

UNSEEN POETRY QUESTION FOR GRADE 12

Read the following poem and answer the questions that follow:

For a cent

Each morning
corner of Pritchard and Joubert
and leaning on a greasy crutch
near a pavement dustbin
and old man begs,
not expecting much.

his spectacles are cracked and dirty
he does not see my black hand
drop a cent into his scurvy palm.

but instinctively he mutters:
'THANK YOU MY BAAS'

Strange
that for a cent
a man can call his brother
'BAAS'

Don Mattera

- 1.1 Which period in South African history does this poem refer to?
A. Apartheid
B. After Apartheid
C. Under English rule
D. Under Dutch rule (1)
- 1.2 What is a cent? (1)
- 1.3 Why is it significant that the poet should describe his hand as black? (2)
- 1.4 With which word does the word "much" rhyme in the first stanza? (1)
- 1.5 What is a "scurvy palm"? (2)
- 1.6 The beggar mutters "instinctively". The word "instinctively" suggests the beggar is used to something. What is that something? (1)
- 1.7 Why is the ending of the poem ironic? (2)
- [10]