

A Prayer for Uganda by Lizbeth Brown

Questions about the Writer's Strategies

1. This is a descriptive essay. What is it describing? What is the thesis of the essay? Is it stated or implied? If stated, identify the sentence or sentences in which it is stated. If implied, state the thesis in your own words.
2. What effect does the full-page panel on page seven have on the way the reader views the situation in Uganda? What other images of Uganda have you come in contact with?
3. What is the purpose of the concluding page of this essay? Why is it devoid of visuals? Is it effective? Why or why not?
4. How does the writer use *ethos* (credibility), *pathos* (emotion), and/or *logos* (reason) to influence her audience? Provide examples. What needs, values, and beliefs is the writer appealing to?

Questions for Discussion:

1. What do you know about Uganda? AIDs in Africa? Or the LRA? What does Brown want people to know about Uganda?
2. Janice is a naïve aid worker. Do you know people like Janice? Why do you think Janice expected a warm reception when she reached the local village? Why has pride and anger taken over the locals?
3. Brown seems to be making a statement about U.S. foreign policy. It seems like the U.S. doesn't help poor people unless they have oil, or some other valuable commodity. Do you agree or disagree? As Janice says, should we be "doing something about it"—the Ugandan's plight?
4. If you were in Janice's situation what would you do? Would you publish Mala's manuscript? How would you shine a light on the situation in Uganda?
5. Comic books and graphic essays often make people laugh, but Brown is presenting serious information through her medium. Does Brown's serious material seem unsuitable for a graphic essay? Why or why not?

Questions for Writing:

1. Write a letter to Lizbeth Brown responding to her graphic essay? What else would you like to know about Uganda? Would you like to see a longer version of this essay?