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Analyze, compare, and contrast the following two texts (Texts A and B). Include comments on similarities and differences and significance of context, purpose and formal and stylistic features.

Thesis: In Collins' "Shipmates" and Longmore's "Long enough in Jo'burg," both authors use identical allusions to highlight the subtle tensions that come with being black, however they emphasize different aspects, contrasting the positive and negative aspects that result from their race in their respective communities.

- Context:
 - Shipmates: female poet from the Caribbean island of Grenada
 - Poem, published in *Watchers and Seekers*
 - Jo'burg: a travelling black woman with her white step-brother through Johannesburg
 - Published as article in political magazine
 - Texts written within two years of each other
 - Both texts written by black females
- Contrast
 - "when his eyes passed my face / returned / relaxed / wondered if to recognise perhaps / with a cautious smile" (Collins 9-13)
 - Shipmates title: ironic, allusion to slave trade
 - Alliteration: emphasizes how the other black man finds solace and peace when he sees the author (black woman) in the train car that is implicitly full of white people
 - The 'shipmates' don't talk to each other, instead, they find solidarity in silence and mutual understanding
 - Their common history, alluded to by the title, is shared between them in a silent but comfortable exchange
 - "A small, dark room crammed with people, arms and legs flailing, yet no one seemed to be talking. No noise, just an ominous silence" (Longmore)
 - The silence is charged with negative emotions and connotations; here, the silence is symbolic of divisiveness within a community
 - The image of the "small dark room" with "legs flailing" could ALSO allude to the slave trade and how the boats were, overcrammed
 - Difference in purpose of allusions: Shipmates alludes to the slave trade to reference how the shared history can bring blacks together, while Jo'burg alludes to the slave trade to highlight the long history

of oppression, racism, mistreatment and violence towards blacks by whites.

- Apartheid forcefully segregated and put blacks/non-whites together, not on their own accord
 - Contrast to Shipmates, where blacks find comfort in each other through their own initiative: in Jo'burg, they are forced together in poor conditions by apartheid, thus not finding any sense of community or mutual support in each other
- Compare
 - “My heart was in my mouth” (Longmore)
 - Surrounded by whites and very nervous, anxious, not feeling comfortable
 - Metaphor: showing excitement but also anxiety; this metaphor could be to show how the intense unnatural feeling of nervousness while being among oppressors is inherently as unnatural as having her “heart in [her] mouth”
 - Uses body imagery to accentuate the fact that the unsettling emotions are a result of her white, segregated surroundings
 - “Face clenched in total black defiance...to rove in angry unconcern” (Collins 4, 6)
 - Before seeing fellow black on the train, the man shows signs of uncomfortable, outward separation with surroundings
 - Implied that they are in a white train car, they are the only two blacks
 - Uses body imagery, similar to Shipmates. Both use body imagery in order to convey the uncomfortable nature of being surrounded by whites
 - “black defiance” in attempts to avoid glares and hate from the other white people

Conclusion:

- Both texts use the symbol of silence to highlight the duality and shared sentiment among black people
- Both texts allude to the slave trade
- However, they achieve different effects with this allusion: Collins highlights how this shared history can be a unifying and solidary aspect for blacks, while Longmore communicates how the history of white's oppression, segregation and mistreatment of blacks still continues in her time, emphasizing that while the slave trade may be in the past, versions of it can still be seen in her reality