BEGE-108
Reading the Novel Assignment
2026-27
(Based on Blocks 1-6)

Course Code: BEGE-108/2026-27
Max.Marks:100

Attempt all the questions.

1. Write short notes on any two of the following:

(2×10=20)

   a. Round characters
   b. Time and place in the novel.
   c. Novels of Diaspora
   d. Role of House Aashiana in *Sunlight on a Broken Column*

2. Write a note on symbolism in *The Awakening*. Give examples.

(20)

3 Critically analyse the portrayal of two contrasting worlds in *A Tale of Two Cities* and examine how these contrasts reveal the social reality and human suffering of the age.

(20)

4. Discuss how Achebe's use of folk materials in *Things Fall Apart* shapes the novel's narrative and theme.

(20)

5. What is the relevance of songs used in *Paraja*? How do these songs reflect the Paraja tribe's culture and traditions? Give examples from the novel.

(20)

1. Write short notes on any two of the following: (2×10=20)
a. Round characters
b. Time and place in the novel.
c. Novels of Diaspora
d. Role of House Aashiana in Sunlight on a Broken Column

Answer

a. Round characters

Characters are the people through whom a novelist presents actions, relationships and ideas. The literary critic E. M. Forster, in Aspects of the Novel, made an important distinction between flat and round characters. A flat character is usually built around one easily recognised quality, whereas a round character has several sides to the personality. A round character appears capable of surprising the reader without behaving in a completely unbelievable way. This combination of complexity and consistency makes such a character seem close to a real person.

Round characters do not remain fixed in one attitude throughout the story. They may show courage in one situation and fear in another, or act generously while also having selfish wishes. Their responses depend on their experiences, pressures, relationships and changing understanding of life. They often face a moral choice or an emotional conflict. Readers learn about them not only from what the narrator says, but also from their speech, thoughts, behaviour and interactions with others. A well-drawn round character may have both attractive qualities and serious faults.

For example, Elizabeth Bennet in Jane Austen's Pride and Prejudice is intelligent and independent, but she is also quick to judge people. Her early opinion of Darcy is shaped partly by prejudice and incomplete information. As she learns more, she recognises her own mistakes. Her development does not mean that she becomes a different person overnight. Rather, her basic lively nature remains while her judgment grows more mature. Darcy also moves beyond his initial pride. These changes give the reader reasons to understand and believe in them.

Another example is Sydney Carton in Charles Dickens's A Tale of Two Cities. At first he appears careless, disappointed and wasteful of his abilities. Yet his love for Lucie Manette reveals deep feeling and a desire to become better. His final decision to save Charles Darnay is an extraordinary act, but it grows out of the qualities and struggles Dickens has already shown. Carton's mixture of weakness, affection and moral strength gives his character depth.