POETRY

Poem – Barolong Seboni

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

those epithets
sharp like spokes
that pierce the heart when spoken

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

these cold and icy terms tossed
to deaden the heart
venomous words
from your serpentine tongue
that infect the feeling …

Let us speak, love
in gentler tones
timid as the lamb
is soft
woolly words
worn to stand strong against the
cold-bitterness of the world.

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

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

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

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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)

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

Discuss your view. (3)

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