FEEDBACK TUTORIAL LETTER

1st SEMESTER 2019

ASSIGNMENT 2

INTRODUCTION TO LITERATURE 1A

ILT511S
Dear students

Here is a brief feedback letter on your second assignment

The marks varied considerably, and ranged from very low to quite high.

**Question 1**

Why is Sophocles’ play Oedipus so disturbing to an audience? Use relevant references from the text to strengthen your argument.

Please consult your workbooks and read the sections on the various texts. I have compiled a very comprehensive section on Oedipus and the other texts. In order to answer question one you have to refer to predestination and the gods. The fact that the Greeks believed one’s fate is determined at birth and cannot be escaped is very depressing. Nothing poor Oedipus does can save him. He is unable to escape his destiny. He runs from the prophecy to Thebes and kills his own father unknowingly on the way. When he arrives in Thebes he marries his own mother (King Laius’ widow) and has children with her. Again fulfilling the prophecy unknowingly. All this will be very depressing for an audience. We question our own lives, destinies and the role of a higher power in our lives as an audience.

Another aspect needed in an answer to the question is the role of the gods, and how they are treated by Oedipus and Jocasta. It is clear early on that the population of Thebes hold the gods in high esteem. Even though they treat Oedipus almost as if he is a god, they respect and honour the gods. Oedipus, on the other hand, defies the gods (unknowingly be fleeing from the prophecy) and knowingly when he taunts the blind prophet Tiresias. Jocasta is also irreverent towards the gods and prophecy and she tells Oedipus not to worry about prophecies. We, the audience, sense there will be a terrible punishment for this behavior.

**Question 2**

Do a character analysis of Baroka in Soyinka’s play The Lion and the Jewel.

Everyone did well in this question, so I am not going to say much here. Some students did not show how Baroka managed to trick Sidi and marry her. This is very important because it shows how clever the Bale is. He flatters Sidi (stamp ,machine) and leads her into believing too much in herself. Your answer also has to show how Baroka uses his old wife Sadiku to spread rumours about his impotence to trap Sidi.

Many answers lacked important details from the text and were merely a skeleton. You have to add flesh to the bones!! It was also important to show how Baroka used Lakunle’s weaknesses against him.

Hope to see you at the Vacation School

AB