

Dr.Umayal Ramanathan College for Women
Accredited with B+ Grade by NAAC
Affiliated to Alagappa University
(Run by Dr.Alagappa Educational Trust)
Karaikudi – 630 003



Subject Name: COMMONWEALTH LITERATURE

Subject Code: 7BEN5C3

by
S.Chilambuselvi
Assistant Professor of English

III YEAR – V SEMESTER
COURSE CODE: 7BEN5C3

CORE COURSE – XI- COMMONWEALTH LITERATURE

Unit - I Poetry

- 1.1 Derek Walcott - A Far Cry from Africa
- 1.2 Razia Khan - My Daughter's Boyfriend
- 1.3 Margaret Atwood - The City Planners

Unit - II Poetry

- 2.1 Allen Curnow - House and Land
- 2.2 E.J.Pratt - The Dying Eagle
- 2.3 David Diop - Africa

Unit - III Prose

- 3.1 Chinua Achebe - The Novelist as a Teacher
- 3.2 Dr.S.Radhakrishnan - The World Community

Unit - IV Drama

- 4.1 Wole Soyinka - The Lion and the Jewel

Unit - V Fiction

- 5.1 Margaret Atwood - The Edible Woman

COURSE OUTCOME

- The students shall have familiarity with a selection of important works within English-language prose literature.
- Identify a variety of forms and genres of poetry from diverse cultures and historic periods, such as sonnets, ballads, dramatic monologues, free verse, etc.
- Drama and Theatre Arts Majors Shall demonstrate proficiency in oral communication.

UNIT - I

1.1 Derek Walcott - A FAR CRY FROM AFRICA

MIND MAP



ESSAY

Author Introduction

Derek Walcott, Teacher, Playwright, Poet & Artist, as well as Noble Prize Winner were born at on the island of St.Lucia in the British West Indies in 130. As he grew up he became

aware of his mixed racial ancestry & this theme roots divided became a rich source of material for some of his poetry. He died in 17 March 2017.

Introduction

As he belongs to both African & European Roots he identified himself as a mongrel. This mixed heritage makes him able to identify the post colonial situation more effectively & successfully. In the poem "A Far Cry From Africa" the poet ironically describes how he rejects the British Culture & the colonial ideology. In the poem Walcott expresses how he is born between Africa & the English tongue (language) he loves.

Nature of Africa

The Nation itself he compared to an animal with a tawny pet (perhaps a Tawny is a color described as light brown to brownish orange that is common color in the African Landscape.

A Breeze Lifts Africa's yellow brown fur. People From Kenya's Kikuyu bribe, fast & lively as flies fasten themselves to the veins of the grassland. Dead bodies are strewn throughout paradise. The Worm Admonishment puzzling in that it implies that the victim same how got what they deserve.

Colonialism in Kenya

The Mau uprising against British Colonialism in Kenya during the 1950s. He now blames those who forced the Colonial System on to Kenya & Polarized the population. They cannot justify their action, because their reason will never matter to the "White Child" Who has been murdered by mau mau fighters to the Savages Who in racist was taken by an attitude of Nazis against Jews taken worthless or expendable.

He now returns to the image of Africa's Wildlife. The poet describes a centuries old hunting customs. Such killing for substance is set against the senseless & random death that native Africans & European Settlers perpetrate upon each other. The poet compares Mau Mau uprising to the Spanish civil war. He presents a cynical view of the Mau Mau uprising as just another Colonial conflict where gorillas - negative animalized Africans - Fight with Superman a negative- Characterization of Europe.

Walcott's Dilemma:-

Walcott being a product of both African & English Heritage, is torn, because he does not know how to feel about the Mau Mau Struggle Walcott is sickened by the behavior of Mau Mau just as he has been digested by the British.

By the end, the poet's dilemma is reconciled, by but one gets the sense that Walcott abandon neither Africa nor Britain.

Conclusion

Hence, Walcott's divided loyalties' gently a sense of guilt as he wants to adopt the "Civilized" Culture of the British but cannot excuse their immortal treatment of the Africans. The Poem reveals the extent of Walcott's Consternation through the Poet's inability to resolve the paradox of his hybrid inheritance.

"A culture, we all know, is made by its cities".

1.2 Razia Khan - My Daughter's Boyfriend

Essay

Introduction

Razia Khan (1936 to 2011) was a Bangladeshi novelist, poet, playwright, essayist and short story writer. At the age of fifteen, she wrote a full-fledged novel. She worked and taught for many years at the University of Dhaka. She was the recipient of numerous National literary awards like Bangla Academy Award (1975) and PEN Drama Award (1956).

Theme of the poem

The Poem "My Daughter's Boyfriend" talks about the transfer of a child's affections from parent to lover and the emotions experienced by the parent on observing this. The speaker rethinks all the love and care that she had showered on her daughter and her heart breaks when she watches a stranger could easily take away her daughter from her hands.

Strange happening

The speaker says that she was experiencing strange happenings for the past few days, she hears pleading knocks on the door which creates a strong feeling in her mind that something bad will happen. When she opens the door, her daughter's boyfriend enters the house, unnoticed her presence like a blindman he goes straight to her daughter ignoring her very presence.

Emotions of the mother

The speaker says that every time when her daughter's boyfriend visits, she feels a sense of disquiet. She feels that her own daughter is not her possession anymore, as she prefers to be with her boyfriend.

Real pain

The speaker recalls all the sleepless night looking after her sick daughter lying in her cradle; all the labour pain and bringing up her as a girl, all seem to be nothing today. The omission of her by her own daughter is the most painful one and it really breaks her heart.

The speaker has several dreams about her daughter which is like a fragrance that surrounds a beautiful flower. She also says that, how a thoughtless hand snatches the branches of the plant, likewise her daughter's boyfriend takes away her own daughter so easily that too in the presence of the speaker.

Conclusion

The speaker says these thoughts and happenings can never entertain her, as she felt an air of pride when she gave birth to her daughter, and now she cannot tolerate the pain when she watches her daughter with her boyfriend.

1.3 Margaret Atwood - The City Planners

ESSAY

INTRODUCTION

Margaret Atwood is a Canadian author, poet, critic, essayist, feminist and social campaigner. Best known as a novelist, she is also an award-winning poetess. As John Wilson Foster rightly comments, 'her verse is that of a psychic individual at sea in a materialist society'. "The city-planners" is critical of the monotony and false beauty of modern cities, suburbs and its architecture. The poem views modern life as empty, artificial, and its inhabitants as robotic and lacking in spirit.

LAND IN THE CITY VS RURAL LAND

The land in the city has a great contrast with the rural land. The influx of people moving from rural to urban areas keeps on increasing to this day. This form of displacement is also known as internal migration. Rural land is often viewed as more fertile and vast; whereas land in the city is limited and so space is used to the maximum. As more and more people move to cities in search of work and better standards of living, land becomes scarcer.

Living in such an environment with only concrete, steel and buildings, man consequently becomes more mechanical, stressed and partially dehumanized. The absence of vast land in cities deprives the hormone that a huge area of empty land provides. This absence of land in cities is severely criticized by Margaret Atwood in this poem where "the houses in pedantic rows" shows lack of warmth.

THE VICTORY OF SCIENCE OVER NATURE

The theme of this poem is perfection, uniformity, man's attempts to control nature, and lust of power (the city planners). As the poet moves about in a residential area, she is offended by the "sanities" of the area. The word 'sanities' may possess a double meaning here. Firstly, it may allude to the unnatural 'sanitariness' of the place. Secondly, it may denote the saneness of minds, or soundness that render them sophisticated, uniform and therefore boring. The "dry August sunlight" alludes to the province from which the speaker hails: Canada. The houses in rows appear too pedantic to be real. The trees have the appearance of being planted to render the scene picture-perfect. The levelness of surface further provokes the poetess as it appears to be a rebuke to the dent in their car door. There is no shouting there, no shatter of glass. No instinctive action takes place here: everything is after-thought and preplanned. There are no shouts here, no loud wants as people are economically well-off and complacent. The only noise is the rational whine of a power mower. It is that rationality that makes this noise 'a voice'. In the era of applied technology, this sound is more pleasing to the ears than emotional echoes. The power mower cut a straight swath in the discouraged grass; and thus established the victory of science over Nature.

EMPTY, MONOTONOUS LIVES OF THE PEOPLE IN THE CITIES

Throughout the second stanza there has been absolutely no mention of any human movement, making it seem as if the subdivision is empty. This could metaphorically indicate that the people living here live empty, Monotonous lives that are without meaning. The driveways neatly side-step hysteria by revealing even roads, that appear like mathematical units. Even a domestic entity like a coiled pipe appears as poisonous as a snake, as it is out of place. The windows portray a fixed-stare as though everything is static, and nothing is kinetic.

The natural scenery appears to be at the back of this residential area. The speaker hopes that the future cracks in the plaster will enable one to view the breathtaking natural view behind. She also admits that, "the houses in pedantic rows, the planted sanitary trees, offend us with their transitory lines, rigid as wooden borders". Man's mistakes seem to offer more than his creations in this stanza. The poet is trying to give power back to nature here, and stating that nature will eventually, definitely rise once again and break down these suburbs.

THE REALITY OF THE REAL ESTATE AGENCY

Stanza three is the end of complaints and shows the consequences of being so greedy. It also shows the reality of the real estate agency. These city planners-calculating and manipulative in their approach to reach their ends are no less than political conspirators. In such a situation, they will be subjected to unsurvey territories they had not even envisaged. They will be hidden from each other, where competitiveness will take a back-seat.

BLINDNESS AND CONFUSION OF THE CITY

Margaret Atwood claims that there will come an inevitable stage when nature will ultimately conquer. Houses will capsize into clay seas. Is the poetess foreboding a natural disaster, most probably a Tsunami? It would the only take a minute to put to years of city-planning to naught. They will appear like glaciers then. The speaker utilizes the metaphor of ice to connote transience. Nobody notices how fleeting all this is. Blizzards and snows are used as an extended metaphor for the blindness and confusion of a city that is completely bland and uniform, in which the people do not even realise how routine and structured their lives and the suburbia in general are in reality.

CONCLUSION

The poem eventually envisages the city planners' consequences of being greedy, and ends by saying that, the creations of these city planners will inevitably be destroyed by nature. To counteract the disturbing effect upon the human mind, land must be used in an effective manner. Land is essential to instill serenity in people's lives. To sustain the availability of land in cities, housing must be carefully planned so as to minimize the use of land. Green architects are required to maintain this balance between building and nature.

UNIT – II

2.1 Allen Curnow - House and Land

Essay

INTRODUCTION

Allen Curnow's "House and Land" published in 1941, is one his most frequently anthologized poems. Allen Curnow's "House and Land" investigates the sentiment of alienation experienced by the settlers even though they have spent two Through the sellers displaced from England to New Zealand, they failed to recognize New Zealand as their homeland.

Historian's Interview

Wasn't this the site, asked the historian, Of
the original homestead?
Couldn't tell you, said the cowman; I
just live here, he said,
Working for old Miss Wilson
Since the old man's been dead.

Though they live in adopted land, they have not yet adapted to the circumstances. A Historian visits the place to have an interview with old Miss. Wilson, one of the old settlers in New Zealand. Before he sees her he meets her cowman and asks whether it is the original homestead and work for old Miss. Wilson since her parent's death.

Dog and Miss Wilson's ancestors

Moping under the bluegums
The dog trailed his chain
From the privy as far as the fowlhouse
And back to the privy again,
Feeling the stagnant afternoon
Quicken with the smell of rain.

Later, The Historian sees a dog tired up. It keeps on moving from the privy to the fowl house and back to the privy. It is bored with the still afternoon and he senses it is going to rain. Rain is a symbol of fertility and redemption. He see the picture of Miss. Wilson's ancestors sitting in the hall and taking tea from a silver pot. She has the picture of her ancestors on her wall. She is very proud of her ancestor's lineage. Her father owned long stretches of land there.

Strong settlers

She's all of eighty said the cowman,
Down at the milking-shed.
I'm leaving here next winter.

Cowman tells the Historian that he was decided to switch over the next winter. The cowman with the rabbit who return from the hill, goes home drinking. Through its rains, it does not bring happiness.

Conclusion

The dog crept into his barrel
Looking lost and lame.
But you can't attribute to either
Awareness of what great gloom
Stands in a land of settlers With
never a soul at home.

The word "lame" suggests the handicap of the settlers as they missed their homeland. The settlers always felt themselves to be incomplete, though they never settle down

ESSAY

Introduction

The poem “The dying eagle” is a narrative poem about the inevitability of the new overthrowing the old. The Eagle in the poem, once a powerful bird, now finds itself conquered on the arrival of a large, strong and fast “invader”. broken in Spirit, The Eagle returns to its roost knowing well that its time is over. This poem deals with the simple message that change is inevitable.

The aged eagle

An aged Eagle was the undisputed monarch of his Empire. He ruled its territory from the mountain. His Empire had no boundaries. His domination was evident throughout the number of his offspring. Almost all The Eagles that were flying in and around his Kingdom were his offspring.

The dismal appearance of the eagle

The time is before sunset the light of The Eagles defeated eyes has gone out and his head is dropped on its shoulders. His feathers are Dull, wet and untidy. His large Wings spread down to the edge of his tail. He looked old but that is not his age. He is seen resting on a high place in rocks, now his posture is similar to a rain-drenched raven on the branch of an oak tree in November.

The Eagle astonished and his Pride vanished

The Eagle is now sitting hurt in heart and the pride of the soul gone. but the sad plight of the Eagle was not so before noon; up to the time he was the king sitting on his Throne, the craft. Before noon the Eagle considered himself Supreme and the entire space as his Empire but they are past, the old Eagle’s Pride has vanished.

Before noon that morning, the Eagle, who taught himself a monarch, is astonished to find something shining between two peaks of the ranges. The sight produced a shock in the Mighty bird. Its anger disturbed the feathers on his neck and the sharp claws scratched the Rock that produced dust, as if ready to fight with the invader. The eagle could not recognize the invader. Is it a prey or his enemy, he couldn’t decide, so it flew fast from the crag and made a circle upon the invader with smooth up and down moments and reached a near position where he could survey the new arrival. To his astonishment the Eagle finds the invader a far superior one. It looked like an ancient bird, the flying reptile.

The outlook of the invader

The Eagle stared at the invader that looked like a large bat, known for its long wings and stillness as it soars through the air, with its flock that could cast a dark shadow over the ice-clad mountain and glaciers. The Eagle mistakes the bird for a flying Dragon. It has similar features to an Eagle. The eyes of the invader whirled like a wheel but it did not blink anyway. The

very fearful appearance of the invader made the Eagle pause for a moment.

The Eagle's spirit broken

As a pride, old Eagle was shaken on that day by the invader. His eyes had lost their usual charm. His feathers appear dull and his Wings were lowered down. His head was hidden with shame. It thought that it had lost the Empire he reined so far. The Eagle with a heavy heart returned to its roost, broken in Spirit, knowing that it's time was over.

Conclusion

The Eagle came to know that it's time was over. The moment of realization was painful but it was inevitable as life keeps on moving without stopping for anyone. The theme of loss of power with age and the inevitability of younger generations overthrowing the old is well brought out in the poem by E.J. Pratt.

2.3 David Diop - Africa

Essay

Author introduction

This poem is written by David Diop - A Black African who was born in France in 1927. His father was from Senegal and his mother from Cameroon and he grew up in France and West Africa aware of both cultures and traditions. He was deeply concerned by the question of independence from colonial rule.

Theme

This poem is a dramatic monolog where the speaker seems to be in conversation with Africa. The poem can be thematically divided into three parts; pre-colonial Africa, colonial Africa and post-colonial Africa. David Diop's poem 'Africa' reflects his hope for an independent African nation, and the problems brought to the continent by colonialism. Through this poem Diop attempts to give a message of hope and resistance to the people of Africa.

Poem introduction

The poem starts by Diop reminiscing about Africa, a land he has not seen but only heard about from his grandmother's songs. His Choice of words like 'distant' symbolizes how far he is from his country, a feeling based on his real - life as he lived in France throughout his childhood and only visited Africa in the 1950s Despite this ,he paints a vivid scene of Africa and the proud warriors who walk on its ancestral savannahs you can sense how much he misses his homeland by his stress on the word 'Africa' and he continues to call it 'My Africa' to emphasize it is his land and his feelings of patriotism towards it .

Thematic analysis

He continues to say that he has never known Africa, but despite the distance he cannot deny how much it is a part of him. 'The beautiful black blood ' which flows in his veins, describes his African descent and shows how much Africa is a part of him and his love for it and its people. The next few lines are angry and accusatory as he stresses that it is the blood and sweat of his people which is irrigating the fields for the benefit of other people. The blood of their sweat, the sweat of their work, the work of their slavery and the slavery of their children had enriched the distant lands. By this he is pointing a finger at the colonialists who exploited black people and used them as slaves to profit from their hard labour . Therefore, the poet wants to know what the real Africa is. The poet urges the black people to stand up to the pain and the humiliation that they are suffering in their own land. He reminds them of the strength and pride they have in them and ti day no to the whip of the colonialists which makes them work under the hot midday sun and leaves scars on their backs. Despite this suffering, he urges them to be strong and remain unbent and nit let this break them despite the weight of their sufferings. The poet's earnest query is answered by a grave voice. The poet personifies the African continent as an angry elder; the wise voice of Africa chides him for thinking 'impetuous' thoughts, implying that the continent is aware of impending changes or revolution. It urges the Africans to Africans to be patients andnot hastily like children as there is change on the horizon.

The voice talks about a tree which is found alone amidst white and faded flowers, the tree 'young and strong' represents the young people of Africa who are patiently but 'obstinately' waiting until they get the liberty they want.

Colonial torture and exploitation

There are evidences of torture and exploitation in the poem due to the fact that the poet expresses how the sweat of Africans was lost in vain. The blood of your sweat, he sweats on your work. All this was done at a time when Africans were turned into slaves and worked for their masters without any benefit.

Oppression and humiliation

Oppression and humiliation were common practices in colonial time. They were used to force Africans work for colonizers without objection. This has left scars to Africa that we still depend on them even when they seem to mistreat us. This back that breaks under the weight of humiliation.

Identity and awareness

The poet however seems to be aware of his identity as black African. Although he grew up in France he shows that black blood flows in his veins, which is to say he is still an African regardless of where he grew up.

Effects of colonialism

The poet concludes his poem by showing the effects that colonialism had on the African continent. Nevertheless, he seems to be optimistic that at least Africa is growing up again just like a young tree.

Conclusion

At the moment the tree is alone, meaning the African struggle is a lonely battle but they will achieve the freedom and liberty they want no matter how bitter the taste is. The tree is among the white and faded flowers by which he means the white colonialists will fade in time while the youthful Africans will grow in strength and wait for their moment of freedom

UNIT – III

3.1 Chinua Achebe

- The Novelist as a Teacher

Essay

Introduction

A Titled Igbo chief himself, Achebe sought to escape the colonial perspective that pre dominated African literature, and drew from the traditions of the Igbo people, Christian influences, and the clash of Western and African values to create a uniquely African voice. His style relies heavily on the Igbo oral tradition, and combines straightforward narration with representations of folk stories, proverbs, and oratory.

The Novelist as Teacher

The Novelist as Teacher – Literary manifesto of Achebe

“The Novelist as Teacher” is a talk delivered at the first Common Wealth Writers’ Conference at leads in 1964.

Essay divided into two parts

Work of arts in relation to readers.

Function of writer as a social responsible in his native land.

Writer-society relationship

The African writers generally think that the kind of Relationship that exists between the writer and the audience in their country is the same as that in Europe. It is wrong. The western audience thinks that a writer is in revolt against the society and the society looks upon him with the suspicion. Achebe is consult about the social responsibility and obligations of the writer. Writer should contribute to upliftment of the society.

African reader’s expectation

Some writer looks African only read textbooks but he says that native readers also read the different books and he gives example of selling copies of things fall apart which got sold 20,000 copies only in Nigeria. Achebe refers to the expectations of some students and teachers. A student by name BABA YERO MAFINDI once wrote to him, appreciating his novel. A lady teacher wanted Achebe to present in his novels such young men who would resist parental pressure and marry the woman of his own choice the teacher does not like Achebe’s novel. “NO LONGER AT EASE”. Because, the young men in this novel yields to his father’s wish turn back on his lover. The teacher cannot attune herself to Achebe’s realism.

View of African writers on native readers

The writer, according to Achebe is an organic part of the society. The African writers do not have foreign audience in mind. Achebe does not write for the European readers. His novels are always taken as an advice to the young. It may not be possible for a self-respecting author to take dictation from his reader. He should nurse his individuality. At the same time, he must have sense to the relative merits of the cause, he chooses, one need not take rigid view of the aspiration and requirement of the society.

Native boy shame to tell about his own weather

A sense of submissiveness and servitude to alien has wrought an imparable damage to the psychic

life of African, who have not been able to shake their colonial submissiveness. When Achebe's wife, as a teacher asked a student why he wrote 'WINTER' and 'HARMATTAN', the boy replied that he would become a laughing stock if he did. The boy thought that there was something disgraceful about the African weather.

Role of African writers: to educate and regenerate people

This type of inferiority complex must be purged. The Native artist can contribute restoring the self-confidence of the educative role of African writers. Achebe requests the African writers to commit themselves to the task of rediscover themselves as a people, refashioning their literary and cultural institutions and help them to assert their pride and dignity and human worth. He has to create the world of African past and present, its dignity and integrity and create a new sense of awareness through his novels.

Conclusion

Thus, Achebe's art is essential instructive propagandist. He stresses the sociological and the utilitarian function of literature. The African writer should also aim at using English in a way that brings out the message without altering the language. He should aim at fashioning an English which is at once universal and able to carry his peculiar experience.

Essay**Author Introduction**

Dr S Radhakrishnan is an Indian philosopher, politician, teacher, writer and Statesmen. He was the first vice president and the second president of independent India. He was born in Thiruttani, now part of Tamilnadu, in September 5, 1888. His birthday has been celebrated as Teachers day in India every year since 1962.

Introduction

‘The world community ‘is an essay written by Dr S Radhakrishnan. It was published in 1963 by ‘Embassy of India’ .In his essay ‘The world community ‘, he expresses his idea of ‘Oneness of mankind ‘under a single federal government. He analyses the possibility of a Peaceful world community .The world peace is a necessity of time; necessary for human Survival.

Dangers Posed by Nuclear Weapons

Nuclear developments have given enough power to the great countries to annihilate the Human race many times over. Politicians have become indifferent to this growing danger. The building of nuclear armaments means, the destruction of cities, the ruin of countries, the Suffering of millions of human beings and the demoralization of the world. There is no Protection from nuclear weapons through shelters or emergency regulations.

Wars – An Illegitimate Instrument of Politics

In World War I, of the ten million people who were killed, 95 per cent were soldiers and Five per cent were civilians. In World War II, of the fifty million people who were killed, 52 percent was soldiers and 48 per cent were civilians. In the Korean War, of the nine million were killed, 84 per cent were civilians and 16 per cent soldiers. Thus, war has degenerated into Mass murder of the defenseless, women and children. It has become an illegitimate instrument of politics

Alternatives for the Military Methods

In a world, where peace is becoming more and more precarious, the great powers have a special responsibility. William James in a famous essay on “The Moral Equivalent of War” Proposed a ‘substitute for war’s disciplinary functions’. It is necessary that we devise Alternatives for the military methods. Kant, in his essay on “Perpetual Peace”, suggested a group of states’. Observing Minimal rights of civilized behavior, he proposed a notion of world citizenship without the Support of an overall sovereignty. World control by a single authority is an illusion

Pre-requisites for a World Community

We should work for a world community, for; the alternatives are chaos or world tyranny. The Hammurabi code of the Babylonians and the Egyptian Book of the Dead contain Suggestions of the Ten Commandments of the Israelites. Alexander looked upon the whole inhabited world as his fatherland. All good men are of this world; the wicked are the Aliens. By continually dwelling on the selfishness of others, we ourselves become more Selfish. Not by accusing others do we get out of our selfishness, but by purifying ourselves. Jesus could not accept the primitive morality of an 'eye for an eye'. 'Thou shalt love thy Neighbour as thyself. Return good for evil. Bless those that curse you', he said. Professor Max Mueller, who did a great deal for the interpretation of Indian religion to the Western World, said that the aim of human existence was a world community. The real force working for world unity is man's inborn compassion for others.

Democracy – Basis of a World Community

Democracy aims at achieving its ideals through persuasion, love, example, and moral Force. Violence and the machinery of intolerance are inconsistent with the spirit of democracy. Even The Fascist system claims to be democratic. Gentile, the Italian philosopher, sets forth the Fascist claim in these words: 'Democracy consists in giving the people what they want'.

The Law of Nations

Even as individuals are bound by the law of the nation to which they belong, nation states should be bound by international law. Just as there are individuals who break the law, there are nations who break the law and commit aggression. The law of nations should be based on the federation of Free states.

Conclusion

Every area can be made fertile and habitable, every disease can be removed and every Scarcity can be conquered. These are attempted by the Food and Agricultural Organization and World Health Organization. A true democrat should identify himself with the poor and the outcast. We must work for this social revolution.

UNIT -IV
Wole Soyinka- The Lion and the Jewel

Essay

AUTHOR INTRODUCTION

Wole Soyinka, in full Akinwande Oluwole Soyinka, (born July 13, 1934, Abeokuta, Nigeria), Nigerian playwright and political activist who received the Nobel Prize for Literature in 1986. He sometimes wrote of modern West Africa in a satirical style, but his serious intent and his belief in the evils inherent in the exercise of power were usually evident in his work as well.

INTRODUCTION

The *Lion and the Jewel* by Wole Soyinka tells the story of Sidi, a young woman living in an isolated Nigerian village in the 1960s, as she decides who to marry. Her choices are Lakunle, a schoolteacher, and Baroka, the Bale of the village, meaning its senior authority figure.

MORNING

The first scene, "Morning," takes place outside of the schoolhouse. Sidi carries a pail of water on her head as she walks by and Lakunle rushes outside to criticize her for carrying it on her head, claiming that it will damage her neck. Lakunle then criticizes Sidi for dressing immodestly. Lakunle mentions his desire to marry Sidi and Sidi tells him that she will marry him whenever he likes, as long as he pays her "bride-price" first. Lakunle claims that the custom of paying for a wife is offensive and refuses to do it. Some of the villagers enter the stage and inform Sidi that a man known only as The Stranger has returned to the village. When The Stranger last visited the village he took photographs of Sidi and he has now returned with a copy of the magazine in which Sidi's pictures have been printed. The villagers inform Sidi that she looks very beautiful in the magazine. The villagers join together to do a mimed /dance performance telling the story of The Stranger's previous visit to the village. The performance is temporarily interrupted by Baroka, who then joins in with the performance himself. After the performance concludes, Sidi drags Lakunle away to look for The Stranger so that she can see herself in the magazine. Alone onstage, Baroka muses out loud about how long it has been since he last took a wife.

NOON

The second scene, "Noon," takes place on a road in Ilujinle. Sadiku, the eldest of Baroka's many wives, approaches Sidi and tells her that Baroka wishes to marry her, much to Lakunle's dismay. Seeing her photographs in the magazine has made Sidi suddenly aware of her beauty and she announces that she is now too good to marry Lakunle and too good to marry Baroka as well. Lakunle tells the story of how Baroka sabotaged an attempt to build a railway line near Ilujinle, which is performed in a mimed dance as Lakunle tells the story. The scene continues in Baroka's palace where Sadiku returns to tell Baroka that Sidi has rejected his proposal. Baroka confesses to Sadiku that he has become impotent and had hoped that marrying a young woman would cure him. Baroka makes Sadiku promise not to tell anyone about his

impotence.

NIGHT

In the final scene, “Night”, Sadiku returns to the streets of the village where she gleefully celebrates the news of Baroka’s impotence and tells Sidi about it. Sidi decides to visit Baroka so that she can inwardly mock him. Lakunle opposes this idea because he fears that Baroka may become violent towards Sidi if he realizes that she is mocking him. At Baroka’s palace, Sidi arrives and Baroka feigns no knowledge of Sadiku proposing to Sidi on his behalf. Baroka reveals to Sidi that he has plans for the village to print its own stamps and promises Sidi that he will print her picture on the stamps, meaning that her face will become famous throughout the country. Back in the village, Sadiku and Lakunle watch a mimed dance performance spreading the news of Baroka’s impotence. Sidi returns to them in floods of tears. Lakunle fears that she has been raped and Sidi confirms to Sadiku that she is no longer a virgin. Lakunle announces that he will marry Sidi despite this and Sidi runs away. Sadiku follows Sidi and then returns to Lakunle. Sadiku tells Lakunle that Sidi is preparing herself for a wedding. This news shocks Lakunle who feels that things are moving too fast. Sidi returns and laughs at Lakunle for believing that she would marry him. Sidi announces her intention to marry Baroka, who had faked his impotence as a way of luring Sidi to visit him. Sidi exits the stage singing.

UNIT – V

Margaret Atwood - The Edible Woman

Essay

Author introduction:

Margaret Atwood - leading Canadian writer. Her first collection of poetry published in 1961 and she was a poet, novelist, short story writer, critic and author of children's book. She published over 30 books of verse and prose and translations of her works have appeared in over 20 languages. She has won twice the Governor General Award.

1. poem - THE CIRCLE GAME (1966)
2. Novel - THE HAND MAID'S TALE (1986)

Introduction

The Edible Women is a 1969 novel that helped to establish Margaret Atwood as a prose writer of major significance. The main themes of "Edible Women" are the search for oneself and gender roles and identity. It exposes the story of young women whose sane, structured, consumer-oriented world starts to slip out of focus. THE EDIBLE WOMEN was written in the 1960s, when the society was dominated by men.

Marian meets Duncan

At work, Marian is given an assignment about a new beer. As she gathers about the beer, she meets Duncan, a graduate student who charms her with his unexpected answers. Later that evening she goes on a dinner date with Peter and Len. Ainsley arrives dressed as an innocent school girl intending to seduce Len.

Peter goes to the date with Marian

Marian first starts to develop her aversion of food. Psychologically she starts to believe that, sexually exciting yet controlling Peter is slowly consuming her, in the same way that he consumes the food. Marian unable to eat her own plate of food, she fears that she might not be normal but her married friend, Clara assures eating problem was simply a system of bridal nerves that will be soon get over. Marian runs out of the restaurant, Peter chases her. Later Ainsley succeeds in seducing Len. After she throws him, Len can't understand what she is saying.

Ainsley convinces Marian to arrange a party

Ainsley convinces Marian to throw a party and invite the friends and colleagues. Peter brought a red new dress, he compels her to wear it. After wearing the dress she saw three images in the mirror. When she walks at home she thinks of herself as a cake. Something to be carefully iced and ornamented, Marian invites Duncan to the party and Duncan invites his roommate Fisher. After sometime, in the party Ainsley takes Len to Len that she is pregnant to his child. Len pours the wine in the head of Ainsley.

Fisher confronts her while Ainsley becomes worried. Later that Peter prepares to take a photo, Marian realizes that she must escape from the party and she finds out that Duncan leaves the party. Marian follows Duncan, both went to the hotel and eat fully and two spend the night together in the hotel. In the morning both eat breakfast. Marian eats normally with Duncan while she was sharing the food with Peter, Marian unable to eat. Marian feels that Peter will consume her like a food. Afternoon Marian bakes a woman-shaped cake and she gave the cake to Peter to eat but Peter was angry about Marian that she leaves the party and then he went. After sometime Duncan came and both are eating the cake happily.

Conclusion

At the beginning of the book, Marian led an ordinary, unexamined existing and by the end, she is begging to take control of her life. Her eating issues represented her profound.