

Homework for 26.10.2017

READ the extract and find out:

1. Who the speaker is
 - The speaker is a novelist, Salman Rushdie, who is also a migrant that came from India.
2. What theory he has
 - He thinks that our conquest of force of gravity changed the behavior towards migrants.
3. What he compares gravity to
 - He compares gravity with belonging: as everyone's feet stay on the ground, any human being is attached to his own country.
4. What he thinks of roots
 - He thinks that roots are a conservative myth, designed to keep us in our birthplaces.
5. The two ways of looking for freedom
 - To fly and to flee are two different ways of seeking freedom because the first one allow us to counter gravity force and the second one allow us to escape from something we can't stand and that could ruin our life or our family's life.
6. The supposition he makes
 - The novelist asks, in a rhetorical question, why while it remains unknown why everybody seems to find it easy to understand the notion of its theoretical anti-gravity, anti-belonging is not accepted or investigated by modern science.
7. Its consequences
 - If one day NASA will came up with an anti-gravity pill, the world's airlines would go broke overnight and pill-poppers would come unstuck from the ground and float upwards until they sank into the clouds.
8. What is would be necessary to devise
 - It would be necessary to device special water-proof flying garments.
9. The connection between gravity and roots
 - The pill that could allow us to counter gravity force would make migrants all of us because we would float upwards and move our self to the tight latitude.
10. The best and worst things about migrant people
 - The best thing of migrants is their hopefulness, their worst one is the emptiness of their luggage because as Mohsin Hamid in *Exist West* said "when we migrate, we murder from our lives those we leave behind".

DESCRIBE. What double condition does the speaker experience?

- The speaker, Salman Rushdie, is a migrant from India and a newcomer in *two* because he lives now in India while his parents moved to Pakistan against his will.

FIND the metaphor upon which the whole text is built.

- The metaphor upon the whole text is built is one about trees: we pretend to be trees with our roots attaching us on the ground, but actually we have no roots and therefore we are free to flee and fly wherever we want.

EXPLAIN the connection between gravity and belonging.

- Both gravity and belonging are two observably phenomena that exists. None of the two are understood. Why know the force of gravity as we know the culture of our birthplace, but we don't know the origin of that force and we don't know why "we become so attached to our birthplaces we pretend that we are trees and speak of roots".

DISCUSS. What worlds and concepts does the speaker spay with in the third paragraph?

- The speaker plays with the words 'flight', 'flee' and 'fly' which together not only seem to represent alliterations , but they belong to the same semantic field, they speak about moving from one place to another.

DISCUSS. Do you get the impression the narrator is in favor of or against migration?

- In my opinion, the narrator is against migration and I can prove it saying that when he speaks about the comparison of roots and gravity he's ironic. He's not introducing a new idea to make travelling easier, but he wants to make the reader imagine a forthcoming future where he and all of us could be migrants. Therefore, if we would be migrants we would feel the same emotions of them and we could finally understand how they feel to leave their beloved home, their family, they're friends and their history.