

Suffering

Indicate which question you are answering by marking a cross ☒. If you change your mind, put a line through the box ☒ and then indicate your new question with a cross ☒.

Chosen question number: Question 5 ☒ Question 6 ☒

Question 7 ☒ Question 8 ☒

Please write the name of your two studied texts below:

Text 1: Wide Sargasso Sea, Jean Rhys.

Text 2: North, Seamus Heaney.

The theme of Suffering that occurs when boundaries are crossed is evident in the collection of poetry, North, by Seamus Heaney and the novel Wide Sargasso Sea, by Jean Rhys.

In part one of Wide Sargasso Sea, Antoinette's mother, Annette is moved to be looked after as she has gone insane. This is because of Antoinette's family have had their house put on fire by ex-slaves, resulting in the death of Antoinette's brother, Pierre. This results in Antoinette saying 'I soon forgot about happiness', showing how the suffering of losing her family has consumed her. The word 'soon' also conveys how she had no-one to grieve with, therefore dealing with the loss of two family members on her own at a young age. This boundary into isolation is pushed when Tia throws a



'jagged rock' at her when she runs to her for ~~sympathy~~ Sympathy, leaving Annette with no family, and no friends. The adjective 'jagged' is used by Rhys to inflict a greater suffering of Annette as blood is drawn because of the violent act. The adjective also connotes a harsh plosive sound, linking to Annette's reality, ^{because of} the ^{harsh} outcome of the house fire.

Seamus Heaney also describes suffering as boundaries are crossed in the poem 'Ocean's love to Ireland'. Heaney uses the idea of rape by Raleigh, the English explorer in the ~~late~~ 1600's to the oppression that England had over Ireland. The unwanted suffering is portrayed through the simile, 'backed the maid to a tree as Ireland is backed to England'. This likens the fact that England and Raleigh are causing the same result; England is oppressing Ireland and Raleigh is raping an Irish maid, leaving devastating effects on both Ireland and the maid.

In part two of Wide Sargasso Sea, Rochester narrates his experience on his honeymoon to Spanish town with his newly



wed, Annette. When he gets to the Jamaican island, he does not like it. The repetition of 'too' in 'Too much blue, too much purple, too much green...', shows how the change in culture and setting is making Rochester Suffer because he has crossed the boundary into a different country, in which he is not used to. This then sparks the fact that he doesn't really like Annette's background, which leads to the breakdown of their marriage straight away.

The poem 'Summer 1969' also explains the boundary of location, as Heaney is faced with the 'bullying Sun of Madrid'. This metaphor denotes how the Sun in a different country is making him Suffer. This is because he is not used to it, just like Rochester is not used to Jamaica. The lexis 'bullying' also links to the troubles that was going on in Ireland at the time of the poem. The Catholics against protestants represents the boundary of religion and culture, similar to the boundary of a white male Englishman against Creole's in wide Sargasso Sea.



Part three of *Wide Sargasso Sea* is switched back to Antoinette narrating from Rochester's house in England where she has been locked away as she has started her descent into madness. This was after biting Rochester's arm in Jamaica; Rochester knew he had to take her away. Antoinette explains her recurring nightmare through the repetition of suffering by burning. In this nightmare she feels that a 'lamp was burning', her 'own candle had burned' and 'flames flickered'. The alliteration conveys the harsh tone in Antoinette's dream which links to why she is suffering, being locked away. The repetition of burning also foreshadows the end of the novel, where she is seen walking down the hallway with a candle.

Heaney's poem 'Whatever you Say Say Nothing' also explains suffering through the troubles in Ireland. Heaney encounters an English journalist that is searching for 'views on the Irish thing'. The lexis 'thing' conveys that the war going on between the protestants and the Catholics is unfamiliar to England, therefore making the



people of Ireland mad, as he has crossed
the boundary from England to Ireland and
doesn't represent the suffering going on in
Ireland through the 1900's

★ as at this time is ~~the 1830's~~ the 1830's
there were no asylums or ideas around
mental health. The women just used to be
locked away and looked after by a maid, just
like Antoinette is looked after by Grace Pade.

