

A decorative border with intricate floral and scrollwork patterns in a light green color, framing the central text on a dark green background.

**ONCE UPON A TIME**

**BY**

**GABRIELOKARA**

**POWER POINT PRESENTATION**

**BY**

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**KAKINADA.**

## 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

❖ Once upon a time, son, they used to  
laugh with their



❖ 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.



## STANZA 2

❖ 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.

## STANZA 3

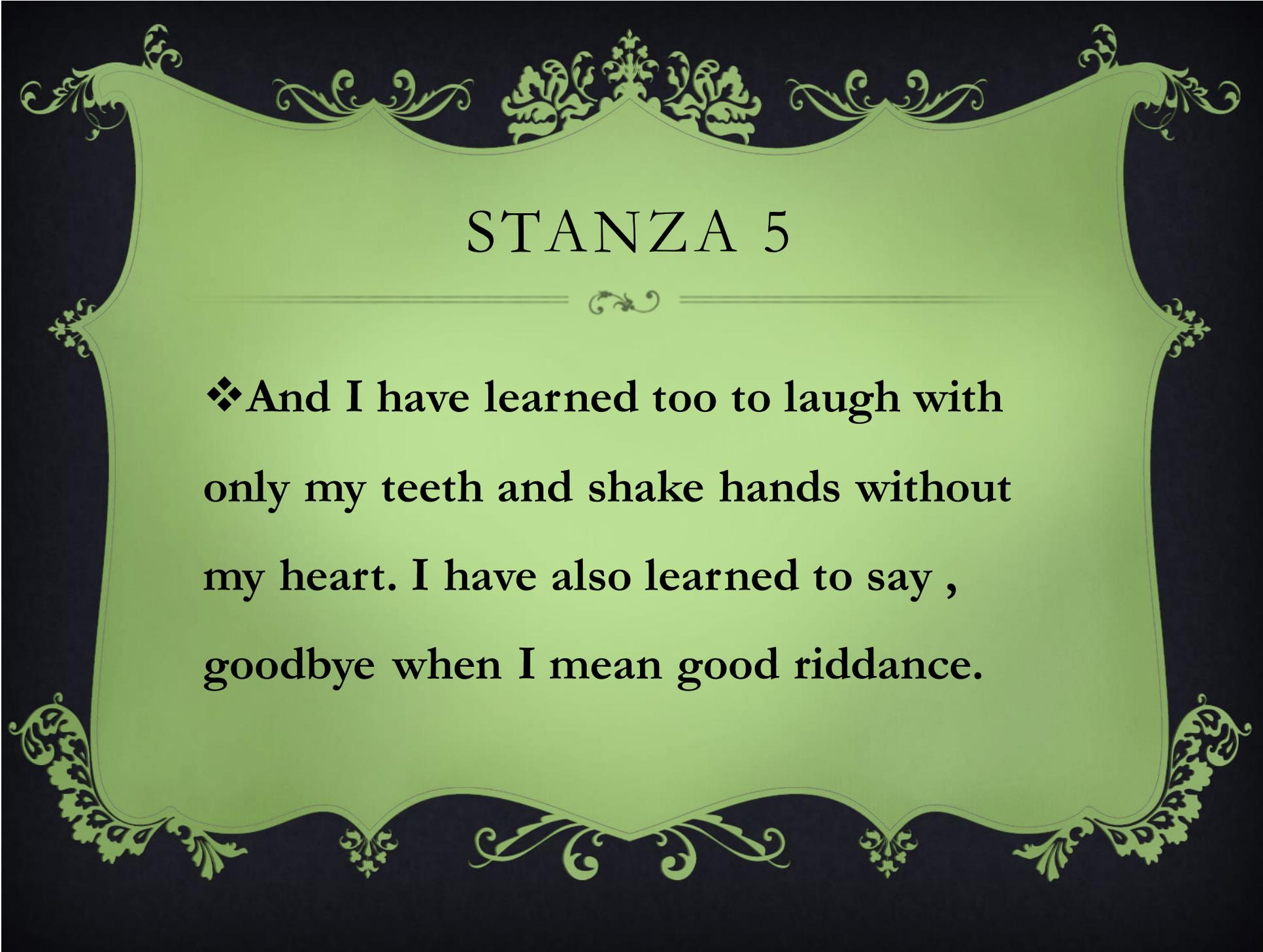
❖ Feel at home ! Come again:.They say  
,and when I come again and feel at home  
,once,twice,there will be no thrice- for  
then I find doors shut on me,so I have  
learned many things son.



## STANZA 4

❖ I have learned to wear many faces like  
dresses  
homeface, officeface, streetface, hostface, coc  
ktailface, with all their conforming smiles  
like a fixed portrait smile.

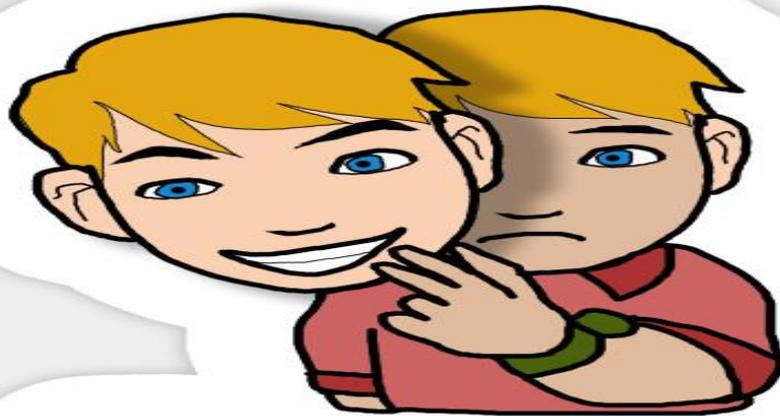


A decorative border with intricate floral and scrollwork patterns in a light green color, framing the central text. The border is wider at the top and bottom, tapering towards the sides.

## STANZA 5

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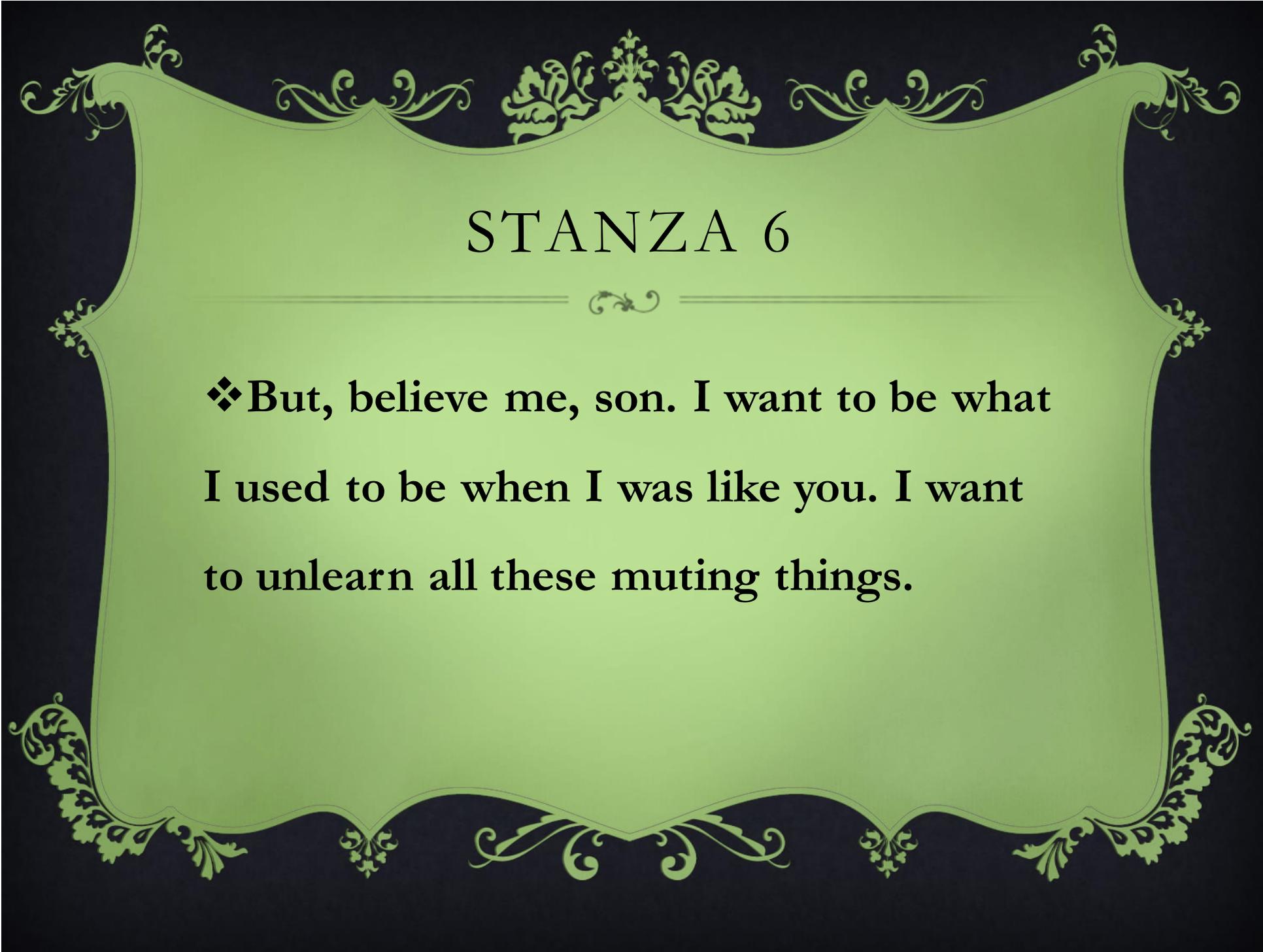
❖ And I have learned too to laugh with  
only my teeth and shake hands without  
my heart. I have also learned to say ,  
goodbye when I mean good riddance.



**FAKE SMILE**

❖ To say “glad to meet you, without being glad, and to say it's been nice talking to you, after being bored.





## STANZA 6

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❖ 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 snakes bare fangs!



## STANZA 7

❖ 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

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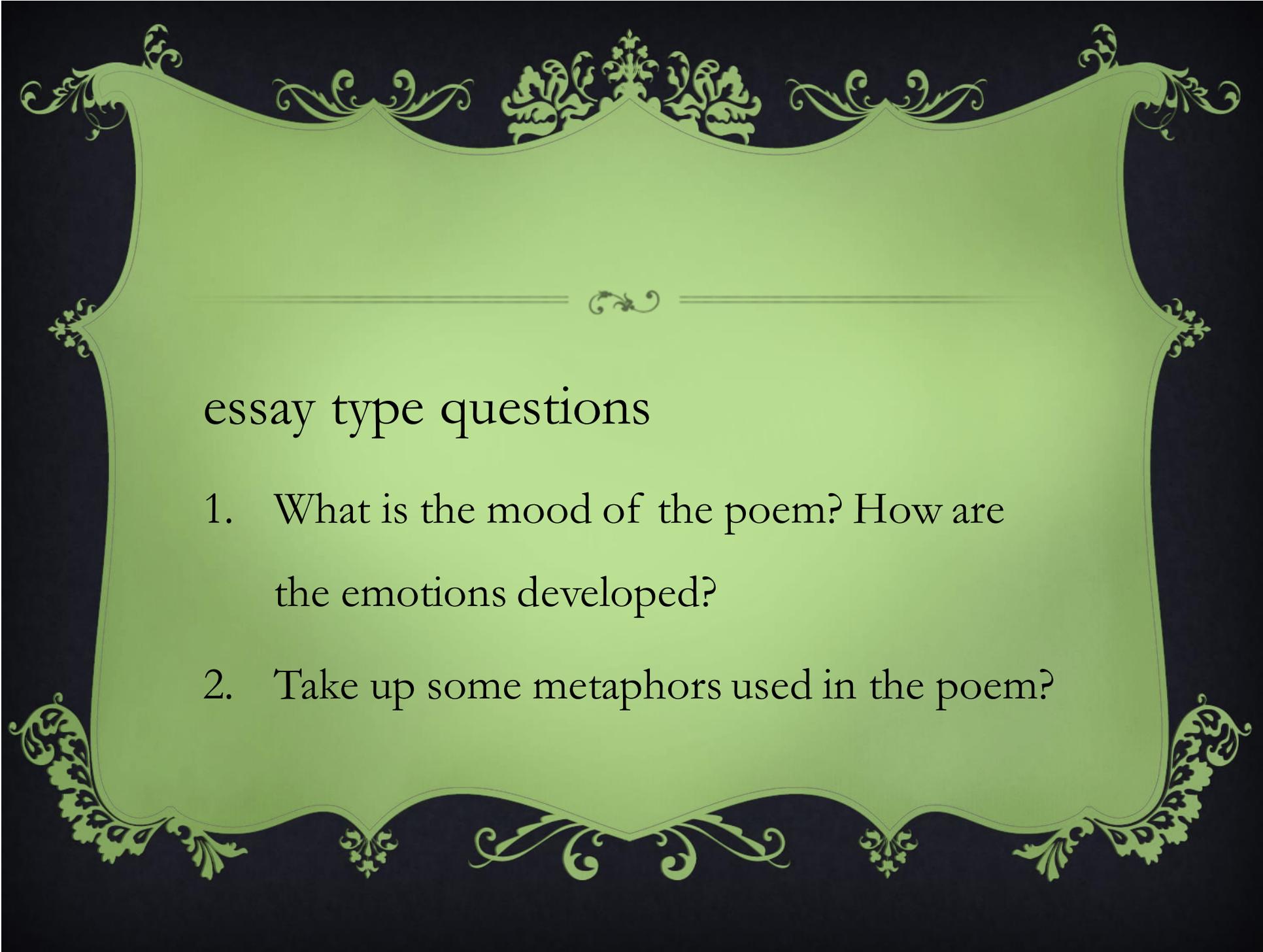
❖ Conforming : obeying unquestioningly;

❖ 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?



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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?



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