

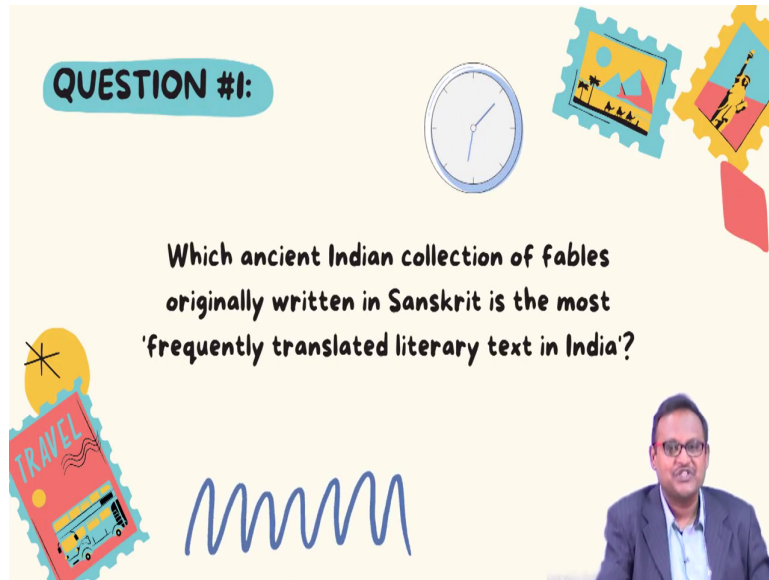
Elements of Literature and Creative Communication
Prof. H S Komalesha
Department of Humanities and Social Sciences
Indian Institute of Technology, Kharagpur

Lecture - 45
A Quiz on Short Fiction

Hi there, welcome to the last lecture of week 9, this is also the last lecture for our week on Short Fiction. I am sure you must have really found this week very riveting because we learned various elements of short fiction, and various techniques used in short fiction. We understood what short fiction meant, its capabilities and we also read some beautiful or remarkable short stories, I am sure you must have found them really very beautiful. And this is these experiences are rare to come by, please remember the stories that you have read are not ordinary stories and after having read them, if you do not feel slightly expanded well, you would not have read them properly. So, would that be the reason why one of the short story writers says that after having read a short story you find it difficult to come back because you will have expanded? Now, coming back to your previous self becomes slightly difficult. You face the problems of adjustment something like that. So, yeah, so you can read short fiction, of course, we have already identified short fiction as a concomitant with the rise of the middle class, the rise of industrialization, especially the rise of modernism and all that. And this is a genre of literature that suits us better. Because for poetry and fiction we need a lot of time, and for short fiction well we have some time at our disposal right. That is I mean short fiction alone is also capable of redeeming us, of course, it prepares the ground for us to be better readers of fiction, better readers of poetry. So, no problem if you begin with short fiction. Now, based on our discussion of short fiction so far and of course on our discussion of fiction too. Can we conduct a very interesting quiz for you because, I remember last time we conducted this quiz I remember some of enjoying it a lot and you have always, you have also conveyed to us that you learned lot many things? And we have also identified the quiz as an extraordinary tool of pedagogy because the quiz does not merely elicit the spirit of competitive competitiveness. by the way by the very way it is structured it is capable of aligning the learner in you into an altogether a new dimension. Therefore, quizzes have always been extraordinary pedagogical tools in the hands of educators right. So, let us quickly conduct a short quiz on this short fiction, are you ready for this? Alright. Yeah, this is not graded, once again this was we said this in the context of our first quiz as well, this quiz is not graded.

So, you can as well relax and enjoy, those of you who wish to be a little more proactive can keep a pen and a paper ready, and then as and when a question is displayed you can, what you can do you can note down your answer.

(Refer Slide Time: 04:22)

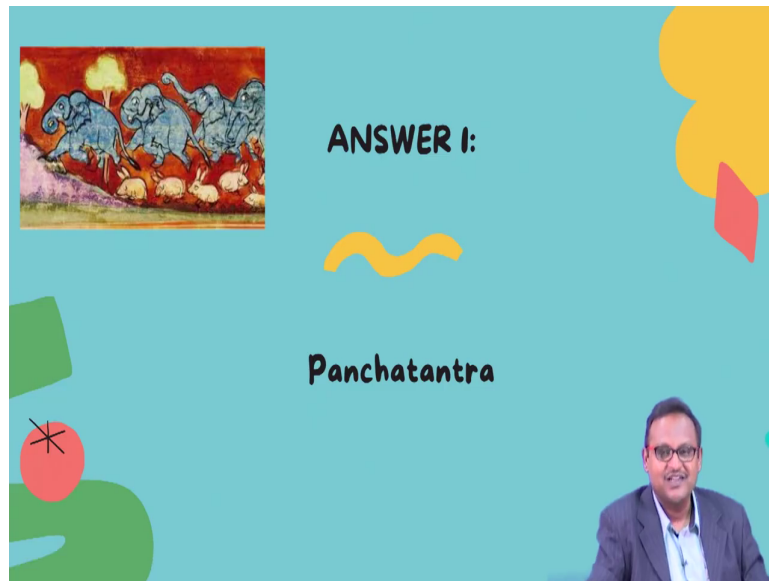


Question 1:

Which is the ancient Indian collection of fables which we said was originally written in Sanskrit and which has been translated widely across languages, not just within India, but throughout the globe, can you identify this particular collection of stories? Originally written in Sanskrit and translated across many Indian languages and also into other world languages.

Answer - *Panchatantra*

(Refer Slide Time: 05:40)



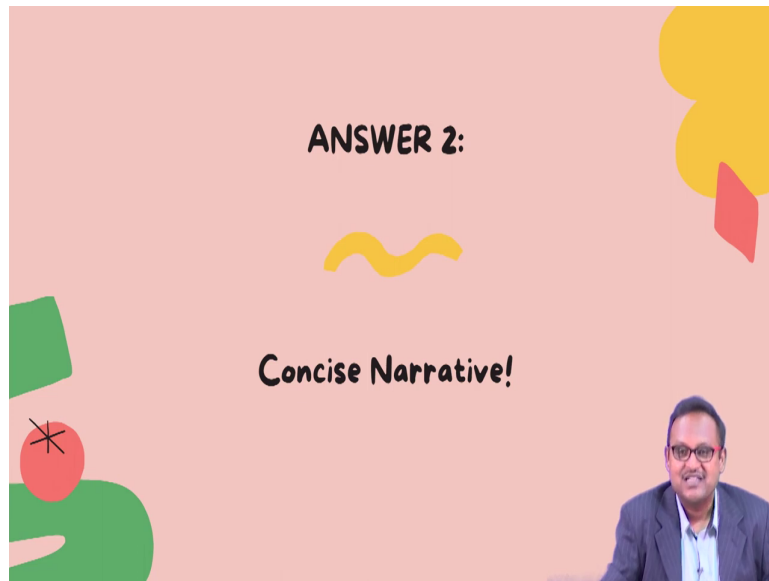
(Refer Slide Time: 06:10)



Question 2:

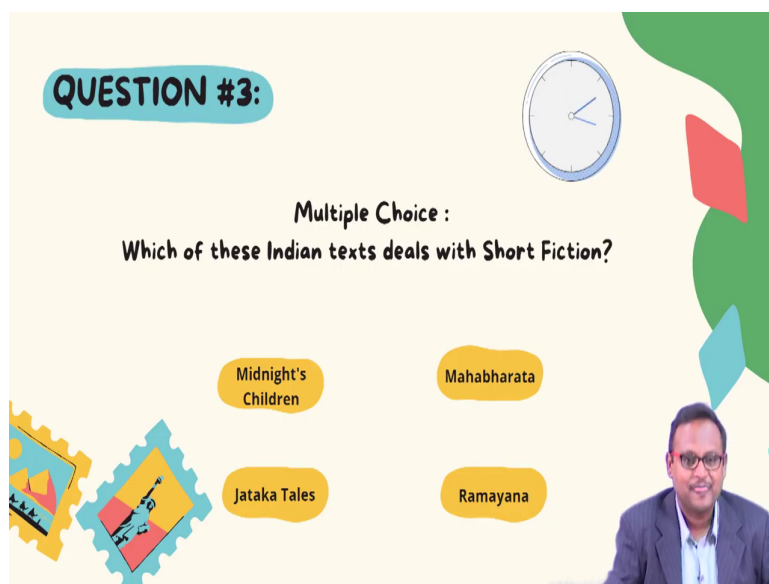
Now, which of these features would you associate with short fiction exclusively? The features are - stream of consciousness, lyrical quality, love story, and concise narrative; what is your answer?

(Refer Slide Time: 07:14)



Answer - Concise narrative.

(Refer Slide Time: 08:04)



Question 3:

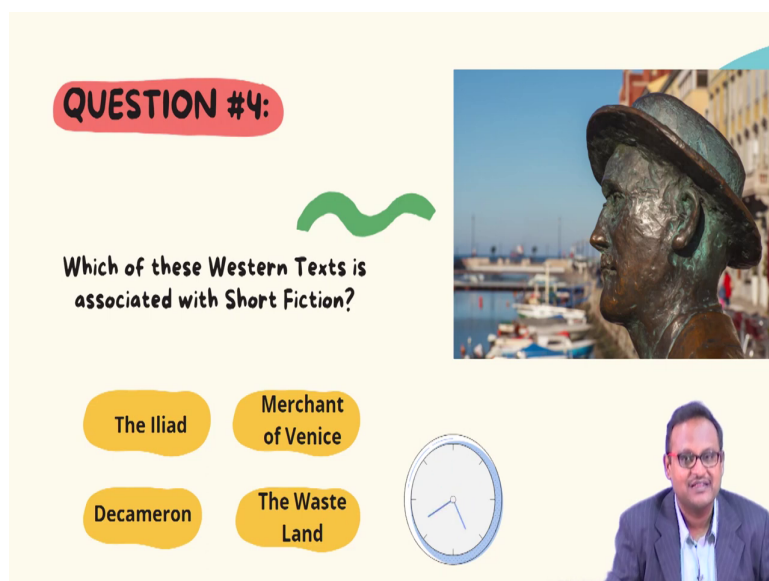
Which of these Indian texts deals with short fiction or which is an example of short fiction?
We have 4 options before you - *Midnight's children*, the *Mahabharata*, the *Jataka Tales*, and the *Ramayana*.

(Refer Slide Time: 08:54)



Answer - The Jataka Tales.

(Refer Slide Time: 09:32)

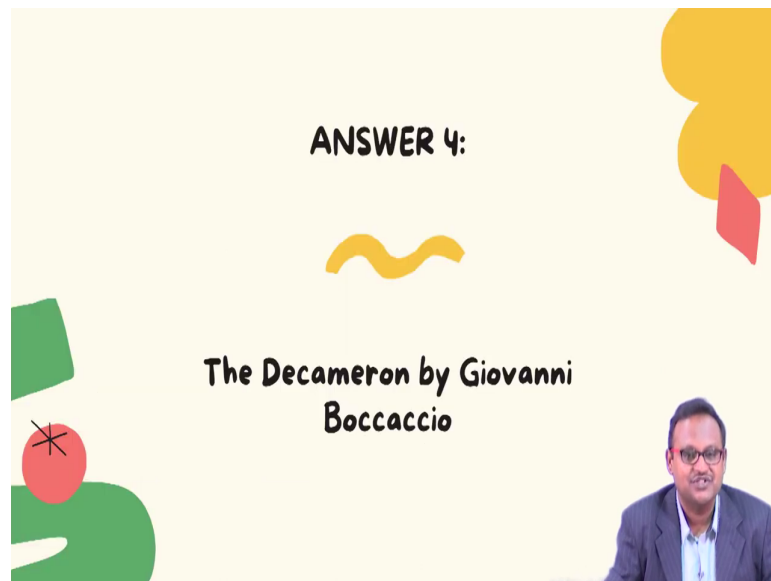


Question 4:

So, which of these western texts can be associated with short fiction?

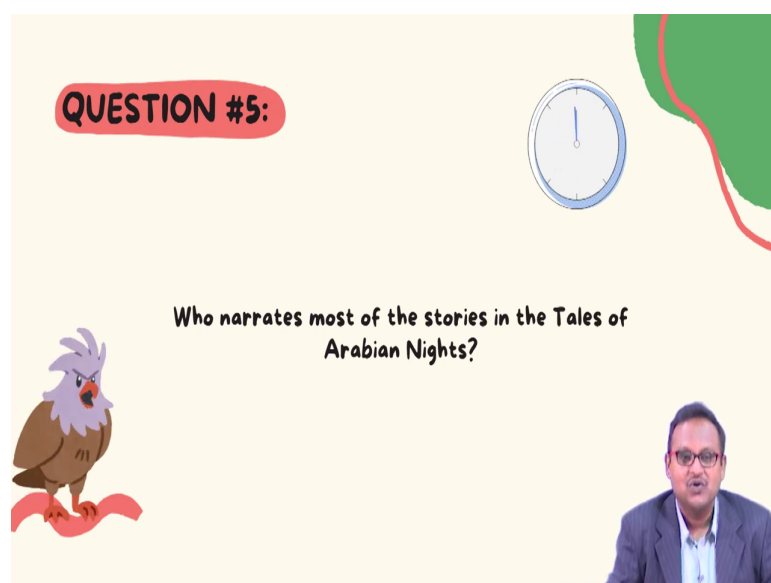
You have *The Iliad*, *Merchant of Venice*, *The Waste Land*, the *Decameron*.

(Refer Slide Time: 10:32)



Answer - *The Decameron* by Giovanni Boccaccio.

(Refer Slide Time: 11:10)

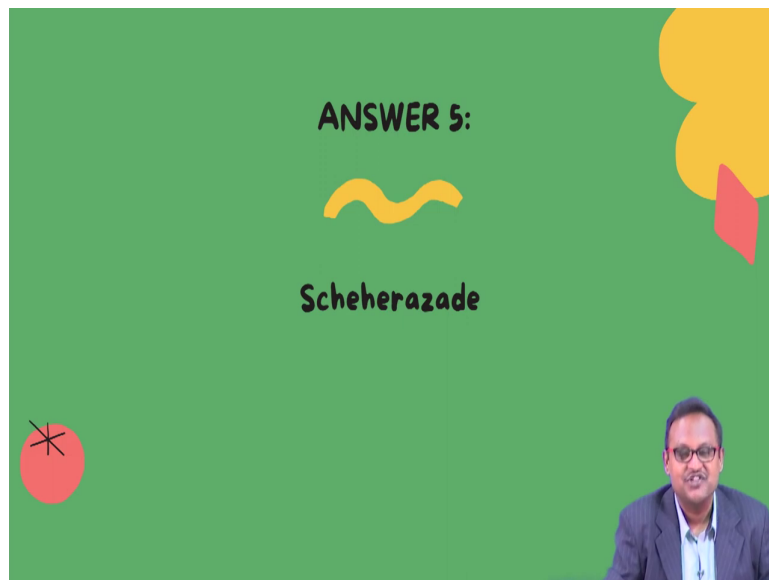


So, question number 5 for you.

Who narrates most of the stories in the *Tales of Arabian Nights*? I am sure this is an easy answer for you, right we discussed the Tales of Arabian Nights, One Thousand and One Nights stories narrated there. Who is the protagonist? Who acts as a frame narrator? We

identified Arabian Nights as having a frame narrative and a frame narrative is where you have discussed that right.

(Refer Slide Time: 12:17)




Answer - Scheherazade.

(Refer Slide Time: 13:24)

QUESTION #6:

Identify the type of Short Fiction :-



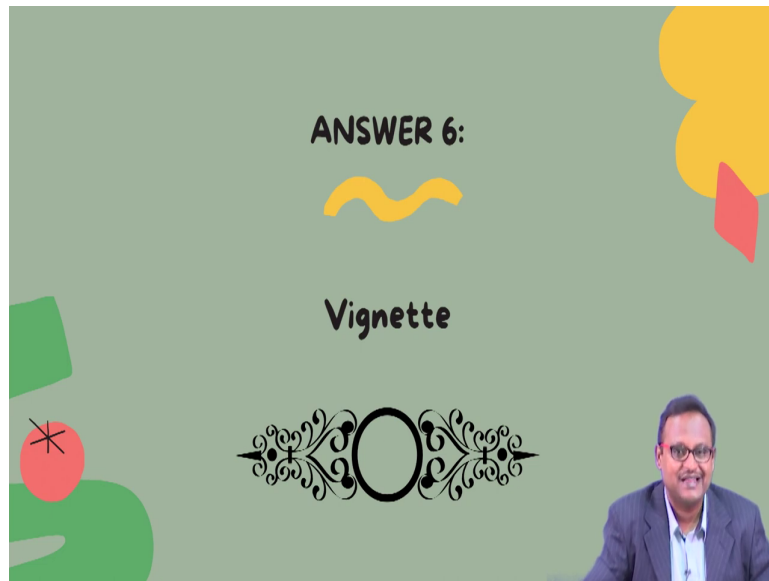
"Maera lay still, his head on his arms, his face in the sand. He felt warm and sticky from the bleeding. Each time he felt the horn coming. Sometimes the bull only bumped him with his head. Once the horn went all the way through him and he felt it go into the sand ... Maera felt everything getting larger and larger and then smaller and smaller. Then it got larger and larger and larger and then smaller and smaller. Then everything commenced to run faster and faster as when they speed up a cinematograph film. Then he was dead."

- In Our Time, Ernest Hemingway

Question 6.

Identify the type of short fiction from the slide

(Refer Slide Time: 15:10)



Answer - Vignette.

(Refer Slide Time: 15:40)

A presentation slide with a yellow background. The title 'QUESTION #7:' is in a green rounded rectangle. Below it is the text 'Identify the type of Short Fiction :-'. To the right of the text is a clock icon. Below the text is a paragraph of text. The slide is decorated with a blue river, a yellow sun, a red circle, and a black crosshair.

QUESTION #7:

Identify the type of Short Fiction :-

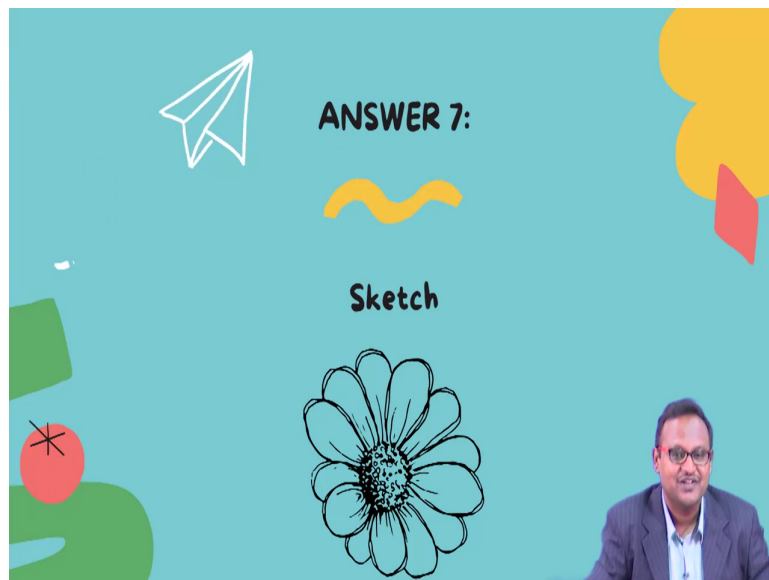
"Rowan is a twelve year old boy who lives in the tiny village of Rin. He is small and rather scrawny for his age. His unkempt, curly brown hair looks like a mop on his tiny face and his thinness makes him look like a walking skeleton. The people in the village poke fun of Rowan. The adults call him a weakling because he never stands up for himself. The children call him a coward because when confronted with a problem, Rowan always runs away. Rowan is the gentlest of the children in the village. He is the only child that can approach any of the farm animals without scaring them away. They trust his soothing touch and calming voice over the roughness and loudness of the other kids."

Question 7. Identify the type of short fiction.

Now, to which type of short fiction does this belong? Read it carefully, you can pause it and then read the entire thing once, twice until you are comfortable. "Rowan is a twelve year old boy who lives in the tiny village of Rin. He is small and rather scrawny for his age. His

unkempt, curly brown hair looks like a mop on his tiny face and his thinness makes him look like a walking skeleton.....”

(Refer Slide Time: 17:23)



Answer - Sketch. So, using words you sketch the characteristic trait of a particular character here.

(Refer Slide Time: 18:13)

The Larder Thief

2am. All is quiet. There's just me and the cats, slinking around in the dark. I head up the street, sneaking between the pools of light until I reach my target: Number 22. Hiding in the shadows of the door, I stop and listen. Perfect. No one is up. Carefully, I work on the lock and soon the catch clicks open. Pause. Silence. I push the door wide and slip inside. Success! I take a moment to slip off my shoes. Sneaking into the kitchen, I start by raiding the fridge.


"Bryan?"


"Yes, Mum!"

"What time do you call this?"

QUESTION #8:

Identify the type of Short Fiction :-



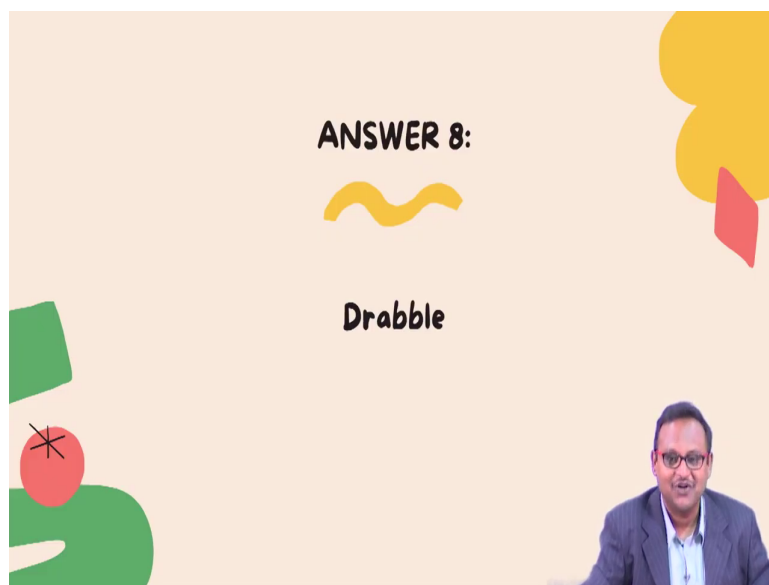


Let us go to question number 8.

“2am. All is quiet. There is just me and the cats, slinking around in the dark. I head up the street sneaking between the poles of light until I reach my target: Number 22. Hiding in the shadows of the door, I stop and listen. Perfect. No one is up. Carefully, I work on the lock and soon the catch clicks open. Pause. Silence. I push the door wide and slip inside. Success, I take a moment to slip off my shoes. Sneaking it to the kitchen, I start by raiding the fridge. “Bryan?” “Yes, Mum.” “What time do you call this?”

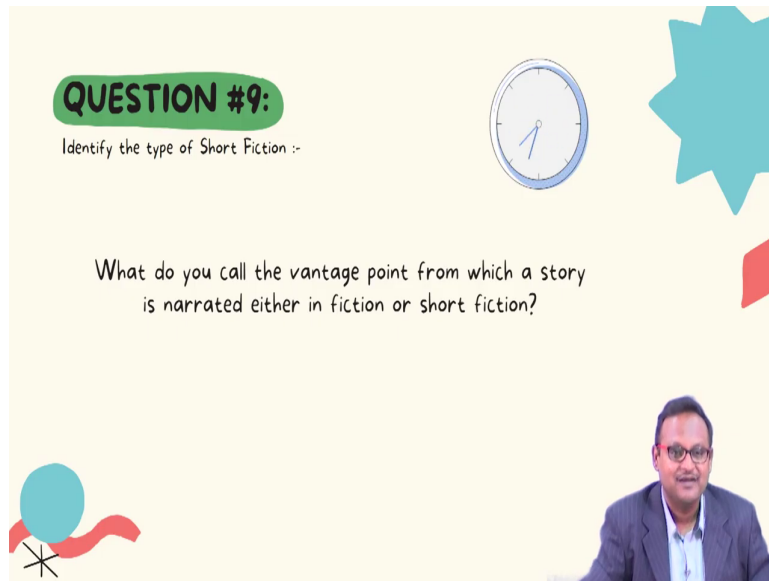
What kind of narrative fiction is it? What type of fiction do you call this?

(Refer Slide Time: 20:00)



Answer - Drabble. Now, we have identified right, a drabble is one of the shortest varieties of fiction, it is a short story. So, less than 200 words about 100 to 200 words we said, 100 right something like that about 100 to 200 words not more than that.

(Refer Slide Time: 20:33)



QUESTION #9:
Identify the type of Short Fiction :-

What do you call the vantage point from which a story is narrated either in fiction or short fiction?

The slide features a light yellow background with decorative elements: a clock icon in the top right, a blue starburst in the top right corner, a red ribbon and blue circle in the bottom left, and a small black 'X' mark. A man in a suit and glasses is visible in the bottom right corner.

Now, let us move on to question number 9.

What do you call the vantage point from which a story is narrated, whether it is in fiction or in short fiction?

(Refer Slide Time: 21:24)




ANSWER 9:
Point of View

The slide features a light pink background with decorative elements: a black book icon with white text in the top left, a yellow wavy line in the top center, a yellow starburst in the top right, and a red ribbon and blue circle in the bottom left. A man in a suit and glasses is visible in the bottom right corner, and a cartoon character is visible in the bottom left corner.



Answer - Point of view.

(Refer Slide Time: 21:57)

QUESTION #10:



What do you call a succinct, didactic story, in prose or verse, that illustrates one or more instructive lessons or principles and usually involves a divine presence?






10th question.

What do you call a succinct, didactic story, whether it is in prose or verse that illustrates one or more instructive lessons or principles and usually involves a divine presence?

(Refer Slide Time: 22:42)

ANSWER 10:

A Parable



Answer - A Parable

What is the distinction between a parable and a fable? A fable too makes use of stories like with morals, like a parable you also have various characters. But in a parable, it's the

characters are mostly human beings and maybe there is a divine element, you do not make use of in a fable you make use of animals, birds, and other things. So, that is a distinction.

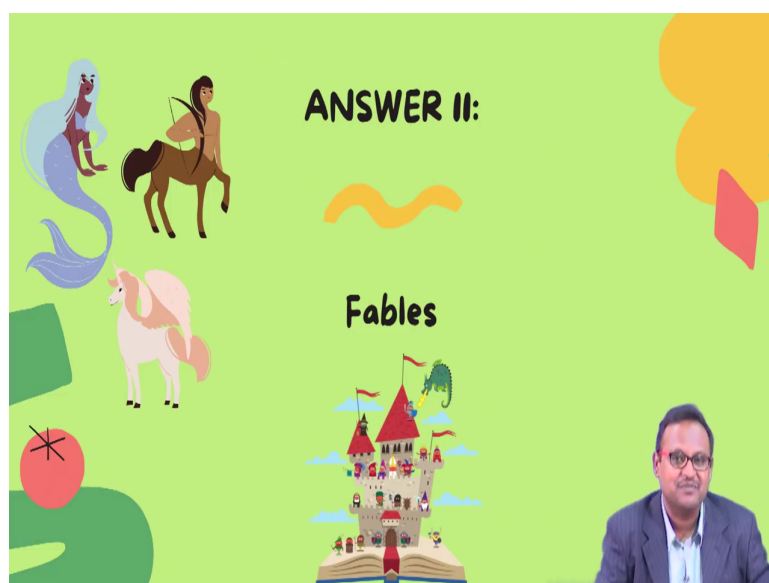
(Refer Slide Time: 23:53)



Now, question number 11.

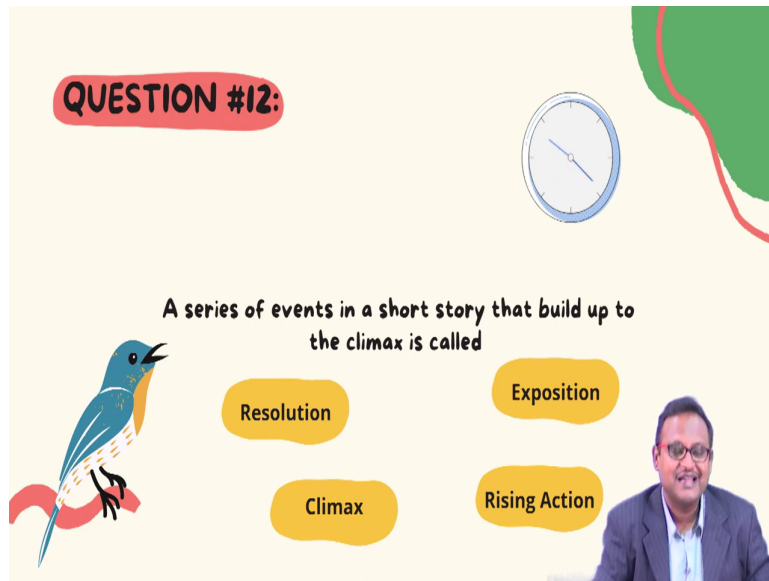
What type of short fiction are these texts good examples of? So, we have *Animal Farm*, *Panchatantra*, and *Aesop's Fables*.

(Refer Slide Time: 24:21)



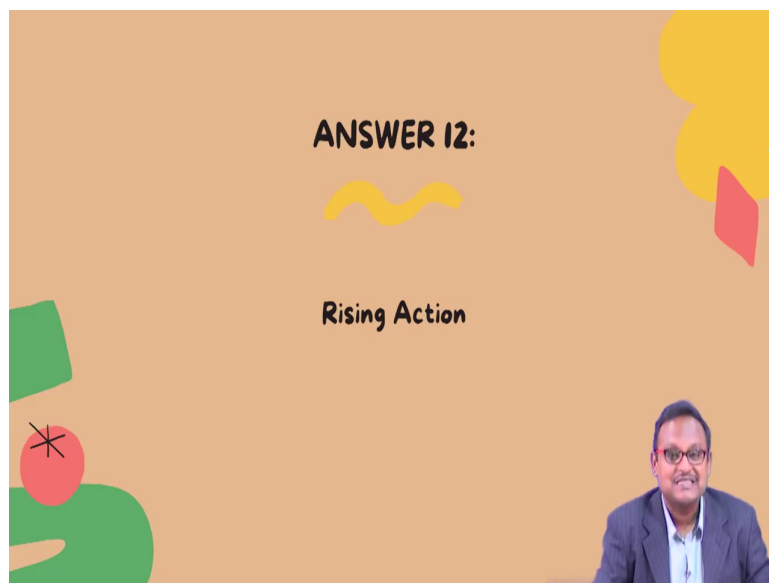
Answer - Fable

(Refer Slide Time: 24:44)




Now, question number 12,.

A series of events in a short story that build up to the climax is called...?(Refer Slide Time: 25:58)



Answer - Rising action

(Refer Slide Time: 27:06)



QUESTION #13:

Why did literary forms such as fable, parable, hymns, and epics flourish in ancient and primitive human society?

The slide features a light yellow background. In the top right corner, there is a simple analog clock showing approximately 1:50. In the bottom left corner, there is a colorful illustration of a small house with a red roof, surrounded by green trees and bushes. In the bottom right corner, there is a small video feed of a man with glasses and a beard, wearing a dark suit jacket over a light blue shirt.

Question 13.

Why did literary forms such as fables, parables, hymns, and epics flourish in ancient and primitive human society?

(Refer Slide Time: 28:22)



ANSWER 13:

These forms originated in the Oral tradition of storytelling

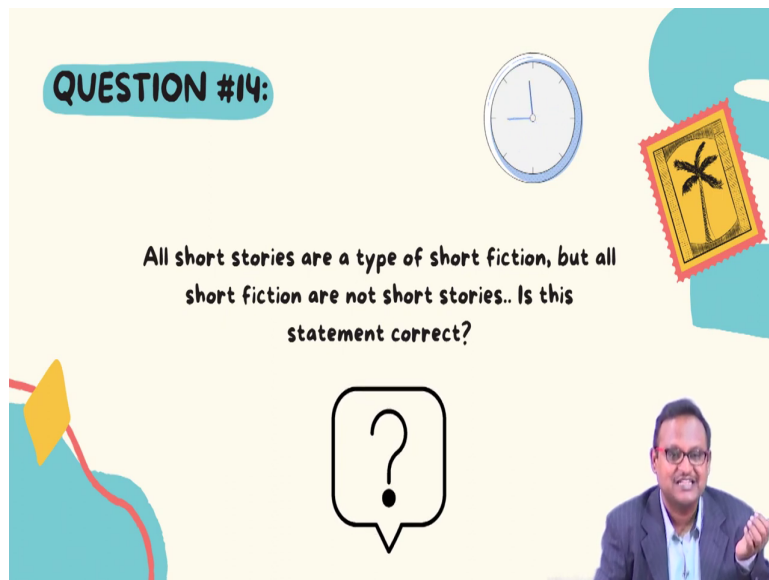
The slide features a light pink background. In the top left corner, there is a colorful illustration of a desert landscape with a cactus, a sun, and mountains. In the bottom left corner, there is a green abstract shape with a red circle and a black cross inside. In the bottom right corner, there is a small video feed of the same man as in the previous slide. In the center, there is a colorful illustration of a group of children sitting on a large open book, surrounded by a rainbow and various colorful shapes.

Answer - These forms originated from the Oral tradition of storytelling.

When the system of writing itself was not yet invented, stories were circulated from mouth to

mouth right. So, that is the reason why they flourished predominantly in the oral storytelling traditions in the primitive societies.

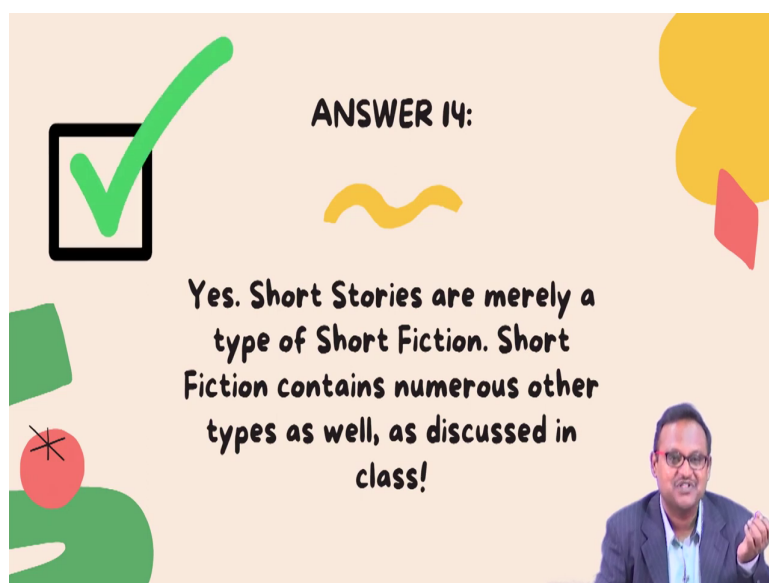
(Refer Slide Time: 29:01)



Let us go ahead and discuss question number 14.

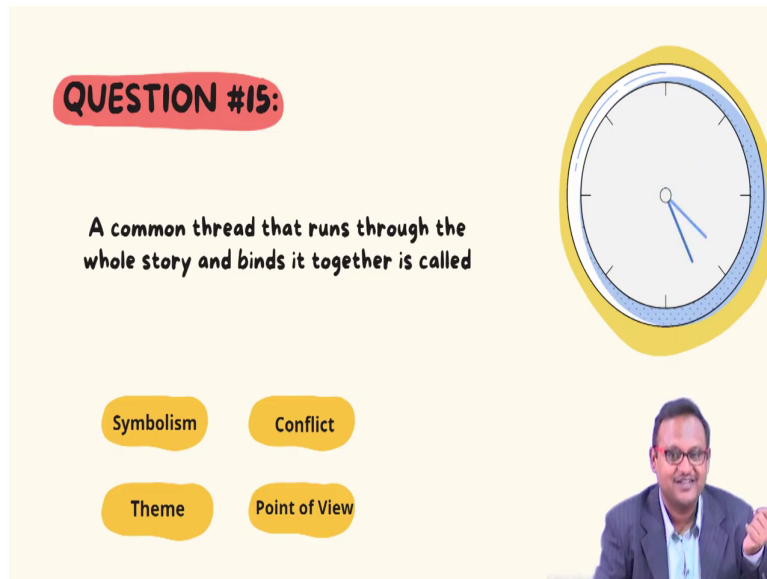
Now all short stories are a type of short fiction ..but all short fiction are not short stories; is the statement correct?

(Refer Slide Time: 30:01)



Answer - That absolutely an emphatic correct statement.

(Refer Slide Time: 30:28)



QUESTION #15:

A common thread that runs through the whole story and binds it together is called

Symbolism Conflict

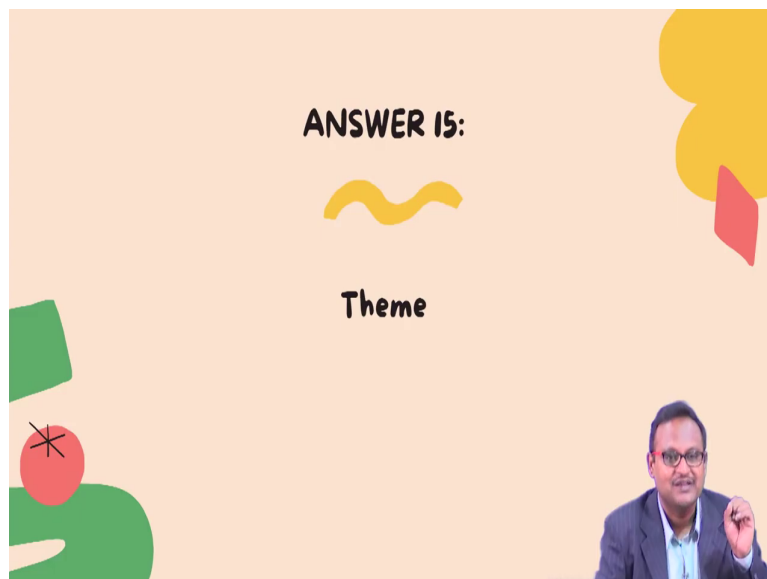
Theme Point of View

The slide features a large clock icon in the top right corner. At the bottom right, there is a video feed of a man with glasses and a suit, gesturing with his hand.

Question 15: A common thread that runs through the whole story and that it binds it together what do you call that?

We have four options here - Symbolism, Conflict, Theme, and Point of View.

(Refer Slide Time: 32:13)

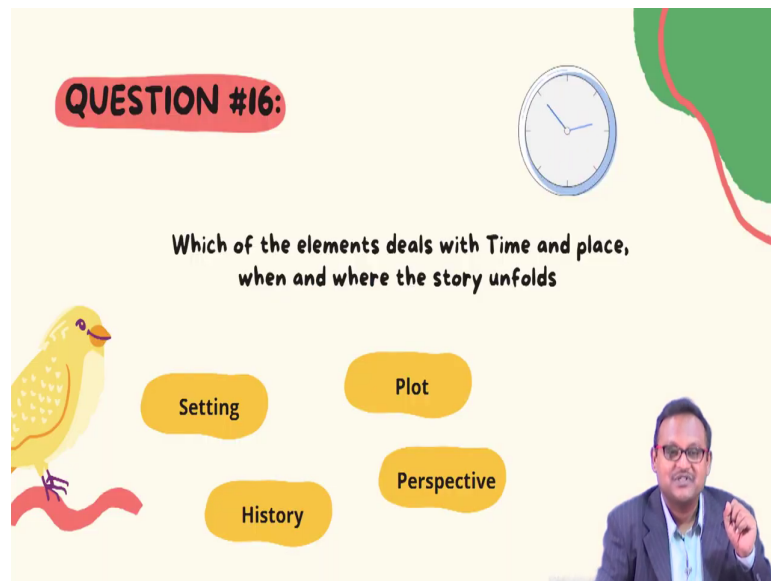


ANSWER 15:

Theme

The slide has a light orange background with abstract yellow and red shapes in the top right and green shapes with a red circle in the bottom left. At the bottom right, there is a video feed of the same man from the previous slide, gesturing with his hand.

(Refer Slide Time: 32:16)

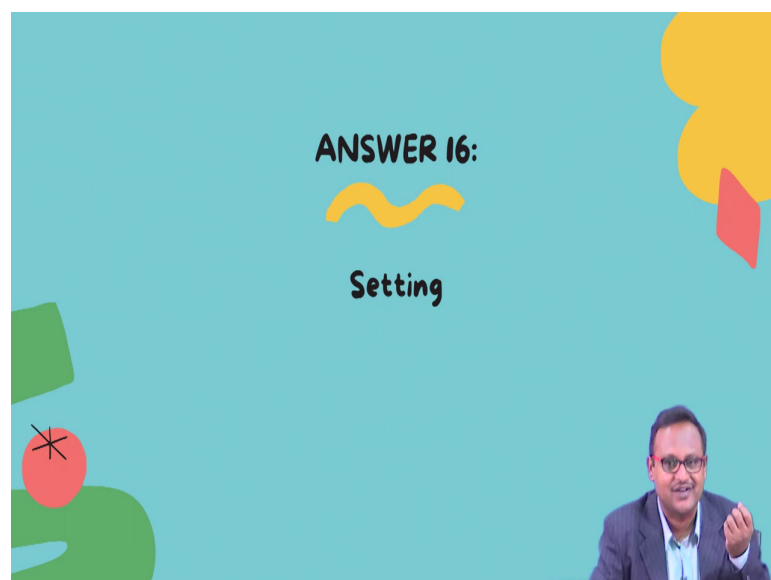


Very quickly let us go to question number 16.

Which of the elements deals with time and place, when and where the story unfolds?

Setting, Plot, History, Perspective.

(Refer Slide Time: 33:25)



Answer - It deals with the Setting.

(Refer Slide Time: 33:57)

QUESTION #17:

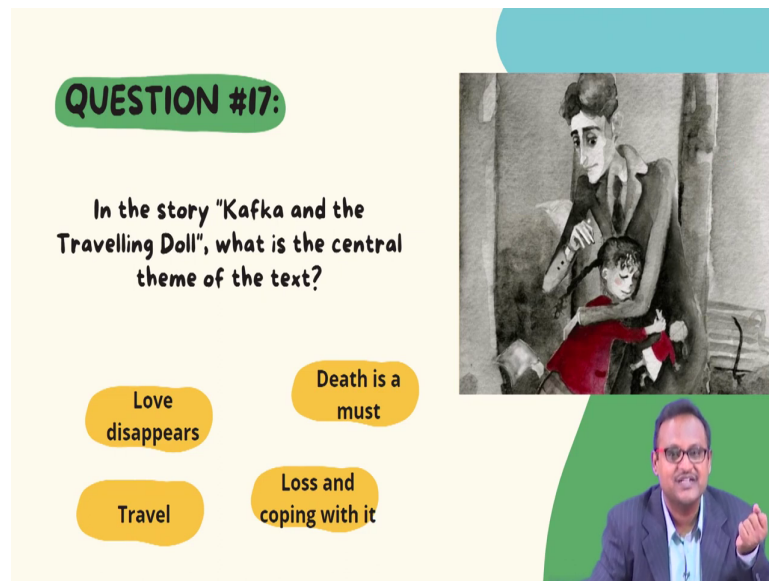
In the story "Kafka and the Travelling Doll", what is the central theme of the text?

Love disappears

Death is a must

Travel

Loss and coping with it

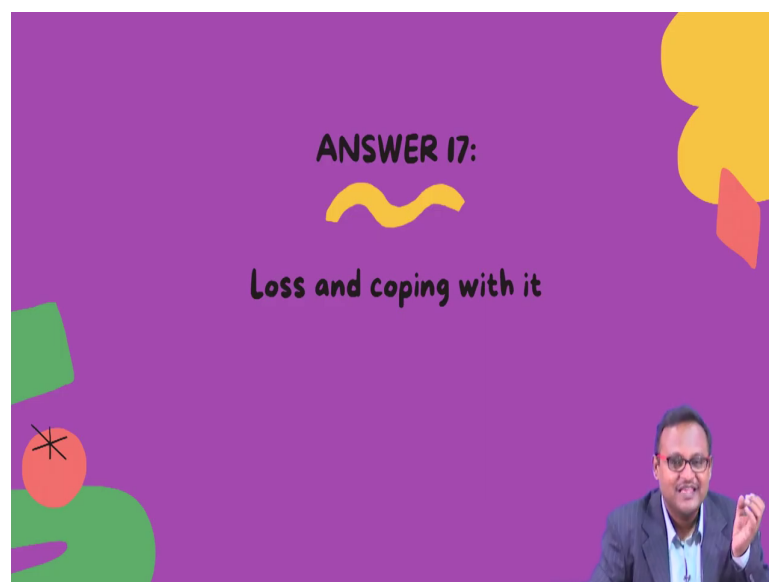


Question number 17; In the story “Kafka and the Traveling Doll”, what do you think is the central theme?

(Refer Slide Time: 34:51)

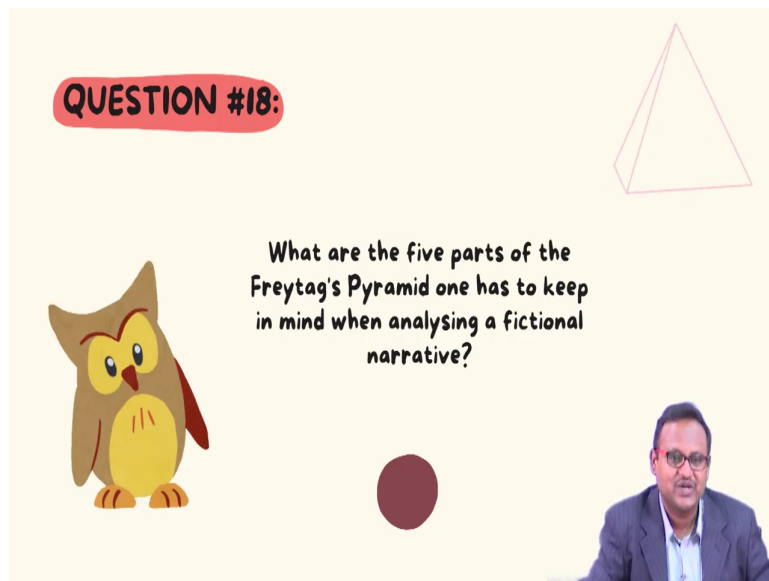
ANSWER 17:

Loss and coping with it



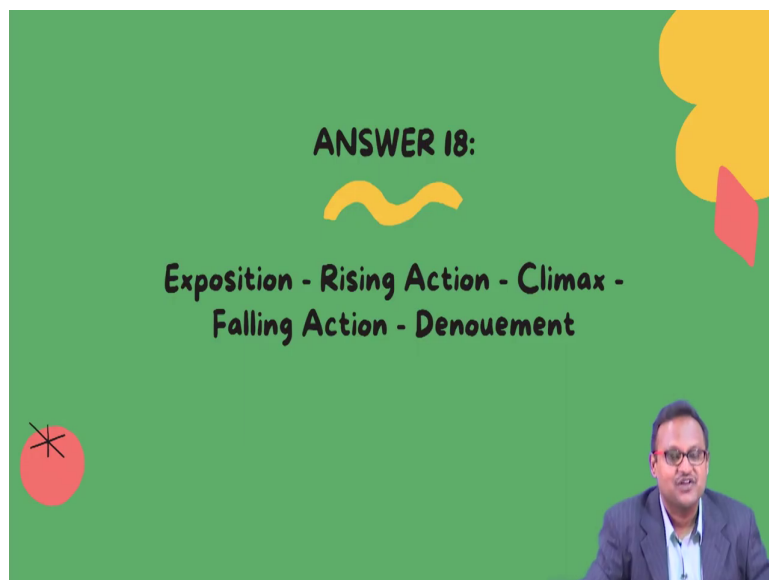
Answer - loss and coping with it.

(Refer Slide Time: 35:51)



Let us quickly go through question number 18. What are the 5 parts of Freytag's Pyramid one has to keep in mind when analyzing a fictional narrative?.

(Refer Slide Time: 36:33)



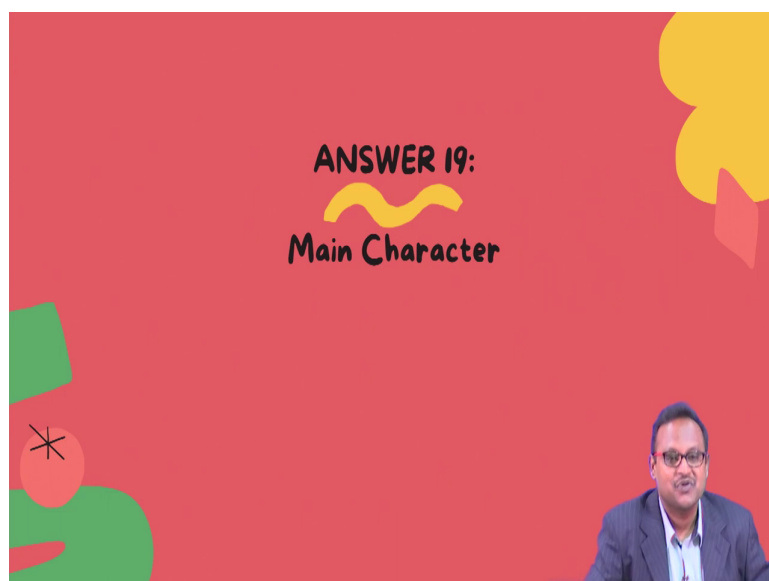
Answer: Exposition, rising action, climax, falling action, and resolution. \\\

(Refer Slide Time: 37:01)



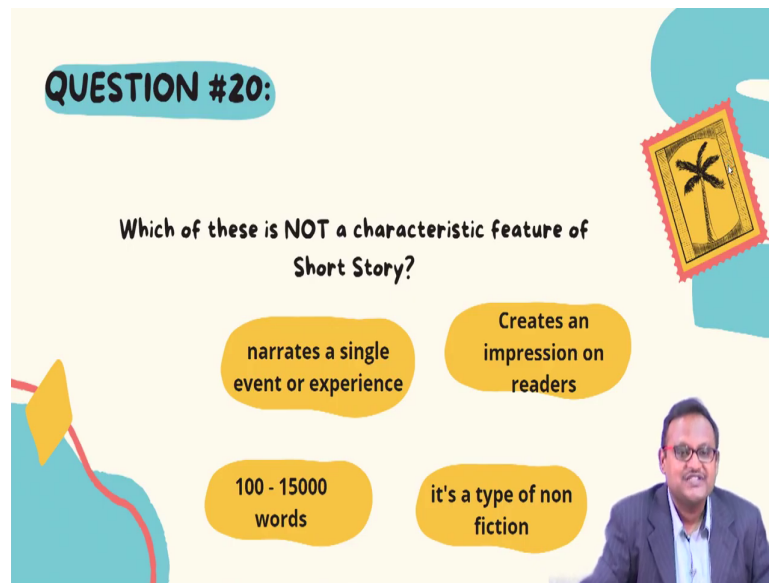
Question number 19: Good Guy, Bad Guy, Main Character, A hero in Love.

(Refer Slide Time: 37:53)



Answer- The Main Character.

(Refer Slide Time: 38:31)



QUESTION #20:

Which of these is **NOT** a characteristic feature of Short Story?

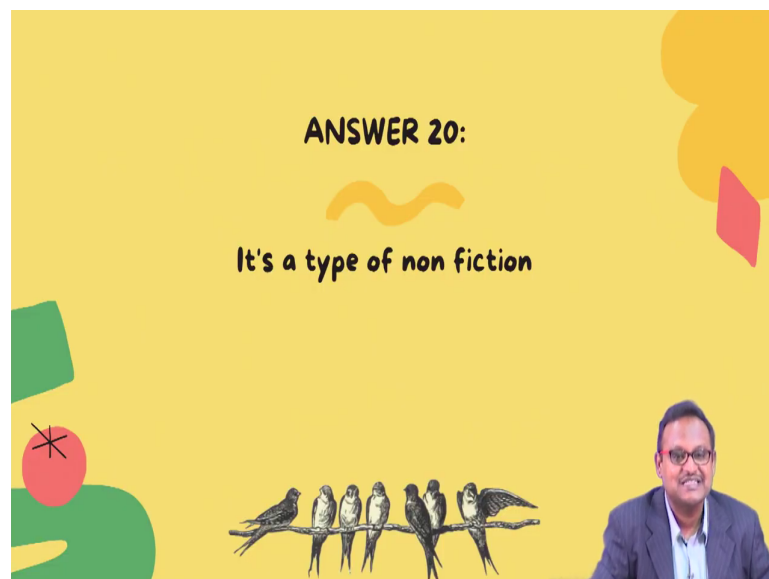
- narrates a single event or experience
- Creates an impression on readers
- 100 - 15000 words
- it's a type of non fiction

The slide features a light yellow background with abstract blue and yellow shapes. A palm tree icon is in the top right corner. A man in a suit and glasses is visible in the bottom right corner.

Question 20. Which of these is not a characteristic feature of short story?

Which one is the odd one out - narrates a single event or experience, written somewhere between 100 and 15000 words, Creates an impression on readers, it is a type of nonfiction. Which is it?

(Refer Slide Time: 39:31)



ANSWER 20:

It's a type of non fiction

The slide has a solid yellow background with abstract green and red shapes. A wavy yellow line is above the answer text. An illustration of five birds perched on a branch is at the bottom center. A man in a suit and glasses is visible in the bottom right corner.

The correct answer is - it is a type of nonfiction.

Alright good, thank you very much I really hope you enjoyed this quiz and also this entire week, our discussion of short fiction, short stories, brilliant remarkable short stories that we read. Please continue reading short stories and next week we come up with another form of literature, right. Until then take care, bye.