Shine Brighter Terminale

ShortFile 6 The burden of history

Extrait p.63 – Film *Amazing Grace*, Steven Knight

Amazing Grace is a biographical drama film about William Wilberforce, a British politician who fought for the abolition of slavery in the 1780s with his friend, Thomas Clarkson. In this scene, members of Parliament are discussing slavery in the House of Commons.

Lord Dundas: After long consideration and much consultation, I am in favour of the abolition of the slave trade. There's no doubt in my mind that this trade in human beings is an almighty calumny[1] and is a disgrace to this nation. However... I also take the point of my honourable friend, the member for Liverpool. If we were to outlaw the trade tomorrow, it would bring financial disaster to many cities and industries in this country. I therefore suggest a period of reflection.

Wilberforce: After a year and a half of privy[2] council investigations, what good would it do to delay the inevitable?

Lord Dundas: Inevitable? Is my honourable friend counting the votes before they are cast?

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[1] immense lie

[2] secret

Wilberforce: I didn’t mean that.

Lord Dundas: If the trade were to be abolished, I suggest that we do so gradually. Violent storms sink ships. This great ship of state must not be sunk by a wave of good intentions.

Later on in the day, in private.

Wilberforce: They are cleverer than us, Thomas.

Clarkson: And yet... outside the House of Commons, the mood is with us.

Wilberforce: And what good is that?

Clarkson: I have friends in France. Our counterparts. Men of principle, like you and I. They bring me only good news.

Wilberforce: News of what?

Clarkson: Revolution. They’re certain it’s coming. In Paris they speak openly in the streets of emancipation. Freedom for all men, and women too. The Americans pulled the cork out of the bottle, Wilberforce. Now the French share the wine.

Steven Knight, *Amazing Grace*, 2006.

Extrait p.64 – Roman *Homegoing*

It is the end of the 18th century. Esi has been kidnapped and is detained in Cape Coast Castle with other women.

The smell was unbearable. In the corner, a woman was crying so hard that it seemed her bones would break from her convulsions. This was what they wanted. The baby had messed itself, and Afua, its mother, had no milk. […]

No food for mother meant no food for baby. The baby would cry soon, but the sound would be absorbed by the mud walls, subsumed into[1] the cries of the hundreds of women who surrounded it. Esi had been in the women's dungeon of the Cape Coast Castle for two weeks. She spent her fifteenth birthday there. On her fourteenth birthday, she was in the heart of Asanteland, in her father's, Big Man's, compound. He was the best warrior in the village, so everyone had come to pay their respects to the daughter who grew more beautiful with each passing day. Kwasi Nnuro brought sixty yams[2].

More yams than any other suitor[3] had ever brought before. Esi would have married him in the summer, when the sun stretched long and high, when the palm trees could be tapped for wine, climbed by the spriest[4] children, their arms holding the trunk in a hug as they shinnied[5] to the top to pluck the fruits that waited there.

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[1] absorbed by

[2] vegetable similar to a potato

[3] *prétendant*

[4] the most active

[5] climbed

When she wanted to forget the Castle, she thought of these things, but she did not expect joy.

Hell was a place of remembering, each beautiful moment passed through the mind's eye until it fell to the ground like a rotten mango, perfectly useless, uselessly perfect. A soldier came into the dungeon and began to speak. He had to hold his nose to keep from vomiting. The women did not understand him.

Yaa Gyasi, *Homegoing*, 2016

Extrait p.66 – Article de Eleni COUREA, *The Guardian*

Starmer says he wants to 'look forward'

Keir Starmer has insisted he wants to 'look forward' rather than have "very long endless discussions about reparations on the past" in his first comments on the issue before the Commonwealth summit[1].

The Prime Minister is under pressure to discuss reparatory justice with Commonwealth countries, most of which are former UK colonies, in Samoa this week.

Speaking to reporters travelling with him for the summit, Starmer said Commonwealth countries were "facing real challenges on things like climate in the here and now". […]

"Slavery is abhorrent[2] … there's no question about that. But I think from my point of view and taking the approach I've just taken, I'd rather roll up my sleeves and work with them on the current future-facing challenges than spend a lot of time on the past."

Eleni Courea, *The Guardian*, 2024

[1] meeting between governments

[2] abominable

Extrait p.66 – Article de Neha GOHIL, *The Guardian*

Majority of Britons support apologies for slavery

Six in 10 people in Britain believe Caribbean nations and descendants of enslaved people should receive a formal[1] apology from the government, the royal family or firms that profited from exploitation, a survey has found.

The poll, released on the UN International Day of Remembrance of the Victims of Slavery and the Transatlantic Slave Trade, will be delivered to ministers in parliament on Monday by the Repair Campaign, a group calling for a formal response to the historical horrors in the Caribbean.

The poll of 2,016 people representative of the UK population found that support for a formal apology was particularly strong among younger age groups and Black people.

Among all those who supported the idea, 56% said an apology should come from the government, 51% said an apology should come from organisations and companies that historically profited, and 38% said an apology should come from the royal family. Nearly one in five (19%) said all of these groups should apologise.

Neha Gohil, *The Guardian*, 2024

[1] official

Extrait p.70 – Article de Neha GOHIL, *The Guardian*, 2024

Liverpool must not 'shy away' from slave trade past, says museum chief

Michelle Charters, who is leading Liverpool's events for Unesco's Slavery Remembrance Day, said it was important to address and recognise the city's tarnished history. "I think there's absolutely tonnes of conversations that need to be had […]" said Charters, who was appointed the head of the International Slavery Museum (ISM) in January. […]

Liverpool, once known as the slave-trading capital of Britain, will mark the remembrance day on Friday, which coincides with the August 1791 uprising of enslaved people in Haiti (then Saint-Domingue, a French colony). The international event draws attention to the millions of lives affected by the transatlantic slave trade and its legacies.

Liverpool first coordinated commemorative events for the remembrance day in 1999, when the council issued a formal apology for its role in the transatlantic slave trade. […] This year, the ISM, in collaboration with National Museums Liverpool, has organised workshops, lectures and a walk, which will culminate with a libation ceremony[1] at Canning Dock. The quaysides and dry docks there were used to clean and repair ships used to traffic enslaved people across the Atlantic. […]

The ISM is thought to be the world's first museum dedicated to slavery internationally. It will close in 2025 for three years to embark on a multimillion pound redevelopment […]. Charters said the redevelopment would create a research centre

[1] ritual of pouring a liquid as an offering to an ancestor or a deity

where historians and scholars could carry out work that fed into the museum and informed work around the world.

She said she continues to be shocked by discoveries related to the transatlantic slave trade. “[…] I am still shocked by the constant uncovering of our history. That is why I said there is no full stop to transatlantic slavery,” she said.

Neha Gohil, *The Guardian*, 2024.

Évaluation de la compréhension de l'écrit – Guide pédagogique

Extrait – Texte *lloyds.com*

Our full statement on the Lloyd's market's role in the slave trade

Lloyd's has a long and rich history dating back over 330 years, but there are some aspects of our history that we are not proud of.

In particular, we are sorry for the role played by the Lloyd's market in the eighteenth and nineteenth Century slave trade. This was an appalling and shameful period of British history, as well as our own, and we condemn the indefensible wrongdoing that occurred during this period.

In acknowledging our own history, we also remain committed to focusing on the actions we can take today to shape our future. Lloyd's values an inclusive culture – it is a cornerstone of the market's future success and that is why culture sits alongside performance and strategy as one of the Corporation's top strategic priorities. In recent years Lloyd's has driven ahead with a series of positive programmes designed to improve culture across the market. We have made progress, but not enough.

Therefore, on 10 June we committed to a number of initiatives to help improve the experience of Black and Minority Ethnic talent in the Lloyd's market. We will:

1. Invest in positive programmes to attract, retain and develop Black and Minority Ethnic talent in the Lloyd's market, including launching our 'Accelerate' Programme – a modular programme to develop Minority Ethnic Future Leaders across the market.

2. Review our employee and partner policies, as well as our organisational artefacts, to ensure that they are explicitly non-racist. We are currently conducting a

review of all aspects of how Lloyd's presents its history, which includes representation on Lloyds.com.

3. Commit to education and research. We will educate our colleagues and continue our research into the experiences of Black and Minority Ethnic professionals working in insurance, and share what we learn with the market.

4. Provide financial support to charities and organisations promoting opportunity and inclusion for Black and Minority Ethnic groups.

5. Develop a long-term action plan in collaboration with our Culture Advisory Group, Black and Minority Ethnic colleagues and white allies who will inform our journey and hold us to account.

We are grateful to our Black and Minority Ethnic colleagues who have helped to shape our conversations and actions to ensure that we create an environment free from injustice for them and for all.

Our commitment is that we will continue to listen and learn as we act and to measure our progress.

There is a long way to go but we are determined that we can and will create a culture in the Lloyd's market in which everybody can flourish.

lloyds.com, Thy 18 Jun 2020