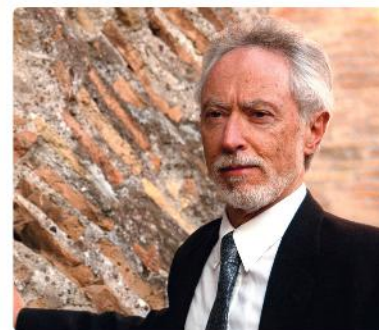


TOWARDS INVALSI

6 Read the text about *Foe*, a novel written by J.M. Coetzee in 1986, then decide whether the statements (1-4) are True (T) or False (F). Identify the sentence in the text which supports your decision and write the first four words of this sentence in the space provided. The first one (0) has been done for you.



↑ J.M. Coetzee.

J.M. Coetzee, a Nobel Prize-winning South African author, wrote *Foe* in 1986. The narrator, Susan Barton, searches for her lost daughter. Her journey takes her to the New World, where she is abandoned by a mutinous crew on the same island as Robinson Crusoe and Friday. Crusoe, now old, lives in solitude with Friday, who cannot speak. Susan stays with them for about a year until they are rescued, though Crusoe dies on the voyage back to England. In England, Susan tries to write about her experience, but she struggles to tell her story. She seeks help from Daniel Foe, a novelist, but Foe is more interested in her life as a mother searching for her daughter than her island story. Coetzee explained, “*Foe*, if it is about any single subject, is about authorship: about what it means to be an author in the professional sense (the profession of author was just beginning to mean something in Daniel Defoe’s day)”.

Q0 Susan Barton’s main goal in the story is to reconnect with her family after a long separation.

T ☒ F

Susan tries to write

Q1 Foe is a writer Susan Barton approaches to help her craft her story about life on the island.

T F

Q2 Despite her efforts, Susan struggles to get her story written the way she wants, as Foe dismisses her version of events.

T F

Q3 In the novel *Foe*, Friday does not speak and cannot clearly express his thoughts and feelings.

T F

Q4 Coetzee stated that the central theme of *Foe* is the search for lost family members.

T F

7 Read a passage from *Foe*. In it Susan is talking to Daniel Foe. After reading the text, match the beginnings of the sentences (1-5) with the sentence endings (A-F). There is one sentence ending that you do not need to use.

I am not a story, Mr. Foe. I may impress you as a story because I began my account of myself without preamble, slipping overboard into the water and striking out for the shore. But my life did not begin in the waves. There was a life before the water which stretched back to my desolate searchings in Brazil, thence to the years when my daughter was still with me, and so on back to the day I was born. All of which makes up a story I do not choose to tell. I choose not to tell it because to no one, not even to you, do I owe proof that I am a substantial being with a substantial history in the world. I choose rather to tell of the island, of myself and Cruso and Friday and what we three did there: for I am a free woman who asserts her freedom by telling her story according to her own desire.

1. Susan rejects the notion that her life is merely a story,
2. She explains that her life didn’t begin with her escape to the island,
3. However, she refuses to recount that past
4. Instead, she chooses to focus on her time on the island with Cruso and Friday,
5. Through this, she emphasises

- A ☐ the role of women as novelists.
- B ☐ asserting her freedom by telling only the story she wishes to share.
- C ☐ her autonomy in shaping her own narrative.
- D ☐ but stretches back through her earlier experiences, including her search for her daughter.
- E ☐ despite how it may seem to others.
- F ☒ because she feels no obligation to prove her existence or history.

8 In pairs, answer the following question: How does Susan’s decision to tell her story on her own terms challenge traditional expectations of women’s voices?