

What connects Wordsworth's Daffodils with Braithwaite's Ogun? What connects the vision of some daffodils in the Lake District with the Island of Haiti in the Caribbean?

Today you are going to look at two great poets: Edward Kamau Braithwaite and William Wordsworth. Their work is separated by time and space. But the world is a small place, and as you make your journey from the Lake District to the masks of Africa you may find that they are not so far apart in the kinds of things that fired their imagination to write poetry. You can explore the questions in any order that you like, or in the order that you find the information, but you may find that the final questions at the end require you to have an in depth knowledge before you are able to answer them best. Enjoy!

- 1) Where is the Lake District?
 - 2) Where is Haiti?
 - 3) Who was Wordsworth?
 - 4) Where did Wordsworth write the poem 'Daffodils'?
 - 5) What was the name of his sister?
 - 6a) William and his sister often went to visit a friend who lived near to their home in the Lakes? b) What was the name of this friend and what did he campaign against?
 - 7) When William and his sister saw the daffodils whose house were they on the way back from?
 - 8) Compare Dorothy's notes on what she saw as they looked across the Lake with William's early attempts at writing 'Daffodils'. What differences/similarities do you notice in their writing?
- Each time you make a comment, remember to give an example of a line, phrase or word from the text to support your ideas.
- 9) Find the poem by Wordsworth: 'Toussaint L'Ouverture'
 - a) Have a quick look at it and write down what you think the poem is about and why.
 - b) Now find the knowledge bank about Toussaint L'Ouverture – who was he?

c) Now go back to the poem about him that Wordsworth wrote: what do you think Wordsworth was trying to say about Toussaint L'Ouverture? You can discuss this with a friend and/or your teacher before you make your final choice.

Each time you make a comment, remember to argue your point with evidence from the poem.

10) What is an Orixá (pronounced Orisha)?

11a) Which Orixá was Toussaint L'Ouverture associated with and why?

b) What are the key characteristics of this Orixá when he appears in ritual masquerades?

c) How does he dance?

d) What are his colours?

e) What does he do to signal his arrival?

f) What features in his costume?

g) What material is he associated with and why?

12) Now find the picture of the African mask

a) What do you think the mask is made out of?

b) Are the eyes almond shaped and slanted like slits or large and round?

c) Is the mouth small or large?

d) Is the face and jaw quite heavy do you think?

13) Find out about African carvers of masks.

a) How would you describe the role of the carver in African society and ritual masquerade?

b) What is believed to happen when a carver makes a mask of an Orixá?

14) Now look at the poem called Ogun in your groups and then again with your teacher.

a) Analyse the poem to find references to the Orixá Ogun

b) Make a list of those lines, phrases or words which refer directly to the Orixá Ogun

15). Look at the last lines of the poem who or what do you think these lines refer to, the carver, the mask of Ogun or both? Remember to maintain your argument with evidence.

16) When is a trellis just a trellis (Line 19)? What is a trellis? Draw a typical trellis and then compare that with the intersecting image that your teacher has on the OHT.

17). When you have discussed this image, read lines 15 to 19 again, what do you think the poet is referring to when he writes about 'intersecting x' 'triangle' 'trellises'?

18) Knowing what you do now about 'Ogun' the Orixá, what ideas do you think the poet was trying to get across and why – discuss this in your groups and also with your teacher.
