TYPES OF LITERATURE: THE GENRES

- Lit may be classified into:
  - Prose fiction
  - Poetry
  - Drama
  - Non fiction prose
Prose Fiction (Narrative Fiction) includes:

- myths
- parables
- romances
- novels
- short stories
Fiction refers to prose stories based in the imagination of authors.

The essence of fiction is narration: the relating or recounting of a sequence of events or actions.
The Focus of Fictional Works

- One or a few major characters who change & grow as a result of how they deal with other characters & how they attempt to solve their problems.
  (their ability to make decisions, their awareness & insight, their attitude toward others, their sensitivity, & their moral capacity)
Fiction vs. history

• Although fiction, like all imaginative literature, can introduce true historical details, it is NOT real history, for its main purpose is to interest, stimulate, instruct, & divert, not to create a precise historical record.
Non Fiction
Prose/ Non-Fictional Narratives

It consists of news reports, feature articles, essays, editorials, textbooks, historical & biographical works, or the other works describing or interpreting facts & presenting judgments & opinions.
The Goal

to present truths & conclusions about the factual world of history, science, & current events.
The Elements of Fiction
Character

• Character brings fiction to life: facing a major problem developing from misunderstanding, misinformation, unfocused ideals/goals, difficult situations, troubled relationships, & other general challenging situations.

• They are found in fiction just as they may also be found in all levels & conditions of life.
Plot

- Plot is the plan of fiction: actions/incidents/speeches/thoughts/observations are linked together to make up a wholeness called an organic unity
The Essence of Plot

- The development & resolution of conflicts in which the protagonist is engaged.
- The interactions of causes & effects as they develop sequentially/chronologically to make up the story’s plot.
Idea/ theme

• It is the vivid thought of fiction
• Either directly/indirectly, fiction embodies ideas/themes that underlie & give life to stories & novels.
• Thus, many works can be discussed in terms of the issues which they raise.
The Writer’s Tools
Narration

• It creates the sequence & logic of Fiction: the reporting of actions in sequential order.

• It makes the story clear & brings it alive to the reader’s imagination through the movement of sentences from word to word, scene to scene, action to action, & speech to speech.
Style

• Style is the author’s skill in bringing language to life: in manipulating language.
• A mark of a good style is the use of active verbs & nouns that are specific & concrete.
• An author may be judged on how vividly s/he tells her/his stories.
Point of View

• It is the voice of the story, the speaker who does the narrating: the way the story establishes authenticity (the story's focus/ the angle of vision from which things are not only seen & reported but also judged

• It guides what we see & understand in fiction
By controlling this, an author helps us make reasonable inferences about the story’s actions.
Tone & Irony

Guiding our perceptions on Fictional Works
Tone

• The writer’s attitudes toward readers & also toward the work’s subjects
Irony: incongruence of some kind

- Verbal Irony: saying one thing meaning another
- Situational Irony: incongruence between what is expected to happen & what actually happens
In dramatic irony characters have an incorrect/misguided understanding of what is happening to them, while both readers & other character understand the situation more fully.
Symbolism & Allegory

• They show the relevance of Fiction to the larger world
• When Mathilde moves into an attic flat, it symbolizes her loss of economic/social status
• Loisel’s long servitude is similar to the lives/activities of people who perform tasks for mistaken/meaningless reasons.
Those elements are present together in Works of Fiction.

Thus, a work of fiction is a unity, which should be understood as a whole!!!
Why do we study Lit?

• Lit helps us grow, both personally and intellectually. It opens doors for us. It stretches our mind. It develops our imagination, increases our understanding, and enlarges our power of sympathy. It helps us see beauty in the world around us.
• It links us with the cultural, philosophical, and religious world of which we are a part.
• It enables us to recognize human dreams and struggles in different places & times.
• It exercises our emotions through interest, concern, sympathy, tension, excitement, regret, fear, laughter, and hope. It makes us human.