

# *The Will I Will Not Write Rationale*

*The Will I Will Not Write* is a series of vignettes that respond to the Rwandan Genocide, which I first learnt about in a Year 9 International Relations class. The genocide was an a hundred-day atrocity conducted by Hutu militias against the Tutsi ethnic group, resulting in almost a million Tutsi deaths. Despite understanding the brutality of the situation, the UN failed to adequately intervene and even evacuated their troops during the conflict. After the genocide, many Hutus were tried (gacaca), and were kept in poor prison conditions, which resulted in the death of many Hutus. Despite its recency, this atrocity is often forgotten.

I could not believe how horrifying and tragic the conflict was. Moreover, I was shocked that I had not heard of the genocide before this class, and thoroughly disappointed to learn that it was rarely taught or discussed. This resonated with me because I believe that the severity of the atrocities could have been minimised if there was sufficient international response. I thought the Rwandan Genocide should be taught in schools to demonstrate the importance of international support and cooperation, and to avoid ignorance in the future. I support the belief that Rwanda's colonial history and the inadequate international response were the true catalysts for such horrific outcomes, and I believe that the voices of both ethnic groups have been silenced or forgotten. *The Will I Will Not Write* aims to rectify that through imaginary stories and by giving distinct voices to these voiceless groups.

*red mushanana* captures the voice of a Tutsi victim to show the genocide's tragic impact on individuals. It establishes a romantic setting and a bride who is passionately in love; sustaining an elegant voice before abruptly revealing that the wedding will never precede because the bride was killed. I created a lyrical tone through personification; "*the kiss of silence stealing...voices...*", romantic diction; "*blushing roses*", "*tender petals*", and repetition which slows the pacing. The delicate yet powerful tone, captures an individual voice through accentuated tragedy and highlights the importance of her story.

*COCKROACH!* presents the perspective of an angry Hutu man, who participates in the killings, but is ultimately a victim of the system. I create an incensed tone through short sentences and fast pacing, aggressive diction, consonance, and cacophony; "*Plague-ridden gangs...Purging...Purity*". This hostility is sustained until the end, where there is a stark shift in tone. The speaker is suddenly soft-spoken, reflecting the sombre situation; "*I'm forced to do what's right. I'm sorry*". The tonal shift rejects the assumption that all Hutus were malicious, telling the story of forced and self-preserving violence.

*Gacaca* explores the aftermath of the genocide and its judicial proceedings, using structure and subject matter to present both Tutsis and Hutus as victims. The palindrome form gives alternate perspectives on similar issues; the diction is the same, but the syntax and line orders differ, presenting separate understandings on the same event. This, combined with the emphasis on "*Neighbour against Neighbour*"—which is brought through strategic capitalisation and line positioning—demonstrates how both ethnic groups were victims of the genocide.

*Roast Chicken 'n Chips* highlights international inaction as a primary issue and juxtaposes the severity of the genocide with the irreverence of a Western woman. The urgency of the genocide is communicated through bold, capitalised words with a straightforward tone, whilst the woman's carelessness is demonstrated by comments which are contextually ironic; "*a little bit of blood...gross*". This is enhanced by her use of contractions and interjections, lack of empathy, and her priorities of dinner and the newsman rather than the genocide. These abrupt thematic shifts accentuate the inadequate international response to the genocide.

In *The Will I Will Not Write*, I tell the untold stories of a forgotten atrocity and aim to bring attention to a historical event which I believe is underdiscussed.