



University of Tikrit

College of Education for Women

English Department

Subject

Gwendolyn Elizabeth Brooks
“KITCHENETTE BUILDING”

Fourth Stage

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Gwendolyn Elizabeth Brooks She is an Afro-American poet, short story, and novelist. She won the Pulitzer Prize for poetry in 1950. She was named poet laureate for the state of Illinois in 1968.

Poetic style Her poetic style distinguished by the concentration

On TWO important points:

1- **Political Issues**

- Many of her poems display a political consciousness, and they reflect the events and civil rights of the black people in the 1960's activism.
- She depicts suffering of the black struggle during the irregular political conditions. Therefore, She strives against the racial discrimination for the black people in the United States of America to gain good and equal treatment, (how they must be respected).
- the energy and positive feeling of Riot and Family Pictures was replaced in the late 1970s with a sense of disappointment and lack of unity among members of the civil rights and "Black Power" movements.
- She urged African Americans to break free from the controls of white American society and seemed to favor violence and disorder as acceptable ways of achieving that freedom.

2- **Social Issues**

- Brooks focuses on the role of woman how to be aware of the problems appeared in society, and participates in finding solutions.
- Her poetry is frankly racial emphasizing on the racial harmony between the white and black people (or Negroes) and her compassionate portrayals of life of Chicago.
- She sheds the light on the awareness and humanity of the black people in the life of America rather than the slavery and suffering.

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- In her poem , entitled the *kitchenette Building* Brooks records the impact of the urban life. The city is simply an existing force with which people must cope the suffering and neglect of the black neighborhoods.

The form of Brooks' poetry

Although her poems range in style from traditional ballads and sonnets to using blues rhythms in free verse, her characters are often drawn from the poor inner city.

Brooks favored using the blank / free verse rather than traditional poetic forms. She also increased the use of her vernacular (a language spoken by people of a particular group or from a certain area) to make her works more understandable for African Americans

Tone

Brooks's poetry achieved a new tone and vision - a more simple style - her poetry presents a growing political racial awareness.

That the tone of Brooks' protest is muted and ironic, is emphasized by her use of the singular "a dream." The residents of the building are so dejected that they don't have dreams about their future but only a **dream** and even that **single dream** fails to take shape in their mind because its time to get into the "lukewarm water" in the bathroom.

Kitchenette Building BY GWENDOLYN BROOKS



DIFFICULT WORDS

dry = dull, boring
*potatoes = **cooked by frying***
involuntary = spontaneous
yesterday's garbage = trash
giddy = dizzy, unsteady
*fumes = **smoke***
expect Onion بصل lukewarm فاتر

fried

And

violet = البنفسج

Anticipate =

It is a realistic description of urban life – the suffering of poor neighborhoods of the black people in the United state of America.

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KITCHENETTE BUILDING

BY THE AFRO-AMERICAN POET

GWENDOLYN BROOKS

We are things of dry hours and the involuntary plan,
Grayed in, and gray. "Dream" makes a giddy sound, not strong
Like "rent," "feeding a wife," "satisfying a man."

But could a dream send up through onion fumes
Its white and violet, fight with fried potatoes
And yesterday's garbage ripening in the hall,
Flutter, or sing an aria down these rooms

Even if we were willing to let it in,
Had time to warm it, keep it very clean,
Anticipate a message, let it begin?

We wonder. But not well! not for a minute!
Since Number Five is out of the bathroom now,
We think of lukewarm water, hope to get in it