

OLYMPIADS SCHOOL/GRADE 9 ENGLISH/HANDOUT 19

Announcement

The final assessment has been scheduled for Class 21. Next week (Class 20), instead of the regular homework, a review package will be posted on the school's website. To prepare for the final, please review the handouts and homework from Class 11 to Class 18.

POETRY ANALYSIS

"The Rose that Grew from Concrete" By Tupac Shakur

[2Pac Shakur]

You try to plant somethin in the concrete, y'knowwhatlmean?
 If it GROW, and the and the rose petal got all kind of
 Scratches and marks, you not gon' say, "D***, look at
 All the scratches and marks on the rose that grew from concrete"
 You gon' be like, "D***! A rose grew from the concrete?!"
 Same thing with me, y'knahmean? I grew out of all of this
 Instead of sayin, "D***, he did this, he did this,"
 Just be like, "D***! He grew out of that? He came out of that?"
 That's what they should say, y'knowwhatlmean?
 All the trouble to survive and make good out of the dirty, nasty
 Y'knowhahatlmean unbelievable lifestyle they gave me
 I'm just tryin to make somethin..

[Nikki Giovanni]

When no one even cared
 The rose it grew from concrete
 Keepin all these dreams
 Provin nature's laws wrong
 It learned how to walk without havin feet
 It came from concrete

[Spoken part]

Did you hear about the rose that grew from a crack in the concrete?
 Provin nature's laws wrong it learned how to walk without havin feet
 Funny it seems but, by keepin its dreams
 It, learned to breathe FRESH air
 Long live the rose that grew from concrete
 When no one else even cared
 No one else even cared..
 The rose that grew from concrete

[Spoken part]

Did you hear..
 Did you hear about the rose that grew from a crack in the concrete?

Provin nature's laws wrong
 It learned to walk without having feet
 Funny it seems but by keeping its dreams
 It learned to breathe FRESH air
 Long live the rose that grew from concrete
 When no one else, even cared

[Nikki Giovanni]

Keepin all these dreams
 Provin nature's laws wrong
 It learned how to walk without havin feet (to breathe the fresh air)
 It came from concrete (to breathe the fresh air)
 (to breathe the fresh air, to breathe the fresh air)

[2Pac Shakur]

You see you wouldn't ask why the rose that grew from the concrete
 Had damaged petals. On the contrary, we would all celebrate its
 Tenacity. We would all love it's will to reach the sun
 Well, we are the roses - this is the concrete - and these are
 My damaged petals. Don't ask me why, thank God n****, ask me how!
 Hahahaha..

You could listen to a recording

here: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=NbpGyzFpAp8>

In-class Writing Activity

Individually or in groups of three, focus on one aspect of the poem and/or recording and relate it to a big idea/theme that you discern in it.

Success Criteria (for group work, but may be adapted for individual use)

- One paragraph is written. There are ten to twelve sentences.
- There is a clear topic sentence that relates one aspect of the poem/recording to a big idea. (E.g., The alliteration _____ reinforces the speaker's message that _____.)
- At least one quotation is integrated into the analysis.
- There is an insightful discussion that touches on a social or historical context. See page 4 of this handout.
- The discussion focuses on an important aspect of the poem/recording.
- There is a clincher sentence that rephrases the topic sentence in an articulate way.
- Sentences flow logically from one to another. Words/sentence structures are not repeated in a robotic way.
- The writing is free from grammar and syntax errors (e.g., comma splices, fragments, and run-on sentences).
- The handwriting is clear and legible, in preparation for the gallery walk.
- Only one piece of paper is used.

Contexts (Wikipedia)

- *The Rose That Grew from Concrete* is an album based on the poetry/writings of Tupac Shakur, released in 2000. This album features a large cast of celebrities reading Shakur's poetry and writing, much in the spirit of a traditional spoken word album.
- Tupac Amaru Shakur (/ˈtuːpɑːk ʃəˈkuər/ too-pahk shə-koor; born Lesane Parish Crooks; June 16, 1971 – September 13, 1996), also known by his stage names 2Pac and Makaveli, was an American rapper and actor.[2] As of 2007, Shakur has sold over 75 million records worldwide. His double disc albums *All Eyez on Me* and his *Greatest Hits* are among the best selling albums in the United States. He has been listed and ranked as one of the greatest artists of all time by many magazines, including *Rolling Stone* which ranked him 86th on its list of The 100 Greatest Artists of All Time. He is consistently ranked as one of the greatest rappers ever, as well as one of the most influential rappers of all time

Shakur began his career as a roadie, backup dancer, and MC for the alternative hip hop group Digital Underground, eventually branching off as a solo artist. The themes of most of Shakur's songs revolved around the violence and hardship in inner cities, racism, and other social problems. Both of his parents and several other people in his family were members of the Black Panther Party, whose ideals were reflected in his songs. During the latter part of his career, Shakur was a vocal participant during the East Coast–West Coast hip hop rivalry, becoming involved in conflicts with other rappers, producers, and record-label staff members, most notably The Notorious B.I.G. and the label Bad Boy Records.

On September 7, 1996, Shakur was fatally shot in a drive-by shooting at the intersection of Flamingo Road and Koval Lane in Las Vegas, Nevada. He was taken to the University Medical Center of Southern Nevada, where he died six days later.

- Yolande Cornelia "Nikki" Giovanni, Jr. (born June 7, 1943) is an American poet, writer, commentator, activist, and educator. One of the world's most well-known African American poets, her work includes poetry anthologies, poetry recordings, and nonfiction essays, and covers topics ranging from race and social issues to children's literature. She has won numerous awards, including the Langston Hughes Medal, the NAACP Image Award, and has been nominated for a Grammy Award, for her Nikki Giovanni Poetry Collection. Additionally, she has recently been named as one of Oprah Winfrey's twenty-five "Living Legends."

Giovanni gained initial fame in the late 1960s as one of the foremost authors of the Black Arts Movement. Influenced by the Civil Rights Movement and Black Power Movement of the period, her early work provides a strong, militant African-American perspective, leading one writer to dub her the "Poet of the Black Revolution." During the 1970s, she began writing children's literature, and co-founded a publishing company, NikTom,Ltd to provide an outlet for other African American women writers. Over subsequent decades, her works discussed social issues, human relationships, and hip-hop. Poems such as "Knoxville, Tennessee," and "Nikki-Rosa" have been frequently re-published in anthologies and other collections.