

I AM THE NEW BLACK

First of all, you should realize that you are white, and that I am black.....By and large, when I say that I am black, you picture one of two types of black men. But I refuse to be either ; and if you listen as if I were one of them, you will never realize who and what I actually represent, and you will leave this place just as your fathers left it. I am the New Black; I will neither babble about how much I love Jesus , nor entertain you with sparkling racial comedy. I will not eat with my fingers nor go out of my way to sit down at a dining hall table with you. I will not flunk out of this place but neither will I participate in the childish fanaticism of raving with you about your math test, or your phy sci lab or your grade in English. I want neither to be your enemy nor your friend. I

don't want your love, or your pity, or your guilt, or your fear. I demand only that you respect me.

I, the New Black, am not exactly sure why I am here....last year I did know, without being told. Last year I was to eventually become a responsible American citizen. I felt that an investment had been made in me -not merely by this school but by your whole society to provide "a safe", well balanced, and responsible leadership for the black revolution. ...The fact that I once accepted your definition of my role as a black nauseates me. I see in your definition, and in my agreement, a war; a continuation of the efforts to teach blacks how to act "white" and at the same time teach them to deny the legitimacy of their own culture.

As the New Black, I shall not tolerate the teaching of other blacks to be industrious, puritanical, and relatively unemotional -as you are; for I feel that we,as human beings, have much more to lose by becoming white than by remaining true to ourselves,true to our culture, and true to our blackness. ...The problem, again,is you people. Our minority black middle class is willing and ready to prostitute itself before you, and you still cannot see your sickness inside them.

The problem is racial. All men are not born equal. White is right. In a riot, all blacks are suspected of theft, and rape, and murder...I, the New Black, acknowledge my blackness, and the improbability of my ever becoming respected in your society by getting white.I,the New Black, not only accept but agree with your classification of all of us, regardless of class, as blacks. We have our blackness in common and we are united by your definition of what blacks in America are....I am a black first and an American when I can afford to be. I am at Exeter, not to be like you, nor to prepare myself to enter your society as a Roy Wilkins or a James meredith. This school'sefforts to prepare me for that type of role in tomorrow's world are futile. That role nolonger offers effective leadership for change, because it is based on the theory that a black leader should strive for assimilation of the black masses. Assimilation is nolonger the solution,though . Civil rights, as a movement,is dying. My most effective role in tomorrow's society will be to lead the advancement of Black power; and I, the New Black, dedicate my life to that role...we are at Exeter to obtain knowledge of ourselves, and when we become leaders, we will derive our strength not from your friendship,or your brains or your money,but from ourselves.

(J.R MCCUEN AND WINKLER Readings for writers)

Questions

- a. What are the two major themes of the passage? (04 marks)
- b. What evidence in the passage suggests that the speaker is a "New black"? (12 marks)
- c. How affective is the writer's style of writing? (12marks)
- d. Comment on the tone of the passage. (05marks)

SECTION 111

LOST FRIENDS

They are imprisoned
In dark suits and air-conditioned offices
Alsations ready at the door
On the saliva carpeted floor

They spend their nights
In jet airlines-
Would change them in mid-air
To show how much they dare.

Drunk from the vertigo
Of never catching their tails
They never seem to know
When not to bite their nails.

Their new addiction
Fortifies their lives
They are getting there
While the going's good
They have no time for dreamers.

By LENRIE PETERS

Questions

- a. Identify the speaker in the poem (03marks)
- b. Comment on the appropriateness of the title. (04marks)
- c. Comment on the effectiveness of the techniques used in the poem . (18marks)
- d. Describe the tone of the speaker in the poem (08 marks)