

Source: [\[KBENG201INDEX\]](#)

1 | Close Reading, Assessment 1

General Information

| Due Date | Topic | Important Documents |
|--------------|---|--------------------------|
| Sep 8 by 1pm | You will be writing on one of the (non-definitional) texts from our packet: “The I is Never Alone,” “The Bird-Dreaming Baobab,” or the Elizabeth Bishop “challenge poems” at the end of the packet. | The Bird Dreaming Baobab |

Prompt

Choose an aspect of the short story or poem that will enable close reading: a word pattern, a significant image, a literary device, a repeated detail, etc. In your topic sentence and paragraph, answer the following question:

What does this aspect of the text reveal about the story/poem's broader themes?

- Length: One paragraph, so 250-350 words
- Paragraph format: MLA style, double-spaced, 12-point font
- In this paragraph, one of your primary goals is to demonstrate your close reading skills. **Close reading means unpacking the meaning of individual words and phrases.**
- If you write about a pattern/image/etc. that we discussed in class, you need to go above and beyond class discussion so that I can see your own thinking.
- Include page numbers for citations and a works cited entry for your selected story/poem at the end of the essay.

Claim Synthesis

Development phase – How and So-What

- *The flowers are a symbol of the spirits of (??), and, by proxy, the birdman*
 - Evidence
 - He even said so
 - His leaving caused it to turn red
 - His dying/disappearing/escaping caused it to turn white
 - So what, how is this thematically important?
- **The Mob-Mentality exhibited by the Portuguese marks a disorder with the wild spirits — of which the Baopap flower is an indicator — and the birdman is the communicator of that spirit.**
 - Evidence
 - He even said so
 - His leaving caused it to turn red
 - His dying/disappearing/escaping caused it to turn white
 - Crushing the spirit underfeet => harm to kid
 - Ok, so what is the CENTRAL LINE OF THEME
- *The symbol of the flower in the BRB alerts the reader of the danger of the mob-disregard for natural spirits — the flowers being an indicator of that spirit*

Defluff

The symbol of the flower in the BRB alerts the reader of the danger of the mob-disregard for natural spirits — the flowers being an indicator of that spirit

The flower is a symbol for the Natural, Wild spirit that the birdman is communicating.

- He even said so
- His capture brought color change => “The Spirit is in Flux”
- Crushing the spirit underfeet brought harm to kid

Warning the readers of the dangers from mob-mentality + selfishness + FOMO + caused bypassing of validation of assumptions.

Pause! Problem: how does one concisely describe Mob-Mentality, Selfishness, and FOMO. => Advocating for own's interests.

In the Bird-Dreaming Baobadadadbabap, the author utilises the symbol of the Baopapba's flower as an indicator of the Wild, Natural spirit which the Birdman is a communicator of; through tracking the state of the flowers through the Portugueses' capture of the Birdman, the author warns the reader against the dangers of selfishly advocating for one's own interests.

- The Birdman literally said that “The Flowers is Where the Spirits Dwell”
- During the Birdman's capture, the spirits fell and is in flux => taking on the duty of communicating the pains of the communicator (Birdman) when the communicator is silenced
- The dying of the child only occurred after the Porchuguese stepped on the flowers