learn names; understand a character's **role** (Protagonist vs. Antagonist) and their **traits** (Round vs. Flat).
- **Poetry Analysis:** Focus on the **diction** (word choice) and **imagery** to determine the poem's mood and message. [3, 4, 6, 9, 10, 17]