

## **MODULE 5 CREATIVE WRITING IN THE NEW MILLENNIUM**

### **UNIT 1 OTHER GUIDES FOR EFFECTIVE WRITING**

#### **CONTENTS**

- 1.0 Introduction
- 2.0 Objectives
- 3.0 Main Content
  - 3.1 Global Village
  - 3.2 Research
  - 3.3 Write
  - 3.4 Publish
- 4.0 Conclusion
- 5.0 Summary
- 6.0 Tutor-Marked Assignment
- 7.0 References/Further Reading

#### **1.0 INTRODUCTION**

We have concluded the course in the last unit. I hope that by now you must have written a poem, a playlet and a short story. You must have made up your mind to be a creative writer and you must have chosen the genre you would want to write. This work will not be complete if we do not mention the opportunities that are available to you on the internet. In this last module therefore, you will be informed of how you can improve your writing or even publish the one you have written on the internet.

#### **2.0 OBJECTIVES**

By the end of this module, you should be able to:

- identify some helpful sites on the internet;
- enter for some literary competitions; and
- attend creative writing workshops if you can afford it.

#### **HOW TO STUDY THE UNIT**

- a. Read this unit as diligently as possible.
- b. Find meaning of unfamiliar words in the unit using your dictionary.
- c. As you read, put major points down in a piece of paper or jotter.
- d. Do not go to the next section until you have fully understood the section you are reading now.

- e. Do all the Self-Assessment exercises in the unit as honestly as you can. In some areas where it is not feasible to provide answers to Self-Assessment exercises, go to the relevant sections of the unit to derive the answers.

### 3.0 MAIN CONTENT

#### 3.1 Global Village

We hear the expression that the world is becoming a global village. I think that it is already global villages especially with the introduction of the internet where you can find almost any thing you want. People buy goods and services, read national and international news from the internet. If you are conducting a research on any field, the internet provides abundant materials for you. All you need is to log on to Google and search for the word/phrase or the term/name you are looking for. You will be surprised at the result you will get. So as a student and especially as a creative writer, in addition to your dictionary, make the internet your companion. Once you enter the word or phrase you are searching for, a list of “results will appear”. Read through them and open the one that is likely to contain information on your quest. Usually, I start with the Wikipedia and in many instances, it provides the desired information. If you are not satisfied with the information given and you need more you close that result and open another one. Continue like that until you are satisfied.

#### 3.2 Research

Remember that we said that you can write on any subject as long as you are passionate about it. Once you love it, you can write a masterpiece on it but you need to carry out a research to ensure that you are presenting an authentic account. In this form of creative writing you may not necessarily come from that environment or belong to that age but through adequate research, you can write it. Ola Rotimi and Ahmed Yerima who have written classical historical plays did not live in the age where the events took place but were able to present authentic accounts of the clash between the colonial masters in their plays *Oba Ovoranmwem Nogbaisi* and *Attahiru* respectively. In the preface to *Attahiru*, Yerima acknowledged those who assisted him during his research before the play was written.

In this millennium which is popularly referred to as the information age, this type of research becomes easier. You may not need to travel to Sokoto as Yerima did but could obtain the basic information about Attahiru and how he resisted the colonial incursion to his caliphate. As we said in Module 1, all you need is to get the basic authentic information and present your story from your perspective depending on the message you want to send to your audience.

### 3.3 Write

You can find many sites on the Internet that offer courses in creative writing. Some of them offer guides and tips that could help you in your writing career but there are some institutes where you need to register, pay some fees, enroll and take the courses. These institutes in most cases, assign instructors to their students and the students are given tests which the instructors evaluate and as they work closely, such tests are given and evaluated until a particular work is completed. All these are conducted online. For you to participate adequately, you must be connected to the Internet. Institute of Children's Literature guide interested candidates to write children's literature. However, before you are admitted, you are given aptitude tests. Your performance in the test determines your enrolment because you **MUST** pass this test before you are enrolled. According to the information they provided on-line, "...unlike courses that accept all applicants, no one can enroll in Writing for Children and Teenagers without passing this test". However there is a promise that:

By the time you finish our course, you will complete at least one manuscript suitable for submission to an editor or publisher; we'll show you how to sell your work to them; and we will teach you how to continue on you own as a freelance writer.

They went further to state the advantages of aptitude testing:

Your test results tell us much more than whether or not you are ready for your course. They also help your instructor to determine the right level at which to begin your training.

As you progress, your needs and goals will probably change; as they do, your instructor's teaching plan for you will change, too. Your instructor's prime objective is to help you achieve your writing goals (<http://www.institutechildrenslit.com/download.htm>).

You can get more of such institutes on the internet depending on the genre you are interested in. There are also writers' workshops that are organized annually. The website will be provided for you in the reference section of this module.

### 4.0 CONCLUSION

The Internet is a valuable asset for the creative writer; you can conduct your research, or even look up the meaning of words, check synonyms to enrich your writing. It provides an opportunity for you to enroll in creative writing institutes on-line or attend workshops that will improve your writing.

## **5.0 SUMMARY**

You have seen in this unit that creative writing in this millennium is an exciting experience. The Internet is there for your research and it provides guides for effective writing. In addition, the computer provides a better alternative to the typewriter. You can enrich your vocabulary as you write with the computer facilities for cross-checking spellings and synonyms and antonyms. All these help to make you work better. You also have an opportunity of publishing your work on-line.

## **6.0 TUTOR-MARKED ASSIGNMENT**

List at least five websites that could be useful to you as a literary artist.

## **7.0 REFERENCE /FURTHER READING**

[http://www.institutechildrenlit.com/how\\_we\\_teach.htm](http://www.institutechildrenlit.com/how_we_teach.htm)“Creativity Workshop”  
<admin@creativityworkshops.com>