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**LMD ONE: 2020- 2021 GR: 2**

**Lecture Four: Types of Literature**

**Part Three: Prose**

**Prose Defined**

It is a type of literary writing that is produced simply. It does not rely on a particular formal structure like poetry or drama. Prose writer simply says things without necessarily trying to say them beautifully or using an ornamented style. He relies on the narrative style with the presence of dialogue or conversation where necessary. Prose tells stories of different sizes. The language used in prose is an everyday language with full grammatical structure and straightforward style. Prose stories maybe imaginative (fictitious) or real which relies on real facts, events, and characters.

**Types of Prose**

Prose most known types are: fictional prose, nonfictional prose

* **Nonfictional Prose**

It is a piece of writing based on facts and real stories of real people in real settings. For example biographies, autobiographies, essays, letters…etc.

* **Fictional Prose**

The word fiction originates from Latin *fingo* which means to form, shape, make, or model. It refers to something made up or imagined. This type relies on the author’s imagination of the story. Thus, its elements are fully or partly imaginative. For example novels, short stories, fables, tales, and others.

* Novel: a literary piece of prose fiction originates from the Italian novella signifying something new and small. It is an extended piece of prose.
* Fable: antedated to the time of word-of-mouth or the oral storytelling periods. It has a simple structure and generally contains a moral message e.g. Aesop’s or La Fontaine’s *beast fables*
* Tale: it is also an ancient type of fiction; with a simple structure too but it comprises wonderful events and supernatural elements E.g. *The Canterbury Tales.* There are two common types: folk tales and fairy tales
* Short story: it is quite modern than the aforementioned types; it is more realistic; its structure is not so simple; fully described events and characters; it is based on one character; there are two special types: epiphany and story of initiation.