



מצאתי

Finding a symbolic representation for the poem

Intro Activities

- Read through the poem
- Note any poetic devices used, and explain how they add to the meaning
- What do you think the poem is about? Explain why
- How does it connect with you, your world? What does it make you think about, or question?

INVICTUS

IN THE SHADOW OF OLYMPUS

OUT OF THE NIGHT THAT COVERS ME,
BLACK AS THE PIT FROM POLE TO POLE,
I THANK WHATEVER GODS MAY BE,
FOR MY UNCONQUERABLE SOUL.

IN THE FELL CLUTCH OF CIRCUMSTANCE,
I HAVE WINCED BUT NOT CRIED ALOUD.
UNDER THE BUDGEONINGS OF CHANCE,
MY HEAD IS BLOODED BUT UNBOWED.

BEYOND THIS PLACE OF WRATH AND TEARS,
LOOMS BUT THE HORROR OF THE SHADE,
AND YET THE MENACE OF THE YEARS,
FINDS, AND SHALL FIND ME, UNAFRAID.

IT MATTERS NOT HOW STRAIT THE GATE,
HOW CHARGED WITH PUNISHMENTS THE SCROLL,
I AM THE MASTER OF MY FATE,
I AM THE CAPTAIN OF MY SOUL.

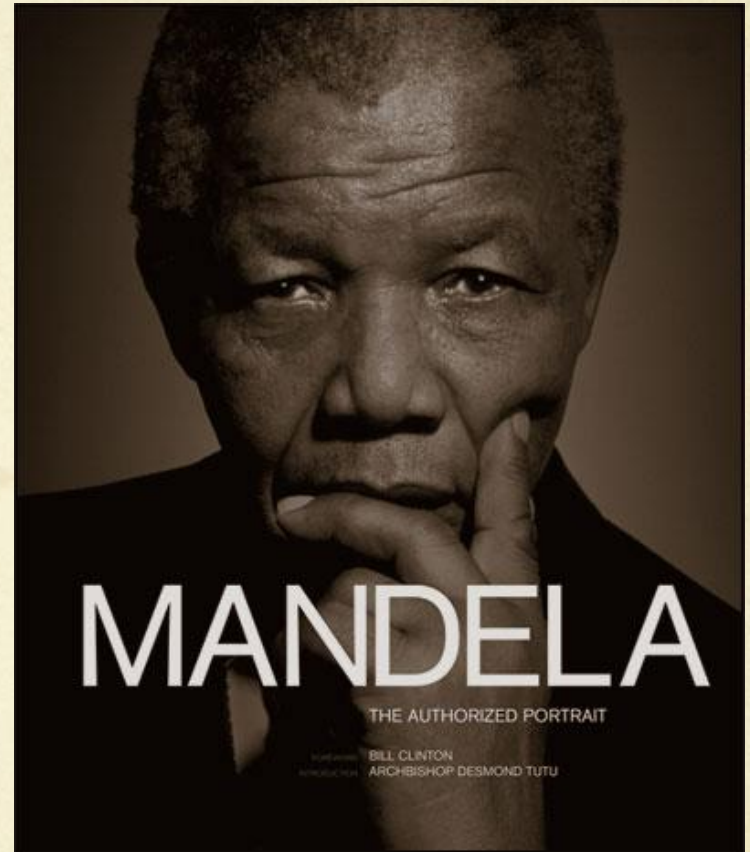
- WILLIAM ERNEST HENLEY (1875)

Invictus - Poem that Inspired A Nation



Contextual Info

- While incarcerated on Robben Island prison, Nelson Mandela recited the poem to other prisoners and was empowered by its message of self-mastery.
- In the movie *Invictus*, Mandela gives the captain of the national South African rugby team the poem to inspire him to lead his team to a Rugby World Cup win, telling him how it inspired him in prison.



Nelson Mandela on Oprah

Contextual Info



- At the age of 12, Henley contracted tuberculosis of the bone. A few years later, the disease progressed to his foot, and physicians announced that the only way to save his life was to amputate directly below the knee. It was amputated when he was 17. Stoicism inspired him to write this poem. Despite his disability, he survived with one foot intact and led an active life until his death at the age of 53.(Wikipedia)

William Ernest Henley *Vanity Fair* 26
November 1892

Selecting a symbolic representation of theme

- First, create a valid, universal theme statement for *Invictus*, then support it with proof and examples from the poem. Write it in a paragraph in PPE format.
- Then, for each of the following images, consider:
 - Does it accurately portray the theme of the poem?
 - How does it connect to the elements in the poem?
 - Is the message clear?



INVICTUS

OUT OF THE NIGHT THAT COVERS ME,
BLACK AS THE PIT FROM POLE TO POLE,
I THANK WHATEVER GODS MAY BE
FOR MY UNCONQUERABLE SOUL.

IN THE FELL CLUTCH OF CIRCUMSTANCE
I HAVE NOT WINCED NOR CRIED ALOUD.
UNDER THE BLUDGEONINGS OF CHANCE
MY HEAD IS BLOODY, BUT UNBOWED.

BEYOND THIS PLACE OF WRATH AND TEARS
LOOMS BUT THE HORROR OF THE SHADE,
AND YET THE MENACE OF THE YEARS
FINDS, AND SHALL FIND, ME UNAFRAID.

IT MATTERS NOT HOW STRAIT THE GATE,
HOW CHARGED WITH PUNISHMENTS THE SCROLL,
I AM THE MASTER OF MY FATE:
I AM THE CAPTAIN OF MY SOUL.

Does it accurately portray
the theme of the poem?

How does it connect to the
elements in the poem?

Is the message clear?

2

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How does it connect to the elements in the poem?

Is the message clear?



Under the bludgeoning
of

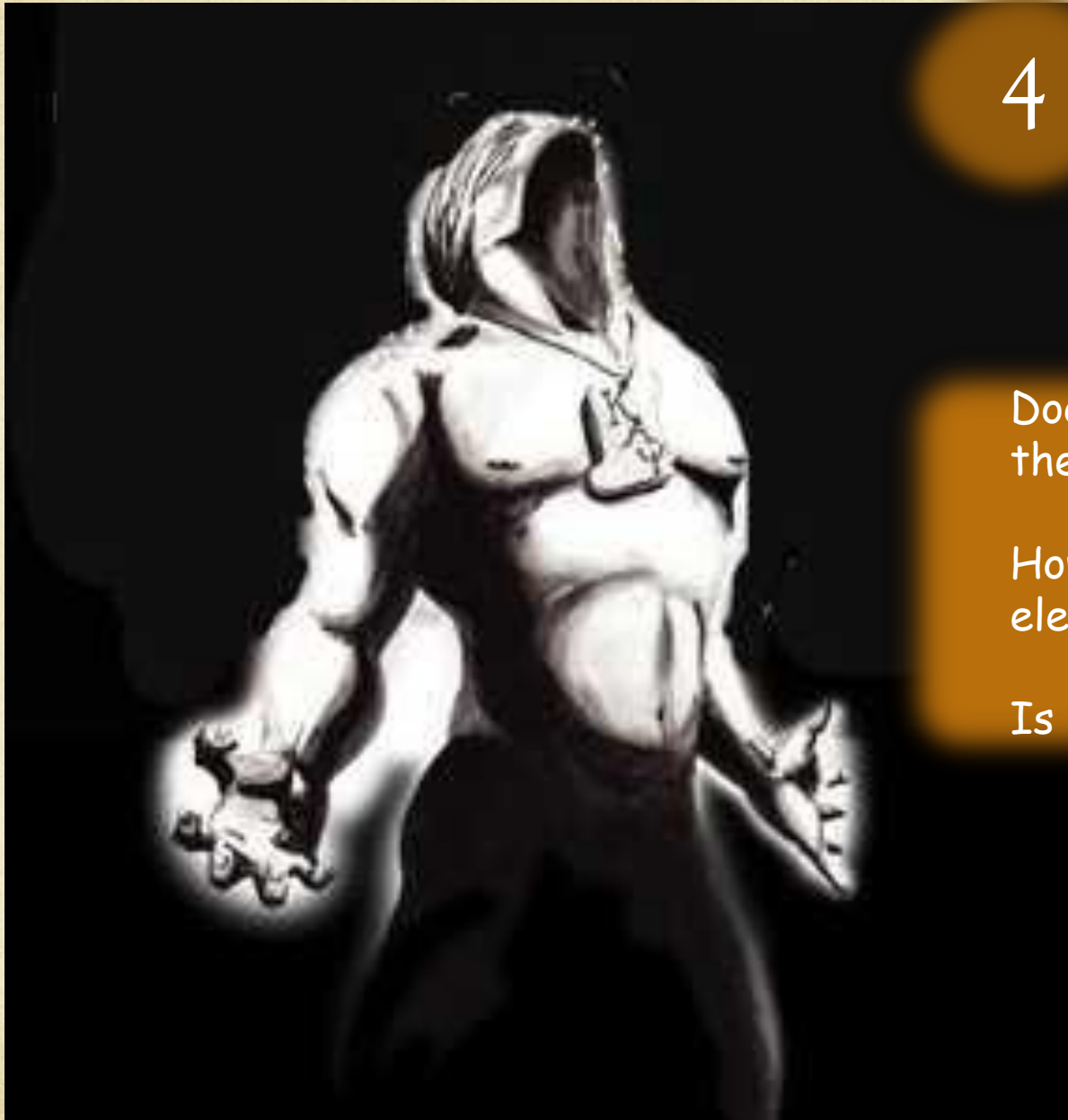


Does it accurately portray
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How does it connect to the
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Is the message clear?

4



Does it accurately portray the theme of the poem?

How does it connect to the elements in the poem?

Is the message clear?



Invictus

Out of the night that covers me,
Black as the pit from pole to pole,
I thank whatever gods may be
For my unconquerable soul.

In the fell clutch of circumstance
I have not winced nor cried aloud.
Under the bludgeonings of chance
My head is bloody, but unbowed.

Beyond the grave of wrath and tears
Looming but the Horror of the shade,
And yet the menace of the years
Finds and shall find me unafraid.

I neither hate nor shrug the gale,
Nor charged with punishments the soul,
I am the master of my fate,
I am the captain of my soul.

William Ernest Henley

Does it accurately portray
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6



Does it accurately portray the theme of the poem?

How does it connect to the elements in the poem?

Is the message clear?

7

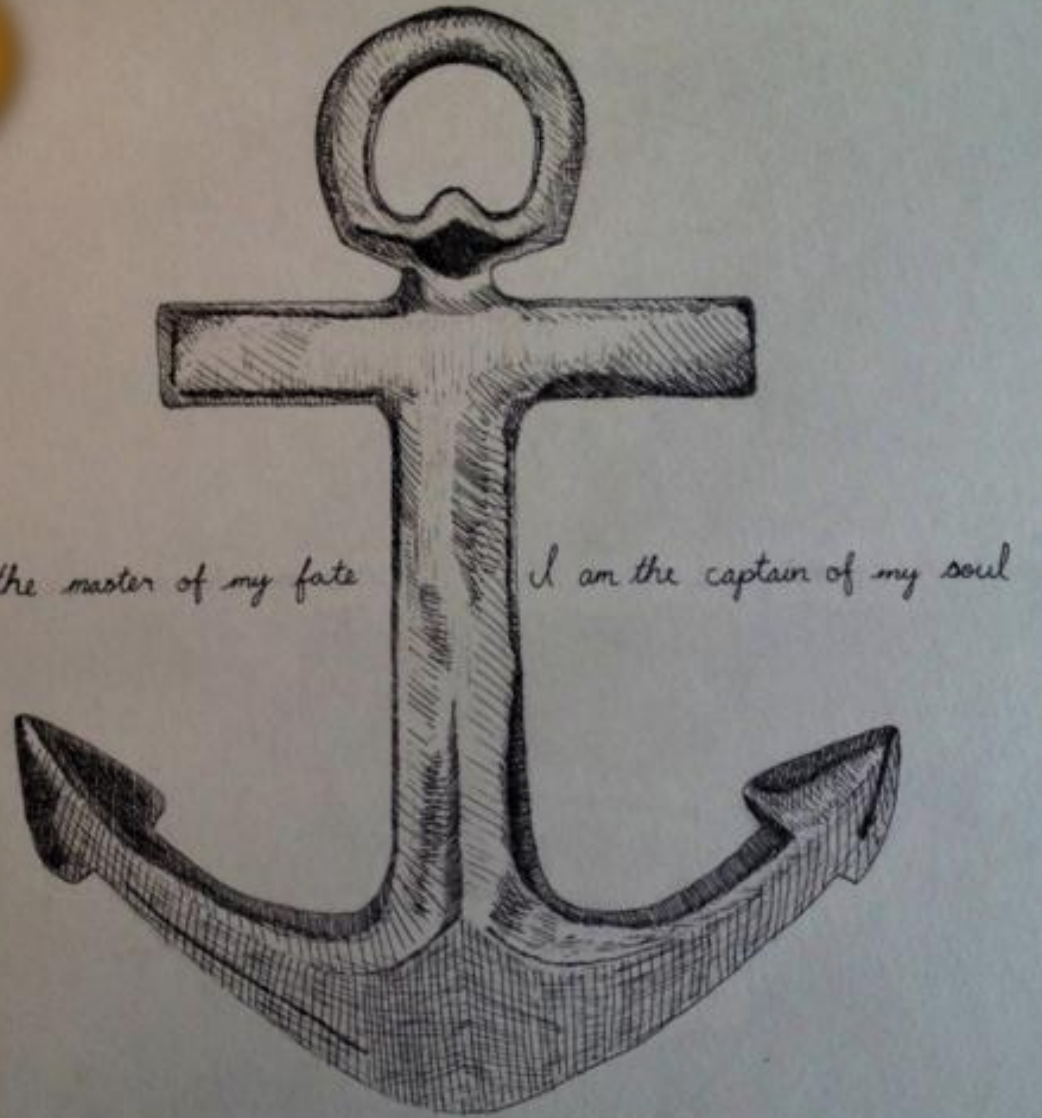


Does it accurately portray the theme of the poem?

How does it connect to the elements in the poem?

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8

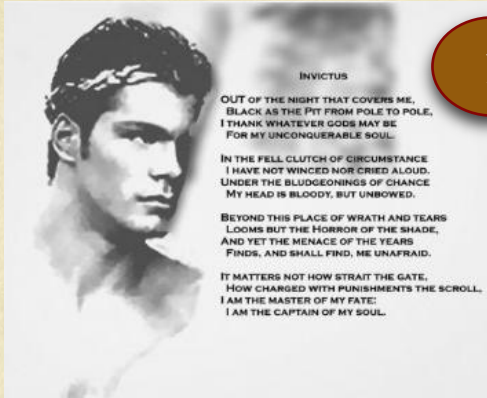


Does it accurately portray the theme of the poem?

How does it connect to the elements in the poem?

Is the message clear?

Which image is the most suitable symbolic representation of the poem? Why?



1



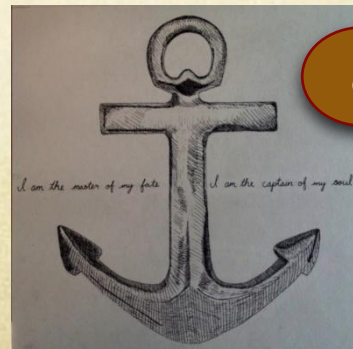
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