

ST JOSEPH'S COLLEGE (AUTONOMOUS), BANGALORE – 27  
MID-SEMESTER TEST – AUGUST 2019  
BA (VISUAL COMMUNICATION) – I SEMESTER  
VC 1318: NARRATIVE STORYTELLING

Time: 1 Hour

Max Marks: 30

(Write the answers clearly, precisely, and to the point. Answers submitted in point form will not be marked. All questions are mandatory.)

1. Read the quotes and choose **ONLY TWO** to respond to in about 450 – 500 words. Describe what it means, its significance and relevance in terms of storytelling. (2 x 5 = 10)

- a) Define narrative.
- b) What is a 'goal-oriented plot'?
- c) What are the three types of short stories?

2. Read the quotes and choose **ONLY ONE** to respond to in about 450 – 500 words. Describe what it means, its significance and relevance in terms of storytelling. (1 x 10 = 10)

- a) "A word after a word after a word is power."  
--Margaret Atwood
- b) "To survive, you must tell stories."  
--Umberto Eco, *The Island of the Day Before*
- c) "I write to discover what I know."  
--Flannery O'Connor

3. Read the excerpt below from Perumal Murugan, *The Goat Thief* and write your response to in about 450 - 500 words. Take into consideration his particular art of narrativising everyday objects. (1 x 10 = 10)

When I think of the short story, I am reminded of the art of drawing kolams practised in Tamil homes. The aim is to draw – during the early hours of morning, in the shadowy predawn light – a beautiful kolam at the entrance to your house. After spending a long time sweeping and cleaning the front yard, you pick up the kolam powder, and the idea that strikes you at that moment will take shape as the kolam. The simple one drawn with just four dots by a hand that weaves and crosses between them can be beautiful as never seen before. The grand one that is as wide as the street and drawn after hard practice over long hours can turn out to be an unsightly mess. Looking at the finished kolam from a distance, you may feel that something is amiss. A stray flower, picked up and placed at the centre, can erase the flaw and bring perfection to your doorway. It could be that nothing you do brings satisfaction and you move on, resigned to what seems fated for the day. It's the same with the short story.