FEEDBACK TUTORIAL LETTER

1st SEMESTER 2019

ASSIGNMENT 2

THEORY AND PRACTICE OF WORLD POETRY
2A

TPP611S
Dear students

Here is a short feedback letter on your second assignment. As I said in the last feedback letter, there are too many grey areas involved in the discussion of a poem to pen down an accurate discussion accurately on paper, so I hope to see you in the Vacation School where I will discuss the issues involved fully.

Most students did well in question 1 based on Burns’ poem A Red, Red Rose. Everyone was able to identify the similes (like, and as) and also wrote fully on diction (choice of words).

The form is that of a ballad and the musicality is evident on reading the poem.

The rhyme in the poem was a,b,c,b and d,e,f,e etc.

The stylistic features were repetition eg “My love is”, and “Till a’ the seas gang dry..”

Another feature was imagery.

Question 2 on Angelou’s Still I Rise went quite well. Everyone was able to show the persona’s pride, defiance and position as a black woman quite clearly and showed the imagery and metaphors well. Unfortunately no one mentioned the use of natural elements in the poem eg. moons, suns, tides and black ocean. These are used to illustrate the unstoppable power of natures elements. In the same way the persona can not be kept down and “controlled”.

The stylistic features were well covered as well as all other aspects of the poem.

In question 3 most students seemed to be intimidated by the poem and relied very heavily in sources from the internet to help them interpret the poem.
Please remember that your lecturers (especially myself) want to see YOUR understanding of the poem as well as your interpretation which you support with evidence from the text. There is nothing wrong with consulting references from the internet as long as you acknowledge the sources IN TEXT as well as in your references list AND you do not use more than 30% of external knowledge in your essay. This means that your essay has to be 70% your OWN work.

Hope to see you in the Vacation School.

AB