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The Literary Corner: Introduction to African English Fiction/Prose with Brooks Robinson (side a)

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WEBVTT

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<i>Eldred Jones</i>: I think when you look at, uh, Achebe's heroes,

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uh, one tends to see something of a lesson of tragedy. Which is that man, no matter how important, no matter how great,

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he's mere man and he has to be pretty careful in order to keep his balance through the hazards of life.

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<i>Brooks B. Robinson</i>: Now are there any other major themes? Besides the idea of struggle, of conflict,

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dealing with the society that Achebe projects in his writings?

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<i>Eldred Jones</i>: Well, you know that Achebe was involved of civil war, and the civil war changed the outlooks of a number of Nigerian writers.

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Wole Soyinka was never the same again after the civil war.

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Achebe came out of the civil war really chastened, I think, and he wrote a lot of poetry, he wrote short stories.

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"Beware Soul Brother" is the volume of poems which he wrote, and "Girls at War and other stories" is the title of a book of short stories.

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and really um, all of that covers, shows, the impact of the war upon him, the dark tragedy of the war, the terrible sufferings,

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not just of the people who are protagonists of the war but of women and children and portraits of children dying in the arms of their mothers.

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<i>Brooks B. Robinson</i>: Of course.

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<i>Eldred Jones</i>: Quite how--

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<i>Brooks B. Robinson</i>: This is the Biafran-Nigerian war?

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<i>Eldred Jones</i>: Yes. The--the Biafran-Nigerian civil war. So I think, so far, what has come out of Achebe's-- since the war,

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I think he's working out the trauma of the war. We're all looking for--



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