

Heart of Darkness

Joseph Conrad

What does the repeated word 'my' reveal about how Kurtz understands people, land, and power?

CONTENT NOTE · Colonial violence and racist/imperialist language.

TOTAL TIME

PASSAGE

30 minutes	Kurtz's language of possession
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FIND THE ANCHOR TEXT

Use the Anchor Text Table of Contents in the Enhanced Reader to open the START anchor. Then use the dropdown to select the END anchor.

SECTION / LOCATION Part II

START Ivory? I should think so. Heaps of it, stacks of it. END That was the reflection that made you creepy all over.

PASSAGE ID	sec-hod-03
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THE MOVE

Track repetition as a map of a character's worldview

WHY THIS PASSAGE

Kurtz's repeated 'my' turns ivory, station, river, and people into extensions of possession. The repetition reveals a worldview in which value is measured by ownership and other beings are absorbed into the self.

MARK

Circle every use of 'my' or another possessive attached to Kurtz. Draw arrows from those possessives to what he claims—objects, territory, people, or ideas. Star the possession that is most disturbing because it is not really ownable.

NOTICE

- What kinds of things does Kurtz speak of as belonging to him?

- How does repetition make possession sound like a habit of thought rather than an isolated phrase?
- What happens to other people's independence inside Kurtz's language?

THINK

Answer provisionally: What does the repeated word 'my' reveal about how Kurtz understands people, land, and power? Choose the strongest interpretation you can defend from this passage alone.

WRITE

Write a short evidence-based response to: What does the repeated word 'my' reveal about how Kurtz understands people, land, and power? Use at least two details from the assigned passage and explain how they support your interpretation.

CLOSE

Name the single detail that most changed or sharpened your interpretation, and explain why.

STRONG ANSWER	Kurtz's repeated 'my' reveals a worldview of possession: land, ivory, station, people, and even ideas become extensions of himself. Power is imagined as the right to absorb everything into ownership.
EVIDENCE	Identify several things Kurtz claims with possessive language and explain why at least one of them cannot legitimately be owned in the way he speaks of it.
WATCH FOR	Do not count repetitions without interpreting them. The lesson asks what the grammatical habit reveals about Kurtz's idea of power.
SOLO	Read the exact passage independently.
SUPPORTED	Use narration and sentence highlighting while reading the same passage.
LISTENING	Listen to the exact passage; visual following is optional. Same question and evidence demand.

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END ANCHOR	That was the reflection that made you creepy all over.

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OPEN THE MARKED PASSAGE IN TUMBLELIT

SOLO: read independently. SUPPORTED: use narration + highlighting. LISTENING: listen to the exact passage. The question and evidence task stay the same.

1. MARK - Circle every use of 'my' or another possessive attached to Kurtz. Draw arrows from those possessives to what he claims—objects, territory, people, or ideas. Star the possession that is most disturbing because it is not really ownable.
2. NOTICE - What kinds of things does Kurtz speak of as belonging to him? How does repetition make possession sound like a habit of thought rather than an isolated phrase? What happens to other people's independence inside Kurtz's language?
3. THINK - Answer provisionally: What does the repeated word 'my' reveal about how Kurtz understands people, land, and power?
4. WRITE - Write a short response using at least two pieces of evidence from this passage.

Use evidence from the assigned passage. Show what you noticed and how the text supports your interpretation.