

Charles Mungoshi
If you don't stay bitter for too long
More challenging questions!

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Charles Mungoshi was born of farming parents in Rhodesia -- now Zimbabwe -- in 1947. He is regarded as one of his country's most prominent writers.

He has written novels, short stories and poetry, using both the Shona and English languages. It has been said that his work deals subtly with the cultural complexities of Zimbabwe, and especially of the conflict between the younger and older generations as well as the different rural and urban loyalties.

From 1975 to 1981, Mungoshi worked for the Literature Bureau of Zimbabwe as an editor, and then joined the Zimbabwe Publishing House. Later he became the "Writer in Residence" at the University of Zimbabwe. After that, however, he tended to work freelance.

It has been said that Mungoshi's poetry paints a "multi-layered world of meaning" in which he uses a short and condensed style of writing. It has also been said that his poetry rarely makes socio-political statements but this is questionable. Indeed, his socio-political comments are sometimes hidden in what appears to be a rather simple comment on reality.

His writings have won him several awards, including an Honorary Doctorate from the University of Zimbabwe.

GENERAL QUESTIONS:

1. What is the TONE of this poem? (4)
2. Comment on the poet's style of writing. (10)
3. What message is the poet proposing? (2)
4. Comment on the poet's use of the personal pronoun "you" throughout this poem. (4)
5. Is there any point to the use of the lower case throughout the poem? (4)
6. "Mungoshi's poetry has generally been perceived as rarely making socio-political statements."
 - What is meant by a "socio-political statement". (2)
 - Is the above statement true in the context of this poem? In other words, is the poet making any socio-political statements here? (4)

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