

English FAL Grade 11

Work for Monday 8th June until Friday 12th June 2020.

Instructions and information:

1. All work must be done in the book as instructed.
2. All work must be dated with the heading as is set out.

Monday 8 June:

* To be done in the front of your Literature book.

1. Date: 8 June 2020.
2. Heading: Reading and Viewing – I Sit and Look Out, Pre-reading activity.
3. Complete the activity below.

Pre-reading activity:

1. Give definitions for the words listed below:

Rat Race
Atrocities
Misery
Materialistic
Sorrow
Oppression
Convulsive
Remorseful
Gaunt
Treacherous
Unrequited
Pestilence
Tyranny
Famine

2. The poet is observing the world; he lists all the sorrows of the world example parents who are old whose children no longer care about them, women beaten by their husbands, war, jealousy, greed, famine and racism.

2.1 What would you add to the above list as being sorrows of the world?

2.2 Create a collage that visually depicts the sorrows of the world.

Tuesday 9 June.

* **To** be done in the front of your Literature book.

1. Date: 9 June 2020.
2. Heading: Reading and Viewing – I Sit and Look Out.
3. Read the poem below then copy the notes into your book.

I Sit and Look out – Walt Whitman

I SIT and look out upon the sorrows of the world, and upon all
oppression and shame;
I hear secret convulsive sobs from young men, at anguish with
themselves, remorseful after deeds done;
I see, in low life, the mother misused by her children, dying,
neglected, gaunt, desperate;
I see the wife misused by her husband – I see the treacherous
seducer of young women;
I mark the ranklings of jealousy and unrequited love, attempted to
be hid – I see these sights on the earth;
I see the workings of battle, pestilence, tyranny – I see martyrs and
prisoners;
I observe a famine at sea – I observe the sailors casting lots who
shall be kill'd to preserve the lives of the rest;
I observe the slights and degradations cast by arrogant persons
upon laborers, the poor, and upon negroes, and the like;
All these – All the meanness and agony without end, I sitting, look
out upon,
See, hear, and am silent.

About the poem:

- The poem echoes all **miseries and atrocities** (brutalities/ **cruelties**) of life as a **result of capitalism.**
- Changes in the lives of people followed as the **rat race for materialistic possession** became more prominent.
- **Values were lowered** and human concerns and emotions were sidelined.
- The poet attempts to **pose as onlooker who watches everything** but **does nothing** to alter horrible situations.
- 'I Sit and Look Out' describes a dark, sad, corrupted, sorrowful world after World War II.
- The poem is largely about the **different kinds of social evils** like injustice, humiliation, sufferings, exploitation of the poor and oppression of the weak that existed in the society.
- The **tone** of the poem is **pessimistic.**
- The imagery presented is apocalyptic (describing the total destruction and **end of the world/** extremely bad future/ catastrophic).

The poem can be divided into four sections:

Section 1	Describes sorrow brought about by self-knowledge (young men).	Ll. 1-5: All the sorrows and cruelties between people.
Section 2	Deals with physical and emotional abuses (affecting women).	L. 6: Misdeeds on a world scale.
Section 3	Cruel actions of society.	L. 7: Cannibalism at sea.
Section 4	Simple, summarising statement of the poet's reaction.	Ll. 8-9: Oppression and degradation of certain groups in society.

Some wrongs were done on a physical level and some on an emotional level:

Physical level: Abuse, neglect, seduction, battle, pestilence, torture, murder, imprisonment and famine.

Emotional/
Psychological level: People are tortured by remorse, jealousy, unrequited love, tyranny, insults, shame, degradation, oppression and meanness.

Structure and form:

- The poem is one really long sentence because the only full stop is at the very end.
- As the poet was writing the poem he kept thinking of more things he saw in his lifetime so everything became dragged out.
- This poem is an example of a free verse. There is no set rhyme scheme or rhythm which makes it feel very long.

Message:

- The poem was published in 1860 during a time when most Americans were fearful that the issue of slavery was not going to be resolved peacefully, and so there was great insecurity about the country's future.
- It is not surprising, then, that a poet like Whitman would look around and see society falling apart. More important, however, is the question of how a person reacts to all these negative signs.
- The poem is stirring us on by making us think we are just sitting while all these bad things are happening.
- The poem depicts the injustices of the world with such emotion, which makes us recoil, then induces us to dig down to find our sense of justice, to possibly join him against the injustice in the world.

Wednesday 10 June and Thursday 11 June.

* To be done in the front of your Literature book.

1. Date: 10 June 2020.
2. Heading: Reading and Viewing – I Sit and Look Out
3. Print and paste or copy the poem in the centre of a double folio of your book then analyse the poem based on the notes below.

Theme:

- The theme, then, is simply this:

All of the horrors are easily observed because they are all around us, and if all we do is 'see, hear,' and be silent, these horrors will overwhelm us. The poem is a call to positive action in the face of society that is headed toward disaster.

I SIT and look out upon all the sorrows of the world, and upon all oppression and shame;

- The speaker is a passive observer of life around him. He sees all the wrong in the world.
- The speaker silently sees the suffering and pain of the people arising from oppression (no real freedom), ill-treatment and humiliation.



I hear secret convulsive sobs from young men, at anguish with themselves, remorseful after deeds done;



- In this line, men are regretting the things that they did and want to be forgiven.
- The speaker is able to hear involuntary, noisily crying (*taking in deep breaths as crying*) of young men frustrated and in pain because of the disillusionment (*disappointment resulting from the discovery that the war was not as wonderful it promised to be*) of the World War, full of regret and remorse for their own misdeeds.



I see, in low life, the mother misused by her children, dying, neglected, gaunt, desperate;



- The speaker visualises the mother, in the poor classes being taken advantage of and being ill-treated by her very own children.
- She lies emaciated/'gaunt' (*abnormally thin because of a lack of food or illness*), distressed (*worried and unhappy*), dying in solitude, desperate for help and affection, but ignored when she needs them most.

I see the wife misused by her husband—I see the treacherous seducer of young women;

- The speaker sees the wives being ill-treated, abused and cheated on by her husband.
- The cold-hearted husbands neglect and oppress their wives.
- This husband is an unfaithful man who seduces young women and ruthlessly deceives them.



I mark the rankling's of jealousy and unrequited love, attempted to be hid—I see these sights on the earth;

- The speaker sees the feelings of frustration and jealousy of unreturned love in the rejected lovers which they try to hide.
- He seeks to demarcate (*to set apart clearly*) emotions in his poem by introducing camouflage to cover jealousy and unrequited love behind the mask of smiles and friendliness.



I see the workings of battle, pestilence, tyranny—I
see martyrs and prisoners;

- The speaker leads us into a world of violence. The speaker sees how wars claim a number of innocent lives (victims) and make young men-prisoners of war.
- The speaker describes the dangerous aftermaths of war, the deaths of millions and dictatorship that causes depletion of state funds.
- The speaker has to bear the pain as he beholds the sight of prisoners, tortured – the most terrible byproduct of wars fought.
- We are shown how immorality (corruption) has set in and the cruelty that prevails (triumphs) in the society we live in.



I observe a famine at sea—I observe the
sailors casting lots who shall be kill'd, to
preserve the lives of the rest;

- Dehumanising effect famine at sea has on sailors.
- He next presents a gruesome imagery where sailors on ships that have lost their way, cast lots to decide whom among them should be killed, so as to survive to the shores due to acute shortage of food supplies ('famine').
- Cannibalism or murder.



I observe the slights and degradations cast by arrogant persons upon laborers, the poor, and upon negroes, and the like;

- He sees the poor workers and the African-American people who were subjected to slavery at the hands of the capitalist world where nothing else but oppression and impoverishment were present.

- He portrays the insults ('slights') and unfair treatment meted out to the weak and poor.



All these—All the meanness and agony without end, I sitting, look out upon,



See, hear, and am silent.

- Just as a helpless observer, the speaker sees all the problems, sufferings, agonies of the world and all he does is makes a statement. By condemning himself, he is implicitly condemning society who observes the horrors and do nothing.
- The poem is a touching criticism of life that the poet observes in a detached manner.
- The speaker leaves it to the reader to react and judge. Neither does he analyse the sights nor does he make any comment on them.
- He himself does not get involved or pass a moral value to be learnt or followed.
- This is what he means when he uses the word 'silent'.
- Instead, he freely allows his reader to think and react in their own way.
- This however establishes, the philosophy of individualism —a significant movement that Whitman was a part of. He opens a window for everyone to see.

Friday 12 June.

* **To** be done in the front of your Literature book.

1. Date: 12 June 2020.
2. Heading: Reading and Viewing – I Sit and Look Out
3. Answer the questions below.

Questions:

1. Why do you think 'SIT' is capitalised in the first line?
2. 'The poem describes and comments on a world that is the complete opposite of Ubuntu.'

Discuss, explaining your interpretation of this statement and commenting on its validity. Use examples to illustrate the points you make during the discussion.