

POETRY

Poem – Barolong Seboni

1 We do not need
2 these jaggered words
3 that dig a trench between us
4 each time they are uttered

5 those epithets
6 sharp like spokes
7 that pierce the heart when spoken

8 there is no room in my cup
9 for these acidic words of sarcasm
10 that corrode my sensitivity

11 these cold and icy terms tossed
12 to deaden the heart
13 venomous words
14 from your serpentine tongue
15 that infect the feeling ...

16 Let us speak, love
17 in gentler tones
18 timid as the lamb
19 is soft
20 woolly words
21 worn to stand strong against the
22 cold-bitterness of the world.

23 Better still
24 let us search in our speech
25 for words deep as the soul is still
26 that will spell our thoughts
27 in the silence of our smiles.

'sharp like spokes' (line 6) is a ...

- A metaphor.
- B simile.
- C paradox.
- D euphemism.

6.2.1

- 6.2.2 Explain why the speaker compares sarcasm to acid (lines 8–10). (2)
- 6.2.3 Why does the speaker use ellipsis in line 15 ('that infect the feeling ...')? (2)
- 6.2.4 Refer to lines 20–21 ('woolly words worn').
- (a) Apart from alliteration, identify another figure of speech used in these lines. (1)
- (b) Explain why this figure of speech is relevant in this poem. (2)
- 6.2.5 Why is the following statement FALSE?
Hurtful words are carefully chosen. (1)
- 6.2.6 Explain the meaning of lines 26–27 ('that will spell ... of our smiles'). (2)
- 6.2.7 One of the themes of this poem is love and hate.
Discuss how this theme is relevant to the poem. (3)

6.2.8 Do you think the speaker's use of 'jagged words' (line 2) contribute effectively to the message of the poem?

Discuss your view.

(3)