

Zenzele Poetry Take Home Test

Name _____

“The Day We Die” Anonymous, translated by Arthur Markowitz

The day we die
the wind comes down
to take away
our footprints.

The wind makes dust
to cover up
the marks we left
while walking.

For otherwise
the thing would seem
as if we were
still living.

Therefore the wind
is he who comes
to blow away
our footprints.

1. List three words you do not know or that stand out to you. Define these words OR tell why they stand out to you.

- a. _____
- b. _____
- c. _____

2. What poetic elements are in this poem? Please give at least two and explain why you chose these.

- a. _____
b. _____

3. What is this poet trying to say? Please answer with at least two high school sentences.

4. How does this poem make you feel? Please answer with at least two high school sentences.

“Brush Fire” by Tchicaya U Tamsi

The fire the river that's to say
The sea to drink following the sand
The feet, the hands
Within the heart to love
This river that lives in me repeoples me
Only to you I said around the fire
My race
It flows here and there a river
The flames are the looks
of those who brood upon it
I said to you my race
Remembers
The taste of bronze drunk hot

1. List three words you do not know or that stand out to you. Define these words OR tell why they stand out to you.

- d. _____
- e. _____
- f. _____

2. What poetic elements are in this poem? Please give at least two and explain why you chose these.

- c. _____
- d. _____

3. What is this poet trying to say? Please answer with at least two high school sentences.

4. How does this poem make you feel? Please answer with at least two high school sentences.

Africa by Gankhanani Moffat Moyo

It is the fire of the bushes
And the winds of the wilderness
And the dust of the skies
That gives Africa its name
It is the gods of the deep
And the devils of the high
And the fowl of the air
And the angels that care:
It is the green life

And the dark brown of souls
And the clay pot of life by the Msoro tree
And the waters of the Zambezi
Freely but furiously falling to form the famous Victoria Falls
And, at dawn, the sound of nature
And, at night, the moon of beauty
And the nature we nurture
That gives Africa its name
This is Africa.

1. List three words you do not know or that stand out to you. Define these words OR tell why they stand out to you.

- g. _____
- h. _____
- i. _____

2. What poetic elements are in this poem? Please give at least two and explain why you chose these.

- e. _____
- f. _____

3. What is this poet trying to say? Please answer with at least two high school sentences.

4. How does this poem make you feel? Please answer with at least two high school sentences.

African Laughter by Gankhanani Moffat Moyo

The laughter of Africa
Echoes in the forests
Tingling cackles
Like falling glass
Clear of tears
And full of mirth
The happiness
Of African thoughts
Uncoiling, Rolling,
Spread on the rich dark humus
Wherefrom the laughter
Is born
The laughter of Africa
Like a spear in the air
Sent to strike cold hearts...
But we are Africans
Whose laughter
Like falling rain
Dampens all hearts
And the tears shed
To give new lives.

1. List three words you do not know or that stand out to you. Define these words OR tell why they stand out to you.

- j. _____
- k. _____
- l. _____

2. What poetic elements are in this poem? Please give at least two and explain why you chose these.

g. _____

h. _____

3. What is this poet trying to say? Please answer with at least two high school sentences.

4. How does this poem make you feel? Please answer with at least two high school sentences.

Final discussion question. Please write an excellent high school paragraph.

Which poem was your favorite and why? Use details from the poem and your analysis to answer the question.

This image shows a single sheet of white paper with horizontal ruling lines. The lines are evenly spaced and run across the width of the page. There are no margins, text, or other markings on the paper.