

EXAMEN DE FIN D'ÉTUDES SECONDAIRES – Sessions 2024**QUESTIONNAIRE**

Date :	07.06.24	Horaire :	14:15 - 16:45	Durée :	150 minutes	
Discipline :	ANGLA - TXINC	Type :	écrit	Section(s) :	CA / CA-LLCO / CA-MALA / CA-MALF / CA-MAT / CA-MATT / CA-PSYA / CA-PSYF	
					Numéro du candidat :	

THIRTEEN

by Caleb Femi

- 1 You will be four minutes from home
2 when you are cornered by an officer
3 who will tell you of a robbery, forty
4 minutes ago in the area. *You fit*
5 *the description of a man?* – You'll laugh.
6 Thirteen, you'll tell him: you're thirteen.
- 7 You'll be patted on the shoulder, then, by another fed
8 whose face takes you back to Gloucester Primary School,
9 a Wednesday assembly about *being little stars*.
10 This same officer had an horizon in the east
11 of his smile when he told your class that
12 you were all *supernovas*,
13 *the biggest and brightest stars*.
- 14 You will show the warmth of your teeth
15 praying he remembers the heat of your supernova;
16 he will see you powerless – plump.
17 You will watch the two men cast lots for your organs.
- 18 *Don't you remember me?* you will ask.
19 *You gave a talk at my primary school.*
20 While fear condenses on your lips,
21 you will remember that Wednesday, after the assembly,
22 your teacher speaking more about supernovas:
23 how they are, in fact, dying stars
24 on the verge of becoming black holes.

Note

Caleb Femi was born in Nigeria in 1990 and moved to London aged seven. His poetry draws inspiration from his childhood on the North Peckham Estate, an impoverished area of London.

Glossary

- l.7 **fed**: police
- l.12, l.22, l.24: **Black holes** are formed when stars run out of the fuel that powers them. These large stars explode in an event known as a **supernova**, before creating a black hole.
- l.17 **to cast lots**: to decide something by picking an item, often a slip of paper, at random

Analysis

Read all the questions before you start writing. Avoid any unnecessary overlaps or repetitions in your answers.

1. How is the speaker treated by the police? How does the poet convey the boy's feelings in the situation? (12 marks)
2. How does the poet juxtapose past and present experiences? How does the star imagery reinforce the juxtaposition? (14 marks)
3. What is the effect of the last two lines? (4 marks)
4. In what ways is the title of the poem related to its subject matter? (5 marks)
5. Comment on the narrative voice and the form of the poem. (10 marks)

Personal Response (15 marks)

"If you are neutral in situations of injustice, you have chosen the side of the oppressor." – Desmond Tutu

To what extent do you agree with this statement?