

Correction of the Exam Paper : Poesie Anglophone / 2022 – 2023

Poem: Song of a Madman

Answers to questions

1.) The poem appears to convey a cyclical and relentless theme of the inevitability of mortality and the power dynamics of nature. It suggests that no matter how fast or capable one may be, there will always be something greater or more powerful that will eventually overpower and consume them. It highlights the harsh reality of the food chain and the transience of life.

2.) The title "Song of a Madman" could be seen as ironic, as the content of the poem seems to be a rational reflection on the natural order of life and death. The title seems to suggest a sense of irrationality or chaos associated with madness, which might not be directly reflected in the poem itself.

3.) No, I would argue that the title is not entirely suitable. The poem does not present a perspective that aligns with the typical associations of madness, as it conveys a coherent and rational reflection on the natural order of life and death. The content of the poem reflects an understanding of the inevitable cycles of nature, rather than an irrational or erratic mindset associated with madness. Therefore, the title may not effectively capture the essence of the poem and could potentially lead to misconceptions about the poem's message. A more fitting title might emphasize the themes of mortality, the food chain, or the inevitability of nature, providing a clearer reflection of the poem's central ideas.

4.) This poem is didactic in the sense that it conveys a moral lesson or a teaching about the natural order of life, emphasizing the idea of the survival of the fittest and the transitory nature of existence. It serves to remind readers of the unyielding and unchangeable cycles of life and death in nature, offering a cautionary perspective on the fragility of human existence and the power dynamics of the natural world.