

**Sandile Dikeni**  
**Love poem for my country**  
**Some questions to challenge you!**

Worksheet by:  
Keith Tankard  
Knowledge4Africa.com

This is a simple poem where a poet depicts his love for South Africa, calling forth praise from the valleys, the plains, the mountains and the sea, as well as from all the people living therein. It is, however, poetry with a purpose: to unite the people in fervour for their country. This is not the poet speaking of his own inner self but rather the poet striking a nationalistic tone.

1. The poet makes much use of personification in "Love poem for my country".
  - What is meant by personification? (2)
  - Explain the use of personification in the first three stanzas. (6)
  
2. "where ancient rivers flow  
the full circle of life  
under the proud eye of birds  
adorning the sky."
  - What is the significance of the poet's choice of the word "ancient"? (4)
  - In what way could the ancient rivers flow "the full circle of life"? (4)
  - Comment on the poet's choice of the words "proud" and "adorning" within the context of this poem. (4)
  - Is there any link between the "eye of birds" and "the full circle of life"? In other words, why would the poet have juxtaposed these statements in such close proximity? (4)
  
3. "where reptiles caress  
its surface  
with elegant motions  
glittering in their pride"
  - Why would the poet choose the verb "caress" for his description of the reptiles? (4)
  - Is the poet correct in his choice of the words "elegant motions" and "glittering in their pride"? (4)

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