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Sample

Prestwick House
Literature
Teaching Unit
Chapter-by-Chapter Study Guide



The Rose That Grew
from Concrete

by Tupac Shakur

- Learning objectives
- Study Guide with short-answer questions
- Background information
- Vocabulary in context
- Multiple-choice test
- Essay questions
- Literary terms



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The Rose That grew From Concrete

Background Notes

The poems presented in this unique body of work were written by a man whose life and death are as controversial as his subject matter. These poems contain mature topics, including sex, drugs, violence, political views, and death. Therefore, the age and maturity level of the students should be considered when presenting this material.

The poems are loosely divided into four sections:

- survival and self discovery
- friendship and love
- drugs and violence
- social and political views

The sections are short and can be covered completely, or teachers may choose to just a sampling of the poems. If this method is chosen, it is recommended that teachers choose poems from each section to cover the author's range of subjects.

All references come from the 1999 Pocket Books edition of *The Rose That grew From Concrete*, by Tupac Amaru Shakur.

The Rose That grew From Concrete

Objectives

By the end of this Unit, the student will be able to:

1. define all of the vocabulary words listed in the study guide.
2. identify the following literary terms, and point out examples of each in the text:
 - metaphor
 - simile
 - irony
 - allusion
 - imagery
 - juxtaposition
 - cliché
 - anaphora
 - parallelism
 - theme
 - tone
3. identify the following forms and elemental units of poetry, and point out examples of each:
 - foot
 - stanza
 - quatrain
 - couplet
 - tercet
 - free verse.
4. identify the following figures of sound and point out examples of each: half rhyme and end rhyme.
5. understand and explain the relationship of a poem's form to its content.
6. determine the value of poetry as a form of protest.
7. understand the value of poetry as a form of self-expression.
8. infer details not explicitly stated in the text.
9. identify a poem's rhyme scheme, and denote it in capital letters.

The Rose That grew From Concrete

Questions for Essay and Discussion

1. Choose your favorite poem from the book, and discuss why it appeals to you. Use specific examples to support your opinion.
2. Compare and contrast the theme of love in the author's work. Does the author's viewpoint change or stay consistent? Explain.
3. Discuss the author's use of free verse and his changing of style in mid-poem. Does it distract the reader, or is it appropriate for his topics and style? Explain.
4. What topics are the author's most powerful poems about?
5. Analyze the author's use of anaphora in his work. Is it effective?
6. Which poem had the least impact on you and why?
7. Can you see a duality in the author's work? Compare poems in the book that show two distinctly separate aspects of the author's personality.
8. What conclusions can you draw about the author's treatment of the women in his life from his love poems?
9. Discuss the author's feelings about God. What is your perception of his relationship with God?
10. How does the author treat the subject of racism in his poetry? What style best describes his poems about racism?

“In the Depths of Solitude Dedicated 2 Me” (Pg. 5)

Vocabulary

- compromising** – something midway between what one wants and the want of someone else
- depths** – deepness
- Duo** – two
- pondering** – deeply thinking
- preserve** – to protect from harm
- regret** – to be sorry
- respect** – to feel or show honor or esteem
- simplicity** – basic, easy
- solitude** – being alone
- yearning** – to be filled with longing or desire

1. Break the poem into four quatrains; what is the rhyme scheme of the first quatrain?

2. The author makes frequent use half rhymes (also known as slant rhymes.) What are they?

3. The author has a lot of self-analysis in this poem. What is his biggest concern?

4. What kinds of circumstances create the duality within the author?

“When Ure Heart Turns Cold 2 Kristen & My Other Friends Who Wonder” (Pg. 13)

Vocabulary

corpse – a dead body
ideals – existing as a perfect model
neglecting – not paying attention to needs
product – something created by industry, nature, or art
routine – happening with regularity
ruthless – without pity or compassion
spirit – the soul
tranquility – peacefulness
trivial – unimportant
Ure – your

1. What is the meaning of the phrase, “when ure heart turns cold”?

2. To whom is this poem directed?

3. What overall idea is contained in the last two lines of the poem?

4. How does this poem rhyme?

“If I Fail” (Pg. 27)

Vocabulary

co-sign – to agree

quest – a journey in pursuit of a lofty goal

1. What might the author be trying to say in this poem?

2. What kind of failure is Shakur referring to?

3. Whom is he trying to convince?
