

FEEDBACK TUTORIAL LETTER ON ASSIGNMENT 2 THEORY AND PRACTICE OF WORLD POETRY 2B
SEM 2 2022

Dear students

Here follows a brief feedback letter on assignment 2

I am not going to talk about plagiarism again as I did so previously.

QUESTION 1 (35 MARKS)

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Identify typical features of poetry from the Liberation Struggle in the following poem.
Which aspects of colonial oppression are criticized and what are the most important poetic techniques that are used for this criticism?

MATTHEWS PHOSA: Let Go Namibia

virgin land

Plundered by swines

who mined to swell

their pockets full

they took the diamond

threaten to make the water fishless

every thing and all they took

enslaved by a galaxy

of predatory pigs

land maimed

a people murdered

by international piracy

parasitic masters

who salivate

itching to

ride, rape and rob

a tiny gallant nation

Of people who never say die

let go Namibia
from Walvis bay to Kunene river
just let Namibia go
viva SWAPO
viva comrade Nujoma
viva comrade Toivo ja Toivo
victory is certain

Very few students named the features of Liberation Struggle Poetry.

These are clear on the powerpoints on Mynust under "Theory needed for Liberation poems"

These are:

- 1) Time and scale ie when does the poem take place? Which period does it cover? etc
- 2) Speaker and addressee (is the speaker a freedom fighter/member of the general public? Is the addressee the colonial power? etc)
- 3) Tone (Is it sadness/hope/anger?)
- 4) Imagery
- 5) Values and reasons

The aspects of colonial oppression criticised are the destruction of the country and the exploitation of its natural resources like diamonds and fish. The inhabitants of the country have also been cruelly treated:

"...a people murdered
by international piracy

parasitic masters

who salivate
itching to
ride,rape and rob
a tiny gallant nation

Anaphora has been used "Viva....." in the last stanza

Metaphor "...predatory pigs"

Etc

QUESTION 2 (35 MARKS)

What does the mirror represent in the following poem? Describe the conflicting emotions of the speaker after what has happened to her and how they are expressed in poetic language.

Manfred Aubrey Lehoho: My Broken Mirror

My mirror smashed into pieces
Reflecting bits of that which was me
Mirror on the floor, what happened to me?
Reality slowly sinks, accusing me: Perverted!

My mirror smashed into a thousand pieces
Reflecting my guilt, my shame if they knew
(Why are they looking? I am sure they know
What will I say? Can I trust them? (They passed.)

My mirror smashed into a million pieces
Reflecting my mini-dress, high heels, sexy walk
That's why, he said, I wanted it, "No is girl talk!

I meant No. He lied. Who will believe me, stupid me!

My mirror smashed into a million pieces
Reflecting the sun through my window, it's morning
Will I tell someone today despite the scorning?
Who can I trust? Who can make my mirror whole?

My mirror smashed into pieces
Reflecting a broken me. Who am I?
Maybe it is worth knowing before I die
Maybe life is worth living. Maybe.

My mirror smashed to the floor
Reflecting my doubt, my indecisiveness, my insecurities
If I find someone to help me remake my mirror
The sun will shine brightly through my window again.

This was well done by most students but many students copied from somewhere that Turnitin has not highlighted. This is easy to identify as many essays have the same wording and even paragraph content.

The mirror represents the girl's/woman's self-image/self-respect that has now been shattered due to the traumatic experience she has gone through.

VERY FEW students actually said what happened to her. She was raped by a man who rejected her "No" as "...girl's talk". The poem is a criticism against men's attitudes as well as a plea against GBV. Just because a girl dresses in a sexy and provocative way does not mean she is asking to be raped. Men must learn to accept that "NO" means "No". No woman wants to be raped.

This violation of the girl's/woman's body has led to severe psychological trauma

"Who am I?"

Maybe it is worth knowing before I die

Maybe life is worth living. Maybe.

The poem ends on a hopeful note. Maybe the girl's/woman's dignity (mirror) can be fixed if she can find someone to love her.

Please study your guide again to prepare for the exams.

Good luck for the exams

AB