

LIRA TOWN COLLEGE

P.O. BOX 125, LIRA

S.3 ENGLISH PASSAGE

Read this passage carefully and answer questions that follow.

A PRISONER OF THE MAASAI

When I woke, there was unusual silence in the air and I found myself listening for something I used to hear whenever I woke in the hot afternoons.

I then remembered how, two days before, I had been looking after my master's cattle and how two Maasai warriors had come and had taken the cattle. They had beaten me savagely. They did not, however, leave me lying on the ground, half dead. Instead they managed to get me into their land somehow. I was a strong boy of twenty and I would guess that that was the reason why they took me along with them. After they had beaten me, I was unconscious and did not come back to myself until the second day.

My friends and I had often fallen asleep in the hottest times of the day and when I awoke, I always heard the sound made by flying grasshoppers karrrrrr-ah, the sound of men chopping wood with their axes in the forest nearby, kong-kong-kong. The sun was always so hot one would say it shone loudly! Its heat seemed to have a sound to me. They were the sounds I was expecting to hear when I awoke that morning.

The two men had put me in a mud hut with no windows. The door was very small and low and the inside of the hut was very dark. I recalled what had happened and then sat in the darkness staring at nothing. Presently the door opened and three men came in followed by a beautiful girl, who had hardly anything on her body. She was carrying a gourd which she offered to me. I took it and drank it, not caring what was inside. After that the men took me outside and treated my wounds. They were kind and I liked them.

I could recognize the hills on which we were. They were the hills one saw far in the distance when at home. I hoped that when I got better, I would run away. Knowing how hard my master was at home, I could not go back to him. I would seek happiness among some other tribes.

The Maasai family looked after me very well. Meat was our food. The girl I had first seen brought me milk and meat daily. We grew to like each other very much. She taught me the Maasai language and I learned very quickly. After some weeks I got better, but I did not want to run away. I stayed with the family and proved to be a trustworthy man. I became one of the members of the family and took part in every event.

I remember once the two men, Muriu and Karau, who had taken the cattle, and I, went out to steal more cows. We were caught in the act by the owners. We all fought against them but I fought so bravely that afterwards when we got home, I was rewarded by the two men. They gave Ngini to me as my wife. She was the girl I had liked very much and who had made me love

Maasailand so much; we loved one another. I did not ever again think of leaving the Maasailand. I grew old and my sons carried on the work of stealing cattle. Every morning when I awoke and found myself listening for something; but familiar sounds were lost forever.

Questions

1. Why did the Maasai take the boy with them?
 - A. Because he was a boy
 - B. Because they thought he would be useful.
 - C. Because he fought against them so bravely.
 - D. Because he was strong.
2. When did the writer wake up after he had been kidnapped?
 - A. During the hot afternoon
 - B. At the hottest time of the day
 - C. On the morning of the second day.
 - D. In the afternoon of the second day
3. Why did the Maasai accept him as a member of the family?
 - A. Because he fought so bravely
 - B. Because Ngini loved him.
 - C. Because they trusted him.
 - D. Because he did not run away.
4. Suggest three reasons why the young man did not try to escape once he had recovered.
5. How was the Youngman rewarded when he fought for the Maasai?
6. If you had been the young man, would you have wanted to escape? Give reasons for your answer.

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