

GLOSSARY

Acres — remnant
Smoulder — burn slowly w/o flames
Hoe — remnant
Prowl — remnant
Languor's — tenderness
Imbibes — absorb/soak up
Unquenched — unsatisfied
Unsmotherable — inextinguishable/cant put out
Ferocity — fierceness
Looms — rises before

Theme: Triumph over exploitation/pathetic recreation of hardship of endurance of SA people

Form:
Regulated form
5 stanzas with 4 lines with same rhyme pattern= 5 quatrains
Stanzas relate because of pattern
Rhyme scheme: ABAB / CDCD / EFFE / GHGH / IJJI

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

Mood: (Readers emotions from reading the text)
Foreboding

The Zulu Girl

Roy Campbell (1901–1957)
Modern/South African Poet

Setting: Description of a hot landscape where labourers work. Simply an observation of a Zulu woman feeding her child. Closer it becomes clear it's about oppression of women.

Sympathy/admiration

Epithet—adjectives of similar meaning

Not a wife—lost tradition to modern world

Gang = people instead of individuals/no identity/forced to work/no individuality/identity.

1 When in the sun the hot red acres smoulder

2 Down where the sweating gang its labour plies

3 A girl flings down her hoe, and from her shoulder

4 Unslings her child tormented by flies. Malnourished

Girl flings her hoe to feed her child= rebellious act
Mass production vs. reproduction responsibilities.

5 She takes him to a ring of shadow pooled

6 By the thorn-tree: purpled with the blood of ticks,

7 While her sharp nails, in slow caresses ruled

8 Prowl through his hair with sharp electric clicks.

Metaphor: fierce animal—shows protective nature of mother

Onomatopoeia: hard + sharp sound

Metaphor: coolness of a shadow = pool

The care that the mother shows for her child: looking for ticks + lice = emphasizes the poor conditions in which they're forced to live.

9 His sleepy mouth, plugged by the heavy nipple,

10 Tugs like a puppy, grunting as he feels;

11 Through his frail nerves her own deep languor's ripple

12 Like a broad river sighing through the reeds.

13 Yet in that drowsy stream his flesh imbibes

14 And old unquenched, unsmotherable heat-

15 The curbed ferocity of beaten tribes,

16 The sullen dignity of their defeat.

17 Her body looms above him like a hill

18 Within whose shade a village lies at rest,

19 Or the first cloud so terrible and still

20 That bears the coming harvest in its breast.

Not final—Day of reckoning is inevitable

Cloud that brings the rain that'll lead to a harvest. Metaphor: children of the oppressed will one day reap the harvest of their suffering they'll overcome their oppression with the help from their mothers like the 'Zulu Girl' in the poem.

Personification: revolution/freedom

Simile: protects all oppressed children. Mother metaphorically becomes a hill that overshadows a whole village. No longer just the mother of the child she represents all the mothers of all the children of the oppressed.

Metaphor: unstoppable African spirit. Underlying message = child is symbol of Zulu nation L14—refers to fierce warriors of Zulu tribe. Strength of Zulu people still exist despite oppression.

Personification—sighing—groaning/tired after hard work.

Simile: L10—innocent/harmless + natural activity
L12—more than nutritional sustenance
Pain + sadness of history— great river

Weary/unenthusiastic/hopeless

Woman breastfeeds her child. Plugged—immense hunger: He's hungry + tugs her nipple. How people are viewed: Puppy=child
Dog=mom
Mom doesn't see her child like this. She feels overwhelming tenderness.

Life has value: important life process

Looking up at her from child eyes
Impressive statuesque—shielding + protecting

Words relating to heat:
→ Sun
→ Hot
→ Red
→ Smoulder
→ Sweating
→ Unquenched

Land is almost too hot to bear + could burst into flames.

Men = culture
Women = Nature