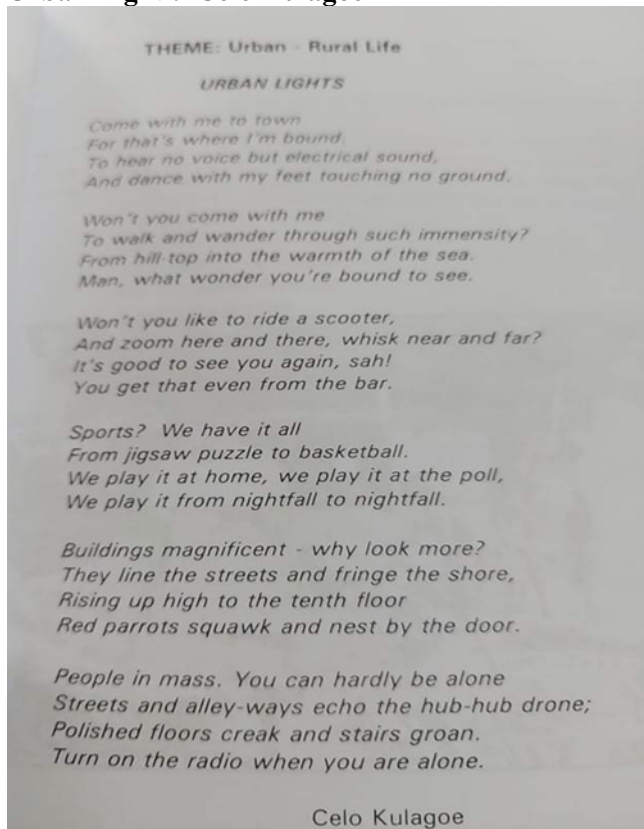


Strand	LISTENING AND SPEAKING
Sub Strand	1.2. POETRY
Content Learning Outcome	Explain the poem in terms of the important message, setting, styles and its relevance to real life situations.

Urban Light : Celo Kulagoe



FORM

This poem is made up of six stanzas or verses. Each stanza is made up of four lines . The rhyme scheme is aaaa, bbbb, cccc, dddd, eeee, ffff. The poem has a strong beat, which gives the reader as sense of future fun and excitement.

CONTENT

The persona is trying to persuade the listener to go with him/her to the city, where promises to be a new and more exciting life.

The first stanza says they should go together to the city so they can enjoy the bright lights and social life , where they can feel like they are dancing on air.

The second stanza is where the persona uses the greatness of the city, with so much to see, as another lure, or more bait. It's not just a little one-street town or village.

The third stanza mentions modern transportation to add to the persuasion. With modern transportation, one can go anywhere and be welcomed and flattered.

The fourth stanza uses the variety of entertainment and sports available in the city as another good reason to go to the city.

The fifth stanza mentions the modern infrastructure like the tall buildings that line the streets and foreshore.

Finally, in the sixth stanza, there is the promise of meeting more people, because there are so many people in the city.

POETIC DEVICES USED

1. Repetition :

The phrase , “ come with me “ is used by the poet to begin the first two stanzas. It is used to emphasize the idea of going with the persona to the city; to convince the listener that that is the right thing to do. It also gives a sense of urgency to the invitation.

The repetition of “ won’t you..?” has a similar effect.

The repetition of “ we play it “.....emphasizes the idea of life being a game.

2. Onomatopoeia :

“ zoom here and there “ , “ parrots squawk ”, “ floors creak ” , “ stairs groan” etc

They are all examples of onomatopoeia, where words are chosen to resemble the sound they are describing, thus making the poem more vibrant and memorable.

3. Use of vivid imagery:

The poet uses vivid imagery especially to appeal to sight and sound (onomatopoeia).

Sight

“ dance with my feet touching no ground “

“ they line the streets and fringe the shore “

“ red parrots squawk and nest by the door”

“ polished floors”

“ turn on the radio when you are alone”

4. Inversion: (anastrophe)

The usual word order is reversed : “ Buildings magnificent ” , to stress the idea of the rise of big buildings .

5. Rhetorical Questions:

The persona in the poem asks several rhetorical questions. The poet does this to give the idea of a speech. The persona is actually giving a persuasive speech to the person he/she is addressing. Rhetorical questions also make listeners think about what is being said, or what will be spoken about next.

6. The use of innuendo:

Innuendo is a play on words, or using words and phrases that can have two different meanings. The second meaning is usually negative or is critical or mocking.

In each stanza, usually the last line, is an example of innuendo :

“ And dance with my feet touching no ground “ : *Life can become unreal in the city. All this entertainment is not what life is really about.*

“ Man, what wonder you’re about to see.” : *There are wonders everywhere, if you just look.*”

“ You get that even from the bar.” : *Modernisation can take you everywhere, even where you never expected to go , or be found , where you will be flattered for your money.*

“ We play it at home, we play it at the poll
We play it from nightfall to nightfall. ”. : *People play games that have nothing to do with sports, and they do not follow any rules. These games affect anything from family life to the well-being of the country.*

“ fringe the shore ”: *Buildings are replacing nature. They now stand where trees once stood.*

“ Red parrots squawk and nest by the door.” The buildings are magnificent and look great, BUT *some are not being used to full capacity.....they are just for show....birds (and maybe other animals)now use the unused floors as their homes.*

“ Polished floors creak and stairs groan

Turn on the radio when you are alone.” : There are masses of people in the city, BUT *there are still scared and lonely people in the city, whose only companions may be characters on television and the radio .*

THEMES

- A. The town/city has a lot to offer , but not all of it is good.
- B. One can be lonely anywhere, even in a big city or town.
- C. Sometimes people will cheat and break rules to get what they want.
- D. A lot of things are just for show. The reality can be very different.