

"Poetry Its Impact on Art and the Modern World"

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To be, or not to be, that is the question:
 Whether 'tis nobler in the mind to suffer
 The slings and arrows of outrageous fortune,
 Or to take arms against a sea of troubles
 And by opposing end them. To die—to sleep,
 No more; and by a sleep to say we end
 The heart-ache and the thousand natural shocks
 That flesh is heir to: 'tis a consummation
 Devoutly to be wish'd. To die, to sleep;
 To sleep, perchance to dream—ay, there's the rub:
 For in that sleep of death what dreams may come,
 When we have shuffled off this mortal coil,
 Must give us pause—there's the respect
 That makes calamity of so long life.
 For who would bear the whips and scorns of time,
 Th'oppressor's wrong, the proud man's contumely,
 The pangs of dispriz'd love, the law's delay,
 The insolence of office, and the spurns
 That patient merit of th'unworthy takes,
 When he himself might his quietus make
 With a bare bodkin? Who would fardels bear,
 To grunt and sweat under a weary life,
 But that the dread of something after death,
 The undiscover'd country, from whose bourn
 No traveller returns, puzzles the will,
 And makes us rather bear those ills we have
 Than fly to others that we know not of?
 Thus conscience does make cowards of us all,
 And thus the native hue of resolution
 Is sicklied o'er with the pale cast of thought,
 And enterprises of great pitch and moment
 With this regard their currents turn awry
 And lose the name of action.

William Shakespeare

This poem by Shakespeare is one of the most famous soliloquies in the history of literature. In this piece from Hamlet, he sees the similarities between death and sleep which he sees as an escape from all the struggles he is going through. In the play, Hamlet feels betrayed

because his uncle killed his dad and married his mom. Though he contemplates suicide, he is unsure of the uncertainty that lies in the realm of the dead. Poetry is one of the most expressive form of art. Here, it is clear that Shakespeare uses it to engage his readers. The first line “To be, or not to be, that is the question” defines choices that individuals have to make and is deeply rooted in life which is what makes it one of the most famous quotes in literature.

William Shakespeare

One cannot talk about poetry without mentioning Shakespeare. He is one of the most prominent writers to ever exist. William Shakespeare, an English playwright, actor, and poet, was born on 1564 in Stratford-upon-Avon, England. He was best known as the greatest writer and pre-dramist in English language. He was an important member of the Lord Chamberlain’s Men Company of theatrical players. He is considered to be one of the most important writers that majorly contributed to English literature. His three earliest comedies includes *The Comedy of Errors (1590)*, *The Two Gentlemen of Verona (1591)* and *Love's Labour's Lost (1593)*.

According to biography.com, “By 1599, William Shakespeare and his business partners built their own theater on the Southbank of the Thames River, which they called the Globe.” His famous quotes include “*All that glitters is not gold, Love all, trust a few, do wrong to none*” and “*It is not in the stars to hold our destiny but in ourselves.*” Not only are Shakespearean plays which include Romeo and Juliet, Macbeth and Othello still taught in schools today, the Globe Theatre still exists in London.



The Globe Theatre

History of Poetry

It is hard to trace the history of poetry but it is believed to have begun as early as the 18th century B.C. Consisting of Sumerian poems. The Epic of Gilgames is believed to be one of the first works of poetry. In a publication by S.N Kramer, *THE EPIC OF GILMAGES AND ITS SUMERIAN SOURCES*, he talks about the uniqueness of the poem in Babylonian literature. The song of Irra which is a counterpart to the Sumerian poem presents the Babylonian gods as the ones who hold the center stage and do not represent personified intellect and hold high spiritual forces. In contrast to that idea, the Epic of Gilgames holds man as the center of the stage. Man loves, cries, weeps and strives to achieve his goals. There are over 50 forms of poetry but the three main types of poetry include: narrative, lyrical and dramatic.

Narrative Poem: A person is telling a story where he/she can be a character in the narrative. It does not have to rhyme but the writer should aim to send a message across.

Lyrical Poem: A person is expressing their personal feelings in a lyric poem, it is usually in the first person.

Dramatic Poem: Mostly found in plays where characters express their thoughts through poetry.

Other forms of poetry include :

- **Sonnet** - a short rhyming poem with 14 lines.
- **Narrative** - A narrative poem tells the story of an event in the form of a poem
- **Haiku**- A Japanese poem composed of three unrhymed lines of five, seven, and five morae.
- **Ballad**- A poem that tells a story similar to a folk tale or legend which often has a repeated refrain.
- **Free Verse** -Poetry written in either rhyme or unrhymed lines that have no set fixed metrical pattern.
- **Carpe diem**- In Latin expression, meaning 'seize the day.' Carpe diem poems normally have themes surrounding living for today.
- **Epic**- A serious poem that tells the story that usually illustrates the extensive story about a heroic figure.
- **Lay**- A long narrative poem, especially one that was sung by medieval minstrels.
- **Pastoral**-A poem that depicts rural life in a peaceful, romanticized way.

Another prominent poet is Langston Hughes, who was an important figure in the Harlem Renaissance and made the African American experience the focus of his writings, which ranged

from poetry and plays to novels and newspaper columns. According to Encyclopedia Britannica on *Langston Hughes*, he wrote the poem “The Negro Speaks of Rivers” the summer after his graduation from high school in Cleveland. It was published in *The Crisis*, a newspaper in the 1920s that was the official magazine of the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People which brought him a good amount of attention.

He also wrote poetry which includes *The Panther and the Lash* which reflected and engaged with the Black Power movement, particularly, the Black Panther Party, which was founded the year before. One of his most notable poems is *I, Too, Sing America* where he writes about hope for a better future. One of his modern influences is on a popular singer and songwriter Solange Knowles who created an album, *A Seat At The Table*. This hit No. 1 on the *Billboard* charts. It showcases her political views and exploration on what it means to be black in America today.

I, Too, Sing America by Langston Hughes

I, too, sing America.

I am the darker brother.
They send me to eat in the kitchen
When company comes,
But I laugh,
And eat well,
And grow strong.

Tomorrow,
I'll be at the table
When company comes.
Nobody'll dare
Say to me,
"Eat in the kitchen,"
Then.

Besides,
They'll see how beautiful I am
And be ashamed--

I, too, am America.



My Works

Set me Free

Father's gone and the only thing left to do is mourn
 They took him from me and now I have only one
 Only one to share the pain and suffering
 But she is only so young and I'm a burden
 Life they say goes on
 But I wish I was never born
 This cruel world has done nothing but scorn
 Him, now she and me
 How would we ever live in a place where we aren't meant to be

I don't even want to be here
 All the faces i see filled with fear
 Demons, oh their demons so near
 And now i see it all clear
 Who is responsible for the evil that crawled into my life
 He who took and slain my loved one by the knife
 Do I favor thy child or hate with my breath
 A judgment, one to be set
 You and I from different worlds, yours hatred but mine love
 Intertwined, I can't clearly see but in the end, I choose me.

Forbidden Fate

Storyline: Two lovers from different communities want to get married but one culture prohibits getting married to someone from another tribe while the other does not. This is a scene where they are professing each other's love and one character is trying to convince the other to elope.

Character A: Kyle

Character B: Gweneth

Kyle: My love, will you run away with me?
 Your smile is the only thing I wish to see
 When I wake, I wish to feel
 Your heartbeat next to my skin

Gweneth: I wish I could, I want nothing else

You take away my every breath
 I love you from now and till death
 but our worlds cannot collide, it's been set

Kyle: Gweneth, if we make haste, by sundown we can marry
 Our young ones, we could name Peter and Sally
 My heart cannot go on without you
 My doom lies within your rejection, its true

Gweneth: It is not by my wish to inflict pain on thee,
 It is a tradition of mine,
 One that I grieve and sigh
 It is unlawful to wed a stranger, not from town
 The punishment, a death, and a frown.

Kyle: May we die a death of love
 Or may we live without the sun
 Please consider for you are my one
 A run to my town, a run never to come back
 A risk to take, a journey by the lake
 Your hands with mine, our hearts unite.

Gweneth: A wrong path, a rightful death
 I will be an example,
 My remains eaten by a cackle
 A story of rebellion

Kyle: Who blossoms like a beautiful dandelion
 She who by all odds rose and shone
 Her lover to be there till the dawn
 Right beside her until their destination
 What do you say, my love, will you be my salvation?

AFRICA

A is for the ancestors
 F is for the fight
 R is for me to exercise my right
 I is independent

C is for the culture
 A is for Africa nothing more

See You are african cause your roots are golden,
 The words of your ancestors spoken
 Are thought provoking

Back when they were nothing
 They used to pick the cotton
 Now they fought for for you to achieve everything to the button
 Do you respect the motherland,
 Or do you just rock the chain
 Do it for the culture and be proud of the name

They used to say african booty scratchers
 Now they say wakanda forever.
 I guess it now or never to be african
 I'll rock dashikis for the summer and call u my brother
 But i don't know crap about you, you just like any other.
 I like these beautiful african chains
 Maybe it's made from the ones which they brought the slaves.
 i don't know... at least i'm trying
 But when you say you don't speak africa you must be lying
 Like africa is a continent
 Why are you so condescend
 i mean you don't speak american
 It's not a consonant

And don't get me started, we don't live on trees
 Never seen a lion,
 Your Ignorance is a disease

Let me educate u, take you on a trip
 You see back in africa we got beautiful seas
 Oil, gold, honey, sweet
 The most beautiful kings and queens you will ever meet
 A king like no other other
 One example Nelson mandela
 Fought for south africa
 apartheid to be over

Locked behind bars,
 Couldn't see the stars but his revolution'
 Went farther than the fastest cars
 But what's a king without a queen

a difference like you ain't never seen

See an african queen she don't do it for fame
 She just stay in her lane
 She a dame you can't tame
 She never ashamed
 She protects her name
 She could kill you if you dare come for her kids

Damn i wanna be like her
 She my african queen, she's been at it for a while
 Never miss the the chance for a tale or a folklore
 ain't disrespected her mother so you
 Better listen though

African parents
 When they say bring the remote control
 You better not roll your eyes
 Or what's you gonna get beat is your damn ass
 They always first in class
 And they swear they got the best food... their jollof rice.

But we love em love em though
 They struggle 9 to 5 so we could have the dough
 Smile on faces, working hard in so many places
 Make sure our dreams we continue chasing
 Tell us to face our books and get of facebook
 Do the math, log off snapchat
 You best not get a b, others are getting a's they say that where we gotta be
 They our inspiration

So shoutout to the african parents that stand in formation

See now they gave

Gave birth to an african girl
 She could bring you to your knees
 without a touch or a kiss
 Her ideas first class, so damn bliss, you on the hook,
 Her mind to change the world got you shook
 See she's an african princess
 Heart so kind, she gonna put u out of your distress
 She aint no facade. U beg her to come around but
 She say she's college bound
 A pulchia [beauty in and out]
 She said u ever try anything funny and she'll knock you out

And the hadworking brothers
 They don't chase the ladies they chase they dollars
 They say imma make mama proud and become somebody
 For me she strive, so i gotta work never get bored
 I love her to death im gonna give her the world

Im African, you are too
 Never forget your roots
 Your golden roots
 Love your culture, love your heritage
 You see im nigerian, rock that definite
 Africa one love

Tears

A flood down her face
 No streams could replace
 If the river could compete,
 It will be left in defeat.
 A source of water,
 A merciless drop like no other.
 She cries for tomorrow,
 For her body knows nothing but sorrow.
 It dares not feel happiness,
 It longs for loneliness
 Bring out the sun,
 it's the only one

That could attempt to dry
Her tears, longer than river Nile.

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Tears

Forbidden Fate

Set me Free

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