

Reflection

The time and events that took place within my era (1940-1979) made it apt to explore the capacities of humankind. I choose to focus on the power of one to manipulate, brainwash and control the world given the actions of Hitler in the early parts of this time period. Not to mention the influence of propaganda in World War II, Cold War and the Vietnam War. The world was becoming increasingly disillusioned with the inequality of power between social classes, leaders and their followers. Thus the lines selected are intended to represent, both individually and collectively, the growing disillusionment of the public in relation to their political living situation.

I chose to allude to an all-powerful God-like person, who in spite of remaining unnamed for purposes of reflecting more than one dictator, conveyed their influence. The use of the term "hero" is intended to reinforce the belief that some were blind to the mind-trickery and innate evil of the leaders of this time viewing their actions as brave and courageous as opposed to callous and brutal. "Poison" could be any lie or corroding tale fed to the people that affected their thoughts and subsequent actions.

The end of the poem is intended to challenge the idea of our "enemy" and what really constitutes one. Specifically even though the doctrine is beginning to be questioned, the final line recognises the inevitable all-encompassing nature that one human has upon the humanity of a generation.

"Op-Art" was an art form that arose during this era; conveying illusion. I decided that the presentation of my poem would be influenced by a famous artist Richard Anuszkiewicz and his 1958 artwork *Concentric-ii*. Playing on the idea of illusion and its antonym I attempted to portray my poem as an illusion to reflect the memorising effect of one's power. This was to show how illusion detracts from the real issues at hand, and how a façade can essentially conceal one's true intent. As disillusionment was a key value of the time it seemed fitting for it to remain the focal point of both the poem and its presentation.

The theme of man stood out for me as I read through poems of this era. My own title *Man of All* is an ode to the two poems, which for me struck a chord. *The Average Man* by George Essex Evans and *Man-Made Satellite* by Louis Ginsberg helped to cement my ideas surrounding the time. I liked the former for its simple argument that a "hero is often an average man". It is refreshing to read a perspective that suggest heroism can spawn from normalcy in a time period where sheer force of will created an illusion of heroism all too often. I found the later poem interesting as it commented on how man was capable of "infinite dreaming" yet he remained tethered to the world. For me this inspired the idea that we retain the capacity to dream, in spite of our circumstance, and how in the end to overcome the "thick... atmosphere of hate" our hearts and minds must rise above it all.

I really enjoyed this assignment as it provided a challenge in the sense that it was completely different from anything else we have done. It required the use of our creative sides expressively through both language and image which for me was quite fulfilling. I found the requirements of the task easy to complete and the time given adequate to finish to my standards. If I had to do this again, perhaps I would explore contradictory ideas and juxtapose them throughout the poem. Ultimately however I am very pleased with the outcome of my assignment.