

# **Module for B.Ed Primary/Junior High School Programme**

**2nd Semester  
April, 2023**

**IoE/MoF/TUC/GHANA CARES TRAINING AND RETRAINING  
PROGRAMME FOR PRIVATE SCHOOL TEACHERS**



**Ministry of Finance**



**Trade Union Congress**



**Institute of Education, UCC**

**EBS 402SW: CHILDREN'S LITERATURE**  
**3 credit hours**

DR. MRS. GERTRUDE AFIBA TORTO  
COURSE COORDINATOR

# WHAT CHILDREN'S LITERATURE IS ALL ABOUT?

- Meaning of literature
- Literature is any collection of written work such as the collection of art work especially prose fiction, drama and poetry. Literature may be oral or written. They include stories and poetry with the addition of those works of non-fiction which by their quality of style or insight may be said to offer experience of a literary nature
- Purpose of Literature
- The purpose of literature is to Entertain, Educate and to judge critically.
- Entertain:
  - People read stories or poems to be entertained. They enjoy the text that they read or listen to or even plays they watch either on stage or on the screen.
- Educate:
  - Literature also educates people on some of the evils of the society or the happenings in society.
- Critical Judgement:
  - Literature also helps people to critically judge situations as well as make fun events or some happenings in society. The study of literature makes one creative or imaginative, realistic and objective.

# WHAT CHILDREN'S LITERATURE IS ALL ABOUT?

## **Importance of Teaching Literature at the Basic School**

1. It enhances the language skills of learners: As learners are engaged in literature or in reading, they observe or learn the pros and cons of the language. For example, they encounter grammar, punctuations and other expressions in the language that develop their language skills.
2. Literature develops the writing skills: Children learn to acquire the skills of imaginary writing and descriptive writing. During literature, certain stories are read and told to children that increases their imaginative skills and helps them to develop their writing skills. For example: writing topics like: A day I will never forget, my pet, etc. are mostly coined by children from the books that they read.
3. Literature helps children acquire and develop vocabulary: As children read, they learn new words that increase their vocabulary acquisition.
4. It helps children build their decoding skills or word recognition skills: Children learn to decode words through reading.
5. Literature enhances children's comprehension skills: Children learn new words and their meanings in context during reading. As stories are told to children teachers sometimes ask children to re-tell the stories or ask questions that are related to the literature. This enables children to get the meaning of the stories as well as the meaning of the words in the passages.

## WHAT CHILDREN'S LITERATURE IS ALL ABOUT? continued

- 6. It sustains, motivates and arouses children's interest to read: When children are read to, they develop their affective aspect. They develop the urge to read on their own. E.g. an interesting story read to children with appropriate gestures from the teacher will encourage children to read.
- 7. Literature provides the platform for integrating certain aspects like culture, role, play, poetry prose, drama, proverbs to increase diversity in children's learning.
- 8. It enhances their visual literacy skills: Children have the opportunity of reading and discussing pictures or wordless books. This promotes interaction and prediction during reading.
- 9. It facilitates oral language: Children develop their oral language skills thus listening and speaking skills. Children learn new words that enrich their grammar during speaking which also informs their choices of words during speaking. Also when stories are read to them they develop the attitude of listening carefully and attentively which enhances their listening skills.
- 10. Literature helps children acquire social skills: For instance, during dramatization, children interact with their friends. Also through shared or partner reading where children work in groups and interact with each other.

## WHAT CHILDREN'S LITERATURE IS ALL ABOUT? continued

- Meaning of children's literature
- Children's literature comprises all the verbal or written books that are enriched with qualified visual and linguistic messages concerning the period that the sensations and thoughts of children are shaped (Lynch- Brown et al., 2011; Sever, 2015).
- Children's literature is the collection of books and book-based media that are read to and/or by children.
- Children's literature is an art branch aiming to help the child recognize and understand oneself, immediate surroundings, the society and culture that he/she lives in, and different aspects of life.

# Library

- Meaning of library
- A library is a collection of books, magazines, newspapers, journals, audio and video recordings, and other materials that are made available for people to use. It is also seen as a place where books, magazines and other materials are available for people to use or borrow (Webster dictionary).
- A children's library is a building or room containing collection of books for extensive reading in the classroom or for children's own experiences and general information

# Importance of Library

- Library is important for both teachers and children in various ways:

- **Importance of library to children**

1. The library provides access to additional information
2. It promotes literacy
3. It encourages lifelong learning
4. It enhances children's social skills.
5. Children get to learn the skill of handling books
6. Child get to learn to make choices in reading materials.



# Importance of library

## Importance of libraries to teachers

1. There is access to teaching resources
2. Libraries provides professional development
3. they provide curriculum support
4. They also provide access to technology

# Extensive Reading

- Extensive reading is the practice in which a reader reads a large volume of material for pleasure, without necessarily focusing on vocabulary, grammar, or comprehension. This is done at the reader's own pace.
- Extensive reading can be done in a classroom setting or independently at any quiet place, and can be tailored to the individual needs and interests of the reader.

# Extensive Reading: Importance of Extensive Reading

1. When children read extensively, they become skillful and fluent.
2. Extensive reading improves comprehension.
3. Extensive reading enhances critical thinking and problem-solving skills.
4. Extensive reading provides learners with practices that will help them in word recognition and decoding symbols.
5. Extensive reading can increase the readers' vocabulary knowledge.
6. Extensive reading can motivate learners to read aloud.
7. Extensive reading can consolidate previously learned language.
8. Extensive reading builds vocabulary as it leads to 'accidental' word acquisition through repetitive encounters with unknown words while reading large volumes of material for pleasure.
9. Extensive reading gives students a chance to practice reading at the level of difficulty they can cope with.

# Extensive Reading

- **Models of Extensive Reading**

A. Independent reading is a type of reading practice in which readers select and read books or other materials on their own, without direct guidance or instruction from a teacher.

Readers are given the freedom to choose reading materials that interest them and are appropriate for their reading level and ability. They read at their own pace, without being pressured to finish a book within a specific timeframe or to meet specific comprehension or vocabulary goals.

This is to develop readers' reading skills, promote a love of reading, and build a lifelong habit of reading for pleasure and personal growth.

# Extensive Reading

B. Cooperative reading is the practice where readers work together in small groups to read and discuss a text. The goal of cooperative reading is to promote active engagement, critical thinking, and social interaction around reading materials.

- During cooperative reading, readers are paired or grouped based on reading level or ability and provided with a text to read together. The students take turns reading sections of the text aloud, and then engage in discussions and activities related to the text.

# Extensive Reading

C. Guided reading is a small-group instructional approach in which a teacher provides support and guidance to a group of students as they read and discuss a text together. The goal of guided reading is to improve students' reading skills and comprehension through targeted instruction and feedback.

- During guided reading, the teacher works with a small group of students who are at a similar reading level or ability. The students are given a text that is appropriately challenging and engaging for their level, and the teacher provides support and guidance as they read the text together. The teacher may use strategies such as pre-reading activities, vocabulary instruction, questioning, and summarizing to support students' comprehension and engagement with the text.

## Extensive reading

D. Intuitive reading is a different type of reading where the reader selects a material of interest from his own will to read.

This procedure can also be known as pleasure reading. Intuitive reading eases the reader of all stress since the material is of personal interest hence, creating pleasure.

This is to say that in intuitive reading, students will enjoy reading books that they have chosen on topics of interest to them more than they will enjoy assigned readings from a teacher.

# Genres or Types of Children's Story Book.

- The genres of children's literature
- In children's literature, the genres are prose fiction, prose nonfiction, traditional literature, drama and poetry.

## A. PROSE (Fiction)

- Prose fiction is a broad category of literature that encompasses a variety of different types of stories and styles. Some of the most common types of prose fiction include:
  1. Novel: A long-form prose narrative that typically follows a complex plot and focuses on character development.
  2. Short story: A brief work of prose fiction that typically focuses on a single character or event.
  3. Novella: A shorter work of fiction that falls between a short story and a novel in length and complexity.
  4. Historical fiction: Fiction that is set in a specific historical time period and often incorporates real people, events, and settings from that period.
  5. Science fiction: Fiction that incorporates elements of science and technology, often set in the future or in an alternate universe.



# Genres or Types of Children's Story Book.

6. Fantasy: Fiction that incorporates magical or supernatural elements, often set in a fictional world with its own rules and mythology.
8. Mystery: Fiction that centers around a crime or puzzle that must be solved by the protagonist.
9. Thriller: Fiction that is designed to create a sense of tension and suspense, often featuring danger or perilous situations.
10. Horror: Fiction that is intended to scare or unsettle the reader, often featuring supernatural or monstrous creatures.

# Genres: Traditional Fiction

## B.Traditional literature

This type of literature can be defined as all forms of narrative, written or oral, which have been handed down through the years. The time period of traditional literature is not defined, but it occurs in the past. All forms have plots and problems, often with a clear conflict between good and evil. The tales and stories usually have endings.

1. Fables – very brief stories, usually with animal characters, that point clearly to a moral or lesson.
2. Fairy Tales – tales of magic and the supernatural; usually begin “Once upon a time” and end “and they lived happily ever after”.
3. Folk Tales
  - i. Beast tales – tales in which animals talk and act like human beings.
  - ii. Cumulative tales – tales that sequentially repeat actions, characters, or speeches until a climax is reached.
  - iii. Noodle head stories – humorous stories that involve ridiculous, absurd happenings.
  - iv. Pour quoi stories – stories that answer a question or explain how animals, plants or humans were created and why they have certain characteristics e.g. why crab has no head, why tortoise back is broken, why worms don't have eyes and why the owl can't see during the day.

# Genres: Traditional Fiction

v. Trickster tales – tales featuring a character who plays tricks or cheats. Most well-known trickster may be coyote of Native American tales.

4. Legends – stories that are similar to myth but are based on more historical truth and less upon the supernatural. Examples include Trojan War, Robin Hood and King Arthur.

5. Mother Goose and Nursery Rhymes – rhymes, including counting out rhymes, finger plays and alphabet verses, which originated in the spoken language of both common folk and royalty.

F. Myths – stories containing fanciful or supernatural incidents intended to explain nature or tell about gods and demons of early peoples.

G. Tall tales – stories that contain exaggerations and lies/ American tall tales are a combination of history, myth and fact.

# Genres or Types of Children's Story Book.

B. Prose non-fiction is a genre of literature that deals with real-world people, events, and ideas in a straightforward, factual manner. Unlike prose fiction, which is concerned with telling stories, prose non-fiction aims to inform, educate, or persuade the reader about a particular topic or subject.

## **Some common types of prose non-fiction include:**

- **Memoir:** A personal account of a specific period in the author's life, often written in a narrative style.
- **Biography:** A factual account of a person's life, typically covering their entire lifespan.
- **Autobiography:** A personal account of the author's own life, often written in a narrative style. **Essay:** A short piece of prose that explores a specific topic or idea in depth.
- **Journalism:** Non-fiction writing that seeks to inform readers about current events or social issues, typically found in newspapers or magazines.
- **History:** Non-fiction writing that explores events from the past and their impact on society.
- **Science writing:** Non-fiction writing that explains scientific concepts or discoveries in a way that is accessible to the general public.

# Genres or Types of Children's Story Book.

C. Poetry is a type of literature based on the interplay of words and rhythm. It often employs rhyme and meter (a set of rules governing the number and arrangement of syllables in each line). In poetry, words are strung together to form sounds, images, and ideas that might be too complex or abstract to describe directly.

- Poetry can be categorized into various forms and types, some of which include:
  1. Sonnet: A 14-line poem usually written in iambic pentameter with a specific rhyme scheme.
  2. Haiku: A traditional Japanese form of poetry consisting of three lines. The first and third lines have five syllables, while the second line has seven syllables.
  3. Free Verse: A type of poetry that does not have a specific meter or rhyme scheme. The poet is free to use any form of language or structure.

# Genres or Types of Children's Story Book.

4. Lyric: A type of poetry that expresses the emotions or feelings of the poet in a musical and imaginative way.
5. Ode: A poem that praises or celebrates a person, place, or thing.
6. Elegy: A poem that mourns or laments the loss of someone or something.
7. Limerick: A type of poetry that is usually humorous and consists of five lines with a specific rhyme scheme.
8. Villanelle: A 19-line poem with a specific rhyme scheme and a repetitive structure.
9. Ballad: A narrative poem that is usually meant to be sung or recited. It typically tells a story and has a repetitive structure.
10. Epic: A long narrative poem that tells the story of a hero's journey or a significant event in history.

# DRAMA

- Drama is a genre of literature that involves the portrayal of fictional or non-fictional characters in a theatrical setting, typically performed on stage. It is a form of storytelling that relies on dialogue, action, and conflict to engage the audience and convey its message.
- Drama is typically divided into two main categories: tragedy and comedy. Tragedy typically deals with serious, weighty subjects such as death, betrayal, and loss, and often ends with a sense of sadness or loss. Comedy, on the other hand, deals with lighter subjects such as love, family, and friendship and often ends with a happy resolution.
- Drama can be written in various forms, including plays, musicals, operas, and even films. It often involves the use of stage directions, which provide instructions for actors and technical staff on how to perform the play.

# Genres or Types of Children's Story Book.

- Drama has been a popular genre for centuries, with ancient Greek plays such as Oedipus Rex and Medea setting the standard for the form. Today, drama remains a vibrant and important part of literature and entertainment, with new plays and productions being written and performed all over the world.
- Drama is typically presented through a live performance, either on stage or in a more modern setting like a film or television show. In a stage play, the actors perform the play in front of an audience, often in a theater or other designated performance space.
- The performance of a drama usually involves the use of various theatrical elements, including stage design, lighting, sound effects, music, and costumes, to enhance the experience and create a sense of realism for the audience.



# Genres or Types of Children's Story Book.

- In addition to these technical elements, drama relies heavily on the actors to bring the characters and story to life. The actors must be skilled in portraying the emotions and motivations of their characters through dialogue and action, and must work together to create a believable and engaging performance.
- The director of a drama also plays a crucial role in the presentation of the play. They are responsible for overseeing the overall vision of the production, working with the actors to develop their performances, and coordinating the various technical elements of the play.
- Overall, the presentation of drama is a collaborative effort that involves many different elements working together to create a powerful and memorable theatrical experience for the audience.

## The importance and Role of Children's Literature in the Language Classroom

- Children's literature can be a valuable resource in language classrooms as it provides an engaging and accessible way to learn and practice language skills while promoting a love of reading and literature.
- The importance of children's literature are therefore the following:
  - 1. Vocabulary Development: Children's literature can help students develop their vocabulary by exposing them to new words and language structures in context.
  - 2. Language Acquisition: By reading and listening to stories, students can acquire new language skills in a fun and engaging way.

## The importance and Role of Children's Literature in the Language Classroom

- 3. **Cultural Awareness:** Children's literature can introduce students to different cultures and ways of life, helping them develop an appreciation for diversity and a broader understanding of the world.
- 4. **Critical Thinking Skills:** Reading children's literature can help students develop critical thinking skills, such as analyzing characters and plot, making predictions, and drawing conclusions.
- 5. **Literacy Skills:** Children's literature can help students develop important literacy skills such as reading comprehension, writing, and grammar.
- 6. **Motivation and Engagement:** Children's literature can help to engage students in the language learning process by providing a fun and enjoyable way to learn.

# The importance and Role of Children's Literature in the Language Classroom

- 7. Pronunciation and Listening Skills: Listening to stories and reading aloud can help students improve their pronunciation and listening skills.
- 8. Creativity and Imagination: Children's literature can inspire creativity and imagination, encouraging students to write their own stories or think of alternative endings to existing stories.

# WHAT A GOOD CHILDREN'S BOOK IS

- A good children's literature book is one that:
  - 1. Engages the reader: The book should be captivating and hold the reader's attention from start to finish.
  - 2. Has relatable and well-developed characters: Characters should be interesting, relatable, and have depth, helping the reader connect with them and understand their journey.
  - 3. Teaches valuable lessons: The book should offer valuable life lessons that are relevant and important for the reader, helping them learn and grow.
  - 4. Has a strong and well-developed plot: The story should have a clear beginning, middle, and end with a satisfying resolution.
  - 5. Is age-appropriate: The content of the book should be suitable for the intended age group, both in terms of language and subject matter.

# WHAT A GOOD CHILDREN'S BOOK IS

- 6. Offers diverse representation: The book should offer diverse representation, including characters from different backgrounds and cultures, promoting inclusivity and empathy.
- 7. Has high-quality illustrations: Illustrations should be of high quality and complement the text, helping to tell the story and capture the reader's attention.
- 8. Promotes imagination and creativity: The book should inspire the reader's imagination and creativity, encouraging them to think beyond the book.
- 9. Is well-written: The writing should be of high quality, with engaging and age-appropriate language that helps children develop their reading and comprehension skills.
- 10. Has lasting appeal: A good children's book should have lasting appeal and be a timeless classic that can be enjoyed by generations of readers.

# Elements of a good story book

- 1. Characters: Compelling characters are at the heart of a good storybook. They should be well-developed and relatable, with personalities, strengths, weaknesses, and motivations that draw the reader into the story.
- 2. Plot: The plot should have a clear beginning, middle, and end, with a strong central conflict that keeps the reader engaged and curious about what will happen next.
- 3. Setting: The setting should be well-described and contribute to the overall atmosphere and mood of the story, helping the reader to visualize and connect with the world of the story.
- 4. Point of view: The point of view should be consistent and well-chosen to suit the story, whether it's first-person, third-person limited, or third-person omniscient.
- 5. Theme: The story should have an underlying theme or message that resonates with readers and provides a deeper level of meaning and connection.

# Elements of a good story book

- 6. Dialogue: The dialogue should be natural and realistic, conveying character personality and advancing the plot.
- 7. Imagery: Effective use of sensory details and imagery can help to create vivid and memorable scenes that immerse the reader in the story.
- 8. Pacing: The pacing should be well-managed, with enough tension and suspense to keep the reader engaged but not so fast that important details or character development is missed.
- 9. Conflict and resolution: A strong central conflict should be resolved in a satisfying and believable way, with a resolution that feels true to the characters and the world of the story.
- 10. Writing style: The writing should be engaging, with clear and effective language that enhances the story and keeps the reader interested.
- 11. Descriptive language and vivid imagery: The use of descriptive language and vivid imagery can help to create a rich and engaging world for the reader.



# Elements of a good story book

- 12. A theme or message: A good children's story should have a theme or message that children can relate to and learn from. The message should be presented in a way that is easy to understand and not overly didactic.
- 13. Humor or other engaging elements: Humor, suspense, and other engaging elements can help to hold children's attention and make the story more enjoyable.
- 14. Illustrations: Illustrations can help to bring the story to life and enhance children's understanding and enjoyment of the story.
- 15. A satisfying conclusion: The story should have a satisfying and believable conclusion that ties up loose ends and leaves the reader with a positive feeling.
- 16. Opportunities for interaction: Children's stories that include opportunities for interaction, such as asking questions or encouraging children to make predictions, can help to keep children engaged and involved in the story.

# Illustrations

- Illustrations in children's literature are visual representations of the story or text that accompany the story.
- Illustrations bring the story to life and create a visual representation of the characters, setting, and events. This can make the story more engaging and enjoyable for children, as they can see what is happening in the story and use their imaginations to understand the story better.

# Illustrations

- Illustrations can also help to convey important information that may not be fully expressed in the text. For example, an illustration of a character's facial expression or body language can help to convey their emotions and feelings, while an illustration of a specific object or setting can help to provide context and depth to the story.
- Overall, illustrations are an essential element of children's literature, providing visual cues and context that enhance the reading experience and help children to connect with the story on a deeper level.

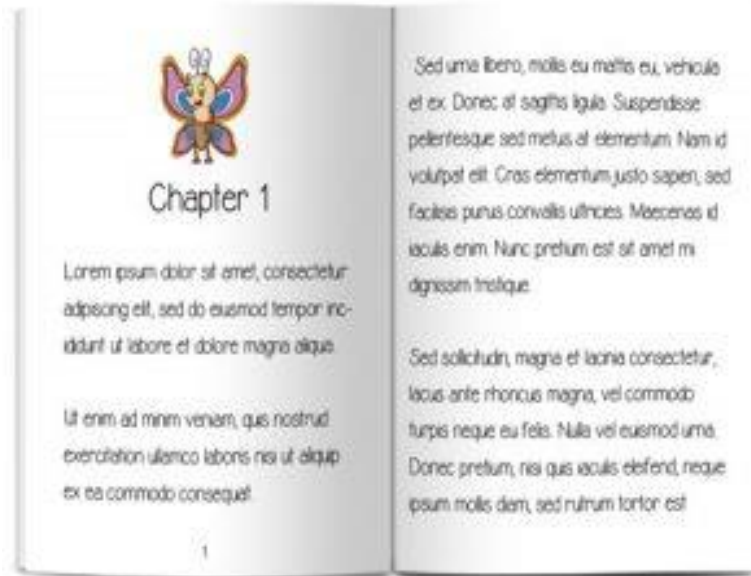
# Importance of illustrations

- i. Establishing setting: Illustrations help children learn about the world around them and how it relates to the stories they read.
- ii. Define and develop characters: A good artist can create illustrations that become lifelike to the reader which helps develop the reader's inner eye and gives depth to characters beyond what is written in words.
- iii. Reinforce text: Many children's books are written well enough they are perfectly fine without illustration but when illustrations are added they help to strengthen and support what is written.
- iv. Provides a different viewpoint: Mostly children read by viewing the story from one perspective. However, with the addition of illustrations, children are sometimes gifted with the ability to see things in a way they may never have been able to with the text alone.
- v. Providing interesting asides: "Sometimes picture book illustrations are filled with interesting asides – sub plots or details not necessarily related to the main story line". These can be very interesting, jovial or than any of the other scenarios. Regardless of the reason these asides give, children have the opportunity to explore the depth of the story and have an opportunity to practice their skills at inferring.
- vi. Extend or develop the plot: In some books like wordless books, the illustrations lead, develop and extend the plot.
- vii. Establish mood: When books have illustrations which help establish the mood, it can add depth to the story, and create a more realistic feel while reading. When the illustrations are properly made they help the story come alive through all the senses.

# Types of illustrations for children's books

- There are four types of illustrations for children's books:
  - Spot illustration
  - Half-page illustration
  - Single (full) page illustration
  - Spread illustration

# Types of illustrations for children's books



## Spot illustrations

**These are small, simple illustrations to liven up a page with text. They're usually a quarter of a page or less with little or no background. Spot illustrations can be placed as a chapter heading, corner decoration, or next to or within a body of text. They are often black and white or done in a sketchy style.**

# Types of illustrations for children's books



## Half-page illustrations

**As the name says, this is an illustration that fills half a page. While it can be detailed, due to its smaller size, the background will be less detailed than a full page illustration.**

# Types of illustrations for children's books



## **Single (full) page illustrations**

**This is an illustration that fills one whole page. Here we can pull out all the stops and include lots of detail, since it fills a whole page. You can also have the illustrator leave space for your text if needed.**



# Types of illustrations for children's books



## **Spread illustrations**

**Spread across two full pages, normally with text on the illustration. While a mix of different illustration sizes makes a beautiful book, going all out and making your whole book double-page spreads will make it amazing!**

**If you are doing a picture book and budget allows, go for spread illustrations for your whole book. If not, take as many spreads and single page illustrations as you can.**

**You can also make your book interesting by mixing up the different types of illustrations throughout. Your illustrator should be able to help you work out a layout that can work well.**

# Types of illustrations for children's books

- Only illustrations
- There are wordless books which contain only pictures. There is no text attached to these illustrations.

# CRITERIA IN SELECTING A GOOD BOOK

- Age appropriateness
- The text should be boldly printed
- Language appropriateness
- Illustrations should be colourful for children to interpret
- It should also create humor
- It should also promote imaginative thinking
- It should have a quality cover for the book to last for a long time
- It should relate to familiar life experiences

# References

- Hafiz, F. M. & Tudor, I. (1989). Extensive reading and the development of language skills. *ELT Journal*, 34(1), 5-13.
- Tunnell, M. O., & Jacobs, J. S. (2007). Children's literature, briefly (4th ed.). Upper Saddle River, N.J.: Pearson Education.