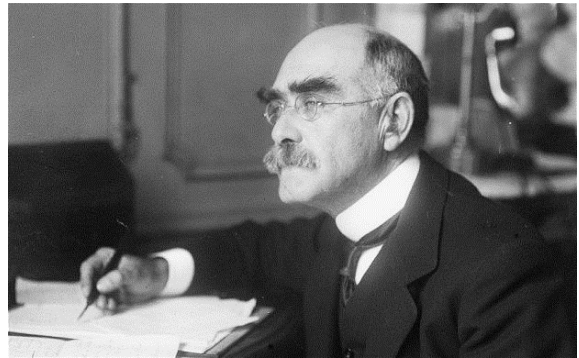


Kipling a plagiarist?

- 1 Shocked headlines have reported that a newly discovered letter by Rudyard Kipling "admits plagiarising" parts of his poem "Law of the Jungle", which appears in *The Jungle Book*. Actually, the letter admits nothing of the kind. Kipling is responding to a reader, and although we don't know what question was asked, we can infer that Kipling



- found it somewhat asinine from the dismissive tone of his reply. "A little of it is bodily taken from (Southern) Esquimaux rules for the division of spoils. In fact, it is extremely possible that I have helped myself promiscuously but at present cannot remember from whose stories I have stolen."
- 2 The fact is that most writers are magpies, reworking source material from wherever they find it. Shakespeare's reliance on older chronicles for his plots is a commonplace, and it would be ludicrous to suggest that in *Paradise Lost* Milton was "plagiarising" the story of Genesis. When Amy Heckerling reworked *Emma* into her 1995 film *Clueless*, she was not plagiarising Jane Austen, but creating an imaginary conversation with a classic novel.
 - 3 Today, what we mean by plagiarism relates more to honesty than to originality; we call it "borrowing" when it is acknowledged.
 - 4 Originality takes many forms, and many forms can be remade from originals. Invention from whole cloth is not the only — or even the optimal — method of literary creation, and it is impossible to name an important author who could not be charged with some sort of intellectual borrowing. As Delacroix is supposed to have said of Raphael: "Nowhere did he reveal his originality so forcefully as in the ideas he borrowed."

Sarah Churchwell

based on an article from *The Guardian Weekly*, 2013

Tekst 2 Kipling a plagiarist?

- 2p 3 Geef van elk van de volgende beweringen aan of deze wel of niet in overeenstemming is met de inhoud van alinea 1 en 2.
- 1 Kipling revealed that his success was partly dependent on his adaptation of written material that already existed.
 - 2 Sarah Churchwell confirms Kipling's unauthorised use of the ideas and thoughts of another author.
 - 3 The Esquimaux have regulated the way their catch should be shared.
 - 4 The general reading public is aware that Shakespeare looked to other authors for inspiration.
- Noteer het nummer van elke bewering, gevolgd door "wel" of "niet".
- "some sort of intellectual borrowing" (alinea 4)
- 1p 4 Citeer de woordgroep in het artikel die het tegenovergestelde betekent.
- 1p 5 Judging from the article, which quotation would Sarah Churchwell agree with?
- A "It is better to fail in originality than to succeed in imitation." (Herman Melville)
 - B "Originality is dangerous." (Salman Rushdie)
 - C "Originality is the art of concealing your source." (Franklin P. Jones)
 - D "Originality is the one thing which unoriginal minds cannot feel the use of." (John Stuart Mill)
 - E "Some writers confuse authenticity, which they ought always to aim at, with originality, which they should never bother about." (W. H. Auden)

Bronvermelding

Een opsomming van de in dit examen gebruikte bronnen, zoals teksten en afbeeldingen, is te vinden in het bij dit examen behorende correctievoorschrift, dat na afloop van het examen wordt gepubliceerd.