

“Shooting Stars”

After I no longer speak they break our fingers
to salvage my wedding ring. Rebecca Rachel Ruth
Aaron Emmanuel David, stars on all our brows
beneath the gaze of men with guns. Mourn for the
5 daughters,

upright as statues, brave. You would not look at me.
You waited for the bullet. Fell. I say Remember.
Remember these appalling days which make the world
10 for ever bad. One saw I was alive. Loosened

his belt. My bowels opened in a ragged gape of fear.
Between the gap of corpses I could see a child.
The soldiers laughed. Only a matter of days separate
15 this from acts of torture now. They shot her in the eye.

How would you prepare to die, on a perfect April
evening
with young men gossiping and smoking by the graves?
20 My bare feet felt the earth and urine trickled
down my legs until I heard the click. Not yet. A trick.

After immense suffering someone takes tea on the lawn.
After the terrible moans a boy washes his uniform.
25 After the history lesson children run to their toys the
world
turns in its sleep the spades shovel soil Sara Ezra...

Sister, if seas part us, do you not consider me?
30 Tell them I sang the ancient psalms at dusk
Inside the wire and strong men wept. Turn thee
unto me with mercy, for I am desolate and lost.

Duffy, Carol Ann. “Shooting Stars”. Selected Poems. London: Penguin, 1999

English A1

Individual Oral Commentary and Discussion

Part 1

You have twenty (20) minutes to prepare a commentary on the (Part 2) poem. Be sure to provide an interpretation of the poem with close analysis of language, structure, technique, style and their effects in a coherent structure. Be sure to comment on the poem's relation to other poems you have studied by the poet. Incorporate into your commentary answers to the guiding questions, but do not restrict yourself to answering these questions only. You should aim to provide an approximately 8 minute commentary. This will be followed by approximately two minutes of subsequent questions. The commentary, taped, will last fifteen (10) minutes.

Guiding Questions

"Shooting Stars"

- What effect does the title have on your understanding of the poem?
- What is the significance of the persona's characterization to the poem's theme(s)?

Part 2

Please engage in a critical discussion of one other Part 2 work with your teacher, who will ask you questions.