<u>Glossary</u>

Coiling — form spirals **Ululating** — wailing/howling

Tone: (Author's attitude or feelings about the subject)
Energetic

Mood: (Readers emotions from reading the text)
Joyful

Theme:

Triumphs over oppression

Form:

Free verse

Repetitive form of the line structure (112-15)

Implying the overwhelming joy prompted an unrestrained physical response and people responded impulsively

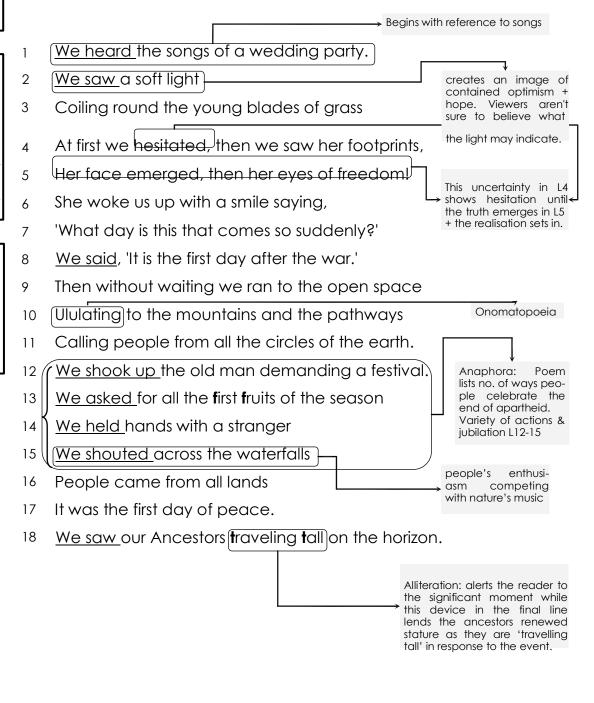
Poetic Devices

Simple/effective diction to capture the scene adds spontaneous nature of excitement displayed—actions speak for themselves

First Day After the War

Mazisi Kunene (1930–2006) Political/Activist/Protest

Mazisi Kunene wrote much of his poetry in South Africa, in the time of apartheid, a period in which black people were discriminated against and oppressed. His poem describes the joy that people felt at the ending of this system of government. The poem lists a number of ways in which the people celebrate the news. Notice the variety of the actions and the jubilation this shows. The news is so wonderful that we see how people of all types celebrate together.



First Day After the War- Mazisi Kunene

- 1) Which senses does Kunene use in this poem?
- 2) Think about the connotations of the word 'coiling' (line 3). Do you think it is intended to be understood as a positive image in this context?
- 3) Consider the pronoun 'her' in line 4. How could this be interpreted in an abstract way?
- 4) How does Kunene convey the joy of the time?
- 5) What clues suggest the rural setting of the poem? Quote from the poem to support your answer.
- 6) Why do you think the people 'ran to the open space' (line 9)?
- 7) Discuss the possible literal and figurative meanings of the 'footprints' (line 4) and the 'young blades' (line 3).

Critically comment on the effectiveness of the final line of Kunene's poem.

- 8) What does the expression 'shook up' (line 12) mean?
- 9) How do you interpret it in this context?
- 10) Who might the 'old man' (line 12) be?

11)

