

Grade 10 & 11 (*New Syllabus*)

Appreciation of English Literary Texts

Prose - Introduction



The Eagle by Alfred Lord Tennyson



Prose

What is a prose?

The word “Prose” is originated from the Latin word “*prosa*” which means “straightforward”.

Prose is a form of language, a way of classifying types of writing.

Under prose, there are two main categories:

1. Short fiction
2. Nonfictional prose.

Under the category of short fiction the students have to study The Nightingale and the Rose by Oscar Wilde and The Lumber Room by Saki. They are imaginative stories created by writers. They have to be appreciated in a different way. There will be a detailed description about these short fictions and their features under the introduction to the Short Story.

Under the category of *Non-fictional prose*, there is an extract from a speech given by Sangakkara and an extract from a personal experience of a Sri Lankan, called Sonali Deraniyagala during Tsunami disaster in 2004. Both those non-fictional prose are real life narratives, experiences undergone by the respective authors. They have been selected for the value of content which inspire students to think about the country, obligations of humans to other humans, respect, tolerance, suffering of people, tragic experiences evoked by natural disasters and many more things.

Another reason for selecting them are the power of language they used to express their feelings and perceptions. The content of both are eye-openers to the readers and very much relevant to the modern world. In both, we see the authors/ speakers experience deep human emotions.

Students will encounter a novel experience by reading prose. They not only provide pleasure of reading a good literary piece, but they will enable the students to enhance their reading skills, inference, critical evaluation etc. By reading those passages , students are expected to comprehend the passages first, empathize and critically look at the issues, feelings, attitudes they presented in those proses.

Further, students will be encouraged to narrate or write down their own personal experiences after reading those moving, inspiring non-fictional prose passages.