

LITERATURE IN ENGLISH

SS2

WEEK 3

DATE:

African Poetry: "A Government Driver on his Retirement" Cont'd (setting, themes and structure)

SETTING

The setting of this poem is **Nigeria** where workers are expected to retire after thirty five years of service. Workers who work diligently are often rewarded at the end of their service. In the poem, the driver is rewarded with a brand new car.

THEMES/MORAL LESSONS

The poem, "A Government Driver on his Retirement" explores the following themes.

1. We should always drive with caution at all times.
2. The dangers of driving after drunkenness.
3. Abuse of meritorious celebration.
4. Retirement after service to fatherland.
5. The reward of diligence to service.
6. Dedication, faithfulness and commitment to career.
7. The tragic consequences of choice (death).

STRUCTURE

The poem is written in thirty three lines of six stanzas, stanza 1, 2, 4, 5, and 6 are written in quatrains while stanza 3 is written in octave. The poem has no rhyme schemes. The poem can be divided into three in form. One part is spoken by a narrator, the second part is about the driver himself. In this part, the driver invites his friends to the celebration to mark his retirement. In the third part the consequences of the driver's actions. The poem is written in a third person point of view as the use of third person pronouns "he, his and him" dominates the poem.

HOMEWORK

1. List and discuss five (5) **themes** in "A Government Driver on his Retirement"
2. Give a vivid description of the structure of the poem, "A Government Driver on his Retirement".