

Checking Out my History

Power

- power of humans

Colloquial Language

- We feel uncomfortable reading this poem due to lack of punctuation and phonetic language. This gives immediate power to the poet over the reader
- "dem tell me" → repeated, become stable by the end. Symbolic of colonisation.
- lack of punctuation
- difficult to read which represents the poet's different culture

Rhythm

- song like
- melodic
- bored of 'dem tell me' and we want change
- child-like rhythm mocks history as childlike and naive
- contrast to verses about black historical figures
- these verses are in free verse to show lack of control
- imagery and metaphors related to nature

Shift In Power

- at beginning people have power over speaker
- middle he has power over reader
- by the end he has poem over himself
- "carving" suggests violence and this process will not be peaceful
- "dem tell me"

Key Quotes

- "Bandage up my eye with me own history. Blind me to me own identity". Bandage is ironic as bandages are meant to be associated with healing however here it has prevented him from seeing his identity. "Blinded" emphasizes this.
- "carving out me identity" people trying to do it for him

Poems that link well

London → anger and power of humans

My Last Duchess → abuse of power

Tissue → conflict of identity

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