ONCE UPON A TIME
BY
GABRIELOKARA

POWER POINT PRESENTATION
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GABRIEL OKARA

- Born in April 21, Bumodi, Nigeria.
- A Nigerian poet and novelist.
- His verses have been translated into several languages.
- First Nigerian writer to publish in the literary journal, Black Orpheus.
- His The Call of the River Nun won the best Award for Literature in the Nigeria Festival of Arts in 1953.
Once upon a time, son, they used to laugh with their hearts.

And laugh with their eyes.
STANZA 1

But now they only laugh with their teeth,
while their ice block cold eyes search
behind my shadow.
There was a time indeed they used to shake hands with their hearts

But that’s gone, son. Now they shake hands without hearts while their left hands search my empty pockets.
STANZHA 3

❖ Feel at home! Come again: They say, and when I come again and feel at home
.once, twice, there will be no thrice- for
then I find doors shut on me, so I have
learned many things son.
I have learned to wear many faces like dresses
homeface, officeface, streetface, hostface, cocktailface, with all their conforming smiles like a fixed portrait smile.
STANZA 5

❖ And I have learned too to laugh with only my teeth and shake hands without my heart. I have also learned to say, goodbye when I mean good riddance.
To say “glad to meet you, without being glad, and to say it’s been nice talking to you, after being bored.
STANZA 6

❖ But, believe me, son. I want to be what I used to be when I was like you. I want to unlearn all these muting things.
most of all, I want to relearn how to laugh for my laugh in the mirror shows only my teeth like a snake’s bare fangs!
So show me, son, how to laugh: show me how I used to laugh and smile once upon a time when I was like you.
GLOSSARY

❖ Conforming : obeying unquestioningly;
❖ Muting : to quieten; suppressing ones feelings
❖ short answer type questions

1. What kind of person do you imagine him to be?

2. Who is the speaker addressing?
essay type questions

1. What is the mood of the poem? How are the emotions developed?

2. Take up some metaphors used in the poem?