

Négritude: three poets and the words of identity

French 4 (high school) · Worksheet

Name: _____ Date: _____ Class: _____

Level: French 4 (high school, ACTFL Intermediate Mid) · **Standards:** ACTFL Intermediate Mid, WL 1.2 Interpretive, WL 1.3 Presentational, WL 4.1 Language Comparisons, WL 2.2 Cultural Products

Problem 1 Writers and homelands (easy)

Match each writer to the place he came from.

1. Aimé Césaire
2. Léopold Senghor
3. Léon-Gontran Damas

- A. le Sénégal
- B. la Guyane
- C. la Martinique

Match 1-3 with A-C.

Problem 2 Identity words (easy)

Translate into English: les racines, la fierté, l'héritage, l'esclavage.

Problem 3 True or false (easy)

Write true or false.

- a. The movement began in Paris.
- b. Césaire was born in Senegal.
- c. Senghor became president of Senegal.

Problem 4 Where were they born? (easy)

Complete with en, au or à.

- a. Césaire est né ____ Martinique.
- b. Senghor est né ____ Sénégal.
- c. Les trois amis se sont rencontrés ____ Paris.

Problem 5 What does the movement affirm? (easy)

Choose the best answer. Négritude affirms...

- a. pride in Black identity and African heritage
- b. the superiority of French culture
- c. the end of poetry

Problem 6 Word box (easy)

Complete with a word from the box: *fierté, racines, colonisation, exil*.

- a. Ce poète est fier de ses ____ africaines.
- b. La ____ a changé la vie de millions de personnes.
- c. Il parle de sa ____ avec émotion.
- d. Loin de son pays, il vit en ____.

Problem 7 Proud of one's roots (easy)

Translate into French: *The poet is proud of his roots.*

Problem 8 According to the poet (medium)

Translate into English: *Selon ce poète, l'identité ne se cache pas ; elle se revendique.*

Problem 9 Passé composé (medium)

Conjugate in the passé composé: Césaire (écrire) un long poème en 1939.

Problem 10 From past historic (medium)

Rewrite in the passé composé: Senghor devint président du Sénégal en 1960.

Problem 11 Correct the preposition (medium)

Correct the mistake: Damas est né à Guyane.

Problem 12 Choose the connector (medium)

Choose: ____ les difficultés, ces écrivains ont continué à publier.

- a. Grâce aux
- b. Malgré
- c. Selon

Problem 13 Use selon (medium)

Rewrite with selon: Le poète pense que l'identité est une force.

Problem 14 Define a word (medium)

Write a one-sentence definition in French of la diaspora.

Problem 15 Reclaiming history (medium)

Translate into French: *They want to reclaim their history.*

Problem 16 Reading: the exhibit (hard)

Read the text and the poster, then answer in English.

Samedi dernier, Aminata, une lycéenne de Dakar, a visité une petite exposition sur la Négritude avec sa classe. Elle a vu des photos d'étudiants à Paris dans les années 1930 et elle a lu des extraits de poèmes. Un panneau expliquait que ces écrivains ne voulaient pas copier la culture des colonisateurs : ils voulaient être fiers de leurs racines. Aminata a trouvé l'exposition passionnante et elle a décidé de lire un recueil de poèmes pendant les vacances.

Exposition : Voix de la Négritude

Bibliothèque de Dakar — jusqu'au 30 mars

Entrée libre

Poster of the exhibition.

- a. What did Aminata see and read?
- b. What did the panel explain?
- c. What does she decide to do, and what does the poster say about the price?

Problem 17 One-sentence summary (hard)

Write two sentences in French that summarize the idea of the Négritude movement in your own words.

Problem 18 Compare two poets (hard)

Write three sentences in French that compare Senghor and Césaire (origin, role, work). Use *alors que* or *tandis que* once.

Problem 19 Opinion paragraph (hard)

Write 4 or 5 sentences in French: why is it important to read these writers today? Start with *À mon avis* and use at least three vocabulary words from this chapter.

Problem 20 Paragraph translation (hard)

Translate into French: *Three students met in Paris in the 1930s. They wrote poems about their roots and refused to hide their culture. Their work inspired many writers after them.*