

AL 303 / IDE AL 303

**UNIVERSITY OF SWAZILAND**

**FACULTY OF HUMANITIES**

**DEPARTMENT OF AFRICAN LANGUAGES AND LITERATURE**

**FINAL EXAMINATION- MAY 2009**

**TITLE OF PAPER: TRADITIONAL/ORAL LITERATURE 11**

**COURSE CODE : AL 303 / IDE-AL 303**

**TIME ALLOWED: TWO (2) HOURS**

- INSTRUCTIONS :**
- 1. ANSWER THREE QUESTIONS, CHOOSING AT LEAST ONE (1) FROM EACH SECTION.**
  - 2. EACH QUESTION SHOULD BE COMMENCED ON A SEPARATE PAGE.**
  - 3. CANDIDATES ARE NOT ALLOWED TO BRING ANY READING MATERIAL INTO THE EXAMINATION HALL**
  - 4. IN THE ASSESMENT OF THIS PAPER, CORRECT USAGE OF ENGLISH, THE QUALITY OF EXPRESSION AND THE PRESENTATION OF ANSWERS WILL BE TAKEN INTO ACCOUT**

**THIS PAPER IS NOT TO BE OPENED UNTIL PERMISSION HAS BEEN GRANTED BY THE INVIGILATOR.**

## TRADITIONAL/ORAL LITERATURE 11

**INSTRUCTIONS : ANSWER THREE QUESTIONS, CHOOSING AT LEAST ONE (1) FROM EACH SECTION**

### **SECTION A: THEORY OF ORAL LITERATURE**

1. Performance is integral to the whole concept of Oral Literature and presupposes the existence of a performer, an audience and occasion. Discuss. ( 20 Marks)
  
2. Discuss the artistic strength of the narrator in the process of storytelling in traditional Swazi setting. (20 Marks)
  
- 3 Oral Literature is a spontaneous process of creation and recreation. Discuss. ( 20 Marks)

### **SECTION B: ORAL NARRATIVES AND FIXED FORMS**

4. a). Why are Proverbs called the verbal plays of the adults? (5 Marks)  
  
b). Discuss with particular examples, the importance of Proverbs as carriers of Swazi people's wisdom and culture. ( 15 Marks)
  
5. Discuss four (4) of the siSwati proverbs given below, clearly stating how they reflect a "communal lifestyle" that seems to be highly valued. (20 Marks)
  - a) Umntfwana longakhai ufel' embelekweni  
A baby who does not cry dies in the cradle of its mother's back
  
  - b) Kwandza kwaliwa batsakatsi  
Population growth is refused by witches and wizards
  
  - c) Sisu semhambi asingakanani, singangengingila yenyoni  
The stomach of a traveller is nothing that much, it is as big as the gizzard of a Bird
  
  - d) Tandla tiyagezana  
The two hands wash each other

e). iyanga ayitelaphi

The medicine is unable to cure himself.

6. "Riddles are educational because of their varied content, but their primary aim seems to be recreational." How far do you agree or disagree with this statement? Support your answer with clear illustration. (20 Marks)
7. "The fact that animal tricksters almost always emerge victorious in a competition does not mean that the people approve of their activities. Rather, the people see in the trickster figures a reflection of the vices they condemn, the follies they ridicule and the evils with which they must contend". Analyze the folktale below in the light of the above assertion. ( 20 Marks)

### **The feast in the sky**

Once upon a time there was famine on earth because of lack of rain. As a result, there was nothing for Tortoise to eat and he was dying of hunger. One day, he overheard the birds conversing about a feast in the sky. He approached them and begged to accompany them to the feast. The birds very reluctantly agreed because they knew Tortoise well. But he convinced them that he meant no harm. So, they lent him feathers, to enable him to fly with them to the party in the sky.

On their way to the party, he persuaded his companions that they should each take a name. He went on to tell them that his own name is "All of you" The birds accepted and continued their journey to the sky.

At the party, they were received by the organizers. Tortoise was very impressed by the sumptuous meals that he immediately thought of a way to outwit the birds. He asked the

birds if they remembered the name he took on the way. They all shouted "All of you". He went further to ask what the host said when they served the food. The birds chirped in unison that the food was for all of you.

Tortoise reminded them that since that was the name he had adopted; it meant that the food was for him alone. So he sat down and ate all the food while the birds watched in anger. The hungry and angry birds decided there and then to make Tortoise pay for his mischief. They took back their feathers and flew back to earth leaving him stranded in the sky.

Perplexed, Tortoise begged the last bird that when he reached earth, he should tell his wife to bring out all the mattresses and pillows and lay them in such a way that he could land on them when he fell from the sky. The bird agreed. But since all the birds had unanimously decided to make Tortoise pay dearly for his gluttony, the birds told Tortoise's wife to spread out all the hard wares in the house.

Meanwhile Tortoise was watching from the sky. When he saw that his wife had spread out what he thought were mattresses and pillows, he fell from the sky and landed on the hard wares thereby cracking his shell- an event which explains the tortoise's appearance today.