WORK FROM HOME PROJECT

An Introduction

Kamala Das

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WRITE IN YOUR OWN WORDS…2 MARKS EACH

1. “I don't know politics but I know the names
Of those in power, and can repeat them like
Days of week, or names of months, beginning with Nehru”- explain in brief.
2. Explain the ‘three language policy’ mentioned in the poem.
3. “Don't write in English, they said,”-- Who are ‘they’?
4. “The language I speak,
Becomes mine, its distortions, its queernesses
All mine, mine alone.”- Comment in brief regarding this choice of ‘language’ mentioned here.
5. “"One is not born, but rather becomes, a woman."- find out similar idea expressed in this poem.
6. Comment in brief the unwelcome side of love Das suffered in this poem.
7. What is your observation regarding the ‘women body’ presented in this poem?
8. What did Das do to avoid her ‘womanliness’?
9. “Dress in sarees, be girl
Be wife, they said. Be embroiderer, be cook,
Be a quarreller with servants. Fit in”- explain it.
10. Who are the ‘categorizers’?
11. “Be Amy, or be Kamala. Or, better
Still, be Madhavikutty. It is time to
Choose a name, a role.”- Comment on the roles a woman is forced to play in a patriarchal society.
12. Define “schizophrenia” and
“Nympho”.
13. “I met a man, loved him. Call
Him not by any name, he is every man
Who wants a woman, just as I am every
Woman who seeks love”- how do you differentiate between ‘wants’ and ‘seeks’, two types of love mentioned here?
14. “In him . . . the hungry haste
Of rivers, in me . . . the oceans' tireless
Waiting.”- Explain this gendered perspective.
15. “Who are you, I ask each and everyone,
The answer is, it is I”- Who is this “I”?
16. Give an example of ‘Patriarchal power politics’ exposed by Das.
17. How does Das at the final section of this poem expand the particular and personal into a generalization about humanity at large?
18. Is Das a ‘Confessional poet’?
19. What do you know about the ‘school of Confessional poetry’?
20. Make a list of the both major and minor themes expressed in this poem.
21. Is this an ‘autobiographical poem’?
22. What is the name of Das’s autobiography? Name a biography of Das.
23. How does a confessional poem bring out therapeutic possibilities?
24. Give your observation in brief about post-colonial aspect of this poem.
25. Why is Kamala Das called a ‘pioneering feminist voice’ in Indian writing in English?