FEEDBACK TUTORIAL LETTER

2ND SEMESTER 2021

ASSIGNMENT 2

INTRODUCTION TO LITERATURE 1B
ILT521S
Dear students

Here is a brief feedback letter on your last assignment, Assignment 2

Unfortunately there are still some students who just don’t get what academic dishonesty (plagiarism) is.

This could be because they are simply not up to standard in an academic environment, or, and I hope this is the case, they simply don’t care about being dishonest and purposefully ignore advice from the lecturers.

This is really sad but it can be rectified. Hopefully when these students fail and have to incur the wrath of parents and financial implications they will change their behavior. Often pain is the best teacher!

I took pains to explain to you what plagiarism is in the First Tutorial Feedback Letter, but 30% of students still committed plagiarism in this assignment. A certain level of plagiarism is allowed (you are penalised with marks) but some students had 88% and more plagiarism indicated by the Turnitin programme!!

These students immediately fail and get 0 for the assignment. They also got 0 for assignment 1, but repeated the crime again. Why?

I am proud of all the students who had 20% “plagiarism” or less. Their work showed up references which many acknowledged in the text and References, which is acceptable. They made an effort to paraphrase and use their OWN brains, without relying on “Professor Google”.

Now to the Assignment:

**QUESTION 1 (50 MARKS)**

“Makhaya changes due to his interaction with various characters he gets to know in Golema Mmidi.”

Discuss this statement using various references from the text to substantiate your answer.

There were mainly two content errors made by students in this question.
1) They did not “use references from the text to substantiate” their answers, and

2) Their answers were VAGUE and lacking detail about the “various characters” Makhaya meets in Golema Mmidi.

Always make sure you understand the question fully BEFORE you type it up for submission and PROOFREAD it before submission.

Many students, sadly, have sub-standard English. You should not be writing sentences full of errors if you are reading for a degree in English!!!

The question says you must use references from the text. Most students ignored this and simply wrote an answer.

You also had to mention various key characters Makhaya comes into contact with in Golema Mmidi. This is an obvious ingredient in your answer.

The characters you had to mention, as well as describe how they interact with Makhaya and “improve” him are:

Police Superintendent George Appleby-Smith
Chief Sekoto
Gilbert Balfour
Mme Millipede (many students left her out, yet she has a huge impact on Makhaya’s life-view)
Dinorego
Paulina

OR

QUESTION 2 (50 MARKS)
Name one of the themes in *When Rain Clouds Gather* and show how Bessie Head uses it to convey her message she wants the reader to get from her novel.

When I marked this question I was very lenient and accepted most well motivated answers. If you read the background notes I provided on Bessie Head as well as the notes on the novel, as well as the novel itself you would have seen some clear themes. These are; tribalism, racism, women’s issues, discrimination and oppression.

It is clearly NOT a love story, although love does have a part in the novel. Love is not actually a theme.

What is the message Head wants to convey in *When Rain Clouds Gather*?

She is clearly examining racial issues and attitudes toward women in Botswana. So the theme you choose e.g tribalism, must reflect this. You need to give ample examples from the text to support your argument.

The whole novel aims at showing us that different races, tribes and even genders can live together peacefully. Dinorego was a foreigner to Golema, as was Mme Millipede. They made Golema Mmidi their home like Makhaya. Maria marries a white man Gilbert, The South African refugee marries a woman from Botswana, Paulina etc.

I hope this has helped. Please prepare for the second test on Rain Clouds Saturday 23/10 at 17.30. Examine the relationships between the characters to prepare.

Good luck with the test

AB