

**SUBJECT:** FUNCTIONAL ENGLISH

**TASK:** WRITNG CRITICAL ANALYSIS OF AN ARTICLE

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# CRITICAL ANALYSIS OF AN ARTICLE

## Introduction:

- **Title:** The title of the passage is Shame.
- **Author:** Dick Gregory, an activist and a comedian, was born in St. Louis, Missouri, in 1932. Gregory was an outspoken critic of U.S. involvement in Vietnam, which in turn led to his run for the presidency in 1968 as a write-in candidate for the Freedom and Peace Party. A beautiful quote from the author himself;

**" Last time I was down south I walked into this restaurant, and this white waitress came up to me and said: 'we don't serve coloured people here. "I said that's all right, I don't eat colored people. Bring me a whole fried chicken."**

- **Publication Information:** The following passage is an episode from Nigger (1964), which is the first volume of Gregory's autobiography. Gregory narrates the story of a childhood experience that taught him the meaning of shame. Through his use of dialogue, he dramatically re-creates the experience for readers. Notice how he begins this essay in the shelter of home and ends with the feeling that his lesson in shame exposes him to the eyes of the world
- **Purpose:** The purpose of the article is to entertain its readers and inform them about after-effects of childhood tragedies.
- **Thesis statement:** The experience of shame and humiliation in a racial biased society had a lasting effect on the narrator's life. An act of racial discrimination from the teacher became the cause for embarrassment for the writer.

**"I refuse to accept the view that mankind is so tragically bound to the starless midnight of racism and war that the bright daybreak of peace and brotherhood can never become a reality  
...I believe that unarmed truth and unconditional love will have the final word"  
(Dr. Martin Luther King)**

- **Description of work:** This passage is a reflection on the main character's childhood experiences and the main issue of racial discrimination and poverty. The main character, Richard Gregory, recounts his early years, particularly his passion for a girl named Helene Tucker and his struggles with poverty and a lack of parental support.

The main character, Richard, is portrayed as a young boy who admires Helene Tucker, a symbol of everything he desires. He goes to great lengths to impress her and even tries to buy a Daddy for himself during a school fundraiser. However, he faces discrimination and humiliation from

his teacher when he claims his Daddy would contribute \$15, and she dismisses his statement, implying that he doesn't have a Daddy. This event becomes a defining moment for Richard, leading to feelings of shame and a sense of otherness.

The main issue highlighted in the passage is the intersection of racial discrimination and poverty. Richard's experiences are shaped by his weakened background, and he's acutely aware of the difference between him and his peers, particularly in a racially divided society. The teacher's remarks exemplify the racial bias and insensitivity that Richard faces, making him feel shame and embarrassment. These early experiences have a lasting impact on his life, driving him to excel in various endeavours to prove his worth and overcome the shame associated with poverty and race.

**"prejudice is a burden that confuses the past, threatens the future and renders the present inaccessible."  
(Maya Angelou)**

## Evaluation of the Work:

- **Organization of the work:** The work gives us some introductory background about the Author and the reason of the existence of his composition using ethos. The writer of the passage, Dick Gregory, has crusaded for economic reforms and minority rights. With the help of Cause and Effect, Gregory has explained about his childhood struggles, while dealing with the insecurity of race. Later, the work defines the controlling idea of the passage and gives its readers an overview of the composition.
- **Style of the Work:** The style opted in the work is informal. due to use of personal pronouns such as ('i','you') use of contractions such as (" wouldn't "," couldn't ") and use of informal vocabulary such as (" beat me "," stuffed in a pile of garbage " etc). The writer took on the tone of Satire and Frustration.
- **Intended Audience:** Using Gregory's experience, the work is intended to ridicule intolerant individuals. The major purpose of the work is to construct positive attitude for the readers towards the oppressed beings of the world.
- **Effectiveness:** The tone of the author in this paragraph can be described as nostalgic, and deeply emotional. The author reflects on childhood experiences and the shame associated with poverty and the absence of a father figure.
- **Topic's treatment:** After a critical study, the topic is treated significantly. The problem is identified and addressed with a positive approach.

**Conclusion:** The conclusion of the paragraph highlights the profound impact of a hurtful incident in the classroom on the narrator's life. The shame he experienced extended beyond that moment and had a great impact on various aspects of his life, from receiving assistance to feeling judged by society.

To improve this conclusion, you could expand on how this experience influenced the narrator's future actions and choices, leading to personal growth. You might also recommend that individuals reflect on the consequences of their words and actions, that can have lasting effects on others' self-esteem and confidence.

Additionally, fostering empathy and understanding among students and teachers can help prevent such hurtful incidents in the future.