



The University of Fiji
(An Entity of Arya Pratinidhi Sabha of Fiji)



SCHOOL OF HUMANITIES AND ARTS

DEPARTMENT OF LANGUAGE, LITERATURE AND COMMUNICATION
Semester 1, 2025

FINAL EXAMINATION PAPER



LLC221: SHORT FICTION AND LITERARY APPRECIATION

Important Instructions to Students:

1. Read the questions, instructions carefully and answer the questions.
2. You are allowed an **extra 10 minutes reading time** (during this time, you are not allowed to write with pen) and **180 minutes (3 Hours) to complete this paper**.
3. Silent, non-programmable calculators are allowed, but not supplied.
4. Write all your answers in the answer booklet provided. If you need extra sheets, please ask from the supervisor. Write your name, course code and student identification number in the answer booklet and in the attendance sheet.
5. This paper contains eight (8) questions. Choose any 5 out of the eight and write an essay using at least 400-450 words.
6. Write all your answers legibly. The marker has the right to award zero for answers that are not legible.
7. This is a **Closed Book Examination**. The University views plagiarism, cheating and dishonest practice as serious offences and if found, offenders are penalized.

Examination Paper Content (Format):

<u>Question</u>	<u>Content</u>	<u>Marks</u>	<u>Suggested Time</u>
1-8	Essay Questions (Choose Any FIVE out of EIGHT)	20	36 minutes
TOTAL		100	180 minutes

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Write at least 400-450 words for each answer. Plan your answer before you write it. Leave time for revision.

Note: Use only the stories you have studied this semester. Do not use the same story more than once.

Question 1

Katherine Mansfield's short story, "The Doll's House" (1922), explores themes of social class, childhood innocence, and friendship through the experiences of the Burnell sisters and the Kelvey sisters.

Analyze how Mansfield uses narrative techniques and character portrayals to convey the three mentioned underlying themes in the story. Provide relevant examples from the story to justify your claims made.

Question 2

The story "The Ransom of Red Chief" (1907) by the author, O. Henry, highlights the ironic reversal of expectations. The kidnappers anticipation of a ransom payment proves to be so demanding that the story ends with a twist.

Discuss the element of situational irony depicted in the story and explain the reasons you as a reader feel sorry for the kidnappers and not the victim.

Question 3

"The Necklace" (1907) by Guy de Maupassant focuses on the story of a woman preoccupied with her desire to be wealthy and to belong to the upper class. As the plot unravels, the falsity of appearances turns out to be the main reason for the calamitous outcome.

With reference to the short story "The Necklace" discuss how the central character is responsible for her own downfall? Provide relevant examples from the story to justify your claims made.

Question 4

Works of fiction can act as a window into the lives and minds of a particular culture.

Discuss on ways from V. S Naipaul's short story "My Aunt's Gold Teeth" (1958) in which culture clash and superstition are exposed by the writer in the Trinidadian society.

Question 5

In the short story, "Desiree's Baby" by Kate Chopin, the deeply ingrained cruelty of the patriarchal, white, slave-owning society, and the intersectionality of classism rears as the story unfolds as depicted in the mid-19th century.

With reference to the short fiction, discuss these elements in detail and show its consequences for Desiree trapped within it. Rationalize your essay with appropriate examples and your personal experience to support the discussions.

Question 6

The central conflict in Kate Chopin's "A Pair of Silk Stockings" (1897) is primarily the protagonist's struggle to resist temptation as she indulges in luxury items.

With relevant examples and quotes discuss the internal conflicts that reflects the main character, Mrs. Sommers battle between societal expectations and personal desires.

Question 7

Divorce, infidelity, domestic strife, financial worry, rootlessness, consumerism as a substitute for intimacy, and disillusionment with the American Dream are common themes throughout Carver's stories.

With reference to either "So Much Water, So Close to Home" (1981) or "A Small Good Thing" (1989) explain the themes and discuss how these themes can be relevant to our society.

Question 8

In Nadine Gordimer's "Once Upon a Time," the surprise element lies in the subversion of the fairytale narrative. The story begins with a familiar "Once upon a time" and the promise of a "happily ever after" ending.

Discuss the twists that reveals a tragic, reality-based story about the effects of paranoia and fear within a wealthy South African family.

Provide evidence of satire, highlighting the dangers of fear and social inequality as shown in the story.

The End

