

English
DST d'LLCE sur « Rencontres »
Tiers Temps

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<u>Note :</u> _____	<u>Appréciations :</u>	<u>Signature :</u>
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The first document, A, is a poem from Maya Angelou, named “Still I Rise”. We do not know when it was written. The second document, B, is an article written on August 2016, the 2nd by David Brooks called *How artists change the world*. The third document, C, is a photography of a work of art, representing Mandela’s the head on his capture site, The photography was taken by Marco Cianfanelli. How do artists explore the issue of identity? First, we are going to define what identity is and its issues. Then, analyse how artists explore the issue of identity. Finally, we will conclude.

Identity is a way to identify somebody, for example, by putting a name on a new-born baby, you tag him with a mean of identification. It is also possible to tag a civilisation, a country, a brand, a way of living. To identify somebody or something, the first step is to name it. If you call a completely curved line a circle, then, it is easier to recognise it on the other encounters. By tagging elements, objects, you can also express a feeling. If you create a movement and name it “black lives matter”, instantly, even without having somebody to explain the movement, you know that it will have something to do with the lives of black people. If, on that same movement, you put the head of a beaten up, black Afro-American, there is no need to explain the movement, you know precisely what it will deal with: protecting black lives. Identity is a way to recognise, follow, a thing, an object, an undefined element. It is also a way to avoid having to describe the element every single time we want to mention it.

In Document A, Maya Angelou, explores Identity by expressing that anything mean and biased that is done to her will, in the short term bring her down, destroy her, damage her, ... but that eventually, in the end, wear off and she will shine again, stronger and as indestructible as before. For example: “You may trod me in the very dirt\But still, like dust, I’ll rise”. This can be compared to the movement going by the name of “black lives matter”, a movement that refuses racism and black repression. This same fight, against repression, is present in document B. In this document The author, David Brooks, Focuses on the photographer Frederick Douglass, a black American of the 19th century. This American was a “social reformer, abolitionist, orator, writer and statesman”. He used his own image, and those of other black models to “smash through some of the warped lenses through which we’ve been taught to see”. In other words, racism, and that black an inferior to white people. During these years, as black people were regarded as inferior, as if they were nothing, white police would sometimes beat them, severely wounding or killing the victim. This brings us to the last document, C, representing the Mandela’s head on at the place where he had been captured. The head is made of a total of twenty-eight bars placed in approximatively four rows. The bars have different

widths all along their length, this enable the face to be simulated and helps the brain fill the gaps. This work is possibly an homage to the lives of the black people that had suffered the same destiny. This art, can also be linked to document A, even if, the real Mandela died from the beating, he is remembered and rises again through these distorted bars, “You may shoot me with your words\You may cut me with your eyes\You may kill me with your hatefulness” “But still, like air, I’ll rise”.

Finally, the artists explore the issue of identity through symbols, Mandela, document C, images, document B, looking straight in the lens of the camera, to shock and awake people, poems, Document A, “I rise” repeated ten times. All these elements show that minds, ideologies, thoughts, beliefs can be changed and do change through time, images, speeches and proof. One can wonder what society would be without art, political thoughts, opinions. What would society be if we were all robots? Would there be any art? Would we be all the same? Would there be differences?

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