

2a) Even Tho

identity free verse

metaphors

Phallic

Diction - Dialect, Heritage, Creole

Love is not predictable

CMATIC

SL ST

RAA (S) (L) M (S) (T) Deciding

regular - seductory regular?

one flesh

paralelism

poeticisation

similar

phonetically

phonetically

Ghana

Ghana

2a) Grace Nichols is an influential black poet from Ghana. She chooses to write her poem 'Even Tho', a celebration of love, phonetically to also celebrate her heritage and independence. Nichols does this through structure, language and imagery.

The title of Nichols' poem 'Even Tho' immediately causes us to question why an educated poet has decided to not write in standard English. Is she taking on a persona of a less

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educated person? No, she wants to celebrate the vibrant language of her heritage: Creole. Creole is a mixture of many African dialects and English. It was created on the plantations so that the slaves could hold onto some of their original identity and gain a feeling of freedom; the slave masters could not understand this dialect. Nichols uses Creole in her poem to represent her freedom. She Even though she wants to be with the man she loves, 'Man! Love', she wants to be her own person and hold onto her freedom to be herself in the relationship.

Nichols uses clever diction to present her thoughts and feelings on her relationship. Nichols chooses to use ~~po~~ words that create pallic images. This shows that she is not embarrassed by ~~the~~ intimacy and sex, she doesn't have to use euphemisms, she can talk openly about what she wants in a sexual relationship. Nichols says 'You be banana! I be avocado' to present her joy on the closeness they share. The sexual connotation in the line 'sweet one another up' shows that she wants to be loved by her 'Man', she

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wants to have fun. Yet, she does not want to let her 'Man' take all of her. She does not want to lose all her sense of self and identity. This is shown in the assertive line 'but won't let you devour'. This poetic phrase also presents sexual images showing that even though she loves her 'Man', she cannot let go of her 'person/ality' completely for her relationship.

Nichols uses strong figurative language in her poem 'Even Tho' to highlight her thoughts and feelings on her relationship. For example, 'I'm all watermelon / and starapple and plum' is a metaphor that uses sensory detail to represent Nichols' soft, sweet feeling for her lover. <sup>It shows how she melts at his 'touch'.</sup> The line metaphor 'I'm all seaross / and jellyfish / and tongue' shows how she connects these watery, wet relaxing objects to her thoughts about her 'Man'. ~~This shows~~ The quote could also be talking about sexual acts but links back to her direct and decisive tone, ensuring she keeps her identity while in the relationship.

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Nichols uses many devices to link her heritage to her relationship. She wants to show that she is proud of who she is; ~~and~~ however, she will not let her relationship diminish her identity and joy at being a confident, assertive, powerful woman. It is ironic, therefore, that she is uncontrollably in love with her man.

2bii) Many people believe that communication is essential in a strong relationship. Grace Nichols' poem 'Even Tho' is a powerful example of how stating what you want from a relationship can make it stronger and more intimate. In Elizabeth Jennings' poem 'One Flesh'; however, Jennings presents a relationship that has lost its power and joy ~~and~~ because the communication is lost between the couple.

The title 'One Flesh' presents unity in Jennings' poem. 'Flesh' symbolises the closeness and intimacy between a couple. The word 'One' shows how inseparable and together the couple must be. Joined in one, <sup>the</sup> love until death. The title is deceptive and ambiguous, however. The tone of the poem is immediately cold and matter-of-fact; <sup>'lying apart now'</sup> Jennings shows how quickly,

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once communications fail, relationships can disintegrate and the connection between the couple can be lost.

The tone of 'Even Tho' is totally different. Nichols is celebrating the intimacy and joy in the relationship, 'ceh we go to de carnival'. Nichols is demonstrating how, by communicating with your lover, both people in the relationship are able to share the love and excitement. Nichols shows this in the direct address she uses in the first line 'Man I Love'. This shows that she is confident and not afraid to challenge her lover. She believes in the power of words and communication to create and preserve a loving relationship.

In the final stanza of Jennings' poem 'One Flesh' many linguistic devices are used to show the distance between the couple 'my father and mother'. An example of parallelism 'Strangely apart, yet strangely close together' shows how, ironically, the couple are so close and have been before yet they have let their love slowly drift away, too far to find it again. ~~This~~

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Persnification and <sup>similies</sup> ~~metaphors~~ are ~~go~~ used in this stanza to show the physical distance between the couple: 'Silence between them like a thread to hold onto/ ~~This shows~~ And not wind in'. This line shows how close they are, how they still have a connecting yet they cannot find away to bring themselves back to a point where they are united and in deep passionate love. The persnification of 'silence' shows how powerful a barrier lack of communication is. The simile 'like a thread' shows the fragility of love and relationships and how the bond can break so easily.

In 'Even Tho' Nichols shows how love is ~~an~~ unpredictable and chaotic sometimes though her choice of structure: free verse. This shows the freedom and joy she has for being herself, although she and her lover still poses a strong bond 'leh we hung up/ and brace up'. This strong metaphor for sex shows how passionate and powerful their love is. Linking sex to a 'brace' shows how they are locked in true love that can never be broken. They have a strong relationship.

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'One Flesh' is a poignant exploration of how love can be lost over time. The thought-provoking final line 'Whose fire from which I came, has now grown cold', shows (through a metaphor) that some relationships are not deep enough to last through time. Nichols poem; however, expresses a positive view that love can last if there is communication and each person is able to 'keep to de motion/of we own personabily'.

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**TOTAL FOR SECTION B = 30 MARKS**  
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