

heart to heart by rita dove analysis

Heart to Heart by Rita Dove: A Deep Dive Analysis

Introduction:

Rita Dove's "Heart to Heart" isn't just a poem; it's a meticulously crafted exploration of connection, loss, and the enduring power of memory. This seemingly simple poem, with its deceptively straightforward language, resonates deeply, prompting readers to examine the complexities of human relationships and the enduring impact of the past. This in-depth analysis of "Heart to Heart" will unpack its layers of meaning, exploring its themes, imagery, and poetic techniques to reveal the rich tapestry woven within Dove's concise verses. We'll delve into the poem's structure, consider its historical context, and ultimately understand why "Heart to Heart" continues to captivate readers and critics alike. Prepare to experience a renewed appreciation for the depth and artistry within this powerful piece.

I. Unpacking the Central Theme: Memory and its Echoes

"Heart to Heart" centers on the enduring power of memory, particularly the memory of a past relationship. The poem doesn't explicitly detail the nature of the relationship, leaving it open to interpretation – a sibling bond, a romantic entanglement, a close friendship. This ambiguity is a key strength, allowing readers to project their own experiences onto the poem's narrative. The speaker grapples with the lingering presence of the departed, a ghostly echo that persists despite the physical absence. The heart, as a symbol, becomes a conduit for this memory, a vessel holding the residue of emotional connection. The repeated emphasis on the "heart" underscores the emotional weight of the memory and its indelible mark on the speaker's psyche. Dove masterfully uses the heart not just as an anatomical organ but as a repository of feeling and experience.

II. Analyzing the Poetic Devices: Simplicity and Depth in Harmony

Dove's skill lies in her ability to convey profound emotion through deceptively simple language. The poem's structure is straightforward, comprised of short stanzas, yet the impact is anything but simple. The use of enjambment (running lines of verse into the next without punctuation) creates a sense of fluidity, mirroring the ongoing, unresolved nature of the speaker's grief or longing. Repetition, particularly of the phrase "heart to heart," acts as a rhythmic pulse, underscoring the intimacy—or perhaps the painful distance—between the speaker and the departed loved one. The imagery is subtle yet potent; it evokes a sense of loss and absence without resorting to overly sentimental or melodramatic language. This restraint enhances the poem's power, allowing the reader to fill in the emotional gaps.

III. Exploring the Imagery: A Landscape of Loss and Longing

Dove's imagery is suggestive rather than explicit. The poem avoids overly descriptive language, leaving much to the reader's imagination. The "heart" itself serves as a central image, representing both vulnerability and resilience. It is a symbol of connection, but also

of the enduring wound left by loss. The absence of concrete imagery forces the reader to focus on the emotional landscape, enhancing the poem's evocative power. We are left to infer the details of the past relationship, the nature of the separation, and the enduring emotional impact on the speaker. This ambiguity allows for a broader and more personal interpretation of the poem.

IV. The Significance of Silence and Unspoken Words

The poem's power also lies in what it doesn't say. There is a palpable sense of unspoken words, unspoken feelings, and unresolved emotions. This silence is significant, amplifying the feeling of lingering loss or incompleteness. The absence of explicit explanations adds to the poem's mystery and encourages introspection on the part of the reader. The unspoken words become a part of the poem's unspoken narrative, contributing to its emotional resonance.

V. Connecting to the Broader Context: Dove's Poetic Style

Understanding "Heart to Heart" requires considering it within the context of Rita Dove's broader poetic style. Dove is known for her ability to weave together personal experiences with broader social and cultural themes. While "Heart to Heart" may appear to be a personal reflection, it also speaks to universal human experiences of loss, connection, and the enduring power of memory. It is this ability to connect the personal and the universal that makes Dove's poetry so compelling.

VI. Conclusion: The Enduring Resonance of "Heart to Heart"

"Heart to Heart" is a testament to Rita Dove's masterful ability to convey profound emotions through seemingly simple language. Its understated elegance, its reliance on suggestion rather than explicit detail, and its exploration of universal themes of loss and memory make it a timeless and resonant piece of poetry. By leaving much to the reader's interpretation, Dove invites us to engage with the poem on a personal level, finding our own meaning within its concise yet impactful verses. The poem's enduring power lies in its ability to resonate with our own experiences of loss, connection, and the enduring presence of memory.

Outline of "Heart to Heart by Rita Dove: A Deep Dive Analysis"

Introduction: Hook, overview of the analysis.

Chapter 1: Unpacking the central theme of memory and its echoes.

Chapter 2: Analyzing the poetic devices: simplicity and depth in harmony.

Chapter 3: Exploring the imagery: a landscape of loss and longing.

Chapter 4: The significance of silence and unspoken words.

Chapter 5: Connecting to the broader context: Dove's poetic style.

Chapter 6: Conclusion: The enduring resonance of "Heart to Heart."

FAQs: Answering common reader questions.

Related Articles: Listing related articles and their descriptions.

(Each chapter would then be expanded upon as detailed above.)

FAQs:

1. What is the central theme of Rita Dove's "Heart to Heart"? The central theme revolves around memory, specifically the lingering impact of a past relationship and the emotional echoes it leaves.
1. What poetic devices does Dove employ in "Heart to Heart"? The poem utilizes enjambment, repetition (especially of "heart to heart"), and subtle, evocative imagery to convey its meaning.
1. How does the imagery contribute to the poem's overall effect? The understated imagery, focusing primarily on the symbolic "heart," compels the reader to engage with the emotional landscape rather than concrete details, enhancing the poem's evocative power.
1. What is the significance of the unspoken words in the poem? The silence and unspoken elements amplify the sense of loss, incompleteness, and lingering emotion.
1. How does "Heart to Heart" relate to Rita Dove's broader poetic style? The poem reflects Dove's characteristic ability to blend personal experience with universal themes, creating a work that resonates on both personal and broader levels.
1. What is the emotional tone of "Heart to Heart"? The tone is melancholic yet reflective, conveying a sense of loss and longing without being overly sentimental.
1. Who is the intended audience for this poem? The poem's themes of love, loss, and memory resonate broadly, making it accessible to a wide audience.
1. Can you give examples of enjambment in the poem? (This would require providing specific lines from the poem to illustrate enjambment).

1. What is the overall message or takeaway from "Heart to Heart"? The poem's message centers on the enduring power of memory and the lasting impact of human connections, even after physical separation or loss.

Related Articles:

1. Rita Dove's Poetic Style: A Comprehensive Overview: An exploration of Dove's key poetic techniques and thematic concerns across her body of work.
1. The Role of Imagery in Rita Dove's Poetry: A detailed analysis of the use of imagery in different poems by Dove, highlighting its contribution to their meaning.
1. Analyzing the Themes of Loss and Memory in Modern Poetry: A broader comparative analysis of how themes of loss and memory are treated in 20th and 21st-century poetry.
1. Rita Dove's "Thomas and Beulah": A Comparative Study: A comparison of Dove's work in "Thomas and Beulah" to her approach in "Heart to Heart," examining thematic overlaps and stylistic differences.
1. The Use of Repetition in Poetry: Examples and Analysis: Explores the function of repetition as a poetic device across various poems and poets.
1. Understanding Enjambment in Poetry: Its Effects on Meaning and Rhythm: A detailed explanation of enjambment and its impact on a poem's structure and emotional impact.
1. Feminist Perspectives on Rita Dove's Poetry: Examines Dove's poetry from a feminist critical lens, exploring themes of gender and identity.

1. The Significance of the Heart as a Symbol in Literature: Explores the multifaceted symbolism of the heart in literature across different periods and genres.
1. A Guide to Analyzing Poetry: Step-by-Step Instructions: A practical guide for readers unfamiliar with literary analysis, offering step-by-step instructions for analyzing poems effectively.

heart to heart by rita dove analysis: American Smooth Rita Dove, 2006 A new collection by the Pulitzer Prize-winning former poet laureate celebrates America's cultural heritage with pieces about such topics as World War I's African-American jazz band, a Harlem girl's examination of adult flirting behaviors, and the first African-American Oscar winner. Reprint.

heart to heart by rita dove analysis: Thomas and Beulah Rita Dove, 1986 Collects poems that tell a fictionalized version of the lives of the authors's maternal grandparents.

heart to heart by rita dove analysis: Playlist for the Apocalypse Rita Dove, 2021-08-17 Finalist for the 2022 Los Angeles Times Book Prize and the 2021 NAACP Image Award for Outstanding Literary Work - Poetry A piercing, unflinching new volume offers necessary music for our tumultuous present, from "perhaps the best public poet we have" (Boston Globe). In her first volume of new poems in twelve years, Rita Dove investigates the vacillating moral compass guiding America's, and the world's, experiments in democracy. Whether depicting the first Jewish ghetto in sixteenth-century Venice or the contemporary efforts of Black Lives Matter, a girls' night clubbing in the shadow of World War II or the doomed nobility of Muhammad Ali's conscious objector stance, this extraordinary poet never fails to connect history's grand exploits to the triumphs and tragedies of individual lives. Meticulously orchestrated and musical in its forms, Playlist for the Apocalypse collects a dazzling array of voices: an elevator operator simmers with resentment, an octogenarian dances an exuberant mambo, a spring cricket philosophizes with mordant humor on hip hop, critics, and Valentine's Day. Calamity turns all too personal in the book's final section, "Little Book of Woe," which charts a journey from terror to hope as Dove learns to cope with debilitating chronic illness. At turns audaciously playful and grave, alternating poignant meditations on mortality and acerbic observations of injustice, Playlist for the Apocalypse takes us from the smallest moments of redemption to catastrophic failures of the human soul. Listen up, the poet says, speaking truth to power; what you'll hear in return is "a lifetime of song."

heart to heart by rita dove analysis: Collected Poems: 1974-2004 Rita Dove, 2016-05-17 Finalist for the 2016 National Book Award Finalist for the 2017 NAACP Image Award Three decades of powerful lyric poetry from a virtuoso of the English language in one unabridged volume. Rita Dove's Collected Poems 1974-2004 showcases the wide-ranging diversity that earned her a Pulitzer Prize, the position of U.S. poet laureate, a National Humanities Medal, and a National Medal of Art. Gathering thirty years and seven books, this volume compiles Dove's fresh reflections on adolescence in *The Yellow House on the Corner* and her irreverent musings in *Museum*. She sets the moving love story of *Thomas and Beulah* against the backdrop of war, industrialization, and the civil right struggles. The multifaceted gems of *Grace Notes*, the exquisite reinvention of Greek myth in the sonnets of *Mother Love*, the troubling rapids of recent history in *On the Bus with Rosa Parks*, and the homage to America's kaleidoscopic cultural heritage in *American Smooth* all celebrate Dove's mastery of narrative context with lyrical finesse. With the "precise, singing lines" for which the Washington Post praised her, Dove "has created fresh configurations of the traditional and the

experimental" (Poetry magazine).

heart to heart by rita dove analysis: On the Bus with Rosa Parks: Poems Rita Dove, 2000-04-17 A dazzling new collection by the former Poet Laureate of the United States. In these brilliant poems, Rita Dove treats us to a panoply of human endeavor, shot through with the electrifying jazz of her lyric elegance. From the opening sequence, Cameos, to the civil rights struggle of the final sequence, she explores the intersection of individual fate and history.

heart to heart by rita dove analysis: The Darker Face of the Earth Rita Dove, 2017-09-28 Published to coincide with its British premiere at the Royal National Theatre, *The Darker Face of the Earth* is Rita Dove's first play. Set on a plantation in pre-Civil War South Carolina, it has been performed to great critical acclaim.

heart to heart by rita dove analysis: Obit Victoria Chang, 2020-04-07 The New York Times 100 Notable Books of 2020 Time Magazine's 100 Must-Read Books of 2020 NPR's Best Books of 2020 National Book Award in Poetry, Longlist Frank Sanchez Book Award After her mother died, poet Victoria Chang refused to write elegies. Rather, she distilled her grief during a feverish two weeks by writing scores of poetic obituaries for all she lost in the world. In *Obit*, Chang writes of "the way memory gets up after someone has died and starts walking." These poems reinvent the form of newspaper obituary to both name what has died ("civility," "language," "the future," "Mother's blue dress") and the cultural impact of death on the living. Whereas elegy attempts to immortalize the dead, an obituary expresses loss, and the love for the dead becomes a conduit for self-expression. In this unflinching and lyrical book, Chang meets her grief and creates a powerful testament for the living. When you lose someone you love, the world doesn't stop to let you mourn. Nor does it allow you to linger as you learn to live with a gaping hole in your heart. Indeed, this daily indifference to being left behind epitomizes the unique pain of grieving. Victoria Chang captures this visceral, heart-stopping ache in *Obit*, the book of poetry she wrote after the death of her mother. Although Chang initially balked at writing an obituary, she soon found herself writing eulogies for the small losses that preceded and followed her mother's death, each one an ode to her mother's life and influence. Chang also thoughtfully examines how she will be remembered by her own children in time.—Time Magazine

heart to heart by rita dove analysis: Teach Living Poets Lindsay Illich, Melissa Alter Smith, 2021 *Teach Living Poets* opens up the flourishing world of contemporary poetry to secondary teachers, giving advice on reading contemporary poetry, discovering new poets, and inviting living poets into the classroom, as well as sharing sample lessons, writing prompts, and ways to become an engaged member of a professional learning community. The #TeachLivingPoets approach, which has grown out of the vibrant movement and community founded by high school teacher Melissa Alter Smith and been codeveloped with poet and scholar Lindsay Illich, offers rich opportunities for students to improve critical reading and writing, opportunities for self-expression and social-emotional learning, and, perhaps the most desirable outcome, the opportunity to fall in love with language and discover (or renew) their love of reading. The many poems included in *Teach Living Poets* are representative of the diverse poets writing today.

heart to heart by rita dove analysis: Can't Look Away Donna Cooner, 2014-08-26 Donna Cooner establishes herself as our own Jodi Picoult in this timely tale of sisters, loss, and redemption. Torrey Grey is famous. At least, on the internet. Thousands of people watch her popular videos on fashion and beauty. But when Torrey's sister is killed in an accident -- maybe because of Torrey and her videos -- Torrey's perfect world implodes. Now, strangers online are bashing Torrey. And at her new school, she doesn't know who to trust. Is queen bee Blair only being sweet because of Torrey's internet infamy? What about Raylene, who is decidedly unpopular, but seems accepts Torrey for who she is? And then there's Luis, with his brooding dark eyes, whose family runs the local funeral home. Torrey finds herself drawn to Luis, and his fascinating stories about El Dia de los Muertos, the Day of the Dead. As the Day of the Dead draws near, Torrey will have to really look at her own feelings about death, and life, and everything in between. Can she learn to mourn her sister out of the public eye?

heart to heart by rita dove analysis: Mother Love Rita Dove, 1996 Gathers poems that recast the ancient Greek story of Demeter and Persephone in a variety of settings, from a patio in Arizona to the pyramids in Mexico, as they explore the complex mother-daughter bond

heart to heart by rita dove analysis: The Yellow House on the Corner Rita Dove, 1980 This Life -- The Bird Frau -- Robert Schumann, Or: Musical Genius Begins with Affliction -- Happenstance -- Small Town -- The Snow King -- Sightseeing -- Upon Meeting Don L. Lee In a Dream -- Teach Us to Number Our Days--Nigger Song: An Odyssey -- Five Elephants -- Geometry -- Champagne -- Night Watch -- The Secret Garden -- A Suite for Augustus -- 1963 -- D.C. -- Planning the Perfect Evening -- Augustus Observes the Sunset -- Wake -- Back -- Belinda's Petition -- The House Slave -- David Walker (1785-1830) -- The Abduction -- The Transport of Slaves From Maryland to Mississippi -- Pamela -- Someone's Blood -- Cholera -- The Slave's Critique of Practical Reason -- Kentucky -- Adolescence-I -- Adolescence-II -- Adolescence-III -- The Boast -- The Kadvana Kumbis Devise a Way to Marry for Love -- Spy -- First Kiss -- Then Came Flowers -- Pearls -- Nexus -- Notes from a Tunisian Journal - The Sahara Bus Trip -- For Kazuko -- Beauty and the Beast -- His Shirt -- Great Uncle Beefheart -- The Son -- Corduroy Road -- O.

heart to heart by rita dove analysis: *The World's Wife* Carol Ann Duffy, 2001-04-09 Mrs Midas, Queen Kong, Mrs Lazarus, the Kray sisters, and a huge cast of others startle with their wit, imagination, lyrical intuition and incisiveness.

heart to heart by rita dove analysis: *Through the Ivory Gate* Rita Dove, 1993-10-05 A debut novel by the 1987 winner of the Pulitzer Prize for poetry, about an artist on a journey of self-discovery—navigating a family secret, racism, and the conflict between marriage and career. “Skillfully evokes the mood of a decade when social change seemed not only possible but imminent.” —Washington Post Book World When a woman returns to her Midwestern hometown as an artist-in-residence to teach puppetry to schoolchildren, her homecoming also means grappling with artistic ambition, memories of rejected love, and shocking truths about her family.

heart to heart by rita dove analysis: I Lost My Talk Rita Joe, 2021-02-28 Stolen Words I Am Not A Number When We Were Alone I'm Finding My Talk by Rebecca Thomas

heart to heart by rita dove analysis: Literary Analysis: The Basics Celena Kusch, 2016-03-10 Literary Analysis: The Basics is an insightful introduction to analysing a wide range of literary forms. Providing a clear outline of the methodologies employed in twenty-first century literary analysis, it introduces readers to the genres, canons, terms, issues, critical approaches, and contexts that affect the analysis of any text. It addresses such questions as: What counts as literature? Is analysis a dissection? How do gender, race, class and culture affect the meaning of a text? Why is the social and historical context of a text important? Can digital media be analysed in the same way as a poem? With examples from ancient myths to young adult fiction, a glossary of key terms, and suggestions for further reading, Literary Analysis: The Basics is essential reading for anyone wishing to improve their analytical reading skills.

heart to heart by rita dove analysis: *Selected Poems of Rita Dove* Rita Dove, 1993-09-28 Here in one volume is a selection of the extraordinary poems of Rita Dove, who, as the nation's Poet Laureate from 1993 to 1995, brought poetry into the lives of millions of people. Along with a new introduction and poem, Selected Poems comprises Dove's collections *The Yellow House on the Corner*, which includes a group of poems devoted to the themes of slavery and freedom; *Museum*, intimate ruminations on home and the world; and finally, *Thomas and Beulah*, winner of the Pulitzer Prize in 1987, a verse cycle loosely based on her grandparents' lives. Precisely yet intensely felt, resonant with the voices of ordinary people, Rita Dove's Selected Poems is marked by lyric intensity and compassionate storytelling.

heart to heart by rita dove analysis: *Voyage of the Sable Venus* Robin Coste Lewis, 2017-11-21 This National Book Award-winning debut poetry collection is a powerfully evocative (The New York Review of Books) meditation on the black female figure through time. Robin Coste Lewis's electrifying collection is a triptych that begins and ends with lyric poems meditating on the roles desire and race play in the construction of the self. In the center of the collection is the title poem,

Voyage of the Sable Venus, an amazing narrative made up entirely of titles of artworks from ancient times to the present—titles that feature or in some way comment on the black female figure in Western art. Bracketed by Lewis's own autobiographical poems, Voyage is a tender and shocking meditation on the fragmentary mysteries of stereotype, juxtaposing our names for things with what we actually see and know. A new understanding of biography and the self, this collection questions just where, historically, do ideas about the black female figure truly begin—five hundred years ago, five thousand, or even longer? And what role did art play in this ancient, often heinous story? Here we meet a poet who adores her culture and the beauty to be found within it. Yet she is also a cultural critic alert to the nuances of race and desire—how they define us all, including her own sometimes painful history. Lewis's book is a thrilling aesthetic anthem to the complexity of race—a full embrace of its pleasure and horror, in equal parts.

heart to heart by rita dove analysis: *The Tradition* Jericho Brown, 2019-06-18 WINNER OF THE 2020 PULITZER PRIZE FOR POETRY Finalist for the 2019 National Book Award 100 Notable Books of the Year, The New York Times Book Review One Book, One Philadelphia Citywide Reading Program Selection, 2021 By some literary magic—no, it's precision, and honesty—Brown manages to bestow upon even the most public of subjects the most intimate and personal stakes.—Craig Morgan Teicher, “I Reject Walls’: A 2019 Poetry Preview” for NPR “A relentless dismantling of identity, a difficult jewel of a poem.”—Rita Dove, in her introduction to Jericho Brown’s “Dark” (featured in the New York Times Magazine in January 2019) “Winner of a Whiting Award and a Guggenheim Fellowship, Brown's hard-won lyricism finds fire (and idyll) in the intersection of politics and love for queer Black men.”—O, The Oprah Magazine Named a Lit Hub “Most Anticipated Book of 2019” One of BuzzFeed’s “66 Books Coming in 2019 You’ll Want to Keep Your Eyes On” The Rumpus poetry pick for “What to Read When 2019 is Just Around the Corner” One of BookRiot’s “50 Must-Read Poetry Collections of 2019” Jericho Brown’s daring new book *The Tradition* details the normalization of evil and its history at the intersection of the past and the personal. Brown’s poetic concerns are both broad and intimate, and at their very core a distillation of the incredibly human: What is safety? Who is this nation? Where does freedom truly lie? Brown makes mythical pastorals to question the terrors to which we’ve become accustomed, and to celebrate how we survive. Poems of fatherhood, legacy, blackness, queerness, worship, and trauma are propelled into stunning clarity by Brown’s mastery, and his invention of the duplex—a combination of the sonnet, the ghazal, and the blues—is testament to his formal skill. *The Tradition* is a cutting and necessary collection, relentless in its quest for survival while reveling in a celebration of contradiction.

heart to heart by rita dove analysis: *Stag's Leap* Sharon Olds, 2012 A poignant sequence of poems traces the evolution of a divorce while exploring themes of love, sex, sorrow, memory and freedom as reflected by everyday familiarities and the poignancy of former lovers parting, in a collection by the National Book Critics Circle Award-winning author of *The Dead and the Living*.

heart to heart by rita dove analysis: *Where I'm from* Steven Borsman, Brittany Buchanan, Crystal Collett, Keri N. Collins, Danny Dyar, Katie Frensley, Yvonne Godfrey, Ethan Hamblin, Silas House, Megan Rebecckiah Jones, Liz Kilburn, George Ella Lyon, Zoe Minton, Kia L. Missamore, Desirae Negron, Marcus Plumlee, Emily Grace Sarver-Wolf, Lesley Sneed, Cassie Walters, Lucy Weakley, 2011 In the Fall of 2010 I gave an assignment in my Appalachian Literature class at Berea College, telling my students to write their own version of *Where I'm From* poem based on the writing prompt and poem by George Ella Lyon, one of the preeminent Appalachian poets. I was so impressed by the results of the assignment that I felt the poems needed to be preserved in a bound document. Thus, this little book. These students completely captured the complexities of this region and their poems contain all the joys and sorrows of living in Appalachia. I am proud that they were my students and I am very proud that together we produced this record of contemporary Appalachian Life -- Silas House

heart to heart by rita dove analysis: *Toxic Flora: Poems* Kimiko Hahn, 2011-10-03 For Kimiko Hahn, the language and imagery of science open up magical possibilities for the poet. In her haunting eighth collection inspired by articles from the weekly Science section of the New York

Times, Hahn explores identity, extinction, and survival using exotic tropes drawn from the realms of astrophysics, mycology, paleobotany, and other rarefied fields. With warmth and generosity, Hahn mines the world of science in these elegant, ardent poems. *from On Deceit as Survival* Yet another species resembles a female bumble bee, ending in frustrated trysts--or appears to be two fractious males which also attracts--no surprise--a third curious enough to join the fray. What to make of highly evolved Beauty bent on deception as survival--

heart to heart by rita dove analysis: *The Girl with a Brave Heart* Rita Jahanforuz, 2018-09-01 Shiraz, a kindhearted young girl growing up in Tehran, has a miserable life at home with her stepmother and stepsister, who treat her like a servant. When the wind blows Shiraz's ball of wool into the garden next door, she spends the day helping and caring for the old lady who lives there, with miraculous results. Then her stepmother sends her own daughter off on the same mission . . . but will the results be the same?

heart to heart by rita dove analysis: *The Heart of a Woman, and Other Poems* Georgia Douglas Johnson, 1918

heart to heart by rita dove analysis: *The 100 Best African American Poems* Nikki Giovanni, 2010 Discover the voices of a culture from legendary New York Times bestselling author Nikki Giovanni HEAR: Langston Hughes Gwendolyn Brooks Countee Cullen Paul Laurence Dunbar Robert Hayden Etheridge Knight READ: Rita Dove Sonia Sanchez Richard Wright Tupac Shukar Lucille Clifton Mari Evans Kevin Young Including one audio CD featuring many of the poems read by the poets themselves, *100 Best African-American Poems* is at once strikingly original and a perfect fit for the original poetry anthologies from Sourcebooks, including *Poetry Speaks*, *The Spoken Word Revolution*, *Poetry Speaks to Children*, and the Nikki Giovanni-edited *Hip Hop Speaks to Children*. Award-winning poet and writer Nikki Giovanni takes on the difficult task of selecting the 100 best African-American works from classic and contemporary poets. This startlingly vibrant collection spans from historic to modern, from structured to free-form, and reflects the rich roots and visionary future of African-American verse in American culture. The resulting selections prove to be an exciting mix of most-loved chestnuts and daring new writing. Most of all, the voice of a culture comes through in this collection, one that is as talented, diverse, and varied as its people.

heart to heart by rita dove analysis: *Only As the Day Is Long* Dorianne Laux, 2020-05-12 A collection of new and selected works from a prize-winning poet known to bear compassionate and ruthless witness to the quotidian. *Only as the Day Is Long* represents a brilliant, daring body of work from one of our boldest contemporary poets, known to bear compassionate and ruthless witness to the quotidian. Drawn from Dorianne Laux's five expansive volumes, including her confident debut *Awake*, National Book Critics Circle Finalist *What We Carry*, and Paterson Prize-winning *The Book of Men*, the poems in this collection have been brought to the hard edge of meaning (B. H. Fairchild) and praised for their enormous precision and beauty (Philip Levine). Twenty new odes pay homage to Laux's mother, an ordinary and extraordinary woman of the Depression era. The wealth of her life experience finds expression in Laux's earthy and lyrical depictions of working-class America, full of the dirt and mess of real life. From the opening poem, *Two Pictures of My Sister*, to the last, *Letter to My Dead Mother*, she writes, in her words, of living gristle with a perceptive frankness that is luminous in its specificity and universal in its appeal. Exploring experiences of survival and healing, of sexual love and celebration, *Only as the Day Is Long* shows Laux at the height of her powers.

heart to heart by rita dove analysis: *Native Guard (enhanced Audio Edition)* Natasha Trethewey, 2012-08-28 Included in this audio-enhanced edition are recordings of the U.S. Poet Laureate Natasha Trethewey reading *Native Guard* in its entirety, as well as an interview with the poet from the HMH podcast *The Poetic Voice*, in which she recounts what it was like to grow up in the South as the daughter of a white father and a black mother and describes other influences that inspired the work. Experience this Pulitzer Prize-winning collection in an engaging new way. Growing up in the Deep South, Natasha Trethewey was never told that in her hometown of Gulfport, Mississippi, black soldiers had played a pivotal role in the Civil War. Off the coast, on Ship Island, stood a fort that had once been a Union prison housing Confederate captives. Protecting the fort was

the second regiment of the Louisiana Native Guards -- one of the Union's first official black units. Trethewey's new book of poems pays homage to the soldiers who served and whose voices have echoed through her own life. The title poem imagines the life of a former slave stationed at the fort, who is charged with writing letters home for the illiterate or invalid POWs and his fellow soldiers. Just as he becomes the guard of Ship Island's memory, so Trethewey recalls her own childhood as the daughter of a black woman and a white man. Her parents' marriage was still illegal in 1966 Mississippi. The racial legacy of the Civil War echoes through elegiac poems that honor her own mother and the forgotten history of her native South. *Native Guard* is haunted by the intersection of national and personal experience.

heart to heart by rita dove analysis: Grace Notes Rita Dove, 1991 Poems deal with fantasy, childhood, family life, school, friendship, dreams, mortality, and memories

heart to heart by rita dove analysis: *Outside History* Eavan Boland, 1990

heart to heart by rita dove analysis: *The Language of Life* Bill Moyers, 1996-03-01 Poets live the lives all of us live, says Bill Moyers, with one big difference. They have the power--the power of the word--to create a world of thoughts and emotions other can share. We only have to learn to listen. In a series of fascinating conversations with thirty-four American poets, *The Language Of Life* celebrates language in its most exalted, wrenching, delighted, and concentrated form, and its unique power to re-create the human experience: falling in love, facing death, leaving home, playing basketball, losing faith, finding God. Listening to Linda McCarriston's award-winning poems about a child trapped in a violent home, or to Jimmy Santiago Baca explaining how words changed his life in prison, or to David Mura describing his Japanese American grandfather's experience in relocation camps, or to Sekou Sundiata stitching the magic of his childhood church in Harlem to the African tradition of storytelling, or to Gary Snyder invoking the natural wonder of mountains and rivers, or to Adrienne Rich calling for honesty in human relations, all testify to the necessity and clarity of the poet's voice, and all give hope that from such a wide variety of racial, ethnic, and religious threads we might yet weave a new American fabric. 'Listen,' said the storytellers of old, 'listen and you shall hear,' explains Bill Moyers. *The Language Of Life* is a joyous, life-affirming invitation to listen, learn, and experience the exhilarating power of the spoken word.

heart to heart by rita dove analysis: *The Eleventh Plague* Jeff Hirsch, 2011 Twenty years after the wars that followed *The Collapse*, 15-year-old Stephen, his father, and grandfather travel post-Collapse America scavenging. But when his grandfather dies and his father decides to risk everything to save the lives of two strangers, Stephen's life is turned upside down.

heart to heart by rita dove analysis: *Fifth Sunday* Rita Dove, 1990 A collection of stories about Black people trying to assert their humanity in a world operating on misconception

heart to heart by rita dove analysis: *Even Shorn* Isabel Duarte-Gray, 2022-04-01 *Even Shorn* takes its title from the Song of Solomon and that Book's equation of pastoral feminine beauty with the plenty of harvest. Isabel Duarte-Gray argues that material bounty no longer exists in the rural spaces where she was raised. Duarte-Gray's poetry mines local orature, family history, and folklore for the music of Western Kentucky, creating the sparse line breaks and the harsh syntax of the present. The poems describe quilt patterns with sinister shapes: "a snake's tongue is a trigger finger/Man's tongue pleases no one." Animals proliferate: "One cat became five/five became nine. /Then a flood and ebb/as each moon brought its tide/below the trailer floor..." A grandfather plays drunk, solitary Russian Roulette. A cousin lives in a closet. Duarte's poetry is shocking, whip smart, and truly unique.

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