

ENGLISH LITERATURE A (7712/2B)

Paper 2B: Texts in shared contexts: Modern Times: Literature from 1945 to the present day

Insert

Instructions to candidates

The material in this insert is for use with Section B of the question paper.

Section B: Answer both Question 1 and Question 2.

Recommended time for Section B: approximately 100 minutes.

Total marks for Section B: 50 marks (25 marks per question).

The Summer We Kept

Nina Adebeyemi

First published 2018 by Cloudstone Press

Extract context: *This extract is taken from the third chapter of the novel. The narrator, aged sixteen, is looking back on the summer before her A-levels. The novel is structured as a series of memories recalled in adulthood.*

She had not known, before that summer, that it was possible to be made entirely of waiting. She had waited for things before -- bus queues, exam results, the slow arrival of her birthday -- but those had been ordinary waits, time passing in the ordinary direction. This was different. This was time that had learned to stretch itself out and present itself to her like an accusation.

He was in the year above. She knew his name the way you knew the names of things that were not yet yours: by looking at them sideways, careful not to be caught looking. She had catalogued, without meaning to, the precise way he held a pen, slightly too tight, and the fact that he always forgot his jacket even when it rained. She had not told anyone this. It seemed important not to say it out loud, as though saying it might dissolve it, or worse, might make it ordinary.

The afternoon he spoke to her for the first time she had been thinking about something else entirely, which she later understood was the only way it could have happened. He asked to borrow a pen. She gave him one. He thanked her. She said something, she could not afterwards remember what, and he smiled -- not at her, exactly, but not away from her either -- and then he was gone and she was still holding her bag open where the pen had been.

She walked home that afternoon in the particular daze of someone who has been handed something they do not yet know how to carry. The trees were doing nothing significant. The traffic was entirely normal. She felt, without any justification she could have explained, as though she had been altered in some way that was not yet visible, like a photograph still developing in the dark.

She did not tell her mother. She lay on her bed for a long time and thought about the word altered and whether it was the right word, and decided it was close but not quite, and that the right

word probably did not exist yet, which seemed to her both unbearable and exactly correct.

Section B

Answer both Question 1 and Question 2.

0 1

How does Adeyemi present the experience of first love in this extract?

In your response you should:

- analyse the methods the writer uses to shape meanings
- include relevant subject terminology
- consider the contexts in which the text was written and received.

[25 marks]

Recommended time: 40 minutes

0 2

In this extract, Adeyemi presents first love as something that changes a person in ways they cannot yet name. Compare how the experience of new or young love is presented in this extract and in one or two other texts you have studied.

In your response you should:

- make connections across the texts you have studied
- include relevant subject terminology
- consider the contexts in which texts were written and received.

[25 marks]

Recommended time: 35-40 minutes