

Section A: Poetry

SUJATA BHATT: *Point No Point*

- 1 **Either** (a) Sujata Bhatt has said, 'My imagination seems to be continually sparked by those early years in India.'

Discuss the poetic methods with which Bhatt presents India, referring to **two** poems in your answer.

- Or** (b) Comment closely on the following extract, considering how it presents connections between the past and the present.

From 'The Echoes in Poona'

After a few days
they are quiet, a young mother
turns to stroke her sister,
a louse is found, removed. Soon
their fingers work to search each other – 5
They take their time, such gentle care,
as they reinvent their family.

Such pure, clean rhesus monkeys,
uncontaminated specimens:
Forced helpers in the search 10
for vaccinations and antibiotics.

Meanwhile the men who watched the hunt
from their small tents
are now busy focusing microscopes.
My father also 15
spends his days counting
monkey kidney cells in vitro.
He scrubs his hands
until they bleed, until the skin
starts peeling. He bathes 20
several times a day
while colleagues less careful
die from the disease.

From our garden
I can see the back of the building: 25
rows of air conditioners
drone against the noise
of the new rhesus monkeys.

One day my six-year-old brother begins
a new game 30
where he visits the monkeys
and feeds them flowers, lost in his game
he gives them branches with berries
while the tired watchman,
skinny Satnarayan, almost dozes – 35

And my tired father, lost in thought
 in his windowless room
 examines test tubes,
 his eyes straining against
 the fluorescent lights. 40

Years pass.
 Microscopes improve.
 My father will soon retire.
 These days, when my year-old daughter
 wants something 45

from the kitchen table,
 from the shelves, her arms thrusting out
 like a trapeze artist,
 her urgent *hu hu hu* speech
 reminds me of those monkeys – and last week 50

when she cried hot with fever
 and tense with antibiotics
 I lay sleepless through 5:00 a.m.
 remembering the bold black eyes
 of the caged baby monkeys 55

eager with surprise as they pulled
 on sap-wet weeds with berries
 offered by my brother –
 their dark velvet fingers grasping for
 the bruised yellow and bruised red
 velvet fruit. 60

THOMAS HARDY: *Selected Poems*

- 2 **Either** (a) Discuss ways in which Hardy presents personal relationships. Refer to the poetic methods and their effects in **two** poems.
- Or** (b) Comment closely on the following poem, considering how it presents a response to the natural world.

The Year's Awakening

How do you know that the pilgrim track
 Along the belting zodiac
 Swept by the sun in his seeming rounds
 Is traced by now to the Fishes' bounds
 And into the Ram, when weeks of cloud
 Have wrapt the sky in a clammy shroud, 5
 And never as yet a tinct of spring
 Has shown in the Earth's apparelling;
 O vespering bird, how do you know,
 How do you know? 10

How do you know, deep underground,
 Hid in your bed from sight and sound,
 Without a turn in temperature,
 With weather life can scarce endure,
 That light has won a fraction's strength, 15
 And day put on some moments' length,
 Whereof in merest rote will come,
 Weeks hence, mild airs that do not numb;
 O crocus root, how do you know,
 How do you know? 20

Songs of Ourselves

- 3 **Either** (a) Discuss by what means, and with what effects, **two** poems present memories of childhood.
- Or** (b) Comment closely on the following poem, paying particular attention to the poet's use of the reservist's voice and point of view.

Reservist

Time again for the annual joust, the regular fanfare,
 a call to arms, the imperative letters stern
 as clarion notes, the king's command, upon
 the pain of court-martial, to tilt
 at the old windmills. With creaking bones 5
 and suppressed grunts, we battle-weary knights
 creep to attention, ransack the wardrobes
 for our rusty armour, tuck the pot bellies
 with great finesse into the shrinking gear,
 and with helmets shutting off half our world, 10
 report for service. We are again united
 with sleek weapons we were betrothed to
 in our active cavalier days.

We will keep charging up the same hills, plod
 through the same forests, till we are too old, 15
 too ill-fitted for life's other territories.
 The same trails will find us time and again,
 and we quick to obey, like children placed
 on carousels they cannot get off from, borne 20
 along through somebody's expensive fantasyland,
 with an oncoming rush of tedious rituals, masked threats
 and monsters armed with the same roar.

In the end we will perhaps surprise ourselves
 and emerge unlikely heroes with long years
 of braving the same horrors 25
 pinned on our tunic fronts.
 We will have proven that Sisyphus is not a myth.
 We will play the game till the monotony
 sends his lordship to sleep.

We will march the same paths till they break 30
 onto new trails, our lives stumbling
 onto the open sea, into daybreak.

Boey Kim Cheng

Section B: Prose

CHARLOTTE BRONTË: *Jane Eyre*

- 4 **Either** (a) Discuss the effects of Brontë's use of fire and the imagery of fire in the novel.
- Or** (b) Comment closely on how Brontë presents the argument between Jane and St John in the following passage.

'Write to Diana and Mary to-morrow,' I said, 'and tell them to come home directly. Diana said they would both consider themselves rich with a thousand pounds, so with five thousand they will do very well.'

'Tell me where I can get you a glass of water,' said St John; 'you must really make an effort to tranquillize your feelings.' 5

'Nonsense! and what sort of an effect will the bequest have on you? Will it keep you in England, induce you to marry Miss Oliver, and settle down like an ordinary mortal?'

'You wander: your head becomes confused. I have been too abrupt in communicating the news; it has excited you beyond your strength.' 10

'Mr Rivers! you quite put me out of patience: I am rational enough; it is you who misunderstand, or rather who affect to misunderstand.'

'Perhaps, if you explained yourself a little more fully, I should comprehend better.'

'Explain! What is there to explain? You cannot fail to see that twenty thousand pounds, the sum in question, divided equally between the nephew and three nieces of our uncle, will give five thousand to each? What I want is, that you should write to your sisters and tell them of the fortune that has accrued to them.' 15

'To you, you mean.'

'I have intimated my view of the case: I am incapable of taking any other. I am not brutally selfish, blindly unjust, or fiendishly ungrateful. Besides, I am resolved I will have a home and connexions. I like Moor House, and I will live at Moor House; I like Diana and Mary, and I will attach myself for life to Diana and Mary. It would please and benefit me to have five thousand pounds; it would torment and oppress me to have twenty thousand; which, moreover, could never be mine in justice, though it might in law. I abandon to you, then, what is absolutely superfluous to me. Let there be no opposition, and no discussion about it; let us agree amongst each other, and decide the point at once.' 20 25

'This is acting on first impulses; you must take days to consider such a matter, ere your word can be regarded as valid.' 30

'Oh! if all you doubt is my sincerity, I am easy: you see the justice of the case?'

'I *do* see a certain justice; but it is contrary to all custom. Besides, the entire fortune is your right: my uncle gained it by his own efforts; he was free to leave it to whom he would: he left it to you. After all, justice permits you to keep it: you may, with a clear conscience, consider it absolutely your own.' 35

'With me,' said I, 'it is fully as much a matter of feeling as of conscience: I must indulge my feelings; I so seldom have had an opportunity of doing so. Were you to argue, object, and annoy me for a year, I could not forgo the delicious pleasure of which I have caught a glimpse – that of repaying, in part, a mighty obligation, and winning to myself lifelong friends.' 40

'You think so now,' rejoined St John, 'because you do not know what it is to possess, nor consequently to enjoy wealth: you cannot form a notion of the importance twenty thousand pounds would give you; of the place it would enable you to take in society; of the prospects it would open to you: you cannot –'

‘And you,’ I interrupted, ‘cannot at all imagine the craving I have for fraternal and sisterly love. I never had a home, I never had brothers or sisters; I must and will have them now: you are not reluctant to admit me, and own me, are you?’ 45

‘Jane, I will be your brother – my sisters will be your sisters – without stipulating for this sacrifice of your just rights.’

‘Brother? Yes; at the distance of a thousand leagues! Sisters? Yes; slaving amongst strangers! I, wealthy – gorged with gold I never earned and do not merit! You, penniless! Famous equality and fraternization! Close union! Intimate attachment!’ 50

Chapter 33

TSITSI DANGAREMBGA: *Nervous Conditions*

5 **Either** (a) 'Lucia ... had grown shrewd in her years of dealing with men ...'

Discuss the role and significance of Lucia in the novel.

Or (b) Discuss the following passage in detail, commenting on how it presents Tambu's character.

'We think of you,' said Nyari, who had been my best friend, as I threw my *pada*. 'Especially when Nhamo gives us mealies,' she said with a sigh. 'They are fun to roast after class. If only you were here.'

The blood prickled under my skin. I hopped precariously into square number eight.

'You are out,' said Chitsva. 'You did not kick the *pada*'.

5

'Nhamo gave you maize?' I asked on one leg in square number eight.

'Lots of times,' Nyari assented.

They told me I took off from the *pada* game like a dog after a buck. I remember at one moment playing *pada*, the next Nhamo and I rolling about in the dirt of the football pitch, a group of excited peers egging us on. They said I went straight for my brother and brought him down in a single charge. The element of surprise was on my side. I sat on top of him, banged his head into the ground, screamed and spat and cursed. Nhamo heaved. I fell off him. He pinned me to the ground, not striking, only holding me there, the malicious twinkle back in his eye. 'What's the matter with you?' he drawled. 'Have you gone mad?' The crowd laughed.

10

15

'Why talk?' a footballer shouted. 'Just hit. That's what they hear.'

I hissed and spat and screamed and cursed some more, and kicked and broke free, backing away into the crowd, which parted to let me through. I charged again, intending this time to kill, and instead found myself struggling in mid-air at the end of an adult arm.

20

Mr Matimba was very cross with everybody. 'I am ashamed of you,' he shouted above my screams, 'of all of you. Nhamo, if you are going to fight your sister, who will look after her? And you, Tambudzai, must also behave better. The rest of you, the rest of you stand there clapping as though you were at a football game. What's wrong with you?'

25

'She started it,' Nhamo said lazily, watchfully.

'Yes,' chorused everybody. 'She charged. We saw it. She just charged for no reason at all.'

I screamed out my reasons at the top of my lungs.

'What is she saying?' asked Nyari, who was looking serious. 'Does she want mealies?'

30

'If I ever see anything like this again,' continued Mr Matimba, 'I will whip you, everyone of you. A stick will break about each person's legs. Now go, all of you. Sunday School is over.' They melted away; Mr Matimba was known not to speak in vain. 'And you, child,' he said sternly, 'what were you doing causing such a scene?'

35

A warm liquid trickled down my leg. I might have wet myself, but it was red and sticky on the outside of the leg, not colourless and watery on the inside. I could not feel the cut. Tears of impotent rage threatened to decompose me. I blinked them back and told Mr Matimba that Nhamo had stolen my mealies.

'What mealies are these?' asked Mr Matimba, patient if puzzled. I told him the whole story, how I was going to come back to school the following year, how I was going to earn the money by selling my crop. Mr Matimba listened attentively. At some point during my speech, which was long because it was not very coherent and Mr Matimba had to keep asking me questions, we began to walk around the football pitch. Mr Matimba listened hard, inclining his whole person towards me; I talked to him as though he were just another person and not an adult and a teacher. I felt myself recoallesce.

Chapter 2

Stories of Ourselves

6 Either (a) Discuss the presentation and importance of the setting of **two** stories from your selection.

Or (b) Comment closely on the writing of the following passage, considering how Grace presents the meeting of people who cannot understand each other's point of view.

I'll get the plans.

And it's true he'll be dead, it's true he's getting old, but not true if anyone thinks his eyes have had it because he can see good enough. His eyes are still good enough to look all over the paper and see his land there, and to see that his land has been shaded in and had 'Off Street Parking' printed on it. 5

He can see good close up and he can see good far off, and that's George over the other side standing with some mates. He can tell George anywhere no matter what sort of get-up he's wearing. George would turn and see him soon.

But you can't, that's only a piece of paper and it can be changed, you can change it. People have to live and to have things. People need houses and shops but that's only paper, it can be changed. 10

It's all been very carefully mapped out. By experts. Areas have been selected according to suitability and convenience. And the aesthetic aspects have been carefully considered ...

Everything grows, turnips the size of pumpkins, cabbages you can hardly carry, potatoes, tomatoes ... Back here where you've got your houses, it's all rock, land going to waste there ... 15

You would all receive equivalent sites ...

Resited ...

As I say on equivalent land ... 20

There's no land equal ...

Listen Sir, it's difficult but we've got to have some understanding of things. Don't we?

Yes yes I want you to understand, that's why I came. This here, it's only paper and you can change it. There's room for all the things you've got on your paper, and room for what we want too, we want only what we've got already, it's what we've been trying to say. 25

Sir we can't always have exactly what we want ...

All round here where you've marked residential it's all rock, what's wrong with that for shops and cars. And there'll be people and houses. Some of the people can be us, and some of the houses can be ours. 30

Sure, sure. But not exactly where you want them. And anyway Sir there's no advantage do you think in you people all living in the same area?

It's what we want, we want nothing more than what is ours already.

It does things to your land value. 35

He was an old man but he wanted very much to lean over the desk and swing a heavy punch.

No sense being scattered everywhere when what we want ...

It immediately brings down the value of your land ...

... is to stay put on what is left of what has been ours since before we were born. Have a small piece each, a small garden, my brother and sister and I discussed it years ago. 40

Straight away the value of your land goes right down.

Wanted to swing a heavy punch but he's too old for it. He kicked the desk instead. Hard. And the veneer cracked and splintered. Funny how quiet it had become. 45

You ought to be run in old man, do you hear.

Cripes look at what the old blighter's gone and done. Look at Paul's desk.

He must be whacky.

He can't do that Paul, get the boss along to sort him out.

50

Get him run in.

Get out old man, do you hear.

Yes he could hear, he wasn't deaf, not by a long shot. A bit of trouble getting his foot back out of the hole, but there, he was going, and not limping either, he'd see about this lot later. Going, not limping, and not going to die either. It looked as though their six eyes might all fall out and roll on the floor.

55

Journey

Section C: Drama

PETER SHAFFER: *Equus*

- 7 **Either** (a) Dysart tells Hesther that he is 'Jealous of Alan Strang.' How far does the action and structure of the play make this jealousy convincing to you?
- Or** (b) Comment closely on the dialogue of the following passage, considering its significance to the play.

DORA: (*calling out*) Doctor!
Dora re-enters and comes straight on to the square from the right. She wears an overcoat, and is nervously carrying a shopping bag.

DYSART: That same evening, his mother appeared.

DORA: Hallo, Doctor. 5

DYSART: Mrs Strang!

DORA: I've been shopping in the neighbourhood. I thought I might just look in.

DYSART: Did you want to see Alan?

DORA: (*uncomfortably*) No, no ... Not just at the moment. Actually, it's more you I wanted to see. 10

DYSART: Yes?

DORA: You see, there's something Mr Strang and I thought you ought to know. We discussed it, and it might just be important.

DYSART: Well, come and sit down. 15

DORA: I can't stay more than a moment. I'm late as it is. Mr Strang will be wanting his dinner.

DYSART: Ah. (*encouragingly*) So, what was it you wanted to tell me?
She sits on the upstage bench.

DORA: Well, do you remember that photograph I mentioned to you. The one Mr Strang gave Alan to decorate his bedroom a few years ago? 20

DYSART: Yes. A horse looking over a gate, wasn't it?

DORA: That's right. Well, actually, it took the place of another kind of picture altogether.

DYSART: What kind? 25

DORA: It was a reproduction of Our Lord on his way to Calvary. Alan found it in Reeds Art Shop, and fell absolutely in love with it. He insisted on buying it with his pocket money, and hanging it at the foot of his bed where he could see it last thing at night. My husband was very displeased. 30

DYSART: Because it was religious?

DORA: In all fairness I must admit it was a little extreme. The Christ was loaded down with chains, and the centurions were really laying on the stripes. It certainly would not have been my choice, but I don't believe in interfering too much with children, so I said nothing. 35

DYSART: But Mr Strang did?

DORA: He stood it for a while, but one day we had one of our tiffs about religion, and he went straight upstairs, tore it off the boy's wall and threw it in the dustbin. Alan went quite hysterical. He cried for days without stopping – and he was not a crier, you know. 40

DYSART: But he recovered when he was given the photograph of the horse in its place?

DORA: He certainly seemed to. At least, he hung it in exactly the same position, and we had no more of that awful weeping.

DYSART: Thank you, Mrs Strang. That *is* interesting ... Exactly how long ago was that? Can you remember? 45

DORA: It must be five years ago, Doctor. Alan would have been about twelve. How is he, by the way?

DYSART: Bearing up.
She rises. 50

DORA: Please give him my love.

DYSART: You can see him any time you want, you know.

DORA: Perhaps if I could come one afternoon without Mr Strang. He and Alan don't exactly get on at the moment, as you can imagine.

DYSART: Whatever you decide, Mrs Strang ... Oh, one thing. 55

DORA: Yes?

DYSART: Could you describe that photograph of the horse in a little more detail for me? I presume it's still in his bedroom?

DORA: Oh, yes. It's a most remarkable picture, really. You very rarely see a horse taken from that angle – absolutely head on. That's what makes it so interesting. 60

DYSART: Why? What does it look like?

DORA: Well, it's most extraordinary. It comes out all eyes.

DYSART: Staring straight at you?

DORA: Yes, that's right ... 65

An uncomfortable pause.

Act 1, Scene 11

WILLIAM SHAKESPEARE: *Henry IV Part 1*

- 8 **Either** (a) 'I shall hereafter, my thrice gracious lord,
Be more myself.'

In the light of this quotation, discuss ways in which Shakespeare presents Prince Henry's changing role and identity in the play.

- Or** (b) Comment closely on the ways Worcester explains his rebellion in the following passage.

WORCESTER: Hear me, my liege:
 For mine own part, I could be well content
 To entertain the lag-end of my life
 With quiet hours; for I protest
 I have not sought the day of this dislike. 5

KING: You have not sought it! How comes it then?

FALSTAFF: Rebellion lay in his way, and he found it.

PRINCE: Peace, chewet, peace!

WORCESTER: It pleas'd your Majesty to turn your looks
 Of favour from myself and all our house; 10
 And yet I must remember you, my lord,
 We were the first and dearest of your friends.
 For you my staff of office did I break
 In Richard's time, and posted day and night
 To meet you on the way and kiss your hand, 15
 When yet you were in place and in account
 Nothing so strong and fortunate as I.
 It was myself, my brother, and his son,
 That brought you home, and boldly did outdare 20
 The dangers of the time. You swore to us –
 And you did swear that oath at Doncaster –
 That you did nothing purpose 'gainst the state,
 Nor claim no further than your new-fall'n right,
 The seat of Gaunt, dukedom of Lancaster;
 To this we swore our aid. But in short space 25
 It rain'd down fortune show'ring on your head;
 And such a flood of greatness fell on you,
 What with our help, what with the absent King,
 What with the injuries of a wanton time,
 The seeming sufferances that you had borne, 30
 And the contrarious winds that held the King
 So long in his unlucky Irish wars
 That all in England did repute him dead;
 And from this swarm of fair advantages
 You took occasion to be quickly woo'd 35
 To gripe the general sway into your hand;
 Forgot your oath to us at Doncaster;
 And being fed by us you us'd us so
 As that ungentle gull, the cuckoo's bird,
 Useth the sparrow – did oppress our nest, 40
 Grew by our feeding to so great a bulk
 That even our love durst not come near your sight
 For fear of swallowing; but with nimble wing

We were enforc'd, for safety sake, to fly
Out of your sight, and raise this present head; 45
Whereby we stand opposed by such means
As you yourself have forg'd against yourself,
By unkind usage, dangerous countenance,
And violation of all faith and troth
Sworn to us in your younger enterprise. 50

Act 5, Scene 1

TENNESSEE WILLIAMS: *A Streetcar Named Desire*

- 9 **Either** (a) At different points in the play, Stella calls Stanley both 'drunk – animal thing' and 'as good as a lamb'.

In the light of these comments, what is your response to Williams's portrayal of Stanley?

- Or** (b) Comment closely on the following passage, focusing on ways in which Williams presents Blanche's attempts to maintain her illusion.

MITCH: Are you boxed out of your mind?

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MITCH: Naw, I guess not. Scene 9

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