

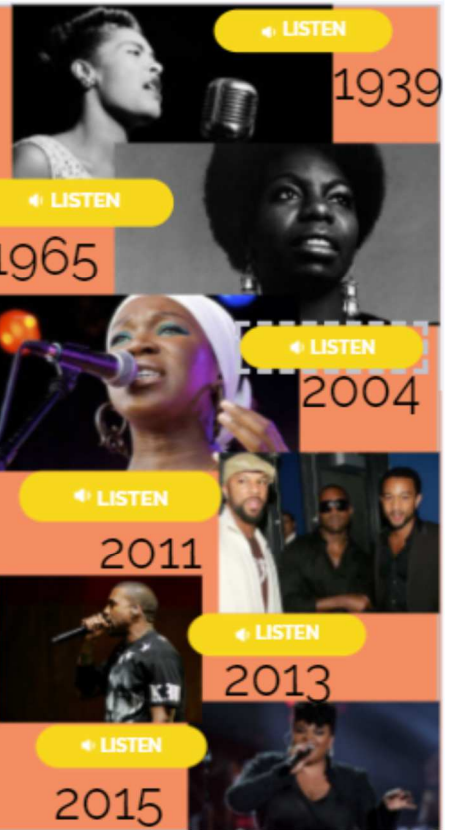
"Strange fruit" through history

Southern trees bear a strange fruit
Blood on the leaves and blood at the root
Black bodies swinging in the Southern breeze
Strange fruit hangin' from the poplar trees

Pastoral scene of the gallant south
The bulgin' eyes and the twisted mouth
Scent of magnolia, sweet and fresh
Then the sudden smell of burnin' flesh

Here is fruit for the crows to pluck
For the rain to gather, for the wind to suck
For the sun to rot, for the tree to drop
Here is a strange and bitter crop

Poem by Abel Meeropol, 1937



Read Paragraph 1 :

Pick up all the words referring to nature

Southern : du sud

bear : porter

Leave : feuille

root: racine

Swing : se balancer

breeze : brise

Hang : pendre

poplar tree : peuplier

Pick up the words that show something is not normal , « unnatural » :

Where does the scene take place ? What are the « strange fruit » ?

How does Abel Meeropole make this first picture striking ,what literary device (procédé littéraire) does he use ?

« Blood on the leaves , blood at the root » : here the bloody trees are metaphores for ?

What do the bodies hanging from the trees refer to ?

Read paragraph two :

Pick the words that describe the white South : _____

Pastoral : bucolique

Gallant : vaillant

Bulge : se gonfler/ressortir

twist : se tordre

Scent : senteur/parfum

smell : odeur

Burn : brûler

flesh : chair

Pick up the words that describe the black South :

What is the difference between what is supposed to be and reality ?

Why did white people in the South consider they were « gallant » ? And in reality?

Read paragraph three

How does Meeropole show the bodies were let to hang for a long time ?

crow : corbeau

pluck : cueillir/arracher

gather : ramasser

suck : aspirer

rot : pourrir

drop : laisser tomber

bitter : amer

crop : récolte

The South should be remembered for its beautiful fields of cotton but instead what image Will remain ? _____

Literary devices :

-what is the rhyme scheme in the poem : AABB, ABAB , ABBA ? _____

-Symbols : trees are supposed to be symbols of _____ but here they are symbols of _____ It shows something not _____ is happening.