

Homework Exercise: Orwell, *Shooting an Elephant*

1. How would you describe Orwell's voice as a writer, Orwell's "I"? What was his motive in writing this piece?
2. Why do you think Orwell decides to stay within the time frame of this one incident? How does this compare with Walker's approach in "Beauty.."? (What would it have been like if Walker wrote a similar piece?)
3. How does Orwell paint himself as a character? What is your attitude as a reader toward Orwell in this essay?
4. How is your view influenced by the fact that you know that Orwell goes on to write classic works such as *1984* and *Animal Farm*? If this piece had been written by "Anonymous" or "Mark Smith" (who never wrote another published piece), would your reaction be different?
5. Why is the elephant's death so slow? What are some different interpretations of what the elephant symbolizes?
6. What is the meaning of the conclusion? What thoughts are with you as you leave the essay?

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