



**MASENO UNIVERSITY**  
**UNIVERSITY EXAMINATIONS 2013/2014**

**FIRST YEAR FIRST SEMESTER EXAMINATIONS FOR THE  
DEGREE OF BACHELOR OF EDUCATION (ARTS) WITH  
INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY  
(CITY CAMPUS - SCHOOL BASED)**

**ALI 101: INTRODUCTION TO LITERATURE**

**Date: 26<sup>th</sup> August, 2014**

**Time: 2.00 - 4.00 p.m.**

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**INSTRUCTIONS:**

- Answer Question ONE and any other TWO questions.
- Avoid duplication of material in answer to more than one question.
- A lot of importance is attached to clarity of expression.



### QUESTION 1: COMPULSORY

Discuss the assertion that literature refers to creative, verbal or written works whose medium is words or language. Use specific examples from at least **three** different genres of literature to illustrate your answer. (30 marks)

2. Examine the depiction of Johannes and Ma Plank in Peter Abrahams' *Mine Boy*. (20 marks)
3. With reference to at least **one** short story you are studying in this course, show how point of view is used in depicting characters. (20 marks)
4. Discuss the major dramatic styles Francis Imbuga uses in *Betrayal in the City*. (20 marks)
5. Read the attached poem and critically analyze it. (20 marks)

#### Mother to Son

Langston Hughes

Well, son, I'll tell you:

Life for me ain't been no crystal stair.

It's had tacks in it,

And splinters,

And boards torn up,

And places with no carpet on the floor—

Bare.

But all the time

I've been a-climbin' on,

And reachin' landin's,

And turnin' corners,

And sometimes goin' in the dark

Where there ain't been no light.

So boy, don't you turn back.

Don't you set down on the steps

'Cause you finds it's kinder hard.

Don't you fall now—

For I've still goin', honey,

I've still climbin',

And life for me ain't been no crystal stair.