

## Eating Dark Chocolate and watching Paul Holmes' Apology

1. What words are used in stanza one to give the santé bar slightly illicit connotations?
2. Remembering that this poem is about a prejudice atmosphere in NZ, what could "chocolate dust was in the air" relate to?
3. Write down the lines that show us why the narrator is remembering these incidents.
4. Find a metaphor used in the third stanza that explains why Mila wasn't the victim of racism. What does the metaphor mean?
5. An allusion is a reference to another place, person or event in a text. Find an allusion in stanza five. What is it alluding to? How does it relate to an idea in the poem?
6. What effect does the line "what does lynching mean maka?" have? How is it more powerful coming from a child?
7. Dialogue (characters speaking in a text) isn't always in quotation marks. Find an example of dialogue in stanza 9. Who is speaking to whom?
8. Find the pun in stanza 9. What effect does it create?
9. Stanza 10 begins differently to the ones before it. How does it start differently?
10. Read the metaphor "I'm the cream rising to the top". Who is the cream? Who is the coffee?
11. Think about how coffee could be seen as representing NZ urban (city) culture. What does this say about how Mila see herself?
12. "Red neck" in stanza 14 refers to racist people from the southern US. How is contrast used in the line "who is this redneck with the big brown shoulders"?
13. Analepses (flashbacks) are used throughout this poem. Why did Mila decide to use them?