

Listening with Feeling

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What is your immediate reaction to the poem?

My immediate reaction to the poem was complete confusion. I attribute this to my complete unfamiliarity with the language. But as I continued to listen to the recitation, some parts of the narration made me feel inspired, and other parts a little rebellious. To me, it almost sounded like the poet was urging me to get up and start a revolution.

How does the poem make you feel?

The poem made me feel not just one, but a series of emotions. In some sections of the poem it sounds like the poet is trying to soothe and calm the listeners. Some other parts of the recitation on the other hand, sound very enraged and frustrated, almost like the poet was on the verge of a rebellion. If I were to judge the poem purely based off of the tone of the recitation, I would say it sounded like the poet is trying to guide me through feeling many emotions, but he keeps the tone of urgency a constant.

Through his use of tone and delivery, what do you think the poet is expressing?

As mentioned before, the poet's tone sounds very urgent to me. Some parts of the recitation almost sound like rants. The recitation is very passionate, and to me it sounded like the poet is trying to inspire the listeners – light a fire inside everyone. I would say the poet was trying to express his feeling about something he feels very strongly about, and was trying to inspire people into starting a revolution.

Does the poem remind you of anything? (internal or external)

Given my unfamiliarity with the French language, I couldn't relate to the poem very much. But after listening to it, one of the first thoughts in my

head was that the poet made the poem sound a lot like a rap, sort of like a melodic rap. I believe his repetition of the words “des mots” led me to draw the connection between the recitation and rap.

What overall impression does the poem leave you with?

I think once I got past my initial confusion, the poem made me feel slightly inspired and energetic – made me feel like if I want to get anything done, I need to take action *today*. Of course, my interpretation of the poem based purely on the tone of the recitation could be far off from what the poet was actually trying to convey. I would also like to add that parts of the poem left me feeling slightly amused, mainly because of the extreme voice modulation.