

## Question Support

### LITERARY ANALYSIS

For questions 1–3, see page 1337 of the Student Edition.

**Directions:** Answer each question.

- 4. Make Inferences About Speaker** Underline one word to complete each sentence.  
 At the beginning of the poem, the speaker is (angry/polite/overjoyed).  
 Then the woman asks a question that he thinks is (justified/interesting/insulting).  
 At the end of the poem, he is (calm/emotional/nervous).

- 5. Examine Author’s Background** Soyinka grew up in Western Nigeria. Then he attended school in England. How might these facts be reflected in the poem?
- \_\_\_\_\_
- \_\_\_\_\_

- 6. Identify Tone in Satire** Circle the words or phrases that describe the tone of the poem.
- |                   |                   |                     |                    |
|-------------------|-------------------|---------------------|--------------------|
| <b>a.</b> playful | <b>c.</b> gloomy  | <b>e.</b> biting    | <b>g.</b> enraged  |
| <b>b.</b> ironic  | <b>d.</b> trivial | <b>f.</b> sarcastic | <b>h.</b> detached |

- 7. Analyze Irony** occurs when someone states one thing and means another. In line 17, the speaker calls the landlady “considerate.” This is verbal irony because
- \_\_\_\_\_
- \_\_\_\_\_

- 8. Make Generalizations** Think about the landlady’s concern with the precise color of the speaker’s skin. Complete this sentence: The landlady’s question about the darkness of the speaker’s skin is a good example of the way that people
- \_\_\_\_\_
- \_\_\_\_\_

- 9. Compare Texts** Compare this poem with Jonathan Swift’s satire “A Modest Proposal” on page 622. Circle the letter of the statements that are true.
- a.** Soyinka’s poem is more playful and lighthearted than Swift’s essay.
  - b.** Both satires use a harsh, bitter tone.
  - c.** Both essays attack discrimination and social inequality.