

Sandile Dikeni
Love poem for my country
More questions to challenge you!

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This is a simple poem where a poet depicts his love for South Africa, calling forth praise from the valleys, the plains, the mountains and the sea, as well as from all the people living therein. It is, however, poetry with a purpose: to unite the people in fervour for their country. This is not the poet speaking of his own inner self but rather the poet striking a nationalistic tone.

1. "My country
is for joy
so talk the mountains
with baboons
hopping from boulder to boulder
in the majestic delight
of cliffs and peaks"
 - Why would the poet choose the mountains to symbolize joy? (4)
 - Why does the poet speak of the "majestic delight of cliffs and peaks"? (4)
2. "My country
is for health and wealth"
 - What items does the poet choose as examples of "health" and "wealth"? (4)
 - Is the poet's juxtapositioning of "health" and "wealth" a logical one? (4)
3. "hear
the golden voice
of a miner's praise
for my country"
 - Is the poet being romantic rather than accurate when speaking of "the golden voice" of the miners? (4)

GENERAL QUESTIONS:

4. In the final two stanzas, the poet moves away from personification and calls instead for a use of human observation.
 - What words underline this change? (3)
5. The poet adopts a most romantic stance within the final two stanzas.
 - Is he correct in doing so? (4)
6. Comment on the words "we shall celebrate" as a fitting conclusion to this poem. (4)

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