

OGUN DIGICLASS

CLASS: SECONDARY SCHOOL

SUBJECT: LITERATURE IN ENGLISH

TOPIC: PROSE (LONELY DAYS)

by

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Objectives

- Know about widowhood in the western part of Nigeria.
- Understand the need for women emancipation in our society.
- Assertion of women as an emerging force in a male oriented society.

PLOT

The book is an account of the Yorubas cultural beliefs and the various societal laws imposed upon them and how the women folk is battling to lift the oppression and the yolk. Set in Kufi village, not too far from Ibadan, the largest city in West Africa. Although the writer hails from Adeyipo village a good replica of Kufi village. He shows that with hardwork and perseverance the women folk will overcome

THEMES

- Death and Beliefs in Yorubaland.
- Marriage and Family system.
- Denials and harsh realities of life on women through societal laws(spiritually, mentally and economically).
- Loneliness in widowhood.
- The need for female empowerment.

DEATH and BELIEFS

- Ajimobi's death
- Death must happen but the Yorubas believes that there is always an evil hand behind every death.
- Suspicion hovers over people nearer to the deceased, particularly on the wife.
- The inheritance system in Yorubaland.
- No vacuum should be created on the demise of a family head.



MARRIAGE and THE FAMILY SYSTEM.

- Courting before marriage.
- How marriage is conducted in Yorubaland and beliefs.
- A male child is more important than a female child.
- Women folks are regarded as properties that can be given away but cannot inherit the deceased property.



DENIALS and HARSH REALITIES OF LIFE

- Wife is subjected to various harrowing experiences to prove her innocence i.e. head shaving, locked up with husband's dead body etc.
- Loss of economic power during the mourning period, can simply not engage in any activities.
- Forced to marry without consideration of choice.
- Treated like a leper during mourning period, must tread bush paths on way to stream.



LONELINESS

In chapters 8,9,10,11 the use of flashback to expose the inner thoughts of Yaremi.

She remembers the good times and trying times with Ajimobi.

What she was missing, how Ajimobi had played his role as a good father to Segi, Wuraola and Alani the last ,only male child.

She filled her time playing and working with Woye her grandson.

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- The making up of her mind not to remarry, because she knew that no man can ever rival Ajimobi in her heart. caring or sex wise.
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THE NEED FOR FEMALE EMPOWERMENT.

- The story of Radeke, Dedewe and Fayoyin as widows.
- At the death of Ajimobi. Yaremi became the center of her own world.
- She improved her economic status by working harder and was referred to as becoming more like a man(gait, assertive voice).
- The dignity of labour and hard work.



- Yaremi's refusal to pick a cap according to tradition shows that a woman can make her own choice.
- She asserted her independence on knowing that her three suitors were just been boastful, that they never had any respect for women. Ayanwale, Olonade and Lanwa.
- Importance of education, with the insistence of Woye to go to school in Olode.