

AL 315 / IDE/AL 315

UNIVERSITY OF SWAZILAND

FACULTY OF HUMANITIES

DEPARTMENT OF AFRICAN LANGUAGES AND LITERATURE

MAIN EXAMINATION PAPER DECEMBER 2012

TITLE OF PAPER: TRADITIONAL/ORAL LITERATURE 11

COURSE CODE : AL 315 / IDE-AL 315

TIME ALLOWED: THREE (3) HOURS

INSTRUCTIONS : 1. ANSWER QUESTION ONE AND TWO OTHER QUESTIONS, CHOOSING ATLEAST ONE (1) FROM SECTION B. IN ALL, ANSWER THREE QUESTIONS

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 ACCOUNT

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

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SECTION A: FOLKTALES AND STORYTELLING TRADITIONS

Question 1

Read the following narrative and answer the questions that follow:

HARE AND ANTELOPE

There once lived a Hare who, one day, as she was sauntering about in the bush, found an arrow which she picked up. On her way back home, she came upon a group of hunters who were skinning an animal they had killed, and she said to them: "If you give me a fat piece of meat, I will give you something nice in exchange." The hunters asked: "And what could that be?" Hare replied: "It is an arrow head given to me by god." Hare was given a fat piece of meat in exchange for the arrow head. She bid the hunters goodbye and went on her way.

Next she came upon warriors who were applying ochre to their bodies, and realising they had no fat, she said to them: "Hey you warriors, if you give me a necklace, I will give you a fat piece of meat that you could use as fat." The warriors consented and gave her a necklace in exchange for the fat piece of meat. When the exchange was finalised, Hare took leave of the warriors and continued on her way. Next she came upon Antelope to whom she said: "Look at my necklace." On enquiring where she had got it, Hare replied: "It is my friends the warriors who gave it to me, the warriors to whom I gave my meat, the meat that the hunters gave me, the hunters to whom I gave my arrow, my arrow which my god gave me." Antelope looked at Hare's necklace admiringly, and said to her: "May I please try it on?" On wearing the necklace Antelope sought the opinion of her friend by asking: "Does it suit me?" To this Hare innocently replied: "It suits you perfectly well." Thereupon Antelope ran as fast

as her legs could carry her, running away with Hare's beads. After trying to pursue Antelope, Hare soon realised that she would never catch up with her, and so gave up the chase.

Walking away sorrowfully, Hare soon came upon another group of hunters and said to them: "Hey you hunters, please shoot that antelope for me." To this the hunters asked: "What is she guilty of?" Hare replied: "She took away my necklace, my necklace that the warriors gave me, the warriors to whom I gave my meat, my meat that the hunters gave me, the hunters to whom I gave my arrow, my arrow that my god gave me." After hearing of Hare's complaint, the hunters declined to shoot Antelope. Taking leave of the hunters, Hare came across a burning fire, to whom she said: "Hey you fire, could you please eat those hunters?" Fire asked, "What have they done" Hare replied: "They refused to shoot Antelope, Antelope who took my necklace, my necklace that the warriors gave me, the warriors to whom I gave my meat, my meat that the hunters gave me, the hunters to whom I gave my arrow, my arrow that my god gave me." Again, on hearing Hare's complaint, Fire too said: "I will not eat the hunters." Hare next came upon Water and said to it: "Hey you water, could you please put out that fire?" Water asked, "What has Fire done" Hare repeated to Water all that she had told Fire. -Water on listening to Hare's complaint declined to do as she was bid. Hare left Water, feeling disappointed. Soon she found a herd of elephants, to whom she spoke thus: "Hey you elephants, could you please drink that water." On enquiring why Water had to be drunk, Hare replied: "Water refused to put out Fire, Fire who refused to eat the hunters, the hunters that declined to shoot Antelope, Antelope who took away my necklace, my necklace that the warriors gave me, the warriors to whom I gave my meat, my meat that the hunters gave me, the hunters to whom I gave my arrow, my arrow that my god gave me." On hearing Hare's story the elephants, too, declined to carry out Hare's request as all the others had done.

Undaunted by her inability to convince anyone to take action on her behalf so far, Hare moved on, next coming upon trees to whom she spoke saying: "Hey you trees, could you please fall on those elephants?" On enquiring the wrong committed by the elephants, Hare replied: "They refused to drink Water, Water that refused to put out Fire, Fire that refused to eat the hunters, the hunters that declined to shoot Antelope, Antelope who took away my necklace, my necklace that the warriors gave me, the warriors to whom I gave my meat, my meat that the hunters gave me, the hunters to whom I gave my arrow, my arrow that my god gave me." When the trees had heard Hare's story, they too said, "We will not fall on the elephants." Hare then left the trees and came upon termites whom she asked to fell the trees. The termites demanded to know the wrong committed by the trees. Hare told termites of how

the trees had refused to fall on the elephants and went on enumerating what everyone else had done or refused to do in the same way she had told the others. The refusal by termites to fell the trees upset Hare, but she was by no means daunted. Moving on with persistence, Hare soon came upon some donkeys whom she asked to trample on the termites. On hearing what the termites had done, the donkeys too declined to trample on them. By this time, Hare was beginning to feel exasperated and weary, having walked all day with no success. It was not long before she came upon a group of hyenas, to whom she said: "Hey you hyenas, could you please eat those donkeys?" The hyenas asked: "What have the donkeys done?" Hare replied, "They refused to trample on the termites, the termites which refused to fell the trees, the trees that refused to fall on the elephants, elephants who refused to drink Water, Water who refused to put out Fire, Fire who refused to eat the hunters, the hunters that declined to shoot Antelope, Antelope who took away my necklace, my necklace that the warriors gave me, the warriors to whom I gave my meat, my meat that the hunters gave me, the hunters to whom I gave my arrow, my arrow that my god gave me." Agreeing to carry out Hare's request, the hyenas said: "Very well, we will eat the donkeys." On the realisation that they were about to be eaten, the donkeys said: "We will trample on the termites." The termites said: "We will fell the trees." The trees said: "We will fall on the elephants." The elephants said: "We will drink Water." Water said: "I will put out Fire." Fire said: "I will eat the hunters." The hunters said: "We will shoot Antelope." Antelope said: "I will return Hare's necklace." So Hare was given back her necklace and she was very happy. This is the end of the story.

QUESTIONS

1. What is the subject matter of this narrative and what do you consider to be the narrator's attitude towards his subject matter? (4 marks)
2. Give two examples of personification used by the narrator and their effectiveness. (2Marks)
3. "*To this the Hare innocently replied.*" Why does the narrator use the word '*innocently*' here? (1mark)

4. Give with illustrations three character aspects of the Hare (3 marks)
5. What is the mood in this story? (2 marks)
6. 'Hyena's presence in this narrative is indispensable.' Briefly state how true or false this statement is. (3Marks)
7. Discuss the narrative technique that the narrator uses in this story and the effect it has on the development of the story. (3 marks)
8. What type of story is this? Support your answer with relevant examples. (2 marks)

Question 2

Examine the role of the narrator and his/her audience in the performance of Swazi folktales. (20 marks)

Question 3

Comment briefly on the following storytelling traditions in Africa with particular reference to Swaziland or any other African society of your choice:

1. The hearthside storytelling tradition (5 marks).
2. Traditional dramatic presentations (5 marks).
3. Itinerant storytellers (5 marks).
4. The bardic tradition (5 marks).

SECTION B: RIDDLES, PROVERBS AND THEORIES OF ORAL NARRATIVES

QUESTION 4

Discuss the following literary approaches in the study of oral narratives in Africa:

1. The functionalist theory (5 marks).
2. The formalist theory (5marks).
3. The psychoanalytical theory (5 marks).
4. The symbolist theory (5marks).

QUESTION 5

Identify the similarities and differences between proverbs and riddles as genres of oral literature by looking at the following:

- i. The characteristic form of each
- ii. The different occasions at which proverbs and riddles are performed
- iii. The social function of these two genres (20 marks)

QUESTION 6

Discuss the importance of proverbs as carriers of Swazi people's wisdom and culture. (20 marks)