

Question 1

How does the author celebrate a love of self in Text 1? (*approximately 200–350 words*)

Author Derek Walcott creates a poem regarding self-love to depict the importance of choosing your wellbeing over somebody else. Walcott writes this poem to influence the generation of people who have lost hope within themselves.

It is emphasized that for an individual to understand and be able to differentiate the good and bad experiences from each other, a bad experience must be observed. The use of caesura when Walcott quotes "and you say, sit here. Eat" is used to depict that a human must be demanding to oneself. Demanding in order to be successful in the way self-loved is portrayed. The idea of finding yourself is reinforced as he reminds his readers that "[they] will love again the stranger who was [themselves]" by ensuring the forgotten habits such as "[giving] wine" and "[giving] bread" become habits again. Walcott also reminds his readers "to give [the] heart back [to the owner who is now a stranger]" in order to reconnect with one's inner self.

Walcott uses a "mirror" and the "front door of a home" to symbolize happiness. The feeling of elation comes within a positive home and being able to reflect on the reasons why an individual may not love, when looking back at their reflection from a mirror. Walcott uses personification to influence his readers to "peel [their] own image from the mirror" to demonstrate the simplicity of creating and transforming your persona with what is known.

Question 2

How does the author explore the ways in which love changes over time in Text 2? (*approximately 300–500 words*)

Jane Hirshfield, author of "this was once a love poem" uses the hindquarter of animal to symbolise the process of love. The way love has been abused over many decades of time is demonstrated, as Walcott personifies the dangerous position love places an individual in. This is done before exploring the blossoms of what it is like to be in love, creating a negative tone to his poem.

Walcott narrates his poem in the nature of the wild, in which where love is found. "Once it pretended shyness" highlights the quiet and unpredictable personality of the animal, as it "then grew truly shy". Animals have a misleading persona as they use their first instincts and senses to discover the aura of another animal - in which humans share the same traits. This is the first step of love. Trying to figure out the mind of another animal, by protecting their own intentions by "dropping its head so the hair would fall forward, so the eyes would not be seen". The second step of love is shown by Walcott by the use of personification to quote "it spoke with passion of history, of art" to depict the misleading decisions made. Love is all about sharing interests and corresponding ideas and hobbies, soon enough becoming bored of sharing these aspects with the same person, just as an animal pretends to play nice with their prey.

Once the predator has fed off their prey, they are "found sitting perplexed and a little embarrassed" being seen by other animals enjoying their time in the wild, passing by "without turning their head". This is shown to be the last and final step of love. No more shyness, no more "folding of soft skin" and no more prey, for the time being. Walcott highlights his poem as "once being a love poem" as love does not last forever.

Question 3

How does the author suggest that love is complicated in Text 3? (*approximately 300–500 words*)

Marge Piercy, author of "to have without holding" creates a gloomy tone of poem as she demonstrates that being in love comes with many complications. Piercy uses a loose and banging door to symbolise the negative feeling of being in-love brings. Piercy illustrates that love is thrown around "with hands wide open" instead of hands being closed in and safe. This depicts that being in love is a feeling of danger and uncertainty as having open arms to the world does not leave an individual in control of what is coming their way; juxtaposing to how difficult it is to sleep with "rustling sheets and snapping blinds". Piercy uses the symbolism of rustling sheets and snapping blinds to demonstrate that love is frustrating when it is the only thing a human desires. No matter what a human does, nothing will stop the wind from creating unnecessary noise and the bashing sound of loud blinds other than closing the window. By comparing love to these aspects, Piercy makes it clear that a human will not feel at peace unless love is blocked out. Sometimes the things a human may crave, such as a cold breeze on a hot summer night, is the only thing that will calm you down but will not ease the muscles in your body or allow the unconscious mind to dream about beautiful things. The poem is broken down into four stanzas to explain and compare the grief the complicity of being in love brings.

Piercy writes her poem "to have without holding" with tiredness and fatigue that is reflected from her experience of love as "it hurt to thwart the reflexes of [grabbing] love over and over again".

C grade exemplar

Knowledge and Understanding

- Some knowledge and understand present

Analysis

- Description with some analysis.
- There's varying levels of clarity but not perception in the analysis .

Application

- Productive responses hinted at but not developed with clarity meaning that the reader has to work overly hard and this is evident in the second paragraph of Question 2 with the 'Animals have a misleading persona' argument.
- Competent use of evidence.