

MONGANEWALLYSEROTE

National Poet Laureate Hub

PODCAST EPISODE 2

THEME: Freedom
GUESTS: Musa Masombuka & Raquelle Brennan

RAQUELLE BRENNAN

Stagnation

The tap would not turn,
The valve could not open And in the puddle below My grey water seemed golden. I found it reflected
A stagnated hope
That shattered like glass At the throwing of stones.

I swallowed the nothing That itched at my throat, I drank in the dust
On the surface afloat;
And still in the puddle
A reflection of hope
For insurance of survival I needed to cope.

The tap, it was rusted,
The paint peeled away. The metallic circumference Rimmed with decay.
Drip, drip
Two drops a day
They fell on my tongue
Before melting away.

The drops kept me nourished, But unsettled a need.
It drowned my wanting
And revived my greed.
I hungered for more
The tap would not concede, So I moved to another
Before the vultures could feed.

I travel in circles,
Mimicking time
In the west it has rest,

In the east it gives rise.
I turn on my back
And cover my eyes
My mind in stagnation,
My thoughts in the skies.

I awake in the puddle
My hair is all wet
I travel in circles,
How can I forget?
The tap is my fate,
But it still does not open My hope has stagnated, My soul has been broken.

So, still I lay,
My thoughts in a muddle My head in grey water,
A stagnated puddle.
Drip, drip
Two drops a day
I move aside,
And let them fall on the rubble.

Time went full circle,
From sky to the ground, I continue to lay,
Not making a sound.
Drip, drop
The puddle now ripples; A body of water
Before a stagnated cripple.

Time shines above,
Evaporating my soul
And down below,
The grey water turns gold It glistens with hope,
Now I finally know
You need to water a puddle If you want it to flow.

SCORE

- Relevance to the theme 5/3
- Creativity (imagination & innovation) 5/4
- Style 5/5
- Originality (unique interpretation of the theme) 5/5
- The coherence of form and structure (harmony of words, presentation) 5/3
- Clarity of imagery 5/3
- Creative use of language 5/4
- Creative storytelling 5/5
- Overall impact/ Power 5/5
- Edutainment value 5/3

MUSA MASOMBUKA

VII

I have asked Pain,
why she has decided to foster us —
She said, Death has bad parenting skills
he is careless, selfish, and abusive
“I do not want you to go through what I have been.”

Pain says to me,
“I am not perfect,
I try and adjust to people’s differences
and I am somehow understanding.
Give me a try.”

I then asked Death,
what he has to say about the allegations.
He said, Pain is such a nagging child
persistent, and annoying too.
“My patience runs out quick. I rid of what bothers me.”

I then decided to give Pain some chance.

SCORE

- Relevance to the theme 5/5
- Creativity (imagination & innovation) 5/5
- Style 5/5
- Originality (unique interpretation of the theme) 5/5
- The coherence of form and structure (harmony of words, presentation) 5/4
- Clarity of imagery 5/3
- Creative use of language 5/5
- Creative storytelling 5/5
- Overall impact/ Power 5/4
- Edutainment value 5/5

TOTAL50/46

WINNER & REMARKS

MUSA MASOMBUKA

While a bit weak in some of the criteria, besides keeping to the theme and being creative with it, he explores aspects of life with creativity.