



# ONE SHEET REVISION

## 'Search for my Tongue' by Sujata Bhatt

Summarise what the poem is about in full sentences:

Annotate the poem with points you remember from your initial study:

### Search for my Tongue

You ask me what I mean  
 by saying I have lost my tongue.  
 I ask you, what would you do  
 if you had two tongues in your mouth,  
 and lost the first one, the mother tongue,  
 and could not really know the other,  
 the foreign tongue,  
 You could not use them both together  
 even if you thought that way,  
 And if you lived in a place you had to  
 speak a foreign tongue,  
 your mother tongue would rot,  
 rot and die in your mouth  
 until you had to 'spit it out'.  
 I thought I spit it out  
 but over night while I dream,

મને હું કે આખી જીભ આખી ભાષા,  
 (munay hutoo kay aakhee jeebh aakhee bhasha)  
 મેં યું કી નાખી છે.  
 (may thoonly nakhi chay)

પરંતુ રાત્રે સ્વપ્નામાં મારી ભાષા પાછી આવે છે  
 (parantoo rattray svupnama mari bhasha pachi  
 aavay chay)

ફૂલની જેમ મારી ભાષા મારી જીભ  
 (foolnee jaim mari bhasha mari jeebh)

મોઢામાં ખીલે છે.  
 (modhama kheelay chay)

ફૂલની જેમ મારી ભાષા મારી જીભ  
 (foolnee jaim mari bhasha mari jeebh)

મોઢામાં પાકે છે.  
 (modhama pakay chay)

It grows back a stump of a shoot  
 grows longer, grows moist, grows strong veins,  
 it ties the other tongue in knots,  
 the bud opens, the bud opens in my mouth,  
 it pushes the other tongue aside.  
 Every time I think I've forgotten,  
 I think I've lost the mother tongue,  
 it blossoms out of my mouth.

What is the background to the writing of 'Search for my Tongue'?

What is Bhatt's intention in writing this poem?

When was this poem written?

How has Dharker's own experiences influenced her writing of this poem?

to inform

to highlight

to question

to advocate

Language		Structure and form	
	Example and effect		Example and effect
Personal pronoun		Questions and answers	
Pun		Free verse	
Adjectives		Enjambment	
Verbs		The use of English vs Gujarati	
Metaphor		Repetition	
Imagery		Tricolon	

**What other poems in the anthology can we link to this poem to and why?**

**How does Bhatt raise questions about identity in her poem 'Search for my Tongue'?**