

LESSON NOTE ON LITERATURE-IN-ENGLISH WEEK 5

SUBJECT: Literature-in-English

TOPIC: African Poetry: "Raider of the Treasure Trove" Cont'd.

CLASS: SS2

WEEK: 5

THEMES

1. Love and joy

The poet contrasts the unhelpful emotions; rage with that of love and joy. In a didactic time, he sees it as the best way for any living person to attain their dream for a better life. While rage only brings distaste, positive emotions such as love, joy and compassion on the other hand are the agents of all things positive.

2. Negative consequences of anger (rage)

The dominant theme in the poem is the notion that anger is destructive. It leaves unpleasant memories and destruction in its wake. It also undermines the goal of a fulfilled life. The poet through a careful choice of words, gives a portrait of the harmful effects of anger. Rage has nothing to offer but destructive impacts. Where it thrives, destruction is inevitable. The poet emphasizes that rage can shorten man's existence and interrupts his passage through life in a meaningful way. He says that though, rage can't be seen, its destructive effects are apparent.

3. The ultimate goal of existence

The poetic persona expresses the fact that man's ultimate goal of existence is for him to bring joy to everyone around him. In the course of one's journey through life, while accomplishing dreams, he should endeavour to possess positive emotions like love compassion. Also, he admonishes that man should spread hope, happiness, joy, etc. Everywhere and to make positive impacts on other lives he may encounter during his sojourn on earth.

POETIC DEVICES

1. Diction

The poet use of words is very simple and straightforward; hence, it makes the reader to easily understand the poem

2. Personification

This device is used in lines 11, 12, 13, 14 and 15. Where rage is portrayed as a thief who is capable of stripping man of life, steals laughter and sweetness from a man. Rage is personified when the poet says that it "spreads toxic fumes" everywhere and drags rags after you. Hence, rage is endowed with human attributes, as it relates the destructive deeds achieved by rage.

3. Dramatic monologue

This refers to a poem that the speaker addresses to a silent listener with no dialogue coming from the listener. With the repetition of the second person pronoun 'you and your' throughout the poem, the poet foregrounds this poetic device. Also, the use of these pronouns make it a gender-case free as it applies to all humans, thereby underscoring the poem as one with a universal implication.

4. Rhetorical question

In lines 1, 2, 3 and 21, the questions asked are not for the answer but for the effect it creates. The poet makes use of rhetorical questions for emphatic effect.

5. Enjambment (run-on-line)

This is a poetic device in which there is a carryover of thoughts from one line to another without a pause. This is seen in: lines 3-4, lines 4-5, lines 5-6, lines 7-8 and lines 9-10.

STRUCTURE

The poem consists of twenty-three lines in four irregular stanzas. Two of the stanzas comprise eight lines each. The third stanza consists of five lines with the fourth and last stanza, a couplet. The first establishes the ultimate goal of existence which is to affect lives positively. The second one emphasizes on anger as a destroyer of aspirations and life's joy while the third stanza emphasizes the source of anger and the fourth sums up the poem with the persona vowing to take happiness everywhere. The poem also possesses a rhyme scheme: the first stanza has its rhyme scheme, ababcdcd, the second one, abacacbc while the third is ababb and the couplet, as.