

I Know Why the Caged Bird Sings- Maya Angelou

setting	A household where a bird is caged and clipped and tied that is suggestive of the American society of the 1960s when the Black Afro Americans were racially discriminated with no true freedom , equality and justice leading to many Civil rights struggles by the Blacks
subject	A angry bird's cry for freedom against captivity and repression with a wish to enjoy the same rights as a free bird who claims the sky.
Style	Free verse, third person narration,
Tone	Sad
Techniques	<p>Metaphors- leaps foats, in the wind and dips wings in the sun Bars of rage, grave of dreams, Caged bird- afro Americans, free bird- white Americans Imagery of swimming to refer to flying</p> <p>Contrast- while the free bird enjoys the freedom to the full with all privileges, the caged bird is suffering in confinement and being denied movement Caged birds stands on a grave of dreams but the free birds names the sky his own</p> <p>Symbol- narrow cage- limited opportunities in life Clipped wings and tied feet – denied opportunities Fat worms- privileged opportunities in life</p> <p>Onomatopoeia – fearful trill (sound)</p> <p>Personification- shadow shouts</p> <p>Alliteration- fearful trill</p> <p>Repetition- the caged bird sings</p>
Intention	To show how the desire for a life of freedom is an instinctive need in a living being and specially in a human being, specially the racially discriminated and prejudiced
Theme	The socio-political condition of the Afro Americans and their desire for freedom ,equality and justice in a racially discriminative American society
Sub theme	The anger and outrage of any living being at being denied freedom and discriminated

Richard Cory - Edwin Arlington

setting	An American town during an economic repression when the poor were working on the streets for a meager pavement
subject	The life and death of Richard Cory who was always perfectly dressed and behaved a gentleman and treated the workers with friendliness and kindness reaching out to them but who one calm summer night killed himself.
style	Rhyming verse , first person narration, dramatic narrative
tone	Awe, admiration, envy towards Richard and self pity towards themselves and a tone of matter of fact and casual towards his death to shock the reader
speaker	A poor working class member who notices Richard Cory and responds to him with awe and emotional distance
techniques	Flashback Royal imagery- imperially slim, crown, glittered Contrast- Richard was reaching out to the people but people in awe were distancing from him with awe due to his class and refinement Uptown and downtown The worker's suffering without meat and Cory having all material things Metaphor- fluttered pulses Onomatopoeia- fluttered Symbolism- light- better happy days Inversion- on we worked Repetition- rich- richer Irony- workers wishing to be in Cory's place The workers have a better life with fellowship than Cory with his loneliness A calm summer night should bring sound sleep but it brings troubled thoughts and death to Cory 'perfect' life brings death to Cory Exaggeration- richer than a king, Understatement – went home and put a bullet through his head
character	Cory- Did not look down upon the poor but was kind and nice to them A man in isolation –there is never a mention of family, friends or lover to the workers a symbol of perfection and ideal life Perfectly gentlemanly , humane and refined in behavior Unusual to go downtown always and willing to have communication with ;lower classes as he did not find satisfying relations with his own class Hides a unhappy self under a fine layer of proper social conduct Hungry for companionship Keeps all his feelings hidden inside bottled up that leads to a depressed state Workers Hard life and bitter of it without meat and with stale bread Hopeful of better days Envious of Cory's wealth and seemingly perfect life Nervous and excited to see a wealthy rich man talking nice to them Carried away with Cory's wealth
intention	To show how material wealth can never bring fulfillment and true happiness to life and save a person from loneliness and alienation and misery arising from lack of companionship
theme	happiness in life has little to do with material possessions
Sub theme	Appearances are deceptive The gap between the rich and the poor Wealth is no guarantee of happiness Companionship is a human need that one can not deny or suppress Money and wealth can be a factor that alienate a person from society denying society

To the Nile - John Keats

setting	The Nile river with parched barren and desert land on both sides
subject	The poet's reactions to the Nile river as he encounters the grand legends of deification and realities of surrounding barren land related to it
style	Petrarchan Sonnet with Octave and Sestet Octave shows how despite legend and glorification as fruitful, the poet feels that such veneration is not deserving as the river is surrounded by desert Sestet- the poet reconciles with his doubt with the idea that the Nile is like any other river as it too is fruitful and life giving
Tone	Admiration- doubt- reconciliatory
techniques	Parallel- just like any other Contrast- despite glorification the river seems not fruitful Personification Metaphor to show its grandeur Rhetoric question Simile Elevated archaic language
intention	To show how the truth about the fertility of the Nile is not openly visible from the environment and the embankments of the river
theme	Life giving benevolence of nature
	The Nile as the cradle of African civilizations HOW NATURE WAS DEIFIED BY THE ANCIENT PEOPLE

The Eagle

setting	A mountainous area near the sea where the eagle perches on top of a crag waiting for a prey in perfect silence
subject	The conduct and behavior of the eagle
style	Lyric , two stanza poem with rhyming triplets
tone	Awe and admiration
techniques	Personification the eagle is personified as 'he' sea is wrinkled as old man Alliteration - lonely lands Metaphor sea crawls, azure world- sky Contrast eagle powerful- sea weak and submissive Hyperbole- close to the sun Parallel/ analogy – eagle's actions are similar to a monarch surveying his kingdom from his vantage point from the fortress like crag Simile- Eagle falls like a thunderbolt with all deadliness Symbolism- eagle is symbolic of power and majesty Onomatopoeia- crag crooked
intention	To show the monarch like power and majesty of the bird as seen by the poet
Theme	Power and majesty of nature
Sub theme	Power and majesty of a monarch of the human parallel

Wave- Sonali Deraniyagala

Setting	A tourist resort in Yala in Dec 2004 when Tsunami waves hit the island
Subject	The narrator's physical and emotional reactions at encountering the Tsunami wave and the aftermath.
Style	First person narration, memoir involving a life changing event in her life
Conflict	Sonali feels she could move to safety through the wave but she fails to do so and she instinctively feels threatened at encountering the wave but still she does not know what she fears.
Tone	Detached and non sentimental during narration in general and focuses on telling what happened and how she felt Curiosity, alarm and worry, guilt, pain, confused and helpless
Techniques	Flashback- it was then she saw the wave. Short sentences and fast movement- he looked outside. We did not speak Contrast – earlier the waves did not come past the conifers Repetition- brown and gray, I did not, Personification- waves leaping over the ridge Metaphor- engine of the jeep as reeving and groaning like a tired animal Irony- she thinks she could drive through the water
Intention	To share her agonizing experience with the reader as a way of coping up with and coming to terms with her tragedy
theme	Unpredictability of life and how death can come at any moment
Sub themes	Destructive aspect and unpredictability of nature Motherly instinct as a feeling that govern our behavior Different ways in which humans react to situations Man's helplessness against the power of nature The positive and negative aspects humanity in reacting to moments of trial Self preserving survival instinct that almost makes one selfish- driver didn't slow foe Beulah and Anton to get back in. Sonali too didn't cry out loud

Breakfast – Jacques Prevert

setting	A house in a rainy morning
subject	The woman's observations of her husband's actions after a conflicting situation that creates a strain on their relationship.
style	First person narration, monologue, dramatic narration
tone	Tone of anticipation leading to tone of despair and disappointment
speaker	A woman who waits in anticipation of the husband to break the ice and dissolve the tension in their strained relationship. Poem develops in her perspective
techniques	<p>Parallel- both are at first polite and respectful but gradually loses their charms and become rough and bear like defending their sexes.</p> <p>Visual imagery</p> <p>Repetition of , 'he ' and 'without '</p> <p>Use of 'he' and 'I' instead of 'we' in order to the emotional gap between them after the conflicting tense situation between them..</p> <p>Contrast- the man wants to be away from her while the woman years for him to pay her attention. while the woman waits anticipating him to speak to her , he treats her with total indifference and acts in such a way to hurt her further. Her passivity vs his active engagement in various activities</p> <p>Irony- a breakfast shout bring them together but it only worsens the tension between them. While she lies in passivity expecting him to speak to her , the very passivity and silence annoys him to the extent of leaving her and walking out.</p> <p>Symbolism- rain symbolizes her agony and her crying heart that he does not see</p> <p>Enjambment</p> <p>Use of action words to dente his activity</p> <p>Deliberately slow paced action in short lines</p>
intention	To show how lack of proper communication leads to worsening the tension in a relationship even leading it to the end.
movement	From hope to despair and disappointment Callous indifference to deliberate hurt of the feelings of the woman Bearing up of agony to break down in to tears
theme	Break down of a relationship due to lack of communication

Bird Came Down the Walk- Emily Dickinson

setting	A garden in the Victorian period with walks designed for ladies and gents to take a stroll along
subject	The reaction of a bird to the poet's interfering action of throwing a crumb at the bird
style	Third person narration rhyming stanza , lyric in quatrains
Tone	Tone of admiration and appreciation
techniques	<p>Contrast- eat the worm but leave the beetle</p> <p>Personification – the bird is addressed as 'he', frightened beads</p> <p>Symbol- Walk is symbolic of graceful and dignified conduct</p> <p>Simile- eyes like beads</p> <p>Metaphor- unroll feathers</p> <p style="padding-left: 40px;">Rowed him home</p> <p style="padding-left: 40px;">Birds movement seems that of a butterfly leaping</p> <p style="padding-left: 40px;">Flying in the sky as swimming in the water</p>
intention	To show how nature carries beauty, grace and self sufficiency that is little understood by the arrogant interfering and ignorant man who thinks that nature needs man's charity
theme	Nature as a beautiful ,graceful self sufficient entity not needing man's generosity
Sub theme	Man's interfering nature towards nature in his ignorance and arrogance

To the Evening Star- William Blake

Setting	An evening where one can see Venus/ EVENING STAR risen in the sky
Subject	Poet's appreciation of the beauty of Venus and the invocation/ prayer for Venus for protection of man from the grasps of evil with love as a shield from the looming evil
Style	Sonnet, third person narration,
Tone	Admiration. Appeal and prayer
Techniques	<p>Personification- the evening star is addressed as an angel</p> <p style="padding-left: 40px;">Sun rests on the mountains</p> <p style="padding-left: 40px;">Venus draws the curtain on the day with the evening leading to night</p> <p style="padding-left: 40px;">Flowers shutting their eyes to sleep as the night draws</p> <p style="padding-left: 40px;">Wolf rages wide, the lion glares...</p> <p>Metaphor- star- angel with fair hair (star light - rays)</p> <p style="padding-left: 40px;">Star light –bright torch of love, radiant crown, silver dew, sacred dew</p> <p style="padding-left: 40px;">Bring evening and the night- draws the blue curtains of the day</p> <p style="padding-left: 40px;">Wash the dusk with silver</p> <p style="padding-left: 40px;">Fleeces of our flocks-</p> <p style="padding-left: 40px;">Venus- to a queen with a crown</p> <p style="padding-left: 40px;">Smile- shine upon the world</p> <p style="padding-left: 40px;">Blue curtains of the day - draw evening to a close</p> <p style="padding-left: 40px;">Evening star- west wind (an embodiment of great power)</p> <p>Repetition- soon full too soon</p> <p>Symbolism- wolf and lion – agents of evil and violence</p> <p style="padding-left: 40px;">Flock- innocent humans prone to evil</p> <p>Formal diction- as the speaker addresses a goddess</p> <p>Biblical allusion- people as the flock that needs to be defended against the ever present evil and Jesus as the shepherd</p>
Intention	Appeal or prayer to the evening star to use its power of love to defend and save vulnerable people from the corruptive influence of evil that loom around him in a world darkened by evil while appreciating her beauty in the evening sky
Theme	Nature as a benevolent protective influence on all living things, specially the vulnerable man
Sub theme	Duality of nature as both embodiments of evil and good

The Bear- Chekhov

setting	Rural upper class landowning nobility in Russia
subject	The changing / developing circumstances of the relationship from initial tension to later passionate love between a landowning man and a widow during their encounter
conflict	At first Popova is not ready to deal with money in order to pay Smirnov as she is in mourning but Smirnov is in the urgent need of money. Later Smirnov claims that all women are fickle but Popova claims that it is men who are unfaithful.
style	Farce , one act play
tone	Satirical and full of anger and disrespect leading to appreciation and love
techniques	<p>Exaggeration- the rivals decide on a duel to settle scores Smirnov is presented as excessively rude and boorish and angry Popova is seen too much conformist to tradition and sentimental and self denying Sarcasm- ‘ poetic creatures’, ‘state of mind’, Contrast- Smirnov earlier has very cynical and negative attitudes to women but later he gets impressed and admires Popova and earlier hate turns to love</p> <p>earlirer Popva was denying herself love and happiness but later gives in to Smirnov’s love Earlier he vows to kill her but later refuses to do so and vows to shoot in the air</p> <p>symbol- bear- someone dominant aggressive rough , untamed , unpredictable, wild and spontaneous in showing emotions of anger hate as well as love.</p> <p>Irony- the bear vowing never to fall for the mouse trap finally becomes like a school child and begging for love, bear tamed by a widow with dimples He comes demanding money but as he falls in love he refuses to ask for money Luka at first thinks Smirnov is a danger and regards him an affliction , plague and an infection later is surprised to find him kissing her. Popova is in mourning in a self denying mood but she is powdering her face Popova is ready to waste her life on a unfaithful husband trying to remain faithful to him after his death.</p> <p>Unexpected twists/ reversals Before Popova goes to get the guns Smirnov is full of anger and disrespect but as she returns she finds him admiring and in love with her</p> <p>improbable events hate turns to love in a few minutes a woman mourning for life the death of an unfaithful husband an upper class man acting as a brute and a boor because of money</p> <p>incongruity excessive mourning over an unfaithful husband an upper class man behaving in an unacceptably uncivil and rude manner</p>
intention	To create humour for purely entertainment through exaggerated improbable events exposing and based on the follies and weaknesses found in all of us.

theme	Unpredictable nature of human behavior
subthemes	<p>The idea that opposites attract</p> <p>The undeniable nature of love – how its hard to suppress the inner demand for love</p> <p>Stereotypically conflicting attitudes of the two genders to each other</p> <p>Men think women are stupid and sentimental and unfaithful</p> <p>Women think that men are unfaithful</p> <p>Man is a slave to his instinctive emotions and has no power to supress them fully</p> <p>Man is a social animal and needs companion to make his life meaningful and worthy</p> <p>Women’s emancipation</p> <p>How society and money determine human conduct</p>
popova	<p>Faithful to her husband, stubborn sentimental and emotional</p> <p>At first plays a widow in mourning to please the expectations of the society</p> <p>Underneath all denial she wants to enjoy her life to the full and is hungry for love</p> <p>Carries a strong vibrant explosive personality to equal Smirnov that rises to defend the dignity of femininity</p> <p>Enters in to a acute emotional dilemma as she is torn between duty to tradition and desire for love</p> <p>Shows her rejection of the earlier attachment by refusing to feed Toby, the horse.</p>
Smirnov	<p>At first courteous and respectful towards Popova but as he gets desperate for money loses all his graces</p> <p>Holds cynical and negative attitudes to women due to her bitter experiences with them but is so impressed with Popova’s strength of character to change his feelings for her.</p> <p>He is open and sincere and frank in his love towards this amazing woman he comes across and does not hide his feelings to her as he proposes to her directly</p> <p>Not very successful in love or in collecting debts which makes him uncivil and rude</p>
similarities	<p>Both have been hurt and abused in love an thus holds negative views</p> <p>Both are passionate and when love comes to them can not resisit the demand of the heart \both at first try to suppress and deny the feelings of the heart</p> <p>Both at first react to each other with respect but begins to insult each other as they lose temper</p> <p>Both hold prejudiced ideas about the opposite sexes</p>
contrasts	<p>Popova at first seems gentle and submissive but Smirnov at first seems quite rude and demanding</p> <p>Popova is later revealed to be so stubborn and aggressive unrelenting but Smirnov later turns out to be soft even romantic and yielding</p> <p>Smirnov does not hide his changed feelings and expresses them openly but Popova keeps them hidden until the last moment and hint them only through her reference to feeding Toby.</p> <p>Money is a point of obsession to Smirnov but money is not a bothering issue for Popova</p>

Nightingale and the Rose

Setting	The Garden of the young man's house in winter and later a ball during highly materialistic Victorian England of the 19 th century where reason , knowledge class and money matters
Subject	A nightingale's sacrifice to help a young man fulfill his search for love
Conflict	The professor's daughter asks for a red rose so as to dance with the young man but the young man can not find a red rose in the cold winter season leaving him wretched
Style	Third person narration with the inclusion of fairy tale elements with Talking animals interacting with humans, Repetitions of lines and utterances Allegory – the place where the action happens refers to Victorian England
Tone	Satirical
Techniques	personification Simile- Metaphor- Contrast- the young man does no sacrifice for love- the bird sacrifices for love Symbolism- winter symbolic of a life with no passionate feelings of love and gratitude and kindness Red rose – passionate self sacrificial real love Inversion Rhetoric questions Irony- the bird is the true lover that the romantically inclined young man who has only fascination over the girl but the bird thinks he is a true lover The youth says that the birds song has only style but no feeling when it is full of passion The girl accuses the young man of cruelty and ingratitude when she is so The young man thinks that the nightingale is incapable of sacrifice but she is capable of sacrifice with nothing expected in return.
intention	To show how passion and human feelings have been eroded from the hearts of the Victorians of the writer's time by the over emphasis on reason and rationality over feelings of the heart and knowledge over the emotions and money and class over relationships of the heart
Theme	How self sacrificial true love loses its value in a society given to materialism and over emphasis on knowledge and reason.
Sub themes	Hypocrisy - True love as a thing hard to come by and a sacrifice expecting nothing in return How too much intellectuality and rationality derides a man of his heart making his callously indifferent to humane aspects of life Love as a romantic infatuation is selfish and is not capable of sacrifice Love as a source of sorrow How some value love and some sees no value in it The difference between true love and romantic love Too much emphasis on rationality and practicality over the heart Teenage love as a fickle fascination Romantic love as conditional and based on material things and fickle
characters	The nightingale Ideal lover, sacrifices herself for love, selfless, sympathetic , caring, finds happiness in believing in love, labours for love, main character and heroine Daring , sensitive, hasty in judgment, unconditional love, The Professor's daughter Fickle, inconsistent, ungrateful, treacherous, callous , insensitive, materialistic, Vain, arrogant and insulting, values money more than feelings, unfeeling The young man Values practicality and usefulness in things, inexperience in life and regards a fascination or infatuation as love, Has wrong set of values paying no attention to the feelings of the heart Values book knowledge as the most important thing in life Attached romantically to the girl , selfless and thinks of only himself.

Once Upon a Time- Gabriel Okara.

Setting	Nigeria in the early 20 th century after becoming a British colony
Subject	A conversation between the poet and his son where the poet reveals his dissatisfaction at what he has become with his encounter with the colonial culture which robs him of his native innocence
Style	Rhyming stanza form, monologue, dramatic address to the son
Tone	Nostalgic, regretful and full of repentance of losing his innocence Ending with a tone of appeal
Techniques	Flashback – in to the life of the old pristine goodness as a native before becoming in contact with the value system of the colonizer Metaphor- laugh with their hearts and eyes, ice block cold eyes, wear faces, Contrast- the Nigerians were earlier genuine but now corrupt and deceptive Say one thing while meaning totally another Simile- teeth like the fangs of a snake Irony- an adult desirous of learning from a child The desire to go back to the past is like trying to relive a fairy tale The title prepares you for a fairy tale like situation but we see nothing but a life of regret , repentance and disgust at what you have become. Wants to un-learn when the colonial values have become an ingrained part of his identity repetition slow paced long lines
Intention	To show how the colonial influence in their native culture had made them corrupted, deceptive and pretentious that makes the poet full of self loathing
Theme	The negative impact of colonialism and its western values on native culture ridding the local cultures of their genuine honesty, sincerity, hospitality, friendliness, and simplicity and filing the natives with pretentious dishonesty and exploitory nature
Sub theme	Loss of innocence as one gets more and more exposed to the society and its evils as one moves from childhood to adulthood Trying to regain the past is like trying to relive a fairy tale

War is Kind – Stephen Crane

setting	Three funerals of soldiers and battlefield where thousands corpses lie
subject	An officers attempts to console the kin of three dead soldiers citing the positive grand and beneficial aspects of war to the dead
style	Free verse , first person narration
tone	Cynical and ironic as he claims war has done something good for the dead
techniques	<p>Repetition</p> <p>Visual and auditory imagery from the battle field</p> <p>Metanomy- little souls</p> <p>Alliteration- drill and die</p> <p>Irony- the god of battle is great ruling over a place full of dead corpses</p> <p>Point for them the virtue of slaughter</p> <p>Make them plain the excellence of such a solder</p> <p>Alliteration – heart hung humble</p>
intention	How war offers nothing kind and compassionate or enevolent to man
theme	How war brings nothing much but misery homelessness

Fear - Gabriela Mistral (Chile)

Setting	A rural cottage in countryside
speaker	A simple minded mother with a humble lifestyle with no great expectations for her child, a common peasant mother with simple aspirations for her daughter
subject	A mother's fear of losing her child as she grows up and gets exposed to the society in future
Tone	Worry and anxiety
style	First person narration, free verse
techniques	<p>Repetition - I don't suggests the speakers intense worry of the mind</p> <p>Metaphors - daughter as a swallow that migrates away for warmer climes (independent), princess getting sophisticated with her own aspirations and lose the freedom to lead a simple life and queen totally occupied with complex worldly political matters with no time for family</p> <p>Symbols- straw bed- simple life of poverty</p> <p>Golden slippers- a life of sophistication and luxury success in social mobility but at the same time with limited freedom.</p> <p>Throne- a seat of power with remote accessibility to a peasant</p> <p>Eaves- become inaccessible and remote</p> <p>Rhetoric question to suggest worry and anxiety in her mind</p> <p>Generalization- 'they' refer to the people of the society who would change the child giving her skills as well as ambitions in life to reach higher widening her horizons and showing her the vast opportunities lying outside her humble abode.</p>
intention	To show how difficult is is for a mother to part with her children and the strong desire to keep them by one's side for ever little realizing that children grow up seeking independence.
theme	The anguish of separation and the difficulty of letting go for a mother of her children due to the strong bond between mother and a child
Sub themes	<p>Inevitability of separation of children from parents as they seek freedom</p> <p>Possessive selfish nature of parental love</p> <p>The human fear of loneliness as ones children move away from him or her.</p> <p>The difficulty to accept the inevitable truth that children would move away from parents</p>
Character Of mother	Simple minded, humble and modest , wants her daughter to grow up close to her under her care and protection,

Two's Company- Raymond Wilson (British poet)

setting	A haunted house
Subject	The fate of a man who pretended he did not believe in ghosts A man's reaction to a story about a haunted house
Style	Third person dramatic narration in rhyming couplets
Tone	Sarcastic
Techniques	<p>Foreshadowing- little hints of the presence of the ghost Sub title - hints at what to expect in the poem Paranthesis – reveal writer's personal views and thr protagonists actual deeds thoughts Irony- out of all places he chooses to hide in the place the ghost was hiding He believes the unsafest place as the safest to hide Title is ironic as two is not a pleasant company but a terrifying experience in this house which is haunted – in fact two is crowd as the ghost does not want any there He appears rational and brave but he is afraid and pretentious</p> <p>Contrast- people truly fear the house but the protagonist pretends as not afraid 12 strikes but there is no clock The protagonist attempts to fight out his fear and assure himself and console himself but fear creeps in</p> <p>Onomatopoeic words- tut tut! , tittle tattle groan , rattle</p> <p>Personification- hunchback moon</p> <p>Foreboding atmosphere- owl calling</p> <p>Rhetoric question- dismay and surprise the protagonist feels</p> <p>Suspense created by little hints of the presence of the ghost</p> <p>Climactic end where the protagonist encounters the ghost in the closet</p>
Intention	To show how our attempts to show off and impress others often risking our lives of lead to disaster,(ill effects of bravado to impress)
Theme	The disastrous effects of showing off without being sincere and honest Dangers of boastful showing off and overconfidence in one's capacities
Sub theme	The human need to impress others to gain respect of others Human fear of the unknown How appearances are deceptive Belief of ghosts How trouble follows pretention and hypocrisy

The Huntsman- Edward Lowbury

setting	Kenyan jungles full of danger where Kagwa encounters a talking skull
subject	The tragic death of Kagwa he brave hunter for his lack of discretion in speech
style	Dramatic narration, third person narration, free verse
tone	Matter of fact, impersonal
techniques	<p>Inversion- never since I was born...</p> <p>Contrast- the skull spoke at first but not later when Kagwa wants it to Initial bravery but stupid to talk to a king about things hardly believable</p> <p>Irony- the huntsman gives the exact answer that the skull gave earlier Kagwa expected glory by visiting the king but it only brought death</p> <p>Personification- a skull speaks</p> <p>Short lines and fast pace</p>
intention	To show the importance of having the ability to be discreet in one's speech
theme	The danger of lacking discretion and the ability to judge what to say Importance of being discreet and judicious in one's speech
Sub theme	Human desire for recognition True bravery has to do more with brains than mere physical strength

Upside Down – Alexander Kushner

Setting	Not specific
Subject	The absurd conduct of the Upside Down who deliberately does the opposite of the expected obvious to annoy others and to impress others
Style	Dramatic third person narrative in rhyming couplets (lyric)
Tone	Sarcastic ‘dunderhead!’
Techniques	<p>Exaggeration hyperbole of his absurd conduct</p> <p>Parenthesis</p> <p>Rhetoric questions- how he is not willing to take advice</p> <p>Flashback – past annoying actions</p> <p>Fast moving rhythm</p> <p>Irony- his actions make him the talk of the town but not in admiration but in disapproval and with resentment become a laughing stock while trying to cut a figure</p>
Intention	To show how eccentric actions and conduct only leads to condemnation and not admiration, respect is gained through accepted social behavior than violating them
Theme	Misfits are laughed at and gathers condemnation but not esteem and admiration
Sub theme	Human desire to cut a figure with eccentric conduct Behave abnormally to cover up one's deficiencies.

Camel's Hump – Rudyard Kipling

Setting	Contemporary society where people don't engage in much of physical exertion
Subject	The manner how the Camel got his hump as a punishment for laziness from God
Style	First person narrative, rhyming lines lyric
Tone	Light hearted at first then grows to be Warning and advisory
Techniques	Allusion to Arabic myths- Djinn Witty Coinages - cameelious Onomatopoeia- frouzy, snarly-yarly shiver, scowl, grunt , growl Alliteration- shiver and scowl, grunt and growl ill still , horrible hump Repetition Colour imagery- black and blue Parallel- kiddies and grown ups too would get the hump like the camel if we don't work Metaphor- we get a hump
Intention	To encourage the readers to work till they gently perspire than be lazy and indolent
Theme	Importance of physical labour hard work and an active life away from being lazy
Sub theme	God blesses and rewards the industrious and hard working

Clown's Wife- Johnson Agard

Setting	The house hold of a working class circus clown
Subject	The futile but continuous attempts of a loving wife to cheer up and console a moody worried husband who is so introvert and never revealing his innermost thoughts
Style	First person narration (speaker is the wife) Free verse
Tone	Sympathetic, confessional
Techniques	Rhetoric question Contrast- wife open and revealing, husband keeps it all inside Metaphor- king on the throne Onomatopoeia- moan Hyperbole- world on his shoulder Anaphora- I Repetition of same structure to show the effort she takes Irony- wife playing the role of a clown to cheer up her husband who is a clown How wife's clowning fails to bring smiles in fact may annoy the clown
Intention	To show how the economic demands of life dispels happiness in a family To show the economic hardships of the working class who has to scrape through to survive with their meager incomes
Theme	Hardships of a working class life that takes away smile from their lives
Sub theme	A wife's devotion , concern and worry over her husband How a man can not be judged by how he appears and looks The real face behind the lively jovial entertainer Importance of communication and sharing of ideas in a marriage to succeed

Father and Son- Cat Stevens

setting	The 1970's in the US CONTEMPORARY CONSERVATIVE SOCIETY
Subject	A strained father –son relationship with so much of tension and misunderstanding
style	Dramatic narration , not a conversation or a dialogue
tone	Father calm and patient advisory Son – frustrated bitter and desperate
techniques	<p>Repetition – the same phrases</p> <p>Contrast- father talking to the son , son addressing the narrator Father calm and content and sympathetic to the youth The youth is restless, aggressive and regards the father as an impediment Father wants the son to follow him , the son wants to trod his own way Father has control over son , son wants toget away from that control- be independent The father determined to stop he son , but the son is determined to break free and have his own way Parallel- both parties adamant and not give in to the other party Both try to have their own way thinking they know better</p>
intention	To show how there is so much tension due to misunderstanding between the father and the son as they are both not ready to see things from the other's point of view and hang on to their own views in the most adamant and stubborn manner.
theme	The generation gap between the parents and children
Sub theme	<p>Youthful desire for independence and freedom to lead their lives and make choices</p> <p>The adult reluctance to let the children go away from their protective wings</p> <p>Adult desire to control the lives of the youth based on their more experience</p> <p>Youthful desire to take risks and try out new things despite adults conventionality</p>

The Earthen Goblet- Harindranath Chattopadhyaya

Setting	A potter's place where earthenware is displayed and kept for sale
Subject	The reaction of an earthen goblet to his new found state
Speaker	A red earthen goblet on display after being moulded in to such a state by the potter
Style	Conversation between a goblet and the narrator where the goblet answers a question First person narration confessionary reaction to a question
Tone	Sad. Repentant, nostalgic ,
Techniques	Alliteration- hear to heel, fragrant friendship, Personification – a goblet speaks Onomatopoeic words- twirl Metaphor- potters hand that burned so warm, flower flaming through breast Fragrant friendship Contrast- joyful and free earlier but now sad and captive Earlier unshapely and having no value now shapely and valuable Earlier having enriching relationships but now no such relationships And silent and lonely Now lot of flowers inside him earlier one flower flaming through his breast earlier feeling alive but now feeling his breath drawn out of him and almost dead in spirit. Symbols- potter's wheel- institutions that transform beings to something else Potter- agents of transformation like teachers, policy maker, religious clergy agents of outside influence Analogy making of a goblet out of clay is parallel to many social processes that transform a person in to something else from what he / she wishes to be. Irony- the goblet's desire to be in the natural position away from his present position of value and recognition
Intention	To show how the goblet feels sad at his now found status as a shapely more attractive clay vase a way from being a unshapely lump of clay
Theme	The natural instinctive desire to be free under another's manipulation and control
Sub themes	The instinctive need to be free from manipulation and abuse and be free Pain of losing one's identity almost by force due to more powerful forces like Colonialism Nostalgic desire to relive the past away from changes that come with time Importance of being in a natural state and free than be subjected to distortion

Farewell to the Barn and Stack and Tree – A.E. Houseman

Setting	A rural countryside during harvesting time with the harvest still half reaped
Subject	A farewell between two friends The speaker bidding farewell to his best friend as he plans to leave the village and probably to leave life after driven by lust and jealousy killing his own brother and revealing how he regrets his impulsive deed to his friend.
Speaker	Young man who had killed his brother over the love of a girl driven by lustful rage and jealousy
Tone	Regret, repentance ,sad , nostalgic
Style	Folk ballad dramatic narrative, a farewell in verse
Techniques	Ballad features like giving minimum details to create suspense, rhyming lines at the end, telling a story during the poem's narration, Repetition Rural images- barn ,stack Symbols- half mowed hill – incomplete life abandoned , not made full use of Bloody hands – guilt , impulsive actions driven by lust Contrast- two sons in the morning – none at dinner in the night Personification- booldy hand no more sweat on the scythe Long for me the Rick will wait Inversion of the lines Flashforward- of the things he would miss in Severn shore and during Lammastide
Intention	To show how deeply grieved and repentant the speaker is after the initial tension and fury have subsided and how he regrets his impulsive action driven by jealousy and lust
Theme	The ill effects of failing to govern and have control over one's passions lie lust , greed and jealousy that makes one forgetful of one's duties and responsibilities to others.
Sub theme	Unpredictability of life How a moment's actions affect entire life and its course How hasty actions lead to waste of lives Jealousy as a passion that is blinding and ungovernable

The Terrorist, He is watching. – Wislawa Sybborska

setting	A roadside by a pub from where the speaker watches the pub where a terrorist has just placed a bomb. A place where ordinary unsuspecting people gather for a drink and a reunion
subject	The observations and the emotional reactions to the people coming out of and going in to the pub with four minutes for the bomb to go off.
Tone	anticipatory Casual and impersonal unfeeling Detached , cynical, sometimes gets a bit emotional and annoyed about the people getting in or out of the pub sometimes concerned and worried
Style	Free verse, third person narration. Dramatic narrative
speaker	The poet as a keen observer who sometimes gets in to the mind of the terrorist as well
techniques	Constant reference to time ticking to create suspense and tension Sarcasm- what a view just like the movies! Rhetoric question- was she that dumb? Adjectives- fat bald to describe the average nature of the people Irony- a pub, a place where people get together becomes a deadly place where death awaits and people go in not knowing the truth Present tense Contrast- people's ignorance vs the speaker's awareness of what is to happen
intention	To show how life is uncertain and death await in the most unlikely places in the modern world given to terrorism where the innocent will be the victims How our lives are determined by our split second decisions and forces beyond our perception and control
theme	Unpredictability of life in a world infested by violence and terror.
Sub theme	Ordinary people's lack of interest in political events and desire to get on with their lives Dehumanized , cynical and unfeeling mentality of a terrorist who has no value of life and who acts cowardly to bomb civilians

Twilight of a Crane- Kinoshita

Setting	A winter evening in rural Japanese countryside in a working class hut of a poor peasant
Subject	The ruin of the relationship between Tsu and Yohyo who were once so in love enjoying simple contented life as a result of the greed for money.
Conflict	Tsu wants love and contentment in life and things to remain as before with not much involvement in the outside world but Yohyo needs money to buy all other material things and wants to become part of the corrupted materialistic world Simple contented life (idealism) vs a life of craving for more (materialism)
Style	Modern Japanese Drama, one act play based on a folk lore
Tone	Sad and melancholy
Techniques	<p>Symbolism- cloth- tsu's love for her husband self sacrificial nature of true love Twilight- a near end and ambiguity in identity Children's song- innocence and purity Hut- simple and contented life with what you have Kyoto- materialistic and commercialized life with money ruling Relationships Snow – suggestive of the affair coming to an end</p> <p>Contrast- Tsu 's innocence vs the villager's corrupted nature Yohyo's earlier innocence and selfless caring for Tsu Vs his later demanding selfish and careless attitude to Tsu Earlier Yohyo's life of contentment vs later life of Yohyo full of greed earlier Yohyo admired the cloth for beauty and later wanted it for its monetary value Tsu earlier happy and contented later unhappy and disturbed Tsu at first weaves a cloth as a token of gratitude and love but later weaves out of desperation to save her relationship with the man</p> <p>Rhetoric questions- suggesting Tsu's helpless desperation not to lose Yohyo Flashback- Yohyo recalls how he met Tsu and his helping a crane Allusion to Japanese folk lore of a crane marrying a human Suspense and mystery related to Tsu 's identity Irony- Yohyo thinks Tsu is human but in fact she is crane Yohyo believes that villagers and money through sales promises joy but they only bring misery Tsu weaves the clothes to strengthen her love but they lead to its ruin Tsu discards her real identity to find joy but it only brings her waste and misery and pain Yohyo and Sodo thinks they can fool Yohyo but he never lets the senba or go and finally refuses to part with them. Songs to reveal the mood of the situation</p>
intention	To show the harmful and disastrous effect of greed for money and material things in life Disastrous effects of pursuing after material wealth with the blind belief they can secure happiness in life
Theme	Negative effects of greed and materialistic craving on human relationships
Sub theme	Corruption and selfish abuse as quite a human trait Fragility of innocence and how easily it can be lost Fickleness of human heart How man expects woman to make sacrifices for his joy and woman is ready to do so World of the children and that of adults Capitalism and its negative aspects on individuals and the social order Corruption of the individual by the society Money and its corruptive influence specially on the less experienced in life. Repercussions of giving in to temptations The merciless ruthless nature of the materialistic world bent on making profit at any cost. Greed spoils love and happiness

Lahore Attack- Colin Cowdry Lecture by Sangakkara

Setting	the Colin Cowdrey speech at the ICC meeting in 2011
subject	The impact of the terrorist attack on the Sri Lankan Cricket team in Lahore and how they reacted to it and the aftermath. As Sangakkara recollects the incident during the Colin Cowdry speech
style	Emotional address in first person narrative
tone	Admiration of the masses for their resilience and his team for professionalism gratitude for the soldier and masses for bestowing so much love and faith in them sarcasm at Tharanga Paranawithana's fate
character	Sanga as a true leader- observant and never panic Sanga as a true humanist- feels a new found honour for the everyday man. Sanga as a great orator – adds humour ,suspense and moving passions in to it Sanga as a patriot – he knows they are unofficial ambassadors
techniques	Flashback of the incident of the attack Contrast- while the country has been experiencing terror attacks this is the first time that Sangakkara has felt it first hand while some team mates were panic stricken he was calm and collected foreshadowing irony- the soldier values the cricketer's life someone wished that they might experience a bomb attack so that they could go home, the same thing happens simile- bullets hit the bus like rain on a tin roof
Intention	How the experience of the terror attack brought a new awareness of the life of masses in Sri Lanka along with the place they hold in the hearts of the average person to realize why they should perform well with a sense of responsibility in the field as true representatives of their country as the people's dignity and honour rests upon their performance.
Theme	The resilience of the Sri Lanka Cricket team at the face of adversity both as sportsmen and SRI LANKANS.
Sub issues	How the cricketers are idolized in the society. The need for a cricketer to show how they must be worthy of the love and honour they receive from the common man. Terrorism has no borders and knows no friend or foe. Resilience in the face of crisis

The Lumber Room

Setting	Rural country house in Victorian England in the early 20 th century
Subject	The strained relationship between an imaginative child and his dominating dull religiously over zealous aunt who expect the children too to be so virtuous
Conflict	The aunt does not allow the child to enjoy the beautiful things in life like the garden or the EXOTIC THINGS IN THE Lumber room but he is determined to experience them using his crafty shrewd brain and the adult's predictable conduct.
style	Third person narrative / social satire
tone	Satirical and sarcastic, light hearted
techniques	<p>Imagery of the things in the Lumber room</p> <p>Metaphor – aunt- the evil one</p> <p>Rhetoric questions</p> <p>Symbolism- the lumber room is symbolic of the creative imaginative mind and the beauty of the children's world that they are not allowed to enjoy by the adults</p> <p>Irony- the trip to the beach becomes a punishment to the children who went Nicholas' punishment becomes a reward for him as he gets a chance to get in to the room although the garden is regarded paradise the actual paradise becomes the lumber room for Nicholas.</p> <p>The things intended to bring joy through their beauty are kept locked in a room gathering dust and not appreciated while life is made dull and barren by adults</p> <p>Nicholas pretends that his aunt is the Evil One tempting him to sin in order to play a trick on the rude aunt but the reference suits her as she herself is evil with her ways</p> <p>The Aunt feels she has control over the children and they are under her thumb but we see that she is mistaken and the children have their own little schemes to challenge and succeed in defying her orders.</p>
intention	To show how the children suffer in a world dominated by dull unimaginative and harsh adults that expects children to act as they prescribe and order about. Without fulfilling their desires and needs and how the children constantly challenge the adult authority and dominance.
Theme	The witty creative imagination of children that can outsmart dominating spiteful and authoritative adults who deny the children of their pleasures.
Sub theme	<p>Generation gap</p> <p>Children's attraction to the beautiful and attractive, curiosity to the hidden</p> <p>Boring dryness of religion dominated Victorian life</p> <p>The conflict between the adult and children's world</p> <p>Hypocrisy of adults</p>
characters	<p>Aunt- vindictive, hypocrisy, too strict, over zealous in religious, conventional</p> <p>Unimaginative, thinks they can control the children all the time</p> <p>Narrow minded highly moralistic, domineering, spiteful</p> <p>Denying children of the things they love as a form of punishment</p> <p>Nicholas – shrewd, smart and intelligent, creative and imaginative, gets the better off the adults, resourceful, challenges the authority of the adults with his little tricks</p>

