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Épreuve de : Langue vivante I ESSEC/HEC

Consignes

- Remplir soigneusement l'en-tête de chaque feuille avant de commencer à composer
- Rédiger avec un stylo non effaçable bleu ou noir
- Ne rien écrire dans les marges (gauche et droite)
- Numéroté chaque page (cadre en bas à droite)
- Placer les feuilles A3 ouvertes, dans le même sens et dans l'ordre

1 -

No sooner had Norah entered the house than she felt how empty it was.

It was nighttime then.

The large living room was in darkness.

On the crumby paintings covering the walls, Norah recognized the framed pictures of the holiday village ~~that her~~ father had owned and run, which had made him wealthy.

A great deal of people had always dwelt in the house of that man who was proud of his success. Norah had always thought that he was not really generous but he was proud to show that he had the means to give a home and food to brothers and

NE RIEN ÉCRIRE DANS CE CADRE

sisters, male and female nephews and other relatives, and that was why Norah had never seen the large living room without any guests, no matter the moment of the day it was. {...}

On that evening, the room was empty, which laid bare its material, with no charm: shiny flagstones, cement walls {...}

- Your wife isn't here, is she? Norah enquired

He put aside two chairs from the large table, drew them closer to each other but then gave up his idea and put them back where they were.

He switched the television on but then switched it off even before the slightest footage had had time to appear.

He shuffled along in his flip-flaps, scrubbing the flagstones, without raising his feet from the floor.

His lips were shivering somewhat.

- She went on a trip, he eventually let out.

Well, Norah thought to herself worried, he dares not dare to acknowledge that she must have left him.

Quand j'étais élève, je pensais que personne ne m'aimait, et je n'avais pas totalement tort. J'avais une amie, Roxane Weaver, mais il était facile de compter sur son amitié tant elle avait bon caractère. Elle critiquait les filles qui sentaient la transpiration, ou celles qui avaient les cheveux gras ou des pellicules, mais c'était plus parce que sa mère ne supportait vraiment pas la négligence que parce qu'elle ne les aimait pas. Mme Weaver avait des ancêtres français. Ils étaient très lointains mais elle estimait qu'ils étaient proches de par leur influence intellectuelle, de sorte qu'elle avait donné à sa fille un prénom français.

Une autre personne m'aimait bien à l'école, ou paraissait m'aimer: la directrice. Son intérêt pour moi me flattait, j'aimais les livres qu'elle me prêtait et je la trouvais impressionnante mais j'étais hypocrite lorsque j'étais à ses côtés parce que je ne voulais pas lui ressembler. C'était une femme altruiste et seule, qui admirait ceux et celles qui se consacraient entièrement à leur scolarité et à certaines causes, et voulait que son école forme des filles qui accomplissent de grandes choses, mais non par égoïsme. Je voyais qu'elle espérait que je sois une de ces

filles là mais je savais qu'elle se trompait.

La bonté de Mademoiselle Patter ne m'aider pas, ni avec les autres filles, ni avec les professeurs et je savais que les adjectifs qui accompagnaient le plus souvent mon nom étaient « réservée », « supérieure » et « hochetée ». Voilà pourquoi j'aimais bien Mme Fitzgerald. Elle venait deux fois par semaine depuis Londres, avec beaucoup d'enthousiasme, pour nous enseigner la peinture, et ne prêtait pas attention aux amitiés qui se nouaient à l'intérieur de l'école.

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Q1 -

This article, published in the New York Times, contends that the Republican party, partly because of Trump, decided to favour the vote of some people - deemed pure Americans - over other people - deemed less legitimate - the criterion for this separation being essentially race.

'Republicans' willingness to discredit Black voters does not fully stem from Trump's refusal to admit he had lost: even before that, they had tried to restrict the franchise. Tellingly, they had required voters to carry an ID in North Carolina or tried to prevent former convict from voting, two steps aimed to hamper the Black vote. Trump only seized the opportunity to assert this fight: he

entered politics deriding Obama's citizenship and left the White House trying to invalidate Black votes in the states he had lost, claiming there had been a huge fraud there.

Yet, thinking that the ambition to restrict the franchise has vanished in the Republican party after Trump left is wishful thinking: it is now entrenched in the party's politicians' mind. They are bound to follow in Trump's footsteps, going from court to court to challenge the legitimacy of Black votes. That is Trump's legacy: his big lie about -unproven- fraud paved the way for further lies since it would show that Republicans act as they are asked, asserting the power of some Americans.

The author eventually urges people to understand that democracy only works when some citizens accept to back decisions that might benefit others first and hopes that Trump's deeds act as a wake-up call: citizens must relinquish the feeling of superiority

over the people to promote equality.

267 words

Q2-

Against a backdrop of global "democratic recession", as Larry Diamond calls it, what triggers political polarization must be construed so that both politicians and the people should tackle the issue.

In my opinion, in modern democratic societies, political polarization is bound to happen since parties focus on identities. Indeed, when it comes to who they are, people struggle to find a middle-ground, which prompts them to gather under politicians who embody their identities, hence the polarization. Tellingly, participation is the only component of the Economist's democracy index that has risen since 2006: people go to polls because it decides - too much - who they are. Yet, when polarization is extreme, it sparks violent - and no longer ideological - conflicts as evidenced by the raid on the Capitol. That

is why Biden beseeched Americans to "end this uncivil war that pits red against blue". How could that be a reality?

I truly believe that a greater involvement of citizens in politics is the only way out of this political crisis. People feel even more disempowered and deem that their wishes are not listened to by politicians and one may argue globalisation is responsible of that. Thus, I think it is high time ^{for them} to bring ordinary citizens closer to the decision-making process. Implementing citizens assemblies seem to be a good solution: citizens learn to debate with other citizens and nurture respect, get informed and get a role in politics. The case of the Republic of Ireland is important here: abortion was legalized through citizens' assemblies.

All in all, politicians should understand that granting such power to citizens does not weaken them: the real power lies in having citizens on board.

273 words