
LITERATURE (ENGLISH)

0486/41

Paper 4 Unseen

October/November 2019

1 hour 15 minutes

No Additional Materials are required.

READ THESE INSTRUCTIONS FIRST

An answer booklet is provided inside this question paper. You should follow the instructions on the front cover of the answer booklet. If you need additional answer paper ask the invigilator for a continuation booklet.

Answer **either** Question 1 **or** Question 2.

You are advised to spend about 20 minutes reading the question paper and planning your answer.

Both questions in this paper carry equal marks.

This document consists of **5** printed pages, **3** blank pages and **1** Insert.



Answer **either** Question 1 **or** Question 2.

EITHER

1 Read carefully the poem opposite.

How does the poet strikingly convey different perspectives on respect for women?

To help you answer this question, you might consider:

- how the male speaker expresses his perspective
- how the female speaker replies to him
- how you feel the writer conveys her own perspective.

Respect

What you don't understand, *sister*
is that women are respected in Africa

Oh yes

We call a woman the light of the house
She is the one who fetches water
She is the one who cooks the food
She is the one who gives milk and brings wood
She is the one we come to
when we need satisfaction.
We know where the light comes from
Women are respected

Is that so, *brother*?
Is that why she is the last to drink from the gourd?¹
Is that why she is the last to eat from the bowl?
Is that why she is the last to sleep and the first to rise?
Is that why she is the one for whom the only satisfaction
is another mouth to feed?

And tell me, *brother*
If the woman is the light of the house
where does the darkness come from?

And tell me, *brother*
What will happen if the light fades
or simply refuses to shine?

Then, *sister*
It must be made to shine again
or cast out
A light that does not shine is of no use to anyone

I see

Good, I knew you would understand
In Africa, my *sister*, women are respected

¹ *gourd*: container made from the hard skin of the fruit of the calabash tree

OR

- 2 Read carefully the extract opposite. Tom is a young man travelling on a luxury ship (paid for by others) from the USA to Europe. He is reflecting on his past life.

How does the writer make you feel about Tom?

To help you answer this question, you might consider:

- how the writer presents Tom's thoughts about his past life
- how the writer suggests the kind of person Tom is
- the extent to which you sympathise with Tom.

Lying in his deck-chair, fortified morally by the luxurious surroundings and inwardly by the abundance of well-prepared food, he tried to take an objective look at his past life. The last four years had been for the most part a waste, there was no denying that. A series of haphazard jobs, long perilous intervals with no job at all and consequent demoralization because of having no money, and then taking up with stupid, silly people in order not to be lonely, or because they could offer him something for a while, as Marc Priminger had. It was not a record to be proud of, considering he had come to New York with such high aspirations. He had wanted to be an actor, though at twenty he had not had the faintest idea of the difficulties, the necessary training, or even the necessary talent. He had thought he had the necessary talent and that all he would have to do was show a producer a few of his original one-man skits¹ but his first three rebuffs² had killed all his courage and his hope. He had had no reserve of money, so he had taken the job on the banana boat, which at least had removed him from New York. He had been afraid that Aunt Dottie had called the police to look for him in New York, though he hadn't done anything wrong in Boston, just run off to make his own way in the world as millions of young men had done before him.

His main mistake had been that he had never stuck to anything, he thought, like the accounting job in the department store that might have worked into something, if he had not been so completely discouraged by the slowness of department-store promotions. Well, he blamed Aunt Dottie to some extent for his lack of perseverance, never giving him credit when he was younger for anything he had stuck to – like his paper route when he was thirteen. He had won a silver medal from the newspaper for 'Courtesy, Service, and Reliability'. It was like looking back at another person to remember himself then, a skinny, snivelling wretch with an eternal cold in the nose, who had still managed to win a medal for courtesy, service, and reliability. Aunt Dottie had hated him when he had a cold; she used to take her handkerchief and nearly wrench his nose off, wiping it.

Tom writhed in his deck-chair as he thought of it, but he writhed elegantly, adjusting the crease of his trousers.

He remembered the vows he had made, even at the age of eight, to run away from Aunt Dottie, the violent scenes he had imagined – Aunt Dottie trying to hold him in the house, and he hitting her with his fists, flinging her to the ground and throttling her, and finally tearing the big brooch off her dress and stabbing her a million times in the throat with it. He had run away at seventeen and had been brought back, and he had done it again at twenty and succeeded. And it was astounding and pitiful how naïve he had been, how little he had known about the way the world worked, as if he had spent so much of his time hating Aunt Dottie and scheming how to escape her, that he had not had enough time to learn and grow.

¹ *skits*: comic sketches or routines

² *rebuffs*: rejections

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