

First Day After the War

Mazisi Kunene (1930–2006)

Political/Activist/Protest

Glossary

Coiling — form spirals

Ululating — wailing/howling

Tone: (Author's attitude or feelings about the subject)
Energetic

Mood: (Readers emotions from reading the text)
Joyful

Theme:
Triumphs over oppression

Form:

Free verse

Repetitive form of the line structure (l12-15)

Implying the overwhelming joy prompted an unrestrained physical response and people responded impulsively

Poetic Devices

Simple/effective diction to capture the scene adds spontaneous nature of excitement displayed—actions speak for themselves

Mazisi Kunene wrote much of his poetry in South Africa, in the time of apartheid, a period in which black people were discriminated against and oppressed. His poem describes the joy that people felt at the ending of this system of government. The poem lists a number of ways in which the people celebrate the news. Notice the variety of the actions and the jubilation this shows. The news is so wonderful that we see how people of all types celebrate together.

