

## WHITE AND BLACK POETRY READINGS: DISTINCT DIFFERENCES

ANITA HEISS

Jatz Crackers, block cheese and chardonnay sipping  
Politics, emotions and conscience ripping

Big words to aid the mental masturbation  
Simple message: Aboriginal incarceration

Autumn leaves falling from age-old trees  
Begging for human rights on bended knee

The blackness of night and stars so bright  
Chanting for basic human rights

Judging all those who dwell beneath  
Laying another black death in custody wreath

Analysing another famous sporting broadcast  
Denying emphatically Truganini was the last

Middle class life where the Volvo is vital  
Why are we still fighting for Native Title?

I'm vegan, against anything meaty  
I want sovereignty and a treaty

Worrying about the lack of sexual stimulation  
Telling the truth of the Stolen Generations

Mixing with the best at the City's town hall  
Tired of being the political football

The colour has contrast, context and depth  
I'll be black till my dying breath

I'm not racist, a bigot or bum  
I'm still trying to find my mum

I've done my bit for reconciliation  
While I'm still begging for self-determination

The new tax reform is the country's biggest worry  
But we're still campaigning for Howard's 'Sorry'

There is no difference between you and me  
Except that you write from a position of being free.

**Author Note**

Anita Heiss is a leading Indigenous-Australian literary author and poet. Her poem 'White and Black poetry readings: distinct differences' appeared among other Indigenous poems in the book, *Untreated: Poems by Black Writers* (2001). The book was compiled by Josie Douglas and published by IAD Press.