



# **Free Creative Writing Correspondence Course**

**A publication of Society of Young Nigerian Writers**

**Stage One**

# **POETRY**

**Prepared By:**

**Wole Adedoyin**

E-mail: [www.societyofyoungnigerianwriters@yahoo.com](mailto:www.societyofyoungnigerianwriters@yahoo.com), [www.societyofyoungnigerianwriters@gmail.com](mailto:www.societyofyoungnigerianwriters@gmail.com)

Website: [www.societyofyoungnigerianwriters.wordpress.com](http://www.societyofyoungnigerianwriters.wordpress.com), [www.societyforyoungwriters.webs.com](http://www.societyforyoungwriters.webs.com)

Tel: 08072673852

# CREATIVE WRITING CORRESPONDENCE COURSE

**Stage One**

**CATEGORY: POETRY**



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**Wole Adedoyin**

## **Dedication**

This publication is dedicated to all the contributors

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## INTRODUCTION

Our Creative Writing Correspondence questions are written by recognized and dedicated writers. We have nearly fifteen to twenty young and upcoming writers working on our works. They are writers who are just coming up and they are people who we think needs criticism and commendations.

The Society not only prepare questions to their write-ups, they also keep them constantly updated. Every year there are changes, because we need to use other upcoming writers works. It is vitally important that our course are kept up to date. That is why our correspondence course insists on using works by upcoming and aspiring young writers in the country.

Also, these expertly prepared questions are available for you to study at your own pace, in your own time, in your own home. At the end of the day, you can relax by your own fire side and read through your studies. No turning out at night and traveling to evening classes. No taking notes from lectures, everything is written down for you to study at will and revise as often as you like. No being held back because of slower students in the class. No being rushed too quickly ahead because a lecturer has to keep up with a timetable.

You don't have to take a chance on how good you are. You can rest assured that your interests are in our interests and we make the best talent available to you to achieve your aim.

### **How to enroll**

The Letter of Introduction is normally accompanied by an enrolment form. If you require further copies of these documents, please contact the following contacts:

*Wole Adedoyin*

*National President*

*No 13, Queen Elizabeth Road, Opposite Group Medical,*

*Mokola, Ibadan, Oyo State*

*Tel: +2348072673852*

Website: [www.societyforyoungwriters.webs.com](http://www.societyforyoungwriters.webs.com),

Blog: [www.societyofyoungnigerianwriters.wordpress.com](http://www.societyofyoungnigerianwriters.wordpress.com)

E-mail: [societyofyoungnigerianwriters@yahoo.com](mailto:societyofyoungnigerianwriters@yahoo.com),  
[societyofyoungnigerianwriters@gmail.com](mailto:societyofyoungnigerianwriters@gmail.com)

### **About the Society**

**SOCIETY OF YOUNG NIGERIAN WRITERS** is a literary organization based in Oyo State, Nigeria. It was established to promote literary and creative writings among youths in the country.

**SOCIETY OF YOUNG NIGERIAN WRITERS** is an international and local affiliate of Winning Writers Association, Association for the Study of Poets, Playwrights and Novelists lives and works and World of Poets and Literary Society.

Our thematic areas are creative writing, poetry, essay, drama, diary and short story writing. In a bid to effectively address some social issues like politics, corruption, bribery, child hawking, religion malpractices to mention but few. We use various creative writing means such as poetry, drama, short stories, diary, novels and other forms of literary and creative arts to express our opinions and different views.

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**DIRGE**  
**FOR TAYO OMONIYI**  
*(Leave that withered before dry season)*

By *Razaq Malik*

I need to see the moon  
But these eyes are blind  
These hands are shivery palms  
Caressing the blood of dusky dawn  
The semester of blurry visions

I need to witness twilight  
But my feet stagger on the stage of noon  
My future hangs on the pole of fate  
I pluck seeds of lamentations  
I chew cord of tears, since the  
Tales here are surreal experiences  
Though I have heard of pains, howling  
In the bellies of wailing mothers

End...logue  
No re-reading of blank chapters  
But here in the presence of mid-night  
My feet must tar the lane of your primal  
Departure, the sun deceived me, I thought  
Twilight would emerge before the journey  
The journey before eternal journey

Tayo  
Tears are signals of dirges  
Dirges are signals of departure  
Recited at the cross-road of home-coming  
Not here tayo, home is narrow,  
Home there has tales to tell  
For one day, these souls must  
Taste the sweetness of clay  
Of white-gown draped on silent soul  
Of tales garnered after departure  
But Tayo, your whispers, drumbeats  
Of eternal dawn, still echoing in my naked ears

## Questions

1. Comment on the imagery used in the poem.
2. Discuss the poet's attitude in this poem to his subject matter and say how it affects your reaction to the poems.
3. What influences of oral poetry can you trace in this poem? Discuss fully.

### *Short Profile:*

Rasaq Malik Gbolahan. A student of English literature department of University of Ibadan, an aspiring writer who believes we can change the world through words. He currently lives in Ibadan where he is studying. His poems have earlier been published in Nanty greens, blueprint newspaper.

### **Dugbe**

*(A Popular market in Ibadan City)*

*Olanrewaju Babajide*

Sophisticated place

In the midst of a city

As grand as ancient Rome

As beautiful as the city of Paris

For all roads of trade and commerce

In the midst of this city

Find their homes here

Hear the merchant screams

Holding my hands to buy clothes

Hear the voice of the bus conductors  
Shouting Mokola, Sango  
Hear the voice of the music and ladies  
Streaming from the midst of the night clubs  
And women of the night visit here  
And the souls of the people visit here everyday  
To traffic in money and trade  
And when the night closes  
And everybody is asleep  
Then my beloved market comes alive  
With the music of the DJs  
And the whole city wakes again  
To see a thousand smiles  
Of the glass houses  
And the myriads of people passing by.

### **Questions**

1. One of the first things you notice about this poem is the difference in form between the first and second verses. Comment on this difference and explain how each contributes to the effectiveness of the poem.
2. In what ways would you say this poem demonstrates the poet's keen sense of observation and descriptive ability?
3. The beginning of this poem is striking and arresting. What do you think the poem gains by such a dramatic opening?

## **Short Profile**

Mr. Olanrewaju Babajide holds B.Sc in computer Science from Babcock University, Ilesha Remo. A staunch member of the Society of Young Nigerian Writers. He has published a collection of poems titled "Poetic Fountain".

## **I AM**

*By Nathaniel Soonest*

I am the sore tale

of a prematurely ruptured hymen,

the bitter, aftermath taste of stale,

of a lustfully decanted semen;

I am the African child

I am the last echoed note

of a sweet, faded song,

the empty-can's music you loathe,

the blank message of the rattling gong;

I am an African child

I am the skeleton of a dead dream,

the eclipsed flux of the moon's beam.

I am the cadaver of addle visions,

the remains of rotten aspirations;

I am the African child

I am the special gift of the bowels of fate,  
the best offering from penury's greatest estate.

I am the fume of smoking factory chimneys,  
the chime of the poor beggar's pennies;

I am the African child

I am the content in the belly of the ashtray,  
the lesson of the corpse after decay.

I am the uncultivated alluvial core,  
a virgin maid that's known no man ever before;

I am an African child

I am the spot of the leopard,  
a sheep straying without shepherd.

I am a candle-light, hidden under a bushel,  
an innovation trapped in ignorance's cell;

yea! I am the African child

### **Questions**

1. Discuss whether you find the language of this poem adequate or inadequate.
2. Discuss the techniques used in the poem to achieve dramatic effect in this poem.
3. Discuss the appropriateness or inappropriateness of the title.
4. Paying attention to the punctuations and sounds employed in stanza 3, comment on the movement of this section and show how it is related to its moving.

***Short Profile:***

Nathaniel Soonest is a poet and Short Story writer. A graduate of Mathematics and Computer Science from the Federal University of Technology, Owerri. He has won many poetry awards. He currently resides in Lagos.

**....AND THAT NAME DIED**

*By Emmanuel Ugokwe*

(For Ken Saro Wiwa)  
With diamonds that are perfect  
in the womb of the earth  
You sleep like a human angel  
Grieved by this tender clothing on wild growing grass  
Our dear Ken is gone.  
You stuff the brittle into this dug altar  
But never live to see the dream  
Lined on all sides with well-seasoned brass,  
You walk the path of heroes  
that leave your mark on earth  
with gratitude and glory.  
We know in life your worth  
more than when you were here with us  
within the clouds of beauty  
On rainbows glorious bend  
You meet upon the colors  
With beauty that transcends  
In honor of your sacrifice  
You're held in high regard  
We the living prostrate  
In grief  
Hoping that only providence and passing of time  
Will heal our painful wounds.  
Your life you gave in earnest  
For Freedom's quest to fight  
Oppression of your brothers  
No matter what the plight  
Even at the expense of your dear life  
and there beyond the rainbow  
the stars are shining bright  
with diamonds that are perfect

in the womb of the earth  
You sleep in peace  
For you have died for freedom  
Because of humanity call  
your name we shall recall  
And so we look to heaven  
To see the special light  
That you created  
The ones that shine so bright

### **Questions**

1. What do you understand by irony? Discuss its use in the Poem.
2. Discuss the structure of this poem and comment of its effectiveness in contributing to the feelings of dilemma.
3. Discuss the poet's attitude in this poem to his subject matter and say how it affects your reaction to the poem.
4. Comment on the imagery used in the poem.

### **Short Profile**

Emmanuel Ugokwe is a Nigerian writer, a trained film producer, a translator and a journalist. In 2008 he got his first prize in in England, for Wordinaction International Writing Competitions 2008 his drama 'the silence within'. -2008 Association of Nigeria Authors/Things Fall Apart at 50 Art Prize and wrapped the year up with Association of Nigeria Authors/Ken Nnamani Prize for Igbo Literature. Princess Hastrup Prize for The Best Researched Work was an award he won in 2009. And in 2010 won Preemptive International Essay Competition and Nigeria 50 Stars @ 50 Award. In 2010 he was a Nominee for Young Writers Achievers Award for Nigeria 50 Years Golden Jubilee by Commonwealth Club London. He was the 2011 Ebedi International Writers Resident, in Iseyin Oyo state. And 2011 Ugreen Essay Contests shortlist.

### **ME IN MUMMY'S ROOM**

By Uche Uwadinachi

Again it appeared!  
Panning into view  
Alive like human

Agile like me!  
It impulse seemed wired to me  
It gazed, when I gaze  
Moved, when I move

What a me?  
Human it almost was  
Except it's bulged cheek bones  
Similar to that of a long ill toad  
A crude smile hang it mouth  
Exposing a peeping rusty incisor  
There, like a burnt minaret  
All, sparing it only a grotesque glare  
Too odd for modernity to consider  
Branding with a circus mask

I pondered how it could  
Have survived the shame  
Of its weirdo lost look  
In this times of facial trends  
Parading the runway of makeup  
And skin flair fairs

It sagging solitude  
Drenched my eyes  
Raising my head, am dazed!  
As quick tears roll down  
It cheek in a pace of pity,  
Towards me! For me?

The grim it has  
Seem so sure of its thought  
That it starred with the gaze  
Of a meek night owl  
By the window watching me  
Sneak out of the room  
To lick soup in the kitchen

What does this beast know?  
It replied in the same time  
Like a dumb orphan-



With a gulping speech  
The voice of its words  
Was sounding in its tears  
And stammering gestures  
Its concern towards me  
Was severe and strange  
Me! For me?

This thought stirred  
My running nerves  
To countless questions  
Too hollow for me  
To withstand the quakes  
And render any sane answer

The maze stormed in my head  
My eyes sunk behind -  
Dropping at the back of its socket  
I slumped into comma  
Falling, I broke my mother's only mirror.

### **Questions**

1. What strikes you about the opening of this poem, especially the first line?
2. Attempt a simple paraphrase of the last line and bring out the main idea which the poet states there. Pay attention to the last four lines.
3. Describe the scene which the poet tries to depict.
4. What do you notice about the way the stanzas are related to one another? Comment on the significance of this relationship as far as the structure of the poem is concerned.

### **Short Profile**

Uche Uwadinachi also called Flames - Priest of poetry, is a spoken word artist and the author of poetry collection "SCAR in the HEART of pain" and its Spoken Word audio Album.

He is the winner of ANA Lagos (Association of Nigerian Authors) Poetry Performance Festival Prize 2006 and Pakistan June 'Poetrycraze' contest 2009. 2nd Prize Poetry Winner of Ken Saro-Wiwa Contest USA 2010, won the June Loudthotz Poetry contest 2011

, a Consolation Prize Award For The Korean-Nigeria Poetry Feast and directed the overall winning Poetry performance of district 5 Education Board at the Lagos State Jam Feast Competition 2011 and Best Poetry Performance For the National Art Festival (P.L.A.Y) 2011 of Alakoto Snr. Secondary School Tolu Ajif. Uche's poem was shortlisted among the ten best poems for the Korea-Nigeria Poetry Fiesta 2012, his poems has been published in the 'Lime Jewel' collection London 2010, 'if yu hia say a de prizin' 2012 Nigeria, 'From here to there' 2012 Nigeria and other publications.

His poetry performances has been seen on Bookshelves-LTV 8, Konto Music-NTA 10, 9ja TV, Tinapa Trade Expo 2008, Lagos State Trade Fair EKO-EXPO 2011, Wordslam 1,2,3, 4 & 5, Poetry Potter, Potters Lounge, Anthill, Pen Society , British Council Lagos , Chill and Relax Gbagada among others. He has worked as a continuity man/ writer for TV commercials, musicals, Reality TV shows: The Heir Apparent, and presently, he is an independent television presenter/researcher with Konto Music and works towards his latest spoken-word-rap album titled 'E'FI MI LE' joo'or'.