

Hello.

This is your literature reviewer.

Listen carefully and review while listening.

Words of the Week

Words of the Week.

Incredulous.

Incredulous means difficult to believe, incredible, or skeptical.

Malfesance.

Malfesance means misconduct or wrongdoing, especially by a public official.

Mercenary.

Mercenary means interested in making money, profit-oriented, or hired for service in a foreign army.

Intransigence.

Intransigence means refusal of any compromise or stubbornness.

Guy de Maupassant

Guy de Maupassant.

His full name is Henry-Rene-Albert Guy de Maupassant.

He was a French naturalist writer of short stories and novels.

He is considered the greatest French short-story writer.

He is also known as one of the leading masters of the short story.

His story "The Necklace" is considered his most highly finished achievement.

The Necklace Summary

Mathilde Loisel is a young woman who dreams of living a rich and fancy life, even though she is married to a simple, hardworking man and lives a modest life.

She loves pretty clothes, jewelry, and fancy parties, and she feels unhappy with her simple home and life.

One day, her husband brings her an invitation to a fancy ball.

Mathilde is upset at first because she doesn't have a nice dress or jewelry to wear.

Her husband offers to give her money to buy a dress, and she borrows a beautiful necklace from her rich friend to look perfect at the ball.

At the party, Mathilde feels admired and happy.

But later, she loses the necklace.

She and her husband spend many years working hard to pay for a replacement, which ruins their lives.

In the end, Mathilde learns that the necklace she borrowed was actually fake and not worth much at all.

Literary Criticism

Feminist criticism.

Feminist criticism focuses on the gender relationships of characters.

Marxist criticism.

Marxist criticism focuses on the class conflict portrayed in the story.

They are similar because they both focus on the social and political values of a literary piece rather than on its aesthetic value.

Analogies

Analogies compare two pairs of words that are related in the same way.

Types of analogies include:

Synonyms.

Antonyms.

Object or action.

Source or product.

Part or whole.

Animal or habitat.

Example.

Shovel is to dig, as pencil is to write.

Object or action.

You can also say:

Shovel goes with dig like pencil goes with write.

Scissors is to cut, as eraser is to erase.

Eye is to see, as nose is to smell.

Find is to discover, as begin is to start.

These are synonyms.

Right is to correct, as under is to below.

Serious is to funny, as huge is to tiny.

These are antonyms.

New is to old, as narrow is to wide.

Well is to water, as beach is to sand.

Source or product.

Tree is to lumber, as quarry is to stone.

Toe is to foot, as finger is to hand.

Part or whole.

Room is to house, as chapter is to book.

Spider is to web, as bird is to nest.

Animal or habitat.

Bat is to cave, as bear is to den.

Anton Pavlovich Chekhov

Anton Pavlovich Chekhov.

His stories include “The Steppe” and “The Lady with the Dog.”

His plays include “The Seagull” and “Uncle Vanya.”

Anton emphasized the depths of human nature, the hidden significance of everyday events, and the fine line between comedy and tragedy.

He is considered one of the greatest short story writers in the world.

The Lottery Ticket Summary

There was a man named Ivan and his wife Masha.

They lived a normal, simple life.

One day, they had a lottery ticket, and they were not sure if it was a winning one.

When they looked at the newspaper, they saw their series number on the list.

At first, they didn't check if their ticket number matched, but just seeing the series made them very excited.

Their hearts were beating fast because they thought they might have won a lot of money, like a giant treasure.

They started dreaming about all the things they could buy and how life would change if they really got the money.

They felt super happy and nervous at the same time.

But the story is tricky.

It shows that just thinking about money can make people feel excited and even worried.

At the end, it turns out they did not actually win, which made the reader feel relieved.

So, the story is really about how money can make people dream, worry, and feel different emotions, even if they don't actually get it.

Poetry

Poetry entertains the ears and the eyes.

Poems are created by putting words together in an interesting way to express a feeling, create a mental picture, tell a story, or make a sound.

Poems can be found in many places.

Anthology.

An anthology is a collection of selected literary, artistic, or musical works, such as poems, short stories, plays, or songs.

Parts of Poetry

Verse.

A verse is usually a line of poetry, but sometimes a whole poem.

Stanza.

A stanza is like a paragraph in an essay.

Each stanza is usually separated by blank space.

Common stanza lengths are two, three, four, six, or eight lines.

Rhyme

Rhyme is the repetition of end sounds.

Words rhyme if the sounds are alike.

Rhyme scheme is the pattern of rhymes in a poem.

Poets use rhyme to add a musical sound to their poems.

Types of Rhyming

Masculine rhyme.

Matches only one syllable, usually at the end of lines.

The final syllable is stressed.

Perfect rhyme happens when:

The stressed vowel sound is identical, and the sounds after it are also identical.

Example:

Sky and high.

Skylight and highlight.

The sounds before the vowel must be different.

Example:

Bean and green is a perfect rhyme.

Leave and believe are not perfect rhymes because they are identical rhymes.

Feminine rhyme.

Rhyming of one or more unstressed syllables.

Example:

Dicing and enticing.

The second-to-last syllable is stressed.

Half rhyme.

Rhyming of the ending consonant sounds in a word.

Example:

Tell and toll.

Sopped and leapt.

Half rhyme is also called:

Off-rhyme.

Slant rhyme.

B-rhyme.

Apophany.

Rhymes can be applied in couplets, triplets, and stanzas.

Masculine ending.

A line ending in a stressed syllable.

Feminine ending.

A line ending in a stressless syllable.

Rhythm and Meter

Rhythm.

The pattern of beats or a series of stressed and unstressed syllables in a poem.

Poets create rhythm by using words where some parts are emphasized and others are not.

Meter.

The measure of a line in poetry.

Foot.

A grouping of two or more syllables that makes up a basic unit of meter.

Mood and Tone

Mood.

The feeling a poem creates in a reader.

It can be positive or negative.

Mood can be created through sentence length, chosen words, and word sounds.

Tone.

The attitude a writer takes toward the subject or audience of the poem.

Imagery

Imagery is language that appeals to the five senses.

It creates word pictures.

It helps the reader experience familiar things in a fresh way using the senses.

Figures of Speech

Figures of speech are modes of expression.

Words are used beyond their literal meaning to add beauty or emotional intensity.

This is done by comparing or identifying one thing with another.

Simile.

A simile compares two unlike things using like or as.

Example:

Good coffee is like friendship: rich and warm and strong.

Metaphor.

A metaphor makes an implied comparison between two unlike things.

Example:

The streets were a furnace.

The sun an executioner.

Personification.

An inanimate object or idea is given human qualities.

Example:

The wind stood up and gave a shout.

Onomatopoeia.

Words that imitate sounds.

Examples:

Chug chug chug.

Ding dong.

Hyperbole.

An exaggeration used for emphasis.

Example:

You could have knocked me over with a feather.

Psalm 1

Blessed is the one

who does not walk in step with the wicked

or stand in the way that sinners take

or sit in the company of mockers.

But whose delight is in the law of the Lord

and who meditates on his law day and night.

That person is like a tree planted by streams of water

which yields its fruit in season

and whose leaf does not wither.

Whatever they do prospers.

Not so the wicked.

They are like chaff

that the wind blows away.

Therefore the wicked will not stand in the judgment

nor sinners in the assembly of the righteous.

For the Lord watches over the way of the righteous

but the way of the wicked leads to destruction.

The Life Removed – Explanation

This poem is about a man who is happy living a simple and quiet life.

He stays away from the noisy, fancy, and stressful parts of the world.

He does not care about money, fame, or showing off, because these things do not bring true happiness.

He loves nature, the hills, streams, and fields.

He enjoys making a small garden where flowers bloom and a stream flows.

He feels peaceful when he can watch, listen, and think quietly without fear, jealousy, or anger.

While other people fight for gold or power, he is happy with simple food, calm days, singing birds, and music.

He feels rich in peace, freedom, and beauty, not in treasures or titles.

The poem teaches that peaceful and simple living can make life happier than chasing wealth or status.

Syllables

Syllables are basic sound units of a word.

They act as beats in speech.

Each syllable contains one vowel sound.

Example.

Angel is pronounced AN-gel, not an-GEL.

Complete is pronounced com-PLETE, not COM-plete.

Scansion

Scansion is the act of analyzing poetry based on rhythm.

It shows which syllables are stressed and unstressed.

Curved lines represent unstressed syllables.

Straight slashes represent stressed syllables.

Poetic Meter

Poetic meter refers to the rhythms within poems.

It is the arrangement of stressed and unstressed syllables at regular intervals.

Poetic Foot

A poetic foot is a repeated rhythm pattern of two or more syllables.

Poetic meter is made up of poetic feet.

Five Main Patterns of Poetic Feet

Iambic.

One unstressed syllable followed by one stressed syllable.

Examples:

Repose.

Belief.

Complete.

Trochaic.

One stressed syllable followed by one unstressed syllable.

Examples:

Garland.

Speaking.

Value.

Anapestic.

Two unstressed syllables followed by one stressed syllable.

Examples:

On the road.

Interrupt.

Unabridged.

Contradict.

Engineer.

Masquerade.

Galilee.

Dactylic.

One stressed syllable followed by two unstressed syllables.

Examples:

Happiness.

Gallop.

Fortunate.

Saturday.

Daffodil.

Murmuring.

Rhapsody.

Spondaic.

All syllables have equal stress.

Examples:

Heartbreak.

Out, out.

Pen-knife.

Ad hoc.

Heartburn.

End of reviewer.

Listen again to strengthen your memory. 🎧

