

# **Free Creative Writing Correspondence Course**

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

## **Stage One**

# **Short Story**

**Prepared By:**

**Wole Adedoyin**

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# **CREATIVE WRITING CORRESPONDENCE COURSE**

## **Stage One**

### **CATEGORY: SHORT STORY**



**Prepared by:**

**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 pac, 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:

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### **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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## NEVER OUT OF MIND

*Emmanuel Ugokwe*

My parents had three beautiful daughters and did not want another child. Father knew it would be difficult for him to carry a large family of more than four along and decided to lavish his attention on his three daughters. So the question of another child in the family was out of place.

Mother became pregnant afterward and father decided in favor of abortion, while mother decided against it. She was a woman and was not different from others. Women and children are two inseparable things. They can do anything to save the life of a child, even an unborn. Mother was not a good talker, but she could well carry out her plans without getting anyone involved, especially her private life. Besides, she was from a good Christian home and society which placed high regard for life. As for father, religion does not truly matter to him. It was only a formality and a show of outward pretence that he was a Christian. He was a child spoilt by his parents, an only child who had no respect for people and for God. Father knew mother more than anyone else and for the first few months, she persecuted her greatly. Mother! She could rather die than seeing the pregnancy which was considered a gift from God goes. She could die to be remembered by God than killing her unborn child. Mother! She was kind. She flatly refused to compromise even though, she could not openly confront father. She was well aware of how unpleasant life would be for her if she ignored father's warning.

“Master, let us keep this pregnancy. It is not in our blood to kill unborn children. We are Christians. I shall learn to adjust when this child comes. Our daughters would soon grow and be married out. No one knows what this unborn child would be” mother pleaded. “Then we shall have to part” father answered.

That was sad news to manage. Mother lowered her face and cried and begged father. She could not go back to her parents for she was a refugee when father married her. Her parents had long died at a civil war and father was the only one she knew and could trust. Somehow, her

life depended on father. As for father, she seized that as the only

weapon to get her loose the pregnancy. He had to force mother to obey him. Father was really a man strange in feeling and anger runs in his blood. He could never say yes when he had said no. Father! He was a difficult nut to crack. No one dared him and got free from it, not even his parents. Poor mother! She knew her man had said his final and would not go back. She was frightened when father could not hear her out and her reasons for keeping the pregnancy. It was a man she knew well, who never had feelings.

Finally, mother left home. Father took her three daughters to himself. When they were suppressed not to think about mother still, there was nothing more for any of them to say to each other, but they silently cried, I imagined. Mother gave birth to a boy when it was time; and I was named after my grandfather. Father brought us back home and still treated us unfairly. He never loved me for a single moment of his life. I grew up when my mates were growing and suddenly lost the gift of walking from acute malaria. That was because mother could not raise enough

money to take care of me. In any way I could, I tried to survive. I was not healthy enough; purely lame, always from one sickness to another. Father hated me more. I was generally considered inferior, but I was very intelligent and was loved by my mother. She sent me to school and cared for me the way a loving mother would to a son she loved.

“My family is ashamed of me because I am lame and usually ill. So, I go about very little in the society” I cried out to her one day. “I understand, but you are one of the brightest boys I have met”. That was the last encouragement I got from mother which left me going with life. She said so to encourage me to be positive about life. She gave me a piece of her love to be remembered and she died one day from an ailment that did not last long. I cried that day that I had lost mother and nearly followed her to her grave. We all cried for her. My sisters knew she was hard work packed in a little frame. She made sacrifice worth remembering for all of us. She died with her goodness.

As for father he never cared. He was the last person to hold a hard face at the death of mother. The reason was simple. There was no need for that. He could spend his entire life without remembering her for a single moment. As for me, it was not possible to forget her. She was always in my mind. That was because, her grave greeted us every morning, having been located at the entrance of our compound.

I knew henceforth, I had lost someone too precious to go out of mind, who cared, a mother. She had been starved of attention, comfort and love which could have lasted longer than I knew. Mother! I was only trying to get a steady gaze of those beautiful moments; she shared with me, but she had gone. If tears could only allow me to.

### **Questions**

1. Discuss the plot and setting of this story.
2. Can you add any idea that the writer might welcome.
3. What is the theme of the story (answer in one sentence).

### **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.

## **THE RETURN OF CIVILIZATION**

*Ezefekwuaba Tochwuckwu Benedict*

There lived a couple Chindo and Nosike Agbadi; Nosike was so barren that she wanted to kill her. one morning Nosike agbadi woke up from sleep, she was mourning so bitterly, “what is the matter” asked chindo agbadi pathetically as he

himself knew what was wrong with her wife “honey, it is alright, it is not our fault, we will see the soothsayer next tomorrow” said chindo confronting

It was 6:00pm, the couples were back from work, chindo agbadi is a hunter and a farmer while Miss Nosike agbadi was a petty trader, “how was work today” asked chindo agbadi smiling. “It was nice” replied nosike as she smiled after which she began to mourn, “Darling do not forget our visit to the soothsayer tomorrow” said Nosike sobbing.

Mazi Nzeogu sat on his mat; leg crossed with a bead, the room was full of skulls and deities. Mazi Nzeogu was in his early thirties, he was one of the famous soothsayer in agunsi kingdom, people from other villages brought their complain to him, he cured all kind of sickness and ailment with various herbs, he was so short that people call him dwarf, he never wanted to marry because he believed women are trap and could likely spoil his charm and medicine, a very famous and respected herbalist, he was the talk of the town. “What can I do for you both” as he finally said, both Chindo and nosike agbadi were both sitting on a stool as they faced the herbalist, “my wife here had been barren here for 7years after our marriage” said chindo. The medicine man shakes his head, took a kola, broke it, spat on it and then said a long incantation’s after which he said “you both may now go in peace but there will be trouble, you two must pass it before a single baby comes out from her womb”. The both were scared at the word of the medicine man but they were in suspense of what that could mean. “My lord we don’t understand” said chindo. “You will give birth to twins which will be killed but after that you will give birth to a child, there is no remedy to that or else I will anger the gods” narrated mazi Nzeogu. It was believed in Agunsi village that the medicine man determines the fate of a barren woman, any woman who wanted to delivered a twins, such twins will be killed, they believed it was a taboo and it was abomination if a child or twins was terminated in the womb of a woman by a

soothsayer, if such was done, the gods will be provoked and that will lead to the death of the soothsayer through thunder striking four days after the incident. Chindo and nosike agbadi left the herbalist room, they believed there was no remedy, and they need to take up the task by escaping.

It was four month now, Nosike agbadi was pregnant, it was at Nkechi house that Nosike gave birth to twins, Nkechi was a sister to nosike though nosike was the eldest, Mrs. Akpasionu had only given birth to Nosike and Nkechi, Mrs. Akpasionu was at her old age, chindo had narrated all that the soothsayer had said to Nkechi, they were all afraid and they had decided to escape to another village. Though they will need to hide at Nkechi house, the rain had fallen heavy and the thunder had shaken heavily several times indicating that a twins was born. A search had to be conducted by 32 warriors to look for these twins and killed them, each household was to be searched though Ngozi house had been agreed to be searched the next day evening.

It was 7:00, both nosike and chindo had carried their babies with the help of Ngozi but unfortunately they were followed secretly by an hunter named Akpugo, the witches had summoned Akpugo to followed them, the witches had smelt it all, they knew the twins were born from Mrs Nosike Agbadi. They were trying to board a canoe from the river to cross to the other village when suddenly Akpugo came out from his hideout, “hahhahahahahahaha, you think you can escape from the gods, impossible!!!”said Akpugo as he moved closer to Nosike, drag the twins and stabbed them to death, after that he threw them inside the river and ran away, the three cried out bitterly, it all seems like horror to them watching as their twins were been stabbed to death. The news reached the outskirts of the village; some felt pity for them while others laughed over it as they see it as tradition.

One year later, Mrs Nosike Agbadi delivered a beautiful bouncing baby boy called ifeanyi, he such a

handsome and a fair boy, the family rejoiced over the birth of their son.

Mr. colonel, a Whiteman, a missionary, a catholic had come to settle in the village, he was a missionary who was on a mission to bring Christianity as well as growth and development in the community, Mr. colonel had noticed some negative impacts on the village, their traditions were so primitive, majority of the villagers were illiterate, they do not know how to read and write.

Few days later, a group of 15 white missionaries visited the village, they purchased five pieces of land which were meant for schools, church and recreation centre, it took them long to build these and it finally came to completion, it took people of Agadi 3 years to adapt to the british culture as most of them could lead and write, “ofia ojo” meaning evil forest were cleared and more schools were built, most of their evil cultures had been banned though they had been a catastrophe between the white and the community but the white were gaining more support because the some of the villagers never love the tradition including the killing of twins and that was how Agunsi village was developed

### **Questions**

1. Get a description of an imaginary character in this story. Concentrate on his performance, habits and idiosyncrasies.
2. Give an interesting description of all the characters mentioned in the story.
3. Discuss the problems of this story and suggest improvements.

### **Short Profile:**

Ezeifekwuaba Tochukwu born on the 27th April 1990 in anambra state, a short story writer who is hoping to be among the best.