

Whiteboard 1 on Prose

Prose is the third literary genre that we are exploring.

Prose is literary language that is not poetry and not drama.

What is the difference between literary prose and these other genres.

Not very much!

But in its shape on the page it is very different. It is not shaped into stanzas (or verses [synonym]); it is not presented as different characters speaking to each other on a stage; it is words describing experiences, people, events and the word go right across the page, from one side to the other, just exactly as I am writing now.

It is important to note that prose can also be non-literary. Non-literary prose can be articles you read in the newspaper, can be science text-books, can even be history books although some history books are written by eminent writers and their language can often be very "poetic". It is fair to say that some literary prose is also very poetic or poetical. Nearly all the prose writers that we are going to be looking at are in some way poetical.

What does this mean?

This means they use language descriptively, they often draw attention to the sounds of words they are using, they often are symbolic and use figurative language.

Literary prose can take the form of short stories, novels and even prose poems.