



Provincial Department of Education- Sabaragamuwa-Week School

Subject- Appreciation of English

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Literary Texts

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Grade - 10

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### The Clown's Wife (Johnson Agard)

1. Search web or any other available resource and **write a short paragraph on the poet**, Johnson Agard.
2. Read the poem and answer the following questions.
  - a) Who speaks about the clown?
  - b) How does the clown look like when he is on the stage?
  - c) How does the clown behave when he comes home?
  - d) What does the wife do to cheer him up?
  - e) Does the wife know what goes on inside the husband's mind?
  - f) What does the clown say to himself? Do you think that he is happy?
3. Find **suitable quotations** to the following facts in the plot.
  - a) The clown is the cynosure (central attraction) of the audience.
  - b) The cynosure of the stage becomes merely a spectator at home.
  - c) In reality, he bears a great burden on his shoulders.
  - d) The dual personality of the clown.
  - e) The lack of mutual understanding between the wife and the clown.
  - f) The desire of the clown to play his true role at home without being a clown.

4. Find out the **literary techniques** in the poem.

5. Answer these Context questions

- i) "... On stage, he's a different person  
Up there he's a king on a throne,..."
  - a) From Where are these lines taken? Who wrote them?
  - b) Who is referred to as 'he'? Who is speaking here?
  - c) Name the literary device used to describe 'he'. What effect does it create?
  
- ii) "... But he doesn't say exactly how he feels,  
doesn't say what's bothering him inside ..."
  - a) From Where are these lines taken? Who wrote them?
  - b) Who speaks these words? Who is referred to as 'he'?
  - c) What may be the reason for his mute behaviour?

6. What are the main points that you should pay your attention when writing the answer for the essay type question below?

In the poem, 'The Clown's Wife', the poet Johnson Agard mainly discusses about one's appearance and reality. Describe how people appear in public without showing their real personal states.

Eg : How clown performs on the stage