

GUIDE FOR MSCE LITERATURE

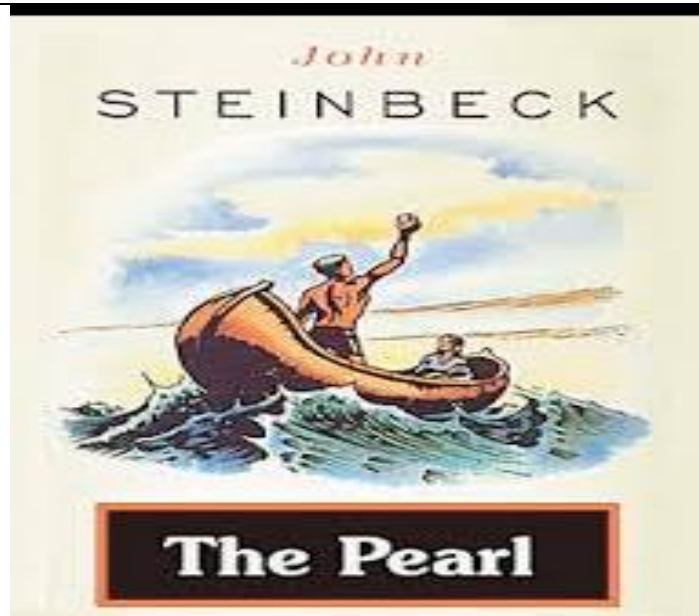
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1, **MACBETH**

**2. AFRICAN SHORT
STORIES**

**3, AN AFRICAN
THUNDERSTORM
AND OTHER
POEMS**



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STUDENT'S NAME _____



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DEDICATION

I dedicate this work to my two lovely children; Mphatso and Beatitude

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

I am very grateful to the Almighty God for making it possible for me to undertake this project. To God be glory for ever and ever more!

Much appreciation should go to my wife for her dedication, advice, perseverance and understanding throughout the time of this project. I also thank her for proof reading every single word of this booklet. This work could have simply emerged a failure if it was not for the time which she spared on my work at the expense of her own. It would also be unkind and very unfair if I would not express my gratitude to the students of Vonken CDSS for the support they rendered to me as their English teacher. Go boys and girls, sky is the limit! Dream in colors!

ABOUT THE EDITOR

Mr Joseph Lywell Mwakawanga is a holder of a Bachelor's degree in education majoring English obtained from the University of Livingstonia, in 2018. He is also a holder of a T2 teaching certificate obtained from DAPP Chilangoma TTC in 2010. He is also a marketer after having studied with the UK-based board 'Chartered Institute of Marketers' (CIM) in 2007. He has taught at various primary schools in Malawi before he taught English at Vonken CDSS in Mulanje District. Currently he is teaching at Nansomba Secondary School in Mulanje. This is his third work others being, '*Junior Secondary School Literature in English 4 in 1*' and '*Secondary school grammar*'. His fourth work, which is currently under way, is the novel entitled '*The pregnant virgin*'.



SECTION: ONE

BRIEF INTRODUCTION TO LITERATURE

Literature defined

- ♣ Literature is a work of creative art that is produced by a writer or a narrator.
- ♣ Literature is also defined as the study of creative and imaginative works or writings.
- ♣ Literature can also be defined as any piece of information that is written down or passed on by a word of mouth and is valued as work of art.
- ♣ The work of the art can either be written or oral.

The importance of studying literature

- It widens the cultural horizon.
- It evokes critical thinking in the minds of students and enables the knowledge of the good and bad, right or wrong, wise or silly, moral or immoral.
- It brings joy and humor.
- It is educative and makes students broad minded.
- It sharpens the skill of essay writing which is important in many academic subjects.
- It is a spring board for the creative writing of poems/songs and stories.
- It enhances the skill of reading and speaking English.
- It enriches the vocabulary of the students and improves their passive knowledge of English.
- It informs about other people's philosophies, beliefs and attitudes.
- It enhances constructive thoughts and arguments about issues and ideas.
- It increases self-awareness by comparing the self with the characters in books.
- It helps in comparing societies to know the virtues and limitations of inherited attitudes and values.

GENRES OF LITERATURE

Literature is divided into forms or types known as genres, as such a genre is a major category or type of writing style or format. For easy understanding, we are going to divide the genres into two main categories and these are; written and oral genres of literature.



Genres of Oral literature

Oral literature refers to that form of literature that is passed one from one generation the next by the word of mouth. There are several genres of oral literature and most of them are in the form of Oral narratives. For more information on this consult your junior literature work.

Written genres of literature

There are four major types of written genres of literature and these are; the novel, the short story, the play and poetry. These genres will be explained in detail in the following chapters.

Genres of senior secondary literature

The syllabus of literature at Senior Secondary school level covers the following categories and books:

1. **Play:** *Macbeth* by William Shakespeare
2. **Novel:** *The Pearl* by John Steinbeck
3. **Poetry;** *An African Thunderstorm and other poems* by David Rubadiri
4. Short story; *African Short stories* by Chinua Achebe



SECTION 2: POETRY

AN AFRICAN THUNDERSTORM AND OTHER POEMS BY David Lubadiri

INTRODUCTION TO POETRY

- ♣ A poem is defined as imaginative piece of writing that has rhythmic or musical *lines*.
- ♣ Poem can also be defined as a piece of writing arranged in stanza and verses expressing thoughts and feelings with the help of sound and rhythm.
- ♣ A person who writes poems is called a **poet**.
- ♣ A collection of poems is known as **poetry**.

Forms of poetry

- **Acrostic poetry**- Acrostic poetry is where the first letter of each line spells a word usually using the same words as the title.
- **Epic**- This is a long narrative poem celebrating the adventures and achievements of hero. Epics deal with traditions myths or history of a nation.
- **Fable**-A fable is a poetic story composed in verse or prose with a moral summed up at the end usually using animals as characters to teach valuable lessons.
- **Free Verse**-An irregular form of poetry in which the content is free of traditional rules of versification
- **Monody**-A poem in which one person laments another's death
- **Ode**- A poem praising and glorifying a person, place or a thing.
- **Lyrical**- Short poems usually to do with love.
- **Occasional**- Poem for a specific occasion.
- **Panegyric**- poem praising a person dead or living.
- **Sonnet**- Traditional poems during Shakespeare's Time arranged in patterns of 8 and 6 or 4,4,4 and 6 lines.
- **Dramatic poetry** -Poems with element of drama, two personas in the poem dialoguing showing a conflict situation.



POETIC DEVICES

Before a reader starts analyzing any piece of poetry, he or she must understand literary terms associated with poetry. Some of the elements of poetry are discussed below,

A line in a poem is a collection of words running horizontally in a single line. In Some poems, the whole line can be filled by just a single word. In that context, that single word becomes a line.

Stanza-A stanza is a group of lines. Stanza is to poetry as paragraph is to prose (composition). Although it is common for a poem to be one stanza-long, most Poems are divided into sections (parts). Each of these sections in a poem is called a stanza.

Persona- A person or objects speaking in a poem.

Symbol- An object, an action, or an idea that stands for something other than itself. For Example a dove is a symbol of peace.

Hyperbole: -This is a deliberate exaggeration intended at intensifying an emotional force. eg - My father has all the money, and -His hands are full of blood.

Allusion-This is a direct reference to a name or event in history, in the bible or in literature in order to enrich the meaning of the poem or passage being read.

eg -We do not need any Judas in this class (traitor) / James is the John Chilembwe of our school (freedom fighter)

Simile:-It is a brief and direct comparison of two things or ideas using 'like' or 'as'. eg : -John is as strong as a lion; Her beauty is like that of a star.

Metaphor:-This is a group of words that explicitly compare two terms that are not similar in order to give a specific meaning without using 'like' or 'as'. eg - He is the lion of the village/ She is the star of the school.

Imagery-It is the use of symbols or similes or metaphor to help create pictures in the reader's mind. Imagery appeals to the reader's senses of sight, smell, touch, Taste and hearing.



Rhyme(s)- Words that have the same sound(mostly)at the end of each line. The last word In the first line may rhyme with the last word in the second line. Sometimes the Last word in the first line may rhyme with the last word in the third line.

Alliteration- This is the repetition of consonant sound at the beginning of words.

Theme: This is the main message or lesson (idea) contained in the whole piece of writing. It is the whole purpose of the literary work as intended by the writer.

Personification- this is the technique of giving human behavior or qualities to an object, creature or plants.

HOW TO ANALYSE A POEM

Read and understand the poem's title .The title of a poem usually gives a clue on what the poem talks about. However, some titles are non-literal which means they may have deep meaning. It is the responsibility of a student to scrutinize the title whether its literal or non-literal.

Secondly, read the poem more than once, as a student, you have to read the poem more than once. First try to find out what the poem is talking about and links it with the title. Gasp the message in poem by reading the poem more than once. Understand the meaning of the poem ie both denotative and connotative meanings.

Thirdly, find the poetic devices. Analyze literary term which may include the persona, plot, themes, setting, characters and the addressee.

Lastly Analyze the literary devices ie appreciate the use of language in the poem.

NB in addition to the above, when you read a poem for several times, ask yourself the following questions:

1. Who is speaking in the poem?(Persona)
2. To whom is the speaker talking to?
3. What is the main idea of the poem



4. Is the speaker happy or sad
5. Is the persona exaggerating anything in his or her description of a thing or an incident? What is the purpose for doing so?

Levels of meaning in a poem

a) Denotation:- This is the literal use of words. It is the use of words according to their actual dictionary definition. The words are used in simple, plain and direct manner in order to give ordinary everyday meanings.

b) Connotation:

This is the figurative use of words. It is the use of a word to give a deeper or hidden meaning. It can stretch a word to accommodate a larger or a very different meaning. It uses different figures of speech like metaphors, idioms and irony.

ANALYSIS SOME FEW POEMS

NB in a quest to avoid rote learning that characters previous assessment , the ministry of education through MANEB has adopted new assessment at MSCE where it demand to bring reading culture and reduce rote learning.

As being the case the examiners are at liberty to use any poetry or short story that is plausible. The examiners may choose poem or short story from any other book, newspaper or indeed from books that were used in the old syllabus as long as they meet certain conditions.

Therefore students are strongly advised not to take this guide as a bible but to use it in order for them to acquire skills needed for on to analyze any poem.

1 AN AFRICAN VIGIL

1. Gist

The poem is about a young man and a young (African) woman who are in an in-experienced boy to girl relationship. They are a naïve duo in a romantic relationship. This is proved when they don't



talk to each other verbally instead they only signal each other this may imply they don't have time for each other although they frequently meet at the waterhole.

2. Setting: Rural area in Africa as observed by the presence of the waterhole where the girl goes to fetch water.

3. Persona: A young man/poet

4. Addressee: Not clear

5. POETIC DEVICES

a. Personification: Stanza 1 line 1- Evening drapes gold on distance hills.

b. Imagery: Stanza 1 line 1 (visual) Evening drapes gold on distance hills, Stanza 1 line 4- my dark lady.

c. Enjambment: Observed in stanzas 3 and 4: Sense is relayed from one line to the next

d. Metaphor: A lighting shadow of a smile

e. Repetition: Stanza 4 lines 1 and 2

6. CHARACTER AND CHARACTERISATION

a. Young man

1. **Naïve /inexperienced:** He fails to create room to chat with his loved one although he has travelled a long distance just to meet her.

2. **Loving:** He travels a long distance to see his lover

b. Young woman

Trustworthy: She awaits the boy at the agreed place (at the bushes).

7. THEMES

1. **Naivety:** Both the young man and the girl are inexperienced in matters regarding romance as they do not chat when they meet hence one can conclude they do not have time for each other.



2. **Love:** The young man is in a love affair with the girl

3. **Satisfaction:** The young man is satisfied just by seeing the girl without talking to one another.

2. THE TIDE THAT FROM THE WEST WASHES AFRICA TO THE BONE

1. Gist

The poem talks about negativity of all sorts of western ideologies on Africanism. This is because it seems that the whole body and soul of Africa is attacked which stand for washing away every aspect of Africanism.

2. **Setting:** In Africa, where the 'Western tide' is currently wrecking/cleaning African heritage

3. **Persona:** A concerned African

4. POETIC DEVICES

a. **Hyperbole** (several examples) eg. "Gurgles thru my ribs" (stanza 1, line 3), "dissolving bone and sinew" (stanza 2, line 4)

b. **Personification:** Africa has been personified, described as if it's a human with 'bones', 'heart', 'sinews' and 'soul'.

c. **Symbol:** The 'tide' is symbolic; it represents the harsh Western ideologies/influence

d. **Alliteration:** eg. 'Clatter into clusters' (stanza 1, line 5)

e. **Allusion:** The concluding part makes an implicit reference to a "wooden cross" which was once "washed" by this "tide"....what could that wooden cross be? It could be the religion (Christianity) which was challenged by other Western ideologies-- the Antichrist-- at some point in history.

5. THEMES

a. Negative colonial influence

b. Plight of indigenes.



3. A NEGRO LABOURER IN LIVERPOOL

1. Gist

The poem expresses the pathetic life of a Negro (African) suppressed by the white people. The Negro is looked down upon and does not enjoy his individuality; he is in bondage in the land dominated by whites and has no hope for his predicament.

2. Setting : Liverpool Street

3. Persona: White man

4. Tone : Sad

5. Mood: Sad

6. Poetic devices

a. **Metaphor:** Stanza 1 line 7 (a dark shadow) , Stanza 3 line 8 (land of the free)

b. **Hyperbole:** Stanza 2 line 4 (Sunny smile)

c. **Imagery:** Stanza 2 line 7 (cowed dart of eyes) , Stanza 2 line 8 (piercing through...)

7. Themes

- a. Effects of colonialism
 - b. Slave Trade
 - c. Struggle for freedom
 - d. Oppression
 - e. Hopelessness
 - f. Disappointment
 - g. Pain of an immigrant
-

4. STANLEY MEETS MUTESA



1. Gist

The poem is an imaginative recreation of the historic encounter between Mutesa, an influential King in East Africa of the Buganda Kingdom in Uganda and Henry Stanley of the British mission. Mutesa represents Africa while Stanley represents the West. It represents the coming of the whites to Africa and the hardships they face on the way to Africa. The poem can be divided into three parts. The first part (Lines 1-26) records the difficult journey of Henry Stanley's expedition through the country. Second part Lines (27-41) tells us about the positive change of attitude that the expedition experienced on sighting the Nyaza River. Last part describes the actual entry of the expedition to the village.

2. Type of Poem

David Rubadiri's *Stanley meets Mutesa* is a "Narrative Poem". This is so because the poem can only be appreciated in relation to the historical event which it engages.

3. Setting

The setting is in tropical rural Africa. Evidence is indicated by the weather and vegetation suggested in first lines.

4. Point of view -Third person.

5. Persona - A Historian. S/he narrates the poem merely as an observer and not a member of the expedition of Stanley.

6. Mood: - *Somber mood*. Because of the melancholy men who are moving under the scorching sun and are exhausted and each afternoon human skeletons collapse.

7. Poetic Devices:

a. Imagery

Stanza 4 line 8 "...cool water lapped their sore

.....battered bulky chests"

b. Symbolism



The meeting of Mutesa and Stanley is symbolic. It symbolizes the meeting of the westerners and Africans.

c. Irony

The expectation set out merely to discover the Buganda Kingdom. This later meant taking control of the kingdom, thereby extending British colonial influence. Page 8 of 23

d. Metaphor

In lines 25 and 26 Stanley is referred to as spirit that inspired in the sense that in leading the expedition he provided encouragement to his followers.

e. Parallelism

1. *The heat of the day / The chill of the night* (Lines 2-3)

2. *Heart beat faster / Loads felt Lighter* (Lines 25-26)

f. Simile

The Nile and the Nyaza lay Like twins (Lines 29-30) /The March Leapt on chanting like young gazelles to a water hole. (Lines 32-33)

g. Tone

More of suspicion and mistrust especially as the poem reflects on the experience being recreated. For example upon arriving at Mutesa's court everyone seems to be curious and watching them in suspicion. The reception they were accorded was solemn and devoid.

h. Personification

Refer to lines 15 and 22

8. Sound Patterns

a. Alliteration

Refer to line 9



b. End Rhyme

These buttered bulky chests that kept on falling of the shoven heads

Heart beat faster / Loads felt lighter

9. Characterization

a. The King (Mutesa)

Courageous/Risk Taker/ Welcoming. He welcomes the white men (Stanley) together with his followers despite his little knowledge on what the whites will bring to him and the lives of his people.

b. The white man (Stanley)

Courageous and Risk Taker. He travels long distances from the west leading his people to Africa defying all odds along the way and also ready to meet the strange people in Mutesa's Kingdom.

c. The King's subjects

They are curious and suspicious. They watch with curiosity. The reception they give is solemn because they are white. Probably the locals have heard of the whites' behavior.

10. Themes:

a. Suffering

The travelers suffer the heat of the day, coldness of the night and mosquito bites. (Stanza 1)

".....weary pony dropped"

"Human skeletons collapsed " (stanza 3)

b. Endurance

Despite all the suffering the traveler's still progressed on their journey.

c. Hope and Courage



The other travelers have strong belief in their leader and although their friends and horses die on the way, they still go forward to get to the kingdom.

d. African and European Encounter

The encounter between Stanley and Mutesa becomes important for them as it marks the meeting of the cultures and the people they represent.

e. Colonialism

Lines number 55-60 Mutesa's court was summoned and the tall black long greeted the branded white man. This was followed by the closing of the gate to polished reeds marking the formal acceptance of the European incursion.

f. Death

In Stanley's company were black people who carried his loads as they, human skeletons collapse he is not discouraged but to move on ignoring the suffering and death of the black man.

11. Meanings of some words.

- a. Tattered: torn, rags
 - b. Pony: small horse
 - c. Trudged: walking wearily
 - d. Gazelle: Deer, antelope
 - e. Parley: To confer, to talk to negotiate
 - f. Reeds: Tall slender water plants that grow in marshes and other wet areas.
 - g. Chill: A moderate but often unpleasant degree of coldness
 - h. Chant: to sing in low tone voice because of the situation you are in.
-

5. ON MEETING A WEST INDIAN BOAT TRAIN AT WATERLOO STATION



1. Gist

The poem alludes to a blossoming generation with hope to succeed. It talks of a seed with hope to sprout considering its sowed on fertile soils with nutrients to growth healthier. This seed/generation has had dreams and aspirations to do well in life but alas, he is construed to the shadow of his/her forefather whose doings still shape the new seed's/ generation's future. In essence the dreams of these hopeful generations are "shattered" as quoted in stanza 2, despite the "fertile imaginations", thus the hope for a better future.

2. Persona: A sympathizer/concerned individual

3. Setting: Mind or land of dreams (evidenced in stanza 4 lone 1)

4. POETIC DEVICES

a. **Enjambment**-(stanza 1line 1 &2) / Broken, you stand and dream Dream you learnt

b. **Simile**-(stanza 4-line 5,6 & 7)

1. The new burrowed humanity-Will creep in each day Like vermin
2. but you dream of dreams / As a child builds sandcastle

5. THEMES

a. Hopelessness

The speaker in the poem talks of how the generation will not succeed in its quest for a sound future. Stanza 1 is a highlight of this theme when the persona alludes to how "Broken" the generation is.

b. Hardship

The poet in stanza 4 points at how the new generation has to work in quest for a brighter future. The simile "Like vermin" in line 8 draws a comparison of how some creatures like insects struggle or cause annoyance in order to survive.

c. Futility



The poem in a nutshell acknowledges how futile the effort of the new generation would be in its struggle for a better living. The poet as one example from the poem empties in stanza 5 how children build their sandcastles but only to break later. This entails that there is little or no benefit at all to the efforts made by these children, in this line, the new generation.

6. THOUGHTS AFTER WORK

1. Gist -The poem is about a civil servant who knocks off from work very exhausted. He is passing a stinking (musty) village going to his brick walled house. The man is envying the musty village people especially children who are always happy by singing joyful songs and laughing which is not the case at his brick house. Here education has separated him from the joys of an African village.

2. Setting: It is in rural area specifically in the village due to the mentioning of the same in line

3. Persona: A civil servant

4. Addressee: Not clear

5. Point Of View: First person point of view as the personae is talking about his or her own experience characterized by the use of first personal pronoun "I"

6. Tone: Nostalgic: the personae is remembering the joys he once had in an African village especially when he was young

7. Mood: Unhappy: We are sharing sorrow experienced by the personae as he is longing for joy he once had

8. Style: Flash back: as the personae is remembering the joys he used to have when he or she was young

9. POETIC DEVICES

1. Hyperbole: Heavy from work (which means the personae is knocking off from work very exhausted)



2. **Metaphor:** my new exile (in his or her brick walled house the personae stays as if it is in exile as he cannot associate with the other compounds)

3. **Simile:** Evening falls like a mantle (here evening has been compared to a mantle)

4. **Imagery:** My brick government compound

5. **Irony:** the personae knocks off from the office very exhausted with an anticipation that he find joy at home however this is not the case as there is no such peace or joy at home.

10. CHARACTER AND CHARACTERIZATION

Civil servant

(i). **Frustrated/ disillusioned:** He is frustrated with the experiences he or she gets after being exhausted with work

11. Themes

a. **The gap between educated and un educated:** the personae fails to intrude in the affair of the rest of the village because of the chasm that has been created by his or her education

b. **Joys versus sorrow:** the rest of the village especially children are happy which is characterized by their joyful laughter while the personae experiences sorrow in the compound he or she is living

c. **Frustration/ Disillusionment:** the personae is frustrated as he or she does not find the happiness he or she anticipated to find at home

7. BLACK CHILD

1. Gist

The poem is about Africans who have all the required resources but are still underdeveloped. In the first stanza, the poet is bewildered or stunned as to why this is the case and in the second stanza the poet goes on to say that Africans are failing to use many opportunities at their disposal as



illustrated in the first two lines of the stanza "your eyes look but see not". In the last stanza the poet expresses hope that one day Africans will realise their potential and move forward.

2. Setting: This must be Africa due to the use of black colour in describing the 'child'

3. Persona: Not clear but he/she is a sympathiser of Africans.

4. Addressee: Africans

5. POETIC DEVICES:

a. Tone: sympathetic

b. Mood: Sympathetic

c. Paradox: blankly gaze.

d. Metaphor: I see your wings, dull eyes catch fire.

e. Imagery: I see your wings.

f. Alliteration: far, far into.....

6. THEMES:

Poverty, ignorance, oppression, suppression, inferiority complex Page

8, TEARS

A drop of a dew

On a rose petal

Sitting on the throne

1. Gist

The poem is about death. The Persona describes death which does not spare anyone even the beautiful ones as evidenced by a rose of petals.



There is an innocent child who is mourning due to the death of a loved one, and at the same time the child is underprivileged or being abuse hence the future is doomed

2. Addressee: not stated

3. POETIC DEVICES

a. Metaphor: a drop of dew= tears

b. Personification: sitting on the thorn

c. Symbolism: a rose symbolises a child

d. Mood: Sympathetic

4. THEME: Cruelty of death

10. A SMILE

A rose bud

Opening

At the back

1. Gist

In this short poem, nature imagery is employed to depict hope.

2. Stylistic background

The poem belongs to a Japanese style of poetry called Haiku. A traditional haiku poem has three lines and a total of 17 syllables. In the traditional type, the first line has 5 syllables, the second has 7 and the last one has 5, simply called 5-7-5 pattern.

However, this poem has a 4-3-3 syllabic format. It's a haiku nonetheless, belonging to a Modern Japanese Haiku called gendai-haiku. It takes nature as its subject though it doesn't honour the use of juxtaposition.

3. Symbol: A rose is a symbol of a desired expectation/hope.



4. Enjambment: The poem also employs enjambment, with each line carrying its sense over to the next one.

5. Rhyme: The words bud/back do rhyme, creating a rhythmic/musical effect to the poem.

6. THEMES

a. Beauty of nature

b. Hope Page

11. DEATH AT MULAGO

1. Gist

A modern hospital has been built and people think that since it's a new hospital it has everything to save life at all cost. They get disappointed to experience death at the new hospital and they are shocked. It is a good looking hospital as described in stanza one and two. "Towers of strength/ [made of] Granite" (1:1-2) "Up they rise". The buildings are coated in white which flit "Like the magic they spell" (2:5).

Third stanza talks of a woman who has come to this new Mulago Hospital to receive treatment. She is registering her details "Giving names, tribes and sex".

In fourth stanza, the woman is done with the procedure of registering "As the full stop was entered". However, something terrible is happening: The woman is also dying. She has something to say but she cannot utter it "And the message unsaid". The woman falls down "Crushing granite and concrete/ In gushing tears of pain" and finally ". . . a lonely sorrow" dies.

2. Persona: Observer

3. Addressee : General public

4. Mood: Disappointed. In gushing tears of pain and a lonely sorrow crown it all.

5. Tone : Sad



6. Setting: Africa

7. POETIC DEVICES

a. Personification.

1. Towers of strength - which means they were strong towers for the fact that they were newly built.
2. White coat gave a nod - the doctor who usually put in white coats when on duty confirmed the death of the woman.

b. Similes

- "Enduring/Like life itself".
- "White coats flit/Like the magnet"

c. Situational Irony: Whereby the hospital being a modern one people expect that their lives will be saved by all means but we have seen death happening even before treatment.

d. Last stanza full stop: means the last recordings of death done by a doctor crushed a strong woman thoughts as she thought the patient will survive coz of how the building looked.

8. THEMES

a. Death - the death of the woman who dies before receiving any treatment in hands of medical personnel's.

b. Social Development. The new hospital which has been built is a development.

c. Inevitability of death is also another theme. When it is your time to die no one can control it even if you meet best medical personnel. That's why we see this woman dying in this modern hospital.

d. Ignorance: According to the speech of the persona, people think that with the new hospital nobody dies. When they see white coats they associate that with magic.

e. Inhumanity: The patient is dying while registering. These people would have seen the condition of the patient and treat her first than prioritizing this procedure of registration.



f. Despair

g. Disappointment

h. Hopelessness

i. Suffering

12. PARAA LODGE (TO J.H.S)

1. Gist

The persona is going to the shore. On the way to the shore he/she sees elephants grazing and hippos snuggling. These animals actually excrete in the Nile River. At Paraa Lodge Americans are having a party hence it is very noisy. The persona observes that an American child produces faeces in a reservoir. At Paraa Lodge different animals do interact. Then when night falls a persona and his friends stand on a tidal waves there are unease with the social life style of Americans on their land hence pray for better tomorrow.

2. Setting: The events in the poem are taking place at Paraa Lodge which is in rural as it has been illustrated by the presence of the shore where animals such as elephants and hippos live.

3. Tone: Desperate tone because the persona is desperate with the social life style of Americans hence praying for divine intervention.

4. Personification: animals asking questions, this shows that the animals have been personified.

5. Simile: like sea-sick billows

6. Alliteration: sea,sick

7. Addressee: Americans

8. Character and Characterization

a. Persona



-**Observative/curious:** the persona observes what is happening at Paraa Lodge.

-**Prayful/religious:** the persona prays for divine intervention.

-**Hopeful:** the persona is hopeful that the prayer will be answered.

b. Addressee

Luxurious as they are partying at Paraa Lodge.

9. THEMES

a. Beauty of nature: this theme is portrayed looking at the way animals interact with each other.

b. Cultural conflict: the persona and the other people seem not to be happy with the social life style of Americans as they like parties.

c. Curiosity: The persona is very observant with what is happening at Paraa Lodge.

d. Religion: the persona has a belief in God that is why he/she is praying for better tomorrow.

e. Hope: the persona prays hoping of having better tomorrow after being answered the prayers by God.

13, TWO EPITAPHS

II. YATUTA CHISIZA

1. Gist

Looking at the title itself "two Epitaphs," you can easily tell that this is a poem that talks about someone who died, in this case, Yatuta Chisiza. He is being praised for his sacrifice as he fought for the people of his country as it says in the poem "when greatness dies a simple death for the souls of men". This makes him a hero worth to be remembered and his death is celebrated by Malawians.

2. Type of poem: Eulogy



3. Setting: The poem is set somewhere in Malawi. It is also thought that it could be during one party/ dictatorship era or even colonial rule when there was much blood shading.

4. Persona: A fellow freedom fighter.

5. Addressee: It could be us or the Yatuta himself

6. Tone and Mood: The poem has a grievous tone and sad mood.

7. POETIC DEVICES

a. Repetition:

This is clearly shown in order to make an emphasis of the significance of Yatuta Chisiza in the eyes of personal, for instance these words have been repeated in stanza one, "so too to". This means that his name will not die just like that because he meant a lot to his followers.

b. Symbol: This is when the word 'greatness' is used to stand for Yatuta himself.

c. Understatement: It is when the death which is the big and fearful thing in life is trivialised as if it is a small thing.

d. Metaphor: This is shown by the use of 'Rank and File' which refer to the people of low class and mere followers.

8. THEMES

a. Sacrifice: This is in the sense that Yatuta had to give his life in order to fight for freedom just to save Malawi from the government of the time till he was killed.

b. Patriotism: This is in the sense that he had so much love for his country and felt that he needed to be a part of change.

c. Stalwart: This is because he was a leader of the freedom fighters and indeed brave enough to stand against the oppression in the face of fear.

14. CHRISTMAS 1967



1. Gist

The poem talks about things that happen during Christmas, especially those that used to happen in the past where people expected a lot even though life was not up to that level. It also highlights the fact that during Christmas some give birth and the children to come are yet to meet similar problems (e.g the desert still stretching, scorching...) as their parents. In addition, the poem also presents the dynamics of the way how people in different set ups celebrate Christmas i.e in the villages, in towns, at war. Ironically, during the festive season people expect nothing but happiness, however the poem explores the ironies of life where some are celebrating while others are not that happy.

2. Plot and analysis

Stanzas 1-2: The persona perceives the Christmas Eve as useless and invaluable for the following reasons:

- It only involves receiving and returning of cards which means nothing to people's lives.
- It also involves visitations and issuance of best wishes.
- Eating best foods/meals/luncheon, e.g. turkey and Red Cross Christmas Pie.
- The persona knows that the Oxfam Card must provide hope to people
- However, it wears an ugly outlook, thus, begging help from the hopeless nations e.g. South Africa, Vietnam and Rhodesia.
- As such, the persona finds the Christmas 1967 useless and in fact, boring and invaluable.

Stanzas 3-4: Christmas Eve in Africa is spiced by several funny things, e.g.

- Presence of Father Christmas
- Programmes showcased on National Television.
- Presence of Teddy bears.
- Queen's message of goodwill to people living in her spheres of influence, etc.



-On the sad note, the persona/poet receives, from a friend in Paris, a message of power struggle over Vietnam and Major Schramme being discussed at the Vatican.

-This message contradicts the Queen's message of goodwill sent to people living in Commonwealth countries, Vatican inclusive.

Last two stanzas

-Messages of goodwill and peace are provided to instill hope in people considered Christian through music. This comes at the time when people in Rhodesia, South Africa and Vietnam are in abject troubles in all dimensions of life. e.g. (hard) troubled hearts are being haunted (dry) etc.

-There is hope that the next Christmas Eve "Christmas '68" is promising to ease challenges of life through improved maternal health, food nutrition, etc. Although challenges of life are persistent, people still have hope of survival.

3. Setting: Rural - The hype that is there during Christmas, like eating meat, signifies the fact that the people are poor hence living in a rural setting.

4. Persona: Citizen/Poet

5. Addressee: Unknown

6. POETIC DEVICES

a. Oxymoron: stanza 1 e. g full emptiness.

b. Metaphors: last stanza e.g (a) "bumper crop" referring to a lot of children being born (b) "desert" referring to poverty, the family/country has no basic provisions.

c. Symbolism: Desert representing the problems that the people are encountering and are confronting their hope for survival.

d. Tone: Concerned

7. THEMES

a. Poverty: People are giving birth to a lot of children during Christmas season despite their meagre resources.



b. Celebration: People are in high spirits due to Christmas and are eating rare meat such as turkey.

c. Hope: Hope and messages of goodwill and peace instill hope in the people considered Christians through music. This comes when there are abject problems in Rhodesia, South Africa and Vietnam. There's also hope about the prospective 1968 Christmas like the having of more food, improved maternal health etc

SECTION: 3

PLAY: MACBETH

By William Shakespeare

INTRODUCTION TO PLAY

What is a play?

- ♣ A play is story that is performed by actors and actresses in front of an audience mainly through words and actions of the characters.
- ♣ It can also be defined as a story that is written for actors to perform or act in a theatre.
- ♣ A written play is called a **script**
- ♣ A person who writes plays is known as **play-wright**.

Types of Plays

1) **Comedy**-It is a play that starts with humor and ends with humor.

2) **Tragedy**-It is a play that ends on a sad note due to the death of at least one of the main characters.

3) **Tragi-comedy**- It's the combination of both humour and sadness. It may start with humor and ends with death of at least one actor



Elements of play

Most elements of a play were discussed in your junior section work. Some of them are briefly discussed below

1. Plot.

This is the trend or series of related events taking place in the play. In other ways it is the summary of the whole play.

It is in the plot where a conflict is formulated, concluded and resolved.

2. Character

A character is a person taking part in a in a story or play. These characters can also be animals or non-living things. As seen in the first part this guide, a character can be categorized as major versus minor, protagonist/ antagonist etc.

3, Setting

This is the location of a play in time and place.

4. Themes

This is the main message or lesson (idea) contained in the whole piece of writing.

5, Act and scene

Act is the major division of a play similar to a chapter in a book. A scene in is a minor segment within an Act. A scene usually indicates a specific location or time and changes if another location or time is supposed to be presented. The play 'Macbeth' has 5 acts each having varied number of scenes.

BACKGROUND OF THE PLAY 'MACBETH'



The play *Macbeth* was written in late 1606 or early 1607 by William Shakespeare. The play is considered to be the last of Shakespeare's four great tragedies, the others being *Hamlet*, *King Lear* and *Othello*. .

The play was written for King James who was obsessed with witches or liked fantasy

Macbeth in history

The play 'Macbeth' is based on a true story, Macbeth, as a person, actually lived. However in the play, Shakespeare made a lot of changes to suit the needs of the audience of his time.

The real Macbeth, Mac Bethad mac Findláich, known in English as Macbeth, was born in around 1005. His father was Finlay, Mormaer of Moray, and his mother may have been Donada, second daughter of Malcolm II. A Mormaer was literally a high steward of one of the ancient Celtic provinces of Scotland, but in Latin documents the word is usually translated as 'Comes', which means earl.

In August 1040, he killed the ruling king, Duncan I, in battle near Elgin, Morayshire. Macbeth became king. His marriage to Kenneth III's granddaughter Gruoch strengthened his claim to the throne. In 1045, Macbeth defeated and killed Duncan I's father Crinan at Dunkeld. For 14 years Macbeth seems to have ruled equably, imposing law and order and encouraging Christianity. In 1050 he is known to have travelled to Rome for a papal jubilee. He was also a brave leader and made successful forays over the border into Northumbria, England.

In 1054, Macbeth was challenged by Siward, Earl of Northumbria, who was attempting to return Duncan's son Malcolm Canmore, who was his nephew, to the throne. In August 1057, Macbeth was killed at the Battle of Lumphanan in Aberdeenshire by Malcolm Canmore (later Malcolm)

Brief Biography of William Shakespeare

Despite being recognized as one of the greatest dramatists ever, very little is known about William Shakespeare. Most of the details of his life are educated conjecture (suggestions) based on limited documentation. For example it is believed that William Shakespeare was born in Stratford-Upon-



Avon, in England on 23 April 1564 but the exact date of his birth is unknown; however, records indicate he was baptized on April 26, 1564, at Holy Trinity Church. Traditionally, a baby was baptized about three days after birth, which would make Shakespeare's birthday April 23, 1564. His father was John Shakespeare and his mother, Mary Arden.

William was the third child of eight, and it can be assumed he attended the local grammar school in Stratford. School ran for nine hours a day, year-round, and strict discipline was enforced. At the age of 18, Shakespeare had an affair with Anne Hathaway, who was eight years older than him. They married, and six months later they had a child, Susanna Shakespeare, who was born in May of 1583 and in 1585 twins, Hamlet and Judith, were born to the Shakespeare's.

Little is known of that period except that the twins were christened in February 1585. Shakespeare's life became public record in 1592 through a pamphlet written by Robert Greene with criticism of Shakespeare's work as an actor as well as a playwright. After Greene's death, the letter appeared again. Almost as quickly as it appeared, Greene's publisher printed an apology to Shakespeare.

From 1592 to 1594 many public theaters were closed due to the plague, and Shakespeare wrote poems and sonnets during this period. In 1594, he became a shareholder in a company of actors known as the Lord Chamberlain's Men. From 1594 to 1608 he was completely involved in the theatre.

His time in the years 1608 to 1616 was divided between the theater and his family. Shakespeare's success as a playwright and shareholder afforded him the luxury of owning homes in London and Stratford.

The recorded date for Shakespeare's death is April 23, 1616. He is buried inside the Stratford parish church. If you visit Holy Trinity Church in Stratford-upon-Avon, you can still view his grave and read his epitaph engraved into the stone:

'Good friend, for Jesus' sake forbear, To dig the dust enclosed here. Blessed be the man that spares these stones, And cursed be he that moves my bones.'



DRAMATIC PERSONEL

- ♣ **Duncan** is the King of Scotland, a good and honorable man who is murdered by Macbeth.
 - ♣ **Macbeth** is the Scottish Thane (nobleman) of Glamis and a general in Duncan's army.
 - ♣ **Lady Macbeth** is Macbeth's wife.
 - ♣ **Banquo** is a thane and a general in Duncan's army. A friend of Macbeth's, he is later murdered by him.
 - ♣ **Fleance** is Banquo's son. He escapes when his father is murdered.
 - ♣ **Malcolm** is Duncan's eldest son and heir.
 - ♣ **Donalbain** is another son of Duncan's.
 - ♣ **Macduff** is a thane, loyal to Duncan.
 - ♣ **Lady Macduff** is Macduff's wife. To punish Macduff, Macbeth has her and her family murdered.
 - ♣ **Ross** is Macduff's cousin.
 - ♣ **Lennox** is a thane, loyal to Duncan
 - ♣ **Seyton** is Macbeth's aide.
 - ♣ **Siward** is an English earl. He helps Malcolm in the fight against Macbeth.
 - ♣ **Young Siward** is Siward's son. He bravely faces Macbeth in a duel and is killed.
 - ♣ **The Three Witches** are supernatural beings who tell Macbeth and Banquo about certain events that will occur in the future.
-

GIST (PLOT) OF THE PLAY

There is a war between England and their enemy, Irish invaders, who are led by the rebel Macdonwald. And on their way back home from the war, two generals Macbeth and Banquo meet three witches who prophesize that Macbeth will be the king of Scotland while Banquo will be the father of many Kings. It does not take long before Macbeth is told by Ross that he has been crowned the Thane of Cawdor. *'And, for an earnest of a greater honour, He bade me, from him, call thee thane of Cawdor'* (Act 1 Scene 3).



After Macbeth has been being appointed the thane of Cawdor he believes that the prophecy from the witches has come to pass (has been fulfilled) so he becomes more ambitious of becoming the king. His wife's persuasion make things much complicated for Macbeth is encouraged to move along with his evil plan of murdering Duncan the King of Scotland while the King is a guest at his own castle. Macbeth becomes the king of Scotland since the king's sons have fled to England and Ireland and they are suspected to have a hand in the murder of their father.

Even though Macbeth has earned the kingship he still feels insecure and unsure of his position therefore he plots a murder plot on his best friend Banquo, for he is aware of the prophecy that Banquo will father kings. Macbeth is successful on killing Banquo but still this does not give him peace and satisfaction for Banquo's ghost starts haunting him. This prompts him to embark on a journey to meet the witches again. The witches prophesize to him that he should be aware of the noble man Macduff. But nevertheless, persuade him to go on by assuring him that none of born of a woman can harm him and that no one will defeat him till Birnam forest comes to Dunsinane.

Following the witches prophecy, Macbeth plans to kill Macduff. However Macduff learns of the plot and flees to England where he starts gathering an Army that will help him fight Macbeth. In his absence, Macduff's family is murdered by the order of Macbeth.

Due to the evil things that Macbeth and Lady Macbeth have done, Lady Macbeth is haunted by the feeling of guilty over the murders that she encouraged her husband to commit. She starts seeing blood in her hands all the time, this makes her to start sleep-walking and hallucinating and confessing all the murders she has committed with her husband. These emotional haunts and torments lead to her death.

Macduff and his Army from England attacks Macbeth's castle. Macbeth realises that the three witches have deceived him for indeed Birnam forest seems to be moving towards Dunsinane. But this does make him lose courage for he believes none of woman born shall harm him not knowing that Macduff is not of woman born. Macbeth dies at Macduff's hand who says he is not born of woman and Malcolm the son of late King Duncan becomes the next king of Scotland.

ACT BY ACT SUMMARIES OF THE PLAY



NB-We will only look at the summary of each scene. Full character analysis and themes have been fully discussed at the end of all the summaries. But as you study, you can come up with your own themes and characterisation of each scene and compare them with those that are at the end of the summaries.

ACT ONE

GIST OF ACT ONE

Scotland is at war. Near a battle field, three witches meet during a storm. They plan to meet Macbeth, one of the Scottish generals, before the setting of the sun. Meanwhile, a soldier comes to King Duncan with a report about the battle. He speaks of Macbeth's great bravery on the field. To reward Macbeth for this, Duncan gives him the title Thane of Cawdor. That evening, the three witches use this title when they greet Macbeth. They surprise him by predicting that he will soon be king.

They also tell Banquo, another general, that he will be the father of many kings. Later, King Duncan, his sons Malcolm and Donalbain, along with Banquo and other lords, go to Inverness, Macbeth's Castle, for a visit. In her wish to be Queen, Lady Macbeth encourages her Husband to kill Duncan.

Act ONE Scene by Scene summary

Scene 1

Setting – *On the heath ie open ground*

The play opens on a lonely stretch of land in Scotland. Three Witches report that the battle that Macbeth is fighting will be over by sunset; they plan to meet with Macbeth on the barren battlefield, or "heath," at that time. The setting is enhanced by an approaching thunder storm and three Witches foretelling of the evil they foresee for the future: "*Fair is foul, and foul is fair,*" what is good will be bad and what is bad will be good.

Important Lines

1.1.11 "Fair is foul and foul is fair" = a Paradox or a contradiction. Right from the beginning of



the play, things aren't always what they appear to be.

Scene 2

SETTING: *At the battle field:*

Here the king of Scotland, Duncan, with his two sons Malcolm and Donalbain and other king's attendants are at the military camp. The king learns of the events of the battle from the wounded Captain that has just returned from the battlefield. The sergeant reports that "*doubtful it stood*" - the battle could have gone either way. Macdonwald, a Norwegian soldier, was merciless but Macbeth "*unseamed him from nave to chops and fixed his heads upon the battlement*" (cut him in half and beheaded him).

Macbeth and Duncan are first cousins. Duncan praises Macbeth's effort in the war. The Sergeant reports of how the battle went back and forth, but the Sergeant can't finish his report because of his wounds. Lennox and Ross finish the report for him. They tell of the Thane of Cawdor and how he assisted the Norwegians fight against Scotland, but in the end Scotland won the war.

Duncan gives the title of the traitorous Thane Cawdor, money and land to Macbeth as a reward (but Macbeth doesn't know it yet). Macbeth is already the Thane of Glamis. The King orders the immediate execution of the traitorous Thane of Cawdor and names Macbeth as the new Thane of Cawdor. Duncan sends Ross to announce this to Macbeth on the battlefield.

Scene 3

Setting; *on the heath, in a thunderstorm, after the battle.*

The three Witches are on the battlefield discussing the evil and disruptive deeds they have been doing. The First Witch had a disagreement with a sailor's wife because the wife would not give her any of the chestnuts she was eating. These angers the Witches and they decide to torture the woman's husband by creating a windstorm that will blow his ship to all points on the compass. The storm will be so intense that he will not be able to rest. The first Witch says, "*I'll drain him dry as hay.*" She then brags about the "*pilot's thumb,*" or small bone, she has as a charm.



The Witches hear a drum and the approach of Macbeth. Macbeth and Banquo enter and are unaware of the Witches at first. Macbeth's first line in the play, "*So foul and fair a day I have not seen,*" alludes to the initial prophecy of the Three Witches. Banquo then spies on the Witches, but he is unable to determine if they are men or women: "*You should be women, and yet your beards forbid me to interpret that you are so.*"

The Witches then greet Macbeth with his current title, Thane of Glamis, and two titles he is yet to have, Thane of Cawdor and King. Macbeth is perplexed by their greeting because he knows that both the Thane of Cawdor and King are still alive. Banquo, hearing such a good fortune for this friend, inquires as to his own fate. He is told that he will be lesser and greater than Macbeth; even though he will never be king, his sons will. The Witches then dissolve into the air, leaving Banquo to wonder if they were real or just a hallucination.

Ross and Angus greet them with the news that Macbeth has been named Thane of Cawdor by Duncan. Banquo and Macbeth are surprised and contemplate the evil nature of the Witches. Macbeth is eager for power; however, Banquo warns him of the evil nature of the Witches and that the outcome of his actions could be disastrous to him.

Scene 4

Setting: *At Forres, King Duncan's castle.*

Duncan inquires if the Thane of Cawdor has been executed and expresses regret as to giving the order to have him killed. Macbeth enters and they exchange accolades. Duncan names his own son, Malcolm to succeed him as king. This creates a conflict for Macbeth as Malcolm is another obstacle to overcome toward his goal to succeed Duncan as king. Macbeth says;

'The Prince of Cumberland! That is a step On which I must fall down or else o'erleap For in my way it lies. Stars, hide your fires; Let no light see my black and deep desires.'

Duncan plans to visit Inverness, Macbeth's castle, and the scene ends with Macbeth leaving to prepare for Duncan's visit.



Scene 5

Setting: *At Inverness, Macbeth's castle*

Lady Macbeth has received a letter from Macbeth stating that he has been named Thane of Cawdor. The letter reveals his ambition to be king and the prophecy given by the Witches. Lady Macbeth discloses her ambitious nature and vows to help Macbeth succeed in his ambition to be crowned King. She receives word that King Duncan will be arriving soon and is perplexed because Macbeth has not informed her himself. Macbeth arrives and they concur that by any means he should be crowned King: *'Come, you spirits That tend on mortal thoughts, unsex me here And fill me from the crown to the toe top-full Of direst cruelty! Make thick my blood...'*

Lady Macbeth tells him he should be a gracious host and they will speak on the matter later that evening.

Scene 6

Setting: *At Inverness, Macbeth's castle*

Duncan arrives with his entourage and Lady Macbeth welcomes him upon his arrival. Duncan is eager to meet With Macbeth as he and Lady Macbeth exchange greetings. Duncan is respectful and nice to her. Lady Macbeth is a good faker. She puts on a false face and is polite and nice to Duncan, but we know she is planning his murder as they speak

Scene 7

Setting: *At Inverness, Macbeth's castle*

Macbeth gives a dinner for Duncan and his guests that evening. During the dinner, Macbeth leaves and begins to contemplate on the plan he and Lady Macbeth have discussed. He struggles with his conscience and the fear of eternal damnation if he murders Duncan. Macbeth is torn between his loyalty to his king and family and his ambition. He wants to be king, and Lady Macbeth wants to be queen, but he is frazzled and distressed at the thought of murdering for the crown. He is struggling to determine what to do.

This internal conflict is reinforced because Macbeth is Duncan's cousin, he is a beloved king, and Duncan is a guest in his home: *'First, as I am his kinsman and his subject, Strong both against the deed; then as his host, Who should against his murderer shut the door, Not bear the knife myself.'*



Lady Macbeth comes in. Macbeth says he won't kill the king. Lady Macbeth taunts him. She makes fun of him. She says he is afraid and calls him a coward. She emasculates him (makes him less of a man). She insults his masculinity. She manipulates him. She says if he is king she will be impressed with him more. She reminds him that he promised to do this- she says if she promised to kill her child for him, she would. She is psychotic.

Lady Macbeth calls Macbeth a coward and implies that he is less than a man for faltering in his plan to murder Duncan. Her resolute desire and quest for power sway Macbeth to agree with her and he decides to go through with the plan.

Act one study Questions

1. What atmosphere is established in Scene 1?
2. How does Banquo describe the Witches when he first sees them upon the heath?
3. Macbeth is reported to be a valiant soldier in Act I. The line, "Till he unseamed him from the nave to th'chops And fixed his head upon our battlements", paints a different Macbeth. What can you infer from that line?
4. In Scene 1 the Witches say, "Foul is fair and fair is foul." Which characters do you consider fair or foul?
5. Why do you think Shakespeare opened Scene 3 with the Witches discussing an evil deed they have committed?
6. What prophecies do the Witches make for Macbeth and Banquo?
7. What does Lady Macbeth mean when she says of Macbeth, "Yet do I fear thy nature. It is too full o' the milk of human kindness To catch the nearest way"?
8. Macbeth is having second thoughts about killing Duncan. What are the reasons he gives? Based on these reasons what does he decide?
9. What does Lady Macbeth mean when she says, "Was hope drunk Wherein you dressed yourself? Hath it slept since? And wakes it now to look so green and pale"?



10. What decision does Macbeth make at the end of Act I? What has Lady Macbeth said to influence his decision?

ACT TWO

New Characters

- a. **Fleance:** Banquo's son
- b. **Porter:** doorman for Macbeth
- c. **Macduff:** nobleman of Scotland
- d. **Donalbain:** Duncan's younger son

GIST FOR ACT TWO

While Duncan is sleeping, Macbeth kills him. Lady Macbeth smears the drugged and sleeping guards with Duncan's blood. Early in the morning Macduff and Lennox arrive at Inverness, wishing to see Duncan.

They discover the body, so Macbeth kills the guards, blaming Duncan's death on them. Duncan's sons flee; Malcolm to England and Donalbain to Ireland. Ross and Macduff assume that Duncan's sons had paid the guards to kill their father. Because the two sons left the country, they appear to be guilty. Macbeth is crowned King of Scotland.

Act TWO Scene by Scene summary

Scene 1

SETTING: *At Inverness, Macbeth's castle*

There is something in the air that disturbs Banquo and Fleance and they cannot sleep. As they discuss the reasons for their inability to sleep, Macbeth joins them. Banquo confesses that he has been dreaming about the prophecy the Witches told them and he is concerned about the evil nature of the Witches. Macbeth responds by saying, "*I think not of them.*" –but this is a lie. Both agree to discuss the matter at a later date.



Banquo and Fleance retire to their chambers to sleep. As Macbeth, alone in the hall, contemplates the murder he is about to commit, a bloody dagger appears before him: *'Is this a dagger which I see before me, The handle toward my hand? Come let me clutch thee. I have thee not, and yet I see thee still... And on thy blade and dudgeon gouts of blood.'* Macbeth is still hesitant about killing Duncan. Macbeth is worried about the consequences of his actions. He sees the hallucination of a dagger in front of him that is leading the way to Duncan. He is going to kill the king but he doesn't want to. He is still very much conflicted. He hears Lady Macbeth's signal through the ringing of the bell, this is his signal that the guards have passed out and everything is clear for him to go ahead with the murder. The murder happens offstage... he no longer delays and proceeds to Duncan's room.

Scene 2

SETTING: *Off-stage in Macbeth's castle*

Lady Macbeth is filled with anticipation for Macbeth's safe return and the completion of Duncan's murder. Her fears surface when she is startled by a noise that turns out to be nothing more than an owl screeching. She is concerned that the plot may not be completed and that Macbeth will be discovered before Duncan is murdered.

Lady Macbeth reveals in a soliloquy that when she placed the daggers in Duncan's chamber she considered killing Duncan herself. However, Duncan looked too much like her father and she could not commit the act herself: *"Had he not resembled My father as he slept, I had done't."*

When Macbeth returns he is distraught and regrets the murder he has committed. Macbeth reports to Lady Macbeth that as he stepped past Duncan's guards, he heard a voice cry, *"Sleep no more! Macbeth hath murdered sleep."* In his tormented state, Macbeth leaves the murder scene carrying the bloody daggers.

Lady Macbeth urges him to return the daggers and place them by the slain Duncan, but Macbeth refuses to return to the chamber. Lady Macbeth returns the daggers and stains her hands with Duncan's blood. They hear a knock and retire to their sleeping quarters before the Porter arrives at the door.

Scene 3



SETTING: *Macbeth's castle*

Macduff and Lennox have arrived at Macbeth's castle at Inverness at daybreak. The Porter jokes and carries on with Macduff about his drinking and lack of success with women the night before as Macbeth joins them. Macduff leaves Lennox and Macbeth to discuss the violent storm they had the night before.

Macduff rushes back to the courtyard with the news that the king had been murdered. Macbeth and Lennox rush to the chamber and Macduff sounds the alarm. Macbeth, when he sees the slain Duncan he is filled with rage and murders Duncan's guards. He felt they were the murderers because they were smeared with blood and had the daggers in their hands. Confusion and shock ensues and Lady Macbeth faints.

Donalbain and Malcolm fear foul play has been committed by someone close to them: "*Where we are, There's daggers in men's smiles; the nea'er in blood The nearer bloody.*" Donalbain says he will go to Ireland, while Malcolm agrees to go to England. They flee the castle in fear of their own lives while Macduff, Macbeth, and the others agree to meet to discuss the catastrophe.

Scene 4

SETTING: *Scone*

The following day Ross and an old man discuss the strange events that have taken place. Ross says that Duncan's horses became enraged, broke out of their stalls, and ate each other. Other unnatural events are going on with the birds and the weather. They fear all of this has to do with Duncan's murder.

Macduff joins the discussion and it is revealed that Duncan's body has been taken to the family plot at Colmekill and Macbeth has been named to succeed Duncan as King. The coronation will take place at Scone. Ross plans to go to Scone and Macduff leaves for Fife, of which he is Thane. Macduff fears the worst is yet to come.

Act Two study Question



1. What are Banquo's concerns about the Witches prophecy? What is Macbeth's response?
 2. What does Macbeth see when Banquo and Fleance leave and what does he say about it?
 3. What was Lady Macbeth unable to do in Duncan's chamber? Why?
 4. What was Macbeth's reaction when he returned from Duncan's chamber? What did he say?
 5. Who was sleeping in the second chamber? Why did Shakespeare include that information in the play?
 6. Macbeth is unable to return to Duncan's chamber with the bloody daggers. Why do you think he fears going back?
 7. What does Lennox say to Macbeth about the previous night?
 8. Who discovers that Duncan has been murdered?
 9. Why Macbeth does murders the guards?
 10. Why do Donalbain and Malcolm leave? Where do they say they are going?
-

ACT THREE

New Characters

- a. **Murderers:** hired killers
- b. **Hecate:** a Witch

GIST OF ACT THREE



As Banquo thinks about what the witches had said, he realizes that all their words about Macbeth have come true. He remembers the witches' words about his own sons and has strong hopes for their futures. Macbeth arranges with murderers to have Banquo and Fleance killed. As Banquo is being murdered, Fleance escapes.

That evening, Macbeth and Lady Macbeth, the new king and queen, welcome guests to a banquet. As guests are seated, Macbeth sees a vision of Banquo's ghost. He speaks to it in such a way that his part in Banquo's death becomes clear. Lady Macbeth orders the guests to leave, saying that her husband is not feeling well. Suspicious of Macbeth, Macduff goes to England. He plans to get King Edward's help in the fight against Macbeth.

Act THREE scene by scene summaries

Scene 1

SETTING: *Forres*

Banquo says that the prophecy has come true for Macbeth. He would like the prophecy the Witches made about his sons to come true also. Banquo feels that he must appear loyal to Macbeth, yet he does not trust him.

Macbeth questions Banquo as to his schedule for the day and says to Banquo to be sure and joins them at the banquet that evening. Banquo and his son plan to go out riding for the day. Macbeth is worried that the prophecy of Banquo's sons being kings will come true. His reign will be barren if his sons do not succeed him. Macbeth hires two men to murder Banquo and Fleance.

Scene 2

SETTING: *At Macbeth's palace in Forres*

Lady Macbeth questions Macbeth as to his plans, but he does not inform her of the plan to kill Banquo and Fleance. She encourages Macbeth not to think about Banquo or the events that have taken place. Macbeth tells her not to worry.

Scene 3



A third murderer joins the two that Macbeth had hired in the previous scene. They wait along the path that Banquo and his son travel. As they approach, walking their horses, the murderers jump out. Banquo is killed, but Fleance is able to escape.

Scene 4

SETTING: *At Forres*

At the banquet, Macbeth learns that the murderers have not been entirely successful. They killed Banquo, but Fleance was able to escape. Macbeth takes joy in learning that Banquo is dead, because he cannot produce any more sons. He says he will deal with the matter of Fleance later.

As Macbeth is seated at the banquet table, the ghost of Banquo appears. This startles Macbeth and he responds to the vision. No one but Macbeth can see the ghost. Lady Macbeth assures her guests that Macbeth has had these attacks since he was a child and it will soon pass. She urges Macbeth to resume his role as host. As quickly as he offers his apology to his guest, the ghost appears again. Macbeth loses control and Lady Macbeth fears he will confess to the murder of Duncan. She asks her guest to leave quickly.

The ghost disappears and Macbeth questions why Macduff did not attend the banquet. Macbeth feels he must consult with the Witches again to gain information about the future.

Scene 5

SETTING: *At Macbeth's palace in Forres*

Hecate is another Witch that Shakespeare introduces to the audience. Hecate is upset because the other Witches did not consult her before they spoke to Macbeth. Hecate assures them she will conjure a spell that will lead Macbeth to a disastrous fate. She sends them to cast the spell and prepare the charm, as Macbeth plans to visit them soon.

Scene 6

SETTING: *A castle in Scotland*



Lennox says to a Lord that he feels it is a pity that Banquo was killed. He goes on to imply that Macbeth is responsible for both Duncan's and Banquo's deaths; even though the general consensus is that Fleance killed his own father, as did Malcolm and Donalbain.

Lennox does not believe either had anything to do with the deaths of their fathers. Macbeth has stolen Malcolm's birthright to be king and Malcolm is in England trying to secure an army to gain his birthright back. Macduff has gone to join in his effort. Lennox and the Lord hope that Malcolm will be successful in restoring peace to Scotland.

Study Questions for Act THREE

1. As Act III begins Banquo is reflecting on what has happened to Macbeth. What three events does he state and what does he hope for himself?
 2. What reason does Macbeth give the Murderers for wanting Banquo killed? What reason does he give for not doing it himself?
 3. Why do you think Macbeth does not tell Lady Macbeth about his plan to murder Banquo and Fleance?
 4. When Banquo's ghost enters the banquet what is Macbeth's reaction?
 5. What does Lady Macbeth say to the guest is the reason for his behavior?
 6. Does Macbeth recognize the ghost? How do you know he does?
 7. What does Hecate say she is going to do to Macbeth? Why does she think he will respond to her?
 8. What does Lennox say about Malcolm, Donalbain, and Fleance?
 9. Where has Macduff gone and why?
 10. What does Lennox hope for?
-

ACT FOUR



New Characters

- a. **Apparitions:** visions created by the Witches
- b. **Lady Macduff:** Macduff's distraught wife
- c. **Son:** Macduff's child

GIST FOR ACT FOUR

Macbeth visits the three witches and asks them about his future. They show him a series of visions that tell the future in the form of riddles. Then the witches disappear, and Lennox arrives. He reports to Macbeth that Macduff has fled to England. Angry about this news, Macbeth orders the murder of Macduff's wife, children, and any servants who happen to be with them. Murderers arrive at Fife, Macduff's castle, and kill everyone inside. In England, Malcolm and Macduff make plans to restore peace to Scotland. They talk about the help that England's King Edward has promised them. Ross then arrives with news about the murder of Macduff's family. This makes the shocked Macduff even more determined to overthrow Macbeth.

Act FOUR Scenes by scene summaries

Scene 1

SETTING: *in a dark cave*

The Witches are preparing a magic potion and casting a spell. They chant incantations three times to make sure the charm's power will be strong. Macbeth greets the Witches and demands that they give him information about the future. The Witches call upon Apparitions to inform Macbeth of his future.

The first Apparition is that of an armed head saying he should beware of Macduff. The second Apparition is that of a bloody child and it states that no man born of woman will harm Macbeth. The third Apparition is that of a crowned child holding a tree. This Apparition says, "Macbeth shall never be vanquished until Great Birnam Wood shall move to Dunsinane."

Macbeth urges the Witches to give him additional information about the future. The Witches show him a procession of kings and the last holding a mirror with the reflection of Banquo. The Witches disappear and Macbeth asks Lennox if he saw the Witches as he entered the room. Lennox said he



did not. Lennox then informs Macbeth that Macduff has fled to England. Macbeth says he plans to kill Macduff's family.

Scene 2

SETTING: *Castle in Scotland*

Lady Macduff is angered and enraged that her husband, Macduff, has left for England without telling her. She does not know what they are to do now. Ross tries to console her, but she feels her husband is a traitor and a coward. Macduff's son questions his mother about the father's disappearance. She tells him his father is dead; he does not believe her.

A messenger arrives and warns Lady Macduff that her life is in danger and she must leave immediately. The Murderers arrive and kill Lady Macduff and her son.

Scene 3

SETTING: *England*

Malcolm and Macduff are in England. Malcolm questions Macduff's motives and wants to make sure that he has not been sent by Macbeth. Malcolm goes on to confess that he has many vices that may make him a far worse King than Macbeth. Macduff's response is that Malcolm is the rightful heir to the throne and Macbeth must be unseated at all cost. Malcolm is convinced that Macduff is sincere and says that the things he said about himself were not true. Malcolm says he is sincere and pure and seeks only good for Scotland.

Ross enters and informs Malcolm and Macduff that Scotland is in a terrible condition. At first Ross hesitates, but then informs Macduff that his family has been brutally murdered. Macduff is shocked and vows to revenge the murder of his family.

Study Questions four Act FOUR

1. What are the Witches doing at the beginning of Act IV
2. What are the three statements made by the Apparitions?
3. What is the significance of the Witches having the Apparitions give the information to Macbeth?
4. What does Macbeth decide to do with the information the Witches have given him?



5. What does Lady Macduff say is the reason for her husband leaving?
 6. What does Lady Macduff tell her son about his father? How does he respond to her?
 7. What happens to Lady Macduff and her son?
 8. Why does Malcolm question Macduff?
 9. What is Malcolm's reaction to the news? What is Macduff's?
 10. What do Malcolm and Macduff plan to do?
-

ACT FIVE

New Characters:

- a. **Gentlewoman:** a woman attending Lady Macbeth
- b. **Doctor:** the physician in the castle
- c. **Carthness** and Menteith: nobleman of Scotland in Malcolm's English Army
- d. **Seyton:** an Officer in Macbeth's army
- e. **Siward:** general in the English army fighting with Malcolm
- f. **Young Siward:** Siward's son in the English army with Malcolm

ACT FIVE

GIST OF ACT FIVE

Lady Macbeth appears to have lost her mind. Her doctor says he can do nothing for her. Near Dunsinane, the forces led by Malcolm and Macduff prepare to attack. Malcolm tells his mento hide behind the camouflage of branches cut from the trees of Birnam Wood. As he gets ready for the attack, Macbeth receives the news that Lady Macbeth is dead. He also hears that Birnam Wood is moving toward Dunsinane. He remembers the witches' prophecy: "Macbeth shall never be beaten until / Birnam Wood comes to Dunsinane Hill," and he becomes fearful. Then he also remembers their other prophecy: "None of woman born shall harm Macbeth," so he feels safe again. Later, he finds out that Macduff was not born in the normal way. In a duel, Macduff kills Macbeth.

Act FIVE Scenes by scene Summaries

Scene 1



SETTING: *England*

The Gentlewoman reports to the Doctor that Lady Macbeth is sleepwalking and her behavior is very strange. The Gentlewoman says that Lady Macbeth gets out of bed, puts on a nightgown, unlocks her closet, writes on a piece of paper, seals the letter and returns to bed.

Lady Macbeth says things that the Gentlewoman refuses to repeat because she fears she will be charged with safety and tells the Gentlewoman to watch her closely.

Scene 2

SETTING: *England*

Menteith, Angus, Lennox and Caithness discuss the battle plans of Malcolm. They plan to meet near Birnam Wood with the others. Macbeth has secured Dunsinane, but his forces are not loyal subjects. Each vow to fight to the death to regain control of Scotland and overthrow Macbeth.

Scene 3

SETTING: *inside the castle of Dunsinane*

Macbeth is secure in his castle at Dunsinane. He feels confident because the Witches told him that he cannot be harmed unless the prophecies come to pass. He believes the Witches and has no fear. Macbeth dresses for battle as the Doctor reveals Lady Macbeth's condition to him. He asks the Doctor to find a cure for his wife. Macbeth leaves for the battle.

Scene 4

SETTING; *Scotland*

Malcolm, Menteth, and Siward are near Birnam Wood. Malcolm tells them they should each cut a branch from a tree from Birnam Wood and use it as camouflage. They prepare to march on to Dunsinane.

Scene 5-6

SETTING: *At the Macbeth's castle*



Macbeth feels confident that he will overthrow Malcolm in battle. Macbeth hears a cry and discovers that Lady Macbeth is dead. Macbeth responds by saying that life is very short. A messenger arrives to inform Macbeth that the wood of Birnam seems to be moving toward Dunsinane. Macbeth sounds the alarm and prepares to fight.

Scenes 7–8

SETTING: *Outside the Dunsinane castle.*

Malcolm, Siward, and Macduff arrive at Dunsinane and enter Macbeth's castle. Macbeth and Young Siward have a fight and Young Siward is killed. Macduff comes face to face with Macbeth. Macbeth urges Macduff to leave, as Macbeth feels he has enough of Macduff's blood on his hands. Macbeth tells Macduff that he cannot be harmed and cannot be killed by any man born from a woman. Macduff informs Macbeth that he was not born of woman, but was "untimely ripped" from his mother's womb. Macbeth says that what the

Witches said had a double meaning and he did not realize in time the meaning of their prophecy. Macduff calls Macbeth a coward and coerces Macbeth into fighting him. The two exit and continue their sword fight.

Siward is informed that his son has died valiantly in battle. Macduff returns with the severed head of Macbeth and proclaims Malcolm as the rightful heir to the throne. Malcolm assures the people that Scotland will be restored to a peaceful place when he is King. Malcolm vows to honor the Thanes and kinsmen that helped in the fight against Macbeth with the title of Earl.

The drama ends with Malcolm inviting the victors to his coronation at Scone.

Study Questions

1. What does the Doctor say to Macbeth about Lady Macbeth's condition? What is Macbeth's reaction?
2. What is the Doctor referring to when he says, "Therein the patient Must minister to himself?"



3. What does the Messenger tell Macbeth he sees coming toward Dunsinane? How does Macbeth respond?
 4. What does Macduff vow to do to Macbeth and why? Cite an example from Act V.
 5. What difference can you cite between Macbeth's army and Malcolm's army?
 6. Whom does Macbeth kill in Act V? Do you feel that is important? State your reasons.
 7. What does Macbeth say to Macduff about his mortality? What is Macduff's response? How does Macbeth react?
 8. What does Ross tell Siward about Siward's son?
 9. What does Malcolm say about Macbeth and Lady Macbeth?
 10. What title has never been used before in Scotland that Malcolm plans to use on his Thanes and kinsman?
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CHARACTER ANALYSIS IN MACBETH

(A) MACBETH

(i) Ambitious

Macbeth has an ambition to become a king. This is seen soon after the witches tell him that he is going to be a Thane of Cawdor and later a king of Scotland. He is amazed as to how the witches know his ambitious thoughts. This is why Banquo asks him, “Why do you start (seem amazed) and seem to fear things that do sound so fair?” It is due to his ambition to become a king that forces him to kill King Duncan.

(ii) Brave and courageous

His brevity and courage are portrayed through the way he fights in the battle against Macdonald the former Thane of Cawdor. The bloody captain reports to Duncan that Macbeth deserves his name because he fought with valour up to the extent that his sword smoked with blood of those people he killed in the battle. No wonder, therefore that he unseamed (cut open) Macdonald from the navel to the chaps (jaw).

(iii) Noble

Macbeth is admired by fellow actors because of his qualities of being brave especially in the first scene where he fights against Macdonald. Even Duncan calls him ‘valiant cousin’. Meaning he remained brave and courageous even when the battle became tough. He is initially an honest man. This is why Duncan entrusts him with the two positions, first as the Thane of Glamis and next as Thane of Cawdor. No wonder therefore that Duncan says that ‘What he Macdonald hath lost noble Macbeth hath won’.

(iv) Selfish



He does not want anyone to be a king but him alone. This is portrayed through the murder of Duncan. Banquo is also killed on the same grounds to prevent his son Fleance to be a king with reference to the prophecies made by the witches as they said that Banquo will be the root of kings.

(v) Cruel and violent

He violently kills innocent Macduff's wife and children out of cruelty. Employing murderers to kill Banquo is also a sign of being cruel. Worse still he kills his king in his own house despite being a relative. All these incidents reveal nothing but cruelty and violence in him.

(vi) Disloyal

He is supposed to be loyal to king Duncan as a leader, let alone his cousin. On the contrary, he chooses to rise against him by killing him. He does this although he recognizes how virtuous Duncan is. Macbeth tells us that he firstly fails to kill him because he has discharged his duties as a king so well and we all know that he has just being given another post as a Thane of Cawdor.

(vii) Superstitious

He greatly believes in what the witches say that he will be a Thane of Cawdor and a king hereafter. This is also portrayed through his behaviour of consulting the weird sisters to enquire about his destiny after being troubled by Banquo's ghost at the banquet.

(viii) Loving

He sends a letter to his wife informing her about the promotion to the position of a Thane of Cawdor and that Duncan shall feast at their house. In this letter, he calls his wife his dearest partner of greatness.

(ix) Patriotic

He initially seems to be patriotic to his country Scotland. This is seen when he fights Macdonald the former Thane of Cawdor who rises against Scotland. He does not join in the troops of Macdonald.

(B) LADY MACBETH

(i) Ambitious



She has an ambition of becoming a queen. We see this when she tells her husband how she feels after reading the letter. She says 'Thy letter has transported me beyond this ignorant present and I feel now the future in the instant.' This means that she is not thinking about the current position of a Thane of Cawdor but of that which is coming of being a queen once Macbeth becomes a king.

(ii) Influential/ persuasive/ manipulative

She is the one who influences Macbeth to kill King Duncan although Macbeth says that they will proceed no further in this business. Macbeth thinks that it is not right to kill King Duncan because of four reasons: he is a kinsman, he is a subject under Duncan's rule, a host of Duncan and that Duncan has ruled very well seen in his recent promotion to the position of a Thane of Cawdor. Despite all these reasons Macbeth kills Duncan due to his wife's persuasion.

(iii) Superstitious

She prays to the spirits to come and unsex (remove from her feminine feelings), to come to her breasts to take her milk for gall and for thick night to come so that she should not see and feel sorry for Duncan's murder.

(iv) Loving

She always comes in to defend Macbeth. This is seen when she fakes fainting by the time Macduff is asking him why he has killed the guards. At the banquet too, she tells the lords and other thanes not to speak to Macbeth to avoid worsening his fits and she even tells them that her husband has suffering such a disease from young age yet she does this to prevent Macbeth from revealing that he and his wife are the ones who killed Duncan. She even commands them to take leave after the reappearance of Banquo's ghost which she cannot see.

(v) Heartless/ cruel

She goes on with the murder despite Duncan having brought her a gift of diamond. She tells Macbeth that he should leave that night's business into her dispatch (hands).

(vi) Cunning/ clever

She tells her husband that they should look like an innocent flower but be the serpent under it and that Duncan should be provided for (fed) so that he should not realize that they have planned



something bad for him. She is also the one who brings back the daggers to the crime scene and gild (smear) the faces of the guards with Duncan's blood so that people should suspect them to have murdered the king.

(vii) Courageous

Despite being a woman, Lady Macbeth is the one who plans everything about Duncan's murder. She is also courageous because she takes the daggers back to the crime scene, a thing which her husband fails to undertake.

(viii) Coward

She fails to kill King Duncan which is contrary to what she told her husband to live everything in her hands. She gives a lame excuse that she fails to carry out the deed because Duncan resembles her father in sleep.

(C) DUNCAN

(i) Noble

This is portrayed through Macbeth who says that he does not want to kill him because 'he hath borne his faculties so meek and hath been so clear in his great office'. This means that Duncan was an admirable leader because he discharged his duties so well.

(ii) Trust worthy

Many of his subjects trust him. This is because of the way he performs his duties.

(ii) Naive

He lacks insight into human character. He trusted in the first and second Thane of Cawdor very much yet they both later rise against him. When talking of Macdonald, the former thane of Cawdor he admits by saying that 'There is no art to find the minds construction in the face' meaning that it is difficult to know someone's mind just by looking at the face.

(iii) Considerate



Duncan gives positions to deserving people. This is clearly portrayed through the way Macbeth is awarded another title of Thane of Cawdor because he fights so bravely that he defeats Macdonald.

(iv) Just

Duncan rules out that the former Thane of Cawdor be executed because he rises against the country. Duncan also chooses Malcolm as the heir to the throne which shows that he is not selfish.

(D) MACDUFF

(i) Just / patriotic

His justice and patriotism are seen when he aligned himself to Malcolm the rightful heir to the throne not Macbeth the tyrant. He fights to the side of Malcolm.

(ii) Loyal / dutiful

He comes to wake King Duncan up at Macbeth's castle, although he is late by an hour

(iii) Courageous

He fights with Macbeth yet he is quite aware of Macbeth's fighting ability in the battle. He fights up to the extent that Macbeth is killed.

(iv) Irresponsible

He runs away to England while leaving the wife and children in Scotland where they are not safe. He is quite aware that Macbeth can disturb his family's peace. This is seen in act 4 scene 3 where he asks Ross that 'the tyrant has not battered at their peace?'

(v) Noble

He is also admired by other characters due to his qualities that he fights for Malcolm. Menteith in act 5, scene 2 line 1 calls him as the 'good Macduff.' This is why Caithness, Lennox, and Angus join Malcolm's army following what Macduff has done.

(vi) He is not superstitious



Macduff continues fighting with Macbeth despite being told that Macbeth was told by the witches that he cannot be defeated by a man born of a woman.

(E) LADY MACDUFF

(i) Insensitive

She keeps on questioning the messenger on what wrong she has done to be killed by Macbeth. This delay results into her death and the children. She was supposed to be calculative enough as she is aware that her husband has run away because of the same person Macbeth. She just needed to take heed of the advice and flee with the children.

(ii) Hopeless

She tells the murderers that her husband is hiding in a place which is not holy (unsanctified) meaning not protected by God. She also tells her son that his father is dead.

(ii) Emotional

She tells Ross that her husband has fled leaving them behind because of fear and that he does not love them.

She also tells him that her son has a father yet he is fatherless. This she does out of emotions. She is so

emotional because she feels not to be safe without her husband.

(F) MACDUFF'S SON

(i) Wise

He tells his mother that his father is not dead because had it been so then his mother would weep (mourn). He also answers his mother that without a father he can live just the same way birds do with what he gets.

(ii) Inquisitive

He wants to know more from his mother if his father is really a traitor.



(iii) Courageous

He courageously tells the murderers that they are liars in their speech that his father is treacherous. He even scorns one of the murderers as shag-haired villain.

(G) MALCOLM

(i) Sensitive

Soon after his father's murder, he and his brother Donalbain flee to Scotland and Ireland respectively in fear of being killed by Macbeth. This means that he is quite aware that Macbeth can also kill him and his younger brother. This is portrayed through his speech that 'this murderous shaft that's shot hath not yet lighted.... Let us not be dainty of leave-taking'.

(ii) Courageous

He fights with Macbeth yet he is aware that he is good in battle. This he does only out of courage. Had it been that he is not courageous he would not fight against Macbeth the great warrior.

(ii) Inquisitive

He tried to enquire from Lennox and Macduff who murders his father. This he does with an aim to know more information about the murderer.

(iv) Wise

He requests King Edward the Confessor to offer him 10000 soldiers to help him fight against Macbeth back in Scotland. His wisdom is also seen when he tests Macduff's loyalty by telling him that he cannot be a better leader than Macbeth. This he does on the grounds that Macduff is unharmed by the time he goes to England and that Macduff loved Macbeth so much.

(v) Just

Soon after being a king he promises that some lords will be promoted to the position of earls. He also promises to do the right thing at the right time as he says 'we will perform in measure time and place'.



(H) BANQUO

(i) Superstitious

He asks the witches also to prophesize about himself. This means that he believes in the witches. Besides, he also tells his son Fleance that he had a bad dream on the day he is guarding King Duncan at Macbeth's castle.

(ii) Inquisitive

He pleads with the witches to tell him about his future with reference to what the witches tell Macbeth. Thus, he wants to know more about his destiny.

(iii) Brave / courageous

The report by the bloody captain to Duncan reveals that Banquo alongside Macbeth fights so bravely and courageously. This is why they manage to defeat Macdonald the traitor because as the bloody captain reports 'they doubly (as a pair) redoubled strokes upon the foe'.

(iv) He lacks insight into human character/ insensitive/

He was together with Macbeth when the witches made their prophecies to Macbeth but he does not run away to safeguard his life. As a result, he is killed, yet he is the first one to suspect Macbeth to have murdered Duncan because as in act 3, scene 2 line 1 he says 'Thou hast it now, King, Cawdor, Glamis, all as the wild women promised, and I fear thou played'st most foully for't'.

(v) Loyal / patriotic

He is loyal to both Duncan and Macbeth. He is patriotic to the country in the sense that he fights together with Macbeth against Macdonald the former Thane of Cawdor. He is also loyal to Macbeth. This is portrayed through his acceptance to attend the banquet at Macbeth's castle.

(vi) Wise

He does not fully believe in the witches' prophecies. This is seen when he does not take any action to make sure that the prophecies are fulfilled as Macbeth does. He is wise because he knows that if



it is really true that he is going to be root of kings then there is no need to do something for it to be fulfilled but to let it happen by chance.

vii) Opportunist

He finds an opportunity to ask the witches about his own destiny after they prophesied about Macbeth.

(viii) Caring

He gives his son a dagger and a torch for his protection the day they guard Duncan at Macbeth's castle. He also tells his son Fleance to flee by the time he is being killed by the murderers.

MAJOR THEMES IN THE BOOK MACBETH

(A) Appearances versus Deceptive / Appearance versus Reality.

The witches echo fair is foul and foul is fair meaning that what seems to be is not what actually is. This theme is portrayed through

- a. Duncan who initially considers Macdonald the former Thane of Cawdor and Macbeth the present Thane of Cawdor as being faithful yet they both later rise against him.
- b. Duncan and Banquo praise the appearance of Inverness Macbeth's castle to have pleasant vicinity yet Macbeth is inside it with his wife planning for his murder.
- c. Lady Macbeth tells her husband to look like an innocent flower but be a serpent under it when Duncan goes there for the feast.
- d. Malcolm, too, tells the English soldiers to hide themselves with Birnam Wood so that Macbeth should not be aware of how many soldiers are there.
- e. Malcolm also tells Macduff that angels are righteous (bright) though the brightest (Satan) fell.

(B) Good versus evil / good over evil / order versus disorder / light versus darkness.

Duncan and Malcolm represent a harmonious, ordered or God fearing society, Macbeth and the witches on the other hand, represent evil or darkness. The play initially presents Macbeth as a



dutiful servant and later a rebellious character (usurper) who gets the kingship by crooks but later he is defeated. This shows that man is good but is prone to temptations of evil.

(iii) Uncontrolled ambition

Macbeth murders King Duncan because both he and Lady Macbeth have uncontrolled ambition for leadership. We know that he wants to be a king because once the witches tell him that he is going to be a king, he becomes silent until Banquo asks him why he seems to fear things that sound so good. This shows that he

is surprised as how the witches come to know his ambitions.

(iv) Betrayal

There are several incidents where the characters betray one another, such as;

- a. The first Thane of Cawdor betrays Duncan by plotting an invasion against his king.
- b. Macbeth betrays Duncan by rising against him and up to the extent of killing him.
- c. Macbeth also betrays Banquo his friend his close friend. Macbeth kills Banquo by using the murderers to prevent him from being the root of kings. However, he is not successful because Fleance, his son flees.
- d. The witches also betray Macbeth by the use of equivocation (half-truth) promises.
- e. He is told that he is going to be a Thane of Cawdor and king hereafter which are fulfilled and later he is
- f. told that no man born of a woman shall defeat him until Birnam wood moves to Dunsinane, yet he is later defeated by Macduff.
- g. Macbeth betrays his family by leaving them in Scotland where they are not safe and indeed the wife and children are killed by the cruel Macbeth.

(v) Hypocrisy

Macbeth and his wife are supposed to protect and take care of Duncan their visitor but instead Macbeth bears the knife himself raising it against his own visitor instead of shutting the door against the enemy of him. This is total hypocrisy because they do contrary to what is expected of them.



(vi) Futility of crime / retribution / consequences of what we do / guilty conscious.

- a. Macbeth kills Duncan, Banquo, Macduff's wife and children thinking that he will triumph over this. Contrary to his expectation, he is also killed by Macduff in revenge of his family's death. He does not progress well after killing Duncan no wonder he is troubled by Banquo's ghost at the banquet.
- b. Lady Macbeth is also not spared as she also faces the consequences of her part in the crimes. Firstly, she suffers the sleep walking disease and later commits suicide.

(vii) Greed

- a. Macbeth commits the crimes because of greed for leadership. He kills Duncan for him to be a king.
- b. Later he also kills Banquo to prevent him from being the father of kings. He does all this out of greed; he just wants him and him alone to be the leader not anyone else.

(viii) Incalculability of evil

Macbeth commits one crime, that of killing King Duncan thinking that this will be the only crime. Contrary to this, he feels not to be safe as such he kills Banquo. Macbeth says that 'to be thus is nothing but to be safely thus'. Here he means that to be just a king is useless but to be a king who is safe. He thinks that

Banquo is a threat to him because he can suspect him to have murdered King Duncan to have the kingship.

This is so because they were together by the time the witches prophesied to Macbeth that he will be a king.

Consequently, he commits one crime after the other. One crime leads to the other.

(ix) Fate versus free will

Fate refers to such events that occur over which people do not have control. Free will, on the other hand, refers to such ability people have over certain things thus, they can cause things to happen the way they want.



People use their own effort to achieve what they want, for instance:

- a. Macbeth becomes a Thane of Cawdor by fate since he just fights for his country not to achieve something at the end. However, we see that at the end he is given the position of a Thane of Cawdor. The position in other words, comes automatically.
- b. Contrary to this, he becomes a King of Scotland by free will. He puts his effort in killing King Duncan for him to become a king because that is what he wants.
- c. His death is due to free will because he chooses to commit a crime of killing a king and Macduff's family which angers Macduff a lot. consequently, Macduff kills him. Besides, he is given a chance by Macduff that he should surrender so that he should be used for shows. People would come and pay to see him as tyrant.

(x) Superstitions and omens

- a. The play includes witches which represent the darkness. Macbeth believes in them and he even consults them to foretell his destiny.
- b. .People also believe that the day Duncan is murdered strange events occur such as his own horses eating one another, darkness during the day and that an owl which is a weak bird kills a falcon which is a strong bird.

(xii) Gender and aggression / cruelty and gender

- a. The source of the whole chaos in the play is the witches who are also called the wild sisters. This implies that the female gender is more aggressive than the masculine.
- b. Lady Macbeth as a woman also influences her husband a lot to kill Duncan. This also portrays the same implication about the female gender either to be crueler or aggressive.
- c. On the other hand, though, men are also deemed to be crueler and aggressive than women because Lady Macbeth prays to the spirits to unsex her by the time she wants to kill Duncan, to remove from her the feminine traits possibly to be replaced by masculine ones. This gives us an implication that men are more aggressive than women.
- d. Macbeth also asks the murderers if they are really men who can carry out a killing action. This shows that men are above women in terms of cruelty.



- e. Malcolm also tells Macduff to dispute the case about his family' death like a man and tells him to prepare a medicine that can cure their grief which is the revenge. This means that men are more aggressive than women.
 - f. More importantly, though, the witches seem to be transgender because they also look like men since they have beards meaning that it is difficult to tell if they are women or men. This finally, shows that aggressiveness and cruelty falls on both genders. sound so fair?" It is due to his ambition to become a king that forces him to kill King Duncan.
-

REVISION QUESTIONS

MULTIPLE CHOICE questions

1. Who are the first characters to appear in this play?

- (a) Soldiers.
- (b) Three Witches.
- (c) Messengers.
- (d) Macbeth and Duncan.

2. What is the weather like at the beginning of the play?

- (a) Dark and misty.
- (b) Sunny and bright.
- (c) Lightning and thunder.
- (d) Torrential rain.

3. What do the witches vow to do at the beginning of the play?



- (a) Meet again.
- (b) Kill Macbeth.
- (c) Confuse the messengers.
- (d) Fool the soldiers.

4. When do the witches want to meet?

- (a) After a mighty battle.
- (b) At the turn of the year.
- (c) Before the sun sets.
- (d) The dawn before Macbeth's death.

5. Where does the sun seem to set at the beginning of the play?

- (a) The witches' cauldron.
- (b) The ocean.
- (c) The ground.
- (d) The heath.

6. Where is this play set?

- (a) England.
- (b) Wales.
- (c) Ireland.
- (d) Scotland.

7. Who do the witches plan to meet after parting in Act 1, Scene 1?

- (a) Duncan.
- (b) Macbeth.
- (c) MacDonwald.
- (d) McBride.

8. What do the witches sense in the air in Act 1, Scene 1?

- (a) Something murky.



- (b) Something unexpected.
- (c) Something hopeful.
- (d) Something astonishing.

9. What are the witches anticipating at the beginning of the play?

- (a) The death of Macbeth.
- (b) Something to happen on a larger scale.
- (c) To meet their master.
- (d) The assassination of the king.

10. What do the witches say are their greatest pleasure in life?

- (a) Conjuring.
- (b) Killing.
- (c) Serving.
- (d) Deceiving.

11. How many witches are there?

- (a) Three.
- (b) Five.
- (c) Four.
- (d) Six.

12. What kind of land is featured in Act 1, Scene 1?

- (a) Desert.
- (b) Forest.
- (c) Cave.
- (d) Meadow.

13. Who of the following is NOT found in Act 1, Scene 2?

- (a) Malcolm.
- (b) Macbeth.



(c) Lennox.

(d) Duncan.

14. Where does Duncan decide to camp at the beginning of the play?

(a) Florence.

(b) Innerwith.

(c) Triamond.

(d) Forres.

15. Who does Duncan meet as he sets up camp at the beginning of the play?

(a) One of the witches.

(b) Malcolm.

(c) A messenger.

(d) A wounded soldier.

16. What title does Duncan hold?

(a) General.

(b) Magistrate.

(c) Duke.

(d) King.

17. What did Macbeth do to Macdonwald?

(a) Cut off his head.

(b) Ripped him in half with his sword.

(c) Poisoned him.

(d) Stabbed him in the heart.

18. Who is the main enemy of Scotland at the time of this play?

(a) England.

(b) Germany.

(c) Scandinavia.



(d) Norway.

19. In Act 1, Scene 2, why does the sergeant not finish telling Duncan of the battle?

- (a) He is too overcome with emotion.
- (b) He falls asleep.
- (c) He dies.
- (d) He faints from loss of blood.

20. Who is assisting the main enemy of Scotland at the time of this play?

- (a) MacDuff.
- (b) Macbeth.
- (c) The Thane of Cawdor.
- (d) The Witches.

21. Who is sent for to help the wounded sergeant in Act 1, Scene 2?

- (a) A nurse.
- (b) A surgeon.
- (c) Another soldier.
- (d) Duncan.

22. What does Macbeth fear his future will be after finding out the source of the shrill cry in Act 5, Scene 5?

- (a) Great glory.
- (b) Sadness and sorrow.
- (c) Reigning and ruling.
- (d) Dusty death.

23. How does Macbeth hear that Birnam Wood is moving towards the castle?

- (a) He sees it in a dream.
- (b) A witch prophesies it to him.



(c) He sees it out his window.

(d) His sentry tells him.

24. How does Lady Macbeth die?

(a) Mistaken for a witch by a servant.

(b) Poison.

(c) Captured by the enemy.

(d) Suicide.

25. What does the army at Dunsinane do when they reach the castle?

(a) Begin bombarding the castle.

(b) Pound their drums.

(c) Rest.

(d) Wait for Macbeth.

26. What does Malcolm tell the army to do when they reach the castle at Dunsinane?

(a) Put down their branches.

(b) Get some good rest before the action begins.

(c) Wipe off their camouflage.

(d) Chant against Macbeth.

27. Who will lead the first assault on the castle in Act 5, Scene 6?

(a) Siward.

(b) Macduff.

(c) Angus.

(d) Malcolm

28. Why is Macbeth afraid when the army reaches the castle when he has been so confident until then?

(a) The witches warnings are coming true.



- (b) He didn't realize how large the army was.
- (c) He cannot find his good armor.
- (d) He feels helpless without his wife.

29. Where did the army get the boughs they are holding?

- (a) From the forests near their homes.
- (b) From trees at the castle.
- (c) From Birnam wood.
- (d) At Dunsinane.

30. What were the boughs held by the army used for?

- (a) Protection..
- (b) Weapons.
- (c) Camouflage.
- (d) Shade.

31. Where is the army at Dunsinane from?

- (a) Wales.
- (b) England.
- (c) Scotland.
- (d) Ireland.

32 What does Macbeth decide he must do when he sees the army at his castle in Act 5, Scene 7?

- (a) Flee.
- (b) Make a stand.
- (c) Make a truce.
- (d) Surrender.

33. Who is the first person killed by Macbeth in the battle at his castle?

- (a) Angus.



- (b) Malcolm.
- (c) Lennox.
- (d) Young Siward.

34. How does Macbeth feel about his first killing in the battle in Act 5, Scene 7?

- (a) Confident.
- (b) Overwhelmed.
- (c) Repentant.
- (d) Furious.

35. Who wants to take revenge personally on Macbeth during the battle at the castle?

- (a) Donalbain.
- (b) General Siward.
- (c) Macduff.
- (d) Malcolm.

36. Why is Macbeth not afraid of the man sworn to take revenge on him?

- (a) He had a dream in which he defeated this man.
- (b) He knows he is stronger than the man.
- (c) He is full of confidence.
- (d) The prophecy from the witches gives him courage.

37. What does Macbeth say he will not do when he sees two angry and armed men approach him in the castle in Act 5, Scene 8?

- (a) Retreat.
- (b) Fall on his sword.
- (c) Succumb to fear.
- (d) Lose the battle.

38. How was Macduff born?



- (a) Extracted from his mother's dead corpse.
- (b) Stillborn, and then revived.
- (c) Born prematurely.
- (d) Ripped from his mother's womb.

39. Why is Macduff's birth so important to the plot?

- (a) Macbeth cannot be killed by a man born naturally of a woman.
- (b) Macduff is related to Macbeth.
- (c) His unique birth gave him strength.
- (d) Macbeth and Macduff were born the same way.

40. What does Macduff call Macbeth as they fight?

- (a) A tyrant.
- (b) A child.
- (c) A pussycat.
- (d) A fool.

41. What brings Siward comfort when he hears of his son's death?

- (a) Macbeth was defeated.
- (b) He died nobly.
- (c) He honored his father.
- (d) He died quickly and painlessly.

42 Who is crowned king at the end of the play?

- (a) Siward.
 - (b) Malcolm.
 - (c) Macduff.
 - (d) Donalbain.
-



SECTION FOUR

NOVEL: THE PEARL

By JOHN STEINBECK

INTRODUCTION TO A NOVEL:

- ♣ A novel is a long fictional story whose length is normally between one hundred and five hundred book pages. It has a wider scope than a short story and is not limited in the presentation of elements of literature.



- ♣ Any work of literature which is shorter than a novel but much longer than a short story is known as a "*Novella*".

COMMON ELEMENTS OF NOVEL

The common elements of a novel include; Setting, Character, Plot, Conflict, Themes and Point of view.

1. Character:

A character is a person taking part in a story or play. These characters can also be animals or non-living things.

Types Characters

- ✓ **Major character:-** This is a character that plays a great role in the story or play. The whole story is centered on him/her and she/he is the one who moves it forward. This major character is also known as the **protagonist**, the dynamic character, the main character, or the hero/heroine.
- ✓ **b) Minor Character:-** This is the character who works together with the major character in moving the story forward. The minor character is also known as the **antagonist**, static character, subordinate character, flat character or supporting character.
- ✓ **NB.** The word character as an element in literature also means the behavior of a person in a story. This character or characteristic of a person is usually given in adjective form e.g. cruel, kind, good, bad, superstitious, pious, faithful, hardworking, lazy, promiscuous, courageous, proud, selfish and helpful.

2. Setting:

This is the location of a story in time and place. It exposes the time, geography, environment or political situation implied in the story.

Aspects of setting

- **Place-** it is the geographical location e.g. urban or rural area.



- **Times-** when is the story or play taking place; it can be a historical period, time of the day, season or month of the year.
- **Weather condition-** is it rainy, sunny, cloudy,
- **Social condition,-** the daily life of the people e.g. slavery, oppression, war, etc
- **Mood or atmosphere-** the feeling created at the beginning of story e.g. cheerful, dark or frightening.

4. Theme:

This is the main message or lesson (idea) contained in the whole piece of writing. It is the whole purpose of the literary work as intended by the writer. However, themes are not easily seen or observed in the literary works, especially in poetry, and readers can find them only after understanding the writing:

5. Plot:

Plot is a planned, logical series of related events taking place in a story having beginning, middle and end. Plot can as well be regarded as the summary of the whole story or play.

It can either be regular or irregular. A regular plot moves directly forward from the beginning of the story, to its highest point then to the end while an irregular plot can have a lot of flashbacks or flash forwards and foreshadows.

Elements of a plot

- **Exposition/introduction:** This is where the revelation of the characters and setting is done.
- **Rising action-**this is where the events in the story become complicated and the conflict is revealed.
- **Climax:** This is the highest point of the story. It is the focal point to which the story has been moving and this is the most interesting and enjoyable part of the story.
- **Falling action-** It shows the writer's deliberately reduction of the tempo of the story and preparedness to conclude it. The conflict began to be resolved.



- **Resolution:** This is the point in the story where the conflict is put to an end.

6. Point of view:

This is the angle from which a story is narrated (told)

There are three main ways of telling a story as follows;

- **First person point of view:**-This narrator is limited because he/she explains only what he/she sees, hears, experience or observes and cannot know anything happening on the other side. This narrator uses the first person pronouns (I or we)
- **Third person point of view:**-This narrator is omniscient (all knowing) because he/she is not involved in the story as such he/she can explain something which the people in the story (characters) do not know. This is the advantage of this narrator over the first person narrator. This narrator uses the third person pronouns [he, she, it, they)
- **The second person point of view** is not commonly used in many forms of literature except some poems and epistolary works (writings in form of letters). The second person narrator uses the second person pronouns-‘you’ for both singular and plural.

7. Conflict:

This is the main issue at hand which is like a struggle brought forward to be acted upon in the story.

ABOUT THE AUTHOR:

John Steinbeck is one of the best known American writers of twentieth century John Ernst Steinbeck was born on February 27, 1902, in Salinas, California. He took classes at Stanford University for several years but left without a degree. He worked as a laborer to support himself while he wrote. Steinbeck's first novel was published in 1929, but it was not until the publication of '*Tortilla Flat*' in 1935 that he attained critical and popular acclaim.

He followed this success with '*In Dubious Battle*' (1936) and '**Of Mice and Men**' (1937). '*The Grapes of Wrath*' (1939) earned for Steinbeck a Pulitzer Prize. In these works Steinbeck's proletarian themes



are expressed through his portrayal of the inarticulate, dispossessed laborers who populate his American landscape. Both *'Of Mice and Men'* and *'The Grapes of Wrath'* were made into motion pictures.

In 1943 Steinbeck traveled to North Africa and Italy as a war correspondent. Some of his later works include *'Cannery Row'* (1945), *'The Pearl'* (1947), *'East of Eden'* (1952), *'The Winter of Our Discontent'* (1961), and *'Travels with Charley'* (1962). He also wrote several motion-picture scripts, including adaptations of two of his shorter works-'The Pearl' and 'The Red Pony'.

Steinbeck died in New York City on December. 20, 1968.

WHAT IS A PEARL

A pearl is a great valuable round object usually white that forms a grain of sand inside the oyster shell used to make expensive jewelry. A person who finds it deep down at the bottom of the sea can get a lot of money after selling it. The story tells us not only of the lives of the poor who seek to live better life but also the struggles of all people. The pearl novel revolves around a young man Kino who finds the great pearl and thinks that it will solve his economic problems for good but later brings him difficulties.

CHARACTERS

- 1) **Kino**- the main character in the novel, a poor Mexican Indian who lives in brush house.
- 2) **Juana**, a wife to Kino and has a baby son Coyotito.
- 3) **The French doctor**, the one who refuses to treat Kino's child when he is stung by a scorpion.
- 4) Neighbours to Kino, who accompany him to the doctor and to town to sell his Pearl.
- 5) **Juan Tomas**, an elder brother to Kino.
- 6) **Apolonia** a wife to Juan Tomas.
- 7) **Beggars**, who stay at the church, observe things closely and keep secrets of small and big crimes.



- 8) **The pearl buyers/dealers**, they are ready and plan to cheat Kino with his great pearl.
- 9) **The father/priest**, who comes to Kino's house when he hears that Kino has found the great pearl.
- 10) **Robbers** come to Kino's house to try to steal his pearl.
- 11) **Trackers** follow Kino when he is going to the capital to sell his pearl.
- 12) **Kino's father**, he gives a canoe to Kino.
- 13) **Agents of pearl selling**, the ones who run away with money for people who send them to the capital.

PLOT OF THE NOVEL

Kino the protagonist in this novel is a poor fisherman just like other Mexican Indians who live in brush houses. At the moment the Mexican Indians are ruled by the Spanish people and are oppressing them. However, Kino is hard working and very brave. He has a courageous and an understanding wife Juana who has a baby boy Coyotito. His poverty is observed when he fails to source money to pay for treatment for his son Coyotito who is beaten by a poisonous scorpion. The doctor refuses to treat Kino's child because he knows Kino is poor and he is of different race. Kino reveals that for nearly four hundred years their race has been oppressed, beaten and despised by the Spanish people who are ruling them. So the doctor is one of them. In fact the doctor is lazy, selfish and proud, this is revealed by the beggars who stay at the church.

However, Kino becomes an important person when he finds a great pearl from the sea. From that time onwards, he has high expectations, imaginations, greed and day dreaming. He thinks his poverty has come to an end. Just like any person who gets luck, he dreams of buying new clothes, shoes, hat, marrying in church, sending his son Coyotito to school and buys a rifle. The news that Kino has found an expensive glimmering pearl circulates more quickly from one brush house to another up to the town. The neighbours and relatives are also eagerly waiting to see a change in Kino's life.



Upon hearing the same news of the pearl of the World in the hands of Kino, the doctor who refuses to treat Kino's child that morning comes to his home. He pretends as if he was not at home when Kino visited him for the child's treatment. The priest also comes to advise the family, to remember God and that Kino is a father in the church. To us audience we are aware that the priest has come because Kino is now rich with the pearl. The following day Kino was ready to go to town to sell his pearl and he is accompanied by neighbours, relatives and beggars.

Kino is shocked to observe that the pearl buyers in town offer him very low price than he expects. He cleverly senses that the dealers plan to steal his expensive pearl. This is seen when they say his pearl is of no value. He finally swears to take his pearl to the capital city in the north to sell it at a better price. The people who escort him are equally disappointed and Kino is very furious with the show down. At this moment the pearl has attracted robbers and enemies to his home, a thing which Kino is aware. His wife Juana is cautious and foresighted, she thinks the pearl is evil and has brought calamity in the house. She secretly picks it at dawn in an attempt to throw it back to the sea. Her husband follows her and beats her in the face and takes away the pearl from her. On his way back to the house, Kino faces robbers who come to his house to try to steal his pearl but they fail because Kino bravely kills one of them with a knife.

Now Kino has shifted from the world of innocence to a world of violence yet previous was described by his neighbours as a man of good manners and innocent. Kino is also brutally wounded by the robbers such that his wife thinks he is dead. Indeed the pearl has brought problems in Kino's family and misfortune never comes to an end. His canoe which was given to him by his father is destroyed by his enemies. These jealousy people also burn his house. Kino and his wife flee to Juan Tomas, an elder brother to Kino. They hide in his house and depart when morning approaches, they are going to the capital city to sell the pearl.

On the way they realize that they are being followed by trackers, one on a horse with a rifle and the other two walking and following their foot prints. They change their route and sometimes sweep off their footprints to confuse the robbers. They take the route to the mountain and Kino climbs up the rock and move in a zigzag way to confuse and delay the trackers. When the robbers decide to eat and sleep near the pool, Kino hides Juana in a cave and comes down and kills the three trackers. Sadly, the watcher shoots to the direction where Juana is hiding and kills Coyotito. Unfortunately, Kino and his wife come back without selling the pearl. They do not talk nor greet



anyone on their way back when passing through the town. Kino carries a rifle while Juana holds a shawl stained with blood where Coyotito's dead body is wrapped. They wear fearful faces and silently pass to their old place up to the sea where they throw the pearl back to the sea. They watch it until it gets settled at the bottom. Does the expensive pearl bring happiness to Kino's family and is Kino's hardworking bad? Then what went wrong?

CHAPTER BY CHAPTER ANALYSIS

CHAPTER 1

Setting:

- a. Kino's home (brush house)
- b. At the doctor's house (where Kino goes to seek treatment for Coyotito)

Summary

It is at dawn, Kino and his wife Juana who sleep in brush house (poorly constructed house with sticks) are just waking from sleep. Kino goes out of the hut to see how the day begins. His wife Juana is working on the fire place trying to light it. She prepares breakfast from corncake and sauce. Kino eats first and then his wife eats last. Their child Coyotito sleeps in a box, unfortunately this morning a dangerous scorpion moves near it. Before his father kills it, it stings him and this makes the child to scream. Juana tries her best to suck off the scorpion poison from the stung place. The child's screaming and moaning attract the attention of the neighbours who sleep in brush house and Kino's elder brother Juan Tomas comes to check what was going on that morning.

With this desperation, Juana asks for the doctor to treat the child but the neighbours remind her that the doctor could not come to such houses. Neighbours and relatives are aware that Juana is seeking for an impossible thing because the doctor treats rich people only who live in town and sleep in stone and plastered houses. The doctor would never come and treat patients who live in cluster houses. These people are regarded as poor and could not afford payments for treatment given to them. However, she insists on going to meet the doctor at his house in town, a thing which a loving and caring mother could do. So they set out to the doctor in town and the neighbours and



relatives escort them. On the way newcomers join the procession to the doctor and are told the story of how the scorpion stung the baby. The four beggars from the church join the group and their observation is the same that Kino and Juana would never get treatment for their child. They say the couple dresses poorly and the doctor never assists people who are poor. Worse still the doctor is of another race so he could not help Kino. The beggars have previously seen the patients dying in the hands of the doctor. He also accepts abortion, so they take him to be ignorant, cruel and lazy. Upon arrival at the doctor's house, Kino speaks to the doctor through the servant of his own race. True to the people's expectation the doctor does not come out of his house to meet Kino. He refuses to treat Kino's baby because he has no money. When Kino is requested if he could pay for the treatment, he only produces eight small misshapen seed pearls. That was enough sign that he has no money. The servant lies that the doctor is not at home. In response to his challenges, Kino furiously strikes the doctor's gate with a blow and returns home without treatment for his child Coyotito.

Characters

1. Kino

- **Caring/Responsible**, he carefully kills the scorpion although it has already stung his child Coyotito.
- **Aggressive/Short tempered**, he furiously strikes the doctor's gate with a blow after failing to acquire treatment from him.
- **Courageous**; he knows quite well that the doctor would not assist him because of his poverty but still he considers it worthy to give it a try.

2. Juana (a wife to Kino):

- **Hardworking**, she prepares breakfast of corn cakes and sauce for the family in the morning. She also bathes her baby in the morning.
- **Caring/loving/courageous**; she tries to protect her child Coyotito from scorpion poison by sucking off the poison from the body where the child is stung.



- **Respectful and obedient:** her husband Kino openly reveals to us that his wife is respectful and obedient to him.
- **Persuasive:** she convinces her husband to take Coyotito to the doctor although she knows pretty well that the doctor would not assist the baby.

3. Neighbors and relatives

- **Helpful/caring/mature,** they come out from their brush houses to check what was wrong with the child who was screaming.
- **Sympathetic/considerate/responsible** and sensitive; they escort Kino to the doctor for Coyotito's treatment on scorpion sting. The neighbours also doubt about the treatment but they go.

4. Doctor

- **Proud/selfish/unsympathetic/irresponsible;** he does not want to treat people whom he deem to be of low status like Kino. He takes him to be poor therefore he does not bother to come out of his house to check the seriousness of the sickness of his child. He uses his servant to question visitors. He goes on to say he could not be reduced to an extent of treating people stung by insects.
- **Segregative;** he does not want to treat people from other races like Kino's baby.
- **Lazy;** the beggars at the church have already predicted the outcome of the doctor's response, saying he would not assist him taking into account the same incidents the doctor had failed to cure patient and they died. The beggars saw it quiet well at the church while waiting to beg alms from well-wishers.

5. Beggars- at the church;

- **Sympathetic,** they join the procession to the doctor's house; they are eager to see how the doctor would respond to the baby's sickness and wish something helpful to be done.



- **Observant/sensitive/foresighted/cautious;** they are aware that the doctor is lazy and fails to assist patients accordingly. They say, they have seen people whom he failed to treat well died and buried at the church grave yard.

THEMES

1. **Poverty;** Kino fails to source treatment for his child Coyotito who is beaten by a scorpion because he has no money to pay to the doctor.
2. **Death;** the doctor's wife died sometime back and he only keep her picture and also patients died when the doctor fails to treat them well.
3. **Dishonest;** the doctor lies to Kino that he was not at home when Kino comes for his child's treatment. Yet we all know that the doctor was in door and does not want to treat Kino's baby due to poverty.
4. **Care/responsibility/courage;** Juana is very courageous; she knows that it would be impossible for the doctor to come to their brush house and chooses to go to his house in town. She is doing all this in order to save her child from death.
5. **Segregation/discrimination/favouritism;** the doctor does not want to treat people from other races just like Kino's baby.
6. **Laziness;** the beggars who stay at the church, describe the doctor as lazy and many patients die in his hands.
7. **Solidarity;** the neighbours, relatives like Juan Tomas and beggars join Kino and Juana to the doctor where they are seeking treatment for their child.
8. **Desperation;** Kino and Juana are desperate after failing to access treatment for their child and they do not know what to do next.
9. **Pride and selfishness;** the doctor is very proud of his high status and does not want to associate or treat poor people like Kino's child.
10. **Intelligence/brilliance;** this has been displayed well by the beggars who observe all things around them, they are aware of the doctor's laziness, his acceptance to abortion and ignorance.



Chapter Revision questions

- a. Where does Kino stay and to which race does he belong?
- b. What type of a house does Kino have?
- c. Why is Juana portrayed as hardworking and caring wife?
- d. What type of food does Juana prepare for breakfast?
- e. Explain briefly the circumstance that lead to the sickness of Coyotito?
- f. How do both parents try to save Coyotito from the scorpion sting?
- g. Why is it difficult for the doctor to come to Kino's house to treat Coyotito?
- h. What evidence is there that show Juana is a loving and caring mother?
- i. Explain how the beggars describe the doctor's behaviour?
- j. In what way do the neighbour's display the theme of unity and friendship in this chapter?
- k. What evidence is there that show the doctor does not want to assist Kino?
- l. How does Kino respond when he is asked if he has money to pay for Coyotito's treatment?
- m. Describe how the themes of segregation and poverty have been shown in this chapter?

CHAPTER 2

Setting: at the beach (sea) where Kino finds the pearl of the World and at Kino's house

Summary

After failing to access treatment for their baby Coyotito who is stung by a scorpion, Kino and his wife go to the beach. He has a canoe given to him by his father and it is very essential to him because it brings food in his family. In fact this canoe is used for fishing as well as searching for pearls. This time around Kino and his wife are geared to search for pearls bearing in mind that they have failed to acquire treatment for Coyotito that morning due to poverty. They are trying to search



for pearls just like what other fishermen are doing now on the sea. Upon reaching the sea, Juana fetches brown seaweed local medicine in an attempt to save her baby who is stung by a scorpion. She applies the seaweed on the baby's swollen shoulder. Later, they both sail into the sea and other fishermen have already gone to search for pearls. Kino is young and energetic. During pearls' searching, his wife Juana and the baby remain in the canoe while Kino carries a basket and a rock. The rock is used to force him to the bottom of the sea where he could search for oyster shells which might contain the pearls. Luckily, he discovers a very large oyster shell and takes it to the surface to the canoe. When Kino opens the oyster shell, it contains the great glimmering pearl. It has all the features that befit an expensive pearl. It is the greatest pearl of the world as large as a sea-gull's egg. This luck makes Kino to burn with excitement. Actually that marks the end of his poverty because he is expecting a huge sum of money from this great pearl. Finally, the men in the other canoes come to Kino's canoe to check what has made him excited.

Characters

1. **Kino's father; generous**, he gives Kino a canoe which is useful to him on the sea.
2. **Kino; hardworking/courageous**, while in water deep down at the bottom of the sea, he tears the oysters loose in search for the pearls. He also picks shells and puts them in the basket.
3. **Juana;**
 - **Loving/caring/responsible**, she still tries to save her baby Coyotito from death by applying brown seaweed on the baby's swollen shoulder. She does that after the doctor's refusal to treat him saying they are poor and scorpion sting is a minor case.
 - **Courageous**; she remains in the canoe on the sea praying for her husband for good luck on pearls while her husband is searching deep down at the bottom of the sea.
 - **Humble**, mature and sensitive; when her husband brings the pearl from the bottom of the sea she pretends as if she is not happy, but inwardly she was extremely excited.

Themes

1. **Generosity**; Kino's father gives Kino a canoe which is of great importance to him. It is a source of food and money in his family.



2. **Poverty** Kino and other fishermen are on the sea looking for pearls to end their poverty.
2. **Love/care/responsibility**; Juana fetches seaweed (local medicine) and applies on her baby's swollen shoulder. She does that to save her baby from scorpion's poison which can kill him.
3. **Superstitious beliefs**; Kino and his neighbours believe in singing songs/music that may bring good luck and protection to them.
4. **Poverty**; it is indeed poverty that is leading these fishermen to look for oyster shells in the sea which contain pearls.
5. **Hope**; Kino is only hoping that the pearl he has found would provide him more money to end up his poverty.
6. **Conflict between cultures**; Juana has used traditional medicine to cure her baby and thinks the medicine is as strong as that from the doctor but lacks proof that the baby is well.

Chapter revision questions

- a. What is Kino's main occupation?
- b. How does Kino acquire the canoe?
- c. Why is Kino portrayed as a poor man?
- d. Mention three things Kino need for searching pearls?
- e. Explain why Juana gathers some brown seaweed at the beach?
- f. Why do Kino and his people believe in songs or music?
- g. What evidence is there that show Kino is an expert in the water?
- h. Explain briefly how Kino finds a great pearl?
- i. Describe the appearance of Kino's great pearl?
- j. How do other men on the sea sense that Kino must have something attractive?



Chapter 3

Setting: a at Kino's home

Summary

The news that Kino has found a glimmering pearl spreads very fast from the brush houses up to town. This news brings people from all walks of life to Kino's brush house. Kino's neighbours and relatives come to admire Kino's luck. The priest also comes after getting the news and tells Kino that he is named after a great man. He goes on to say that this was written in the books and that Kino is the father of the church. But in actual sense Kino has been labeled as a poor member of the church. This is evidently seen when he fails to marry in the church due to poverty. Surely the priest is attracted to the expensive pearl which Kino has found. He also advises Kino to give thanks to God and prays for guidance in future. In their response to the request Kino and his wife agree to what the priest guided them and extended by saying they wish to marry now in a church.

Another visitor to Kino's hut is the doctor who gets the news of Kino's change of status due to the expensive pearl. We all know the doctor as the man of pride, selfishness, laziness and Segregation. He previously refused to treat Kino's child who is beaten by a scorpion because Kino is poor and could not afford the payment. But now that Kino has miraculously become rich, he has come to his hut to treat the same child he refused to treat at his house. He cleverly lies that by the time Kino visits his home for the child's treatment, he was not at home. However, Kino is very furious when he sees him coming to his house. He does not allow him enter his brush house and blocks him at the door. But the doctor cunningly frightens Kino by saying the baby's eyes are blue a sign that the scorpion's poison has entered the baby's body. He goes on to frighten him that sometimes the scorpion poison has curious effect like withered leg, blind eye or crumpled back. Upon hearing all these bad effects of scorpion sting, Kino allow the doctor enter his house. The doctor persuades and convinces Kino by using his scientific tools that Kino's race love and trust. He assures Kino that he would cure his baby but Kino is suspicious of the doctor's intension to treat his baby who is already showing signs of positive recovery from the scorpion sting. He knows the doctor has hidden agenda but rather chooses to remain quiet. In the course of treating the baby, the doctor gives him a capsule containing white powder and promises to come back to the house after an hour. When the baby receives the medicine, he becomes very sick. To Kino this does not come as a surprise because he already suspected the doctor to have come to his hut with special intension rather than treating



his baby. He senses that the doctor's treatment to the baby was a plan to trigger the baby's serious sickness. The baby's serious sickness attracts neighbours and relatives who come rushing to Kino's house to check what went wrong. Then the doctor returns to Kino's house and says the poison has indeed worked in the baby's body. He later uses ammonia to cure the poison and pretends as if he knows nothing about the pearl. This is observed when he asks for the payment for the services given to Kino's baby. Kino assures him that he would pay him after selling his pearl the next day. Worse still, the doctor shows his cunningness when he asks Kino if could keep his pearl in a safe place at the doctor's home. But Kino refuses and cleverly says the pearl would be secured in his brush house and does not dare to show him the storage place.

From now onwards, Kino does not trust anyone with his pearl and also realises that the pearl has brought problems to his family. He tries to keep his pearl in his hut in a hole at a corner but keeps on changing the storage place. He picks it out from the first position and buries it near his sleeping mat. While sleeping, Kino dreams that his child Coyotito could read from a book as large as a house. Meanwhile, he senses that someone has entered his brush house in an attempt to steal his pearl but he tactfully stabbed the robber with his knife. The robbers run away and Juana his wife warns him that the pearl is evil and must be thrown away back to the sea. But Kino is arrogant he refuses to destroy the pearl saying they would sell it the next day for more money that would change their lives.

Characters

1. Kino:

➤ imaginative;

- a. He imagines standing and kneeling at a high altar being married and now that he has the pearl he can pay money to the priest.
- b. He also imagines dressed in white clothes and carried a new fine black hat and not a straw hut.
- c. He feels that he would wear shoes and not sandals. He imagines his wife Juana dresses in shawl stiff with a skirt and shoes.



- d. He foresees his child Coyotito going to school and learns how to read and also wears a blue sailor suit from U.S.A with a title yachting cap.
- **Clever/cautious**, he keeps his pearl in a hole in his brush house because he does not trust anybody and refuses the doctor to keep the pearl for him.
 - **Fearful**; he is suspicious that other enemies might come to his hut to try to steal his pearl. He knows that with the pearl, he has created enemies in the world.
 - **Courageous**; he does not allow the doctor enter his house because he hates him, he blocks him by standing at the door of his house.
 - **Vengeful**; he does not want the doctor to talk about his child's sickness because he refuses to treat him that morning due to his poverty.
 - **Secretive**; he wants to keep his pearl in a place in his brush house when everybody is away.
 - **Sensitive/careful**; he has observed that someone has entered his brush house in an attempt to steal his pearl.
 - **Brave/courageous**; he stabs the robber with a knife and this makes other robbers run away.
2. **The priest; dishonest/deceitful**; he says that Kino is named after a great man, he is a father of the church and he goes on to say this was written in the books. But we readers are aware that Kino has been labeled as poor man who lives in brush house.

The priest is only attracted to Kino's pearl and shows **hypocritical** way of life.

3. The doctor;

- **deceitful/dishonest**; he lies to people that he is treating Kino's child who has been stung by a scorpion yet in actual fact he has refused at first but now that Kino has found an expensive pearl he has changed his mind saying Kino's baby is his client. This is total characteristics of hypocritical person. He comes to Kino's hut to treat his baby after hearing that Kino has found a pearl and tries to convince him that he was not at home when he came for treatment.



- **Persuasive**; he convinces Kino by using scientific tools that Kino's race love and trust. He frightens Kino by saying that the scorpion sting could have curious effect like weathered leg, blind eye or crumpled back.
- **Untrustworthy**; he gives the baby the capsule containing white powder which is suspicious and that he might have done something bad to make the baby very sick.
- **Drunkard**; he drinks wine while in Paris.
- **Cunning**; he asks Kino if he could keep his pearl for him in a safe but Kino refuses saying the pearl would be secured in his hut.

4. Neighbours and relatives;

- **Caring /loving**, they come to Kino's hut to wish him well for his luck of finding the great pearl.
- **Sensitive**; they disagree with Kino's idea of buying a rifle.
- **Doubtful**; they doubt if the things Kino is dreaming to acquire after selling his pearl would come to pass or be fulfilled.
- **Arrogant**; they are reluctant to leave for their homes for dinner yet it was late in the evening.

5. Juana;

- **Hardworking/caring**, she is ready to prepare dinner, (cooks cakes and beans).
- **Sensitive and foresighted**; she advises her husband that the pearl is evil/sin and it would bring problems to them, therefore it should be thrown back to the sea or be buried and forget the place.

6. The doctor's servant; dutiful and loyal, he obeys orders from the doctor as he does exactly what he is told to do.

7. Robbers; dishonest/unfaithful, they come to Kino's hut to steal his pearl.

Themes



1. **Deceit/dishonesty/unfaithfulness;** both the priest and the doctor are not honest; they come to Kino's brush house because they hear that Kino has found an expensive pearl and would become very rich. Their willingness to associate with him now is questionable.

The robbers also come to Kino's hut to steal his pearl.

2. **Unity;** neighbours and relatives come to Kino's home to admire and celebrate with him when news spread that he has found the pearl of the world.

They also come to cheer up the family when Coyotito suddenly becomes seriously sick.

3. **Hope;** Kino and Juana are hoping that the pearl would bring them wealth and eventually end up their poverty.

4. **Pretence;** the doctor pretends as if he does not know that Kino has found a glimmering pearl. He asks deliberately how Kino would pay for Coyotito's treatment yet the news of the pearl got him.

5. **Suspicion;** Kino does not believe that the doctor has come to his hut to treat his sick child but rather something beyond this service. He therefore blocks him from entering his brush house by standing at the door. He suspects that the doctor might have come to his hut for the pearl.

6. **Foresightedness;** Juana foresees that the pearl is evil and would bring problems to their family. She suggests that the pearl must be thrown back to the sea where it belongs.

7. **Hypocrisy;** the priest comes to Kino's brush hut because he is rich but when he was poor he fails to marry them in his church.

8. **Desperation;** Kino is now desperate, he does not trust anyone and he is afraid of enemies who might come to snatch his pearl.

9. **Superstitious beliefs;** Kino dreams that his child Coyotito could read a book as large as a house. Kino and his neighbours believe that music can bring good luck to their families.

10. **Imagination;** Kino thinks that the pearl would transform his life. He is dreaming of buying new clothes, shoes, hat, rifle, marrying in a church and sending Coyotito to school.



11. **Importance of education/ignorance**; Kino knows that some of his problems which he is facing is due to lack of education. He is therefore thinking of sending his child to school once he gets money.

12. **Social conflict**; Juana does not agree with her husband's idea of keeping the pearl which has attracted the attention of the world.

13. **Insanity**; Kino is now mad with his pearl, he does not listen to anyone but rather feels the world of his own, he is greedy for money. He thinks what he should do with the money and nobody could stop him. **Revenge** Kino does not want the doctor at his house because he refuses to assist his child.

14. **Hatred**; there is enmity between the doctor and the Indians who takes him as an oppressor and of a different race.

Revision questions

- a. What evidence is there that shows that the news of Kino's great pearl moves very fast among the people?
- b. Describe how the following people show the theme of hypocrisy?
 - (i) Priest
 - (ii) Doctor
- c. What statement can be picked from this chapter that show Kino's great pearl attracted both friends and enemies?
- d. How does Kino plan for his future with the great pearl in his disposal, mention four things?
- e. Why does a man murmur when Kino mentions of buying a rifle after selling his pearl?
- f. Describe the character of Kino that shows he is now insane (mad)?



- g.** When will Kino's neighbours prove that Kino has been punished by God?
- h.** What one major thing does Kino accept to do when the priest visits them?
- i.** How does Kino show his hatred to the doctor when he comes to his home?
- j.** Briefly explain how the doctor persuades Kino to accept him to treat his son.
- k.** Why is Kino suspicious with the doctor's intention to come to his home?
- l.** How does Kino know enemies have come to his home during night?
- m.** What prompts Juana to advise Kino to throw away the pearl, saying it would destroy them?

Chapter 4

Summary

When Kino arrives in town, the news of his coming has already alerted the pearl buyers. Firstly the stout man who is a pearl buyer arranges his office attractively with a scarlet hibiscus flower in a vase beside the velvet lined pearl tray. Meanwhile, he skillfully spins a coin mechanically rolling it back and forth over his knuckles. When Kino arrives in his office, he shows him his great pearl and this dealer describes it as fool's gold because it is very large and clumsy. He goes on to say the pearl is worth for the museum and offers to buy it at only a thousand pesos. But Kino rejects the offer and says his pearl is worth fifty thousand pesos. Later the same dealer decides to call other three dealers so that Kino could compare their offers on the pearl. In true sense this is just a plan to further confuse Kino and cheat him. However, neighbors who come with Kino think a thousand pesos offered by the first buyer is just enough for a poor man like Kino. When the other three buyers arrive, the first one examines the pearl deceitfully and says he must not be included in the discussion. Furthermore, the second dealer uses a magnifying glass and says it is not useful because it is soft and chalky. Finally, the third pearl buyer offers only five hundred pesos. Reaching to this far, Kino becomes very angry and snatches away the pearl from the dealers. At the end, the pearl buyers realize that they have played too hard and they would be disciplined for their failure to offer an attractive price for the great pearl. Meanwhile, Kino is determined to sell his pearl at the capital after seeing that the buyers in his town have planned to cheat him. He fears strange things and places at the capital. He is also frightened that the dealers at the capital might trick him and steal



his pearl bearing in mind that he has no friends and relatives there. So Kino comes back home without selling his pear and he is very shocked with this situation.

When the neighbors come back to their houses, they discuss the drama that happen to Kino with his great pearl in town differently. Some think the pearl buyers are right that the great pearl has no value while others think Kino has done the right thing to refuse to sell his great pearl to the crooked dealers who offer him very low prices. However, they are equally concerned with the day's drama. Juan Tomas, an elder brother to Kino comes to his house to sympathize with him and assures him to rely on God on his way to the capital. During night Kino is very alert, he knows enemies and robbers might try to steal his pearl. True to his words, robbers come to steal the pearl and Kino senses danger and goes out to fight near his brush house. Although his wife resists his actions, Kino is stubborn and does not want to take the advice. In the course of the fight, he is wounded on the cheek but the robbers run away without stealing his pearl. In an attempt to assist her husband, Juana takes a stone to help him in the fight. She finds her husband half conscious and takes him to the house, she cleans his wounds and begs him to throw away the pearl because it is evil and would bring them problems. However, her husband is arrogant, he does not listen to his wife's advice but rather says, he would fight for it and he is not afraid. He is a man.

Characters

1. Neighbours;

- **Sensitive / cautious**, they do not want Kino and his family to be destroyed with the money from the pearl.
- **Friendly**, they join Kino while he is going to town to sell his great pearl to the buyers.

2. Kino;

- **Clever**, he is very alert and does not want the pearl buyers to cheat him and when he is not satisfied, he snatches his pearl from the buyers and keeps it.
- **Courageous/brave**, he openly says that he is cheated when the dealers offer him very low price for his pearl and is ready to take his pearl to the capital to sell it for better price.
- **Aggressive**, when the pearl buyers try to cheat him he becomes very furious.



- **Fearful**, although he is determined to take his pearl to the capital, he fears the strange places and strange people there. He is also afraid that the buyers at the capital might cheat him as well.
- **Sensitive**, he is ready to protect his pearl during night even if it means to strike with his knife.

3. Juan Tomas (an elder brother to Kino)

- **Loving/sensitive/mature and cautious**, he already warns Kino to be careful so that the pearl buyers must not cheat him.
- **caring/sympathetic**; he comes to Kino's home to keep him company after failing to sell his pearl that afternoon and assures him to rely on God on his way to the capital.

4. Agents of pear dealers; dishonest /unfaithful/ deceitful-they disappear with the money when they are sent to sell pearls for the people at the capital previously.

5. Procession (people who escort Kino to sell his pearl); sensitive and cautious, they do not allow children to cause problem nor steal hats and rumple hair.

6. The stout man;

- **Skillful/clever**, he spins a coin mechanically rolled it back and forth over his knuckles.
- **Innovative**, he arranges his office attractively with a scarlet hibiscus flower in a vase beside the velvet-lined pearl tray.
- **Dishonest**; he says Kino's great pearl is fool's gold and has no value at all, worse still, he offers him only a thousand pesos. He goes on to say his pearl is clumsy and worth for a museum. On the other hand Kino thinks his pearl is worth fifty thousand pesos.
- **Crafty/cunning**; he plans to call other dealers in order to further confuse Kino on value and pricing.

7. The dealers (those called to value Kino's pearl); unfaithful/dishonest/deceitful;

- ✓ The first dealer says he must not be included in the discussion for the pearl yet in actual sense he needs the pearl more readily.
- ✓ The second dealer uses a magnifying glass to trash it and says it is soft and chalky



- ✓ The third dealer offers him five hundred pesos.

8. Juana;

- **Understanding/loving/caring/responsible;** she knows that the best medicine to cure her husband's present situation is to remain silent and be near him.
- **Cautious,** she does not allow her husband to go out to fight the robbers.
- **Courageous/brave/helpful;** she takes a stone to help Kino in the fight against the enemies (robbers).

9. Robbers;

- Dishonest/unfaithful/jealousy, they plan to threaten and snatch Kino's great pearl using darkness.
- Cruel/brutal, they stab Kino with a knife on the cheek in an attempt to steal his pearl.

Themes

1. **Deceit/dishonesty/unfaithfulness;** the dealers plan to cheat Kino with his pearl, they deliberately describe his pearl as valueless and offer low prices in order to steal it. They describe it as fool's gold, soft and chalky.
2. **Hypocrisy;** the pearl buyers know Kino's pearl is very expensive but choose to offer him very low price in order to frustrate or cheat him.
3. **Disappointment/frustration/regret;** Kino is very disappointed when he hears from the dealers that his pearl is of no value though it is big and attractive.
4. **Hopelessness;** after failing to sell his pearl, Kino has no hope for his future, expectations and imaginations with the pearl. It seems the evil darkness is falling on his way.
5. **Determination;** although, the pearl buyers in his town have disappointed him by offering low prices, he is determined to go to the capital to sell his pearl at a better price.
6. **Superstitious beliefs;** Kino hears the dark music of the enemy in his head after failing to sell his great pearl as expected.



7. **Arrogance/stubbornness**; Kino does not listen to his wife's advice that the pearl is evil and must be thrown back to the sea.
8. **Women's role in a society**; the role of Juana is to cook, care for Coyotito and be loyal to her husband.
9. **Decision making**; Kino thinks he is the only one to make decisions in his family because he is a man. He looks down upon his wife and thinks she cannot tell him what to do.
10. **Social conflict**; there is disagreement between Kino and the pearl buyers who intentionally plan to cheat him. They offer him very low prices and degrade his pearl.
11. **Curiosity**; many people are interested and attracted to Kino's pearl and are eager that it would bring more wealth to him but later on the buyers say it is of no value. The neighbours, relatives the doctor and the priest are readily attracted.
12. **Human rights abuse**; Kino's right to protection and freedom is abused, now that he has failed to sell his pearl, he feels his family is not secured and knows that robbers are ready to steal it.
13. **Love, patience and care**; Juana knows that her husband is facing challenges and says the best medicine she could provide is to remain silent and be near him.
14. **Jealous**; the robbers, enemies and the pearl buyers are only jealousy of Kino's luck and wish to steal his pearl.
15. **Entrepreneurship**; the pearl buyers are practising trade for pearls although they are deceiving sellers by offering low prices.
16. **Risky decision**; it is risky idea for Kino to decide to go to the capital to sell his pearl. A place he has never visited before with strange people and strange streets.

Chapter Revision questions

- a. Mention three groups of people that accompany Kino to town to sell his great pearl?
- b. According to Juan Tomas, why is it dangerous to send someone to sell pearls for other people at the capital?



- c. What is the difference between brush houses and stone plastered houses?
- d. Explain how the stout pearl buyer decorates his office in town?
- e. Why does Kino perceive that the buyers want to cheat him?
- f. Describe how the other three buyers degrade Kino's pearl?
- g. Why is Kino now determined to go to the capital?
- h. What evidence is there that show the dealers plan to cheat him?
- i. Why should the neighbours conclude that Kino is greedy for money?
- j. How does Kino react when the robbers come to his brush house?
- k. Why is Juana portrayed as cautious and foresighted character?
- l. Explain how the theme of deceit and unfaithfulness is shown in this chapter?

Chapter 5

Summary

When dawn approaches, Juana picks the pearl silently and plans to throw it away to the sea, unfortunately Kino watches her closely and later follows her behind to the sea. Before she throws it to the sea, Kino beats her in the face and she falls down and blood comes out.

However, Juana is neither angry nor frightened with Kino's brutal actions. On his way from the beach Kino faces robbers who have come to steal his pearl. He fights them and kills one of the thieves and he is also wounded. Both the murdered robber and Kino lie on the path. When Juana walks away from the sea to the hut after failing her mission to throw the pearl to the sea, she finds the pearl and two people lying on the path. She thinks her husband has been murdered and to her that would mean the end of everything. Fortunately, her husband is not died as she assumes. Honestly, she assures him that she has found the pearl behind the rock on the path and that Kino must not get worried. After realizing that he has not lost the pearl, they decide to run away on a boat. They fear that the robbers would want to revenge for their murdered friend. Unfortunately,



the robbers have already destroyed his boat and later on burnt his brush house. Kino and his wife flee to Juan Tomas an elder brother to Kino.

Upon seeing the house on fire, neighbors and relatives think Kino and his family are died in this burning house. Apolonia a wife to Juan Tomas cries for Kino's family thinking the family has been killed with fire. Juan Tomas keeps his brother secretly; he tells people different information concerning Kino's hiding place in order to confuse them. Sometimes he tells them that Kino and his family have died in the burning house. He also wishes Kino well on his way to the Capital and asks him to rely on God. He also advises them to avoid the shore as they are going to the capital because the enemies are ready to search for him there.

Characters

1. Kino;

- Cruel, he beats his wife in the face with his clenched fist when she tries to throw away the pearl in the sea.
- **Murderous;** he kills one of the robbers who comes to steal his pearl although he himself is brutally wounded.
- **Brave;** when Kino realizes that his enemies have destroyed his canoe, he is determined to fight for his life and the family. He says the pearl has become his soul and would not lose it.
- **Fearful,** Kino is very afraid of the robbers who have gone to an extent of burning his house after failing to locate where he keeps the pearl in the house.
- **Decisive;** he advises his wife to hurry up and rushes to his brother's house to hide before the robbers could kill them.

2. Juana;

- **Courageous;** she decides to throw away the pearl which is causing problems to her family. She is not afraid of her furious husband who is about to kill her.
- **Understanding;** she says a man is needed although she is puzzled by the differences between man and woman.



- **Honest;** she finds a glimmering pearl after Kino loses it during the fight with the robbers but she does not throw it away as she planned previously.

3. Robbers;

- **Jealousy/dishonest/unfaithful**, they come to Kino's brush hut to steal his great pearl at dawn. They are also about to kill him.
- **Cruel**, they knock a hole in the bottom of Kino's canoe which was given to him by his father. They also burn Kino's hut after failing to locate a place where Kino keeps his pearl.
- **Vengeful**, they burn Kino's house because Kino kills one of the robbers.

5. Juan Tomas;

- **Caring/responsible**, he accepts to keep Kino when his house has been burnt by robbers.
 - **Loving**, he wishes well for his brother and asks God to go with him.
 - **Sensitive/mature**, he advises his brother that the cause of his present problem is the pearl and it would be better if he has sold it. He says the pearl is the devil.
 - **Generous**, he borrows different items from different people in order to assist his desperate brother.
 - **Clever**, he tells the neighbours different stories concerning Kino in order to confuse them and that they should fail to trace him. He advises Kino to avoid the shore because the enemies are ready to search for him at the shore.
6. **Apolonia;** sympathetic, she cries for Kino's family thinking the family has been killed by fire in the house.

Themes

1. **Death;** Kino kills one of the robbers who comes to his hut to steal his pearl.
2. **Jealous/cruelty/brutality/dishonesty/unfaithfulness;** Kino's enemies destroy his canoe by making a hole on it and also burn his hut.



Kino beats his wife without sympathy because she attempts to throw away his pearl to the sea.

3. **Courage;** Juana wants to throw away the pearl into the sea yet her husband takes it to be very essential property in their lives. She is neither afraid of her husband nor afraid of death.
4. **Responsibility;** Juan Tomas was responsible to keep his brother when his hut was burnt by robbers.
5. **Foresightedness;** Juan Tomas foretells that the pearl is evil and would bring problems to Kino's family, this has come true when Kino is now a refugee, he has lost the canoe and the hut.
6. **Poverty;** Juan Tomas fails to provide all necessary things to Kino at his house; he borrows things from other neighbours.
7. **Sympathy;** Apolonia-a wife to Juan Tomas starts mourning for Kino's family thinking they are died in a burning hut.
8. **Revenge;** the robbers have burnt Kino's hut because he has killed their friend.
9. **Betrayal;** the pearl has betrayed Kino's behaviour such that he has shifted from an innocent person to a violent man.
10. **Insecurity;** Kino's life is in danger and his canoe and hut have been destroyed.

Revision questions

- a. What makes Juana to think of destroying the great pearl?
- b. How does Kino react when his wife decides to throw away the pearl into the sea?
- c. Explain why Kino is portrayed as arrogant and brutal in this chapter?
- d. What fate does Kino face on his way to his hut from the beach after snatching a pearl from his wife?
- e. How does Juana portray the character of care and honest in this chapter?
- f. Why is Kino described as insane and greedy?



g. According to this chapter what evidence is there that show the robbers are searching for the pearl?

h. With examples from the book discuss how the following themes have been portrayed,

(i) Cruelty (20 marks)

(ii) Courage

i. Where does Kino and his family hide when his hut was set on fire?

j. What tactics does Kino's brother play in order to confuse people on Kino' hiding place?

Chapter 6

Setting: a. on the journey to the capital

b. on the mountain where Kino kills the three trackers.

Summary

Kino and Juana leave the house of Juan Tomas before morning approaches and use moonlight to see the way. They avoid the centre of the town for fear of being noticed by enemies and robbers. After walking for sometimes, they leave the road and take a path to the bush. Meanwhile Kino and Juana rest under the tree and Kino goes sleeping. Later on Kino senses that three trackers are following them. One on a horse carrying a rifle while the other two are on foot following their footprints. Kino sweeps their footprints on the path to confuse them. He asks his wife to hide as they are trying to dodge and confuse the three trackers. Kino is aware that the trackers would be confused when they fail to see their footprints but would manage to get the way out. So he plans to take the way to the east to the mountain in an attempt to save their lives. When the trackers go past them from their hiding place, Kino and Juana walk to the mountain and now Kino is very afraid of the trackers but he uses his tactics to confuse them. He does not walk in a straightway to the mountain, instead he moves in a zigzag way to confuse and delay the trackers. At the bottom of the mountain the three trackers are all walking since the horse could not walk to the mountain passing through cliffs. Kino has seen them and plans to convince Juana to hide in a cave and for him to go



ahead and hide above the rock. He later changes his mind when the three trackers stop to eat and sleep at the pool. Probably they have thought it wise to continue their pursuit the next day. Kino thinks it is the good opportunity to come down to them to fight before moonlight or morning approaches. He secretly moves down to their place, lucky enough the watcher and the other two trackers do not sense anything until Kino comes near them. At this moment the two trackers are sleeping while the one previously moving on the horse is a watcher and has a rifle for protection. When Coyotito cries, the watcher fires towards that direction and by coincident he kills the child and Juana starts crying this makes Kino know the baby is killed. Upon arrival at the place Kino quickly kills the watcher with a knife and snatches a rifle. He also manages to kill the other two trackers with a rifle without hindrances. On their way back home from the mountain, Kino and Juana walk silently through the city and do not respond to greetings of relatives, friends or neighbours. Kino carries a rifle while Juana holds a shawl stained with blood where Coyotito's dead body is wrapped. People say Kino is carrying fear and walks as if the city is not there. They pass through their old dwelling place and go straight to the sea where they throw the pearl back to the sea. They watch it until it gets settled at the bottom.

It is very unfortunate that Kino fails to sell the pearl and worse still their beloved son Coyotito loses his life. The pearl has indeed turn Kino's life into madness, he has murdered people in an attempt to defend it and secure his life. In revenge his enemies have destroyed his canoe and burn his hut.

Characters

1. Kino;

- **Clever**, he avoids the centre of the town on his way to the capital for fear of being noticed by enemies.
- **Sensitive and cautious**; he quickly senses that there are people who are following them and he gets ready before they attack them.
- **Cautious**; he walks carefully in a wheel rut to avoid traces by people.
- **Intelligent and tactful**, he is able to read what the trackers are up to and is able to hide from them. He sweeps the footprints on the path and walks in a zigzag way to confuse and delay the



trackers (as sensitive as hunting dogs). He knows the next course of action the trackers are going to take and Kino provides better ways of dodging them.

- **Persuasive;** he convinces his wife that if the pearl has no value, then the dealers would not have tried to steal it. Therefore, it is valuable and worth thousands of money.
- **Fearful;** Kino is very afraid of the trackers because he knows that if they discover his tricks they would kill him.
- **Brave and observant;** he follows a very course of action the tracker are going to take and comes down from the mountain to face them.
- **Murderous;** Kino kills the three trackers. He uses a knife to kill the watcher who has a rifle and later uses it to shoot the other two trackers.

2. Juana;

- **Courageous;** she accept to go to a strange land for the sake of Kino's life. Otherwise she knows that the pearl would bring more problems.
- **Obedient and loyal;** she obeys every advise given to her except at time when Kino decides to leave her alone on this journey. There only, she refuses.

3. **Apolonia;** generous, she prepares soft corn cakes which Juana and Kino eat on their journey to the capital

Themes

1. **Generosity;** Apolonia prepares soft corn cakes which Juana and Kino eat on their journey to the north to the capital.

Themes

1. **Generosity;** Apolonia prepares soft corn cakes which Juana and Kino eat on their journey to the north to the capital.

2. **Regret/misfortune;** now Kino is in danger he has enemies(trackers) who are following him and he is trying to save the lives of his family.



3. **Superstitious belief;** Kino and Juana feel the evils of the night when owls screeched and hissed over their heads.
4. **Death;** Coyotito and the three trackers died in the mountain. Coyotito is coincidentally shot by the watcher while the three trackers are killed by Kino.
5. **Insanity;** Kino and his wife walk through the city without greeting or talking to anybody. This is a clear sign of madness.
6. **Betrayal;** the pearl has really betrayed the life of Kino and their poverty has increased.
7. **Tactfulness and cleverness;** Kino is able to hide from the trackers using his tactful ways. He sweeps off his footprints and walks in zigzag way to delay and confuse the trackers.
8. **Obedience and loyalty;** Juana is always obedient and loyal to her husband, she accepts to accompany her husband to the capital due to loyalty otherwise she knows the pearl would bring them problems.
9. **Greed;** Kino's arrogance is centred on greed he wants money to end up his poverty he does not want to listen to anybody even his own wise wife Juana.
10. **Effects of colonisation;** Kino's race is being ruled by the Spanish and they are oppressed by the leaders.

Revision questions

- a. Why does Kino avoid the shore when going to the capital to sell his pearl?
- b. Explain briefly how Kino manages to hide from the trackers on the road?
- c. How many trackers are following Kino on his journey?
- d. Why is Kino afraid even if he is on top of the mountain?
- e. What makes the watcher to fire in the direction where Juana is hiding?
- f. What mistake do the trackers make that gives Kino a chance to defeat them?
- g. According to this chapter how does Kino manage to kill all the three trackers?



- h.** Who is to blame on Coyotito's death?
- i.** Why do people think Kino is mad when he is passing through the town on his way back home from the mountain?
- j.** In your own opinion why does Kino accept to throw his pearl to the sea yet previously he was resisting?
- k.** With examples from the novel discuss how the theme of greed has been portrayed

SAMPLE ESSAY QUESTION AND THEIR ANSWER

Types of essays for MSCE Literature paper 3

There are two major types of literature essays that a candidate is required to answer at MSCE examination paper three. The first one is block essay. Here the candidate is supposed to provide eight points from a single question and that every point must be on a separate paragraph. For example, with examples from the book discuss how the theme of dishonesty is portrayed. (20 marks)

Another type is multiple essays. Here the candidate is required to explain the question which is divided into different parts, for example characters or themes. In other ways the question has two or more branches. For instance: with examples from the book discuss the characters of the following (i) Kino, (ii) the beggars. (20 marks) Here you are required to provide four points for Kino and four for the beggars and together the points must be eight. It is strictly advised not to write more than the other part. What is not accepted is to write five points for Kino and then chooses to write three for the beggars. The points need to be balanced.

Sample questions and their answers

1. *With examples from the novel, discuss how the theme of deceit or dishonesty is portrayed.*

Answer



In the novel the pearl the theme of deceit or dishonesty has been captured in a number of ways. The agents of pearl selling, the pearl buyers, the French doctor, the priest and the robbers are caught behaving deceitfully to one another. So the essay explains the deceitful behaviour of some of the characters in the book.

Firstly, when the doctor gets the news that Kino has found the great pearl, he changes his mind and claims that he is treating Kino's child who is beaten by a scorpion. In actual sense he refuses to treat the same child previously because Kino is poor. He also lies that he is not at home when Kino comes to seek treatment for his child Coyotito.

Secondly, the priest or the Father comes to Kino's brush house to confirm the news which he gets about Kino's great pearl. He fails to marry Kino in his church because he has no money to pay him. But now that Kino is rich with the pearl he comes to tell him that he is a great man or father of the church. He goes on to say Kino's name was written in the books. In true sense the priest labels Kino as a poor man and does not visit him in good faith.

Another one is the robber, when the news gets people in town and the neighbours, the robbers come during night to try to steal Kino's great pearl. Fortunately, Kino senses their presence and goes out to fight them. The robbers fail to snatch the glimmering pearl.

Additionally, the buyers plan to cheat Kino when he comes to sell his great pearl to them. They offer him low prices although they know his pearl is of great value. They go to an extent of saying Kino's Pearl is large and clumsy worth for a museum. They say it is fool's gold yet later on they regret for missing the opportunity and fear their failure to buy it.

Besides that, Kino's enemies come again after failing to sell his pearl to the dealers. They plan to steal Kino's great pearl at dawn in his brush house. They dig the floor in an effort to find it. Meanwhile, Juana has taken it to the beach to try to throw it into the sea. They also fight Kino on his way to the house but he manages to kill one robber.

Furthermore, the agents of pearl dealers disappear with the money when they are sent to the capital to sell pearls for other people. Previously in Kino's village fisher men could trust one person to take their pearls to the capital but these agents end up running away with the money. This is told by Tomas to Kino as a matter of warning him to be carefully with his pearl and that he must not trust anyone on the sales.



Moreover, Juana the wife to Kino dishonestly picks the pearl from its hidden place and walks silently to the beach. She is determined to throw it away to the sea because to her the pearl is evil and it has brought problems to their house. This idea makes Kino to follow her and beats her before she throws it away.

Finally, Juan Tomas a brother to Kino lies to people that Kino, Juana and the pearl have been destroyed in the burning house. This is happening when Kino is hiding in Tomas' house. He tells people different stories to confuse them. He does not want anyone to follow him or know where he is for protection's sake.

In conclusion, different characters in the novel behave deceitfully to one another. Some want to steal property while others are greedy for money. Others are only jealousy of one another.

2. Explain how the following themes have been portrayed in the Novel 'the Pearl'?

a. Knowledge is power

b. Greed

Answers (A)

Firstly, Kino understands that real power lies in knowledge, his son will read and opens the books and he will be able to teach his parents once educated that's why he intends to send him to a better school so that once educated the son will remove ignorance from their parents.

In addition, Juana understands far sooner than Kino the danger of possessing the pearl that it will destroy them. And also Juan Tomas realized quickly the danger of possessing the pearl and insists that the pearl to be sold to buy peace but Kino is ignorant of that as a result it leads to the destruction of their properties.

Another point is that Kino is aware that the pearl buyers want to cheat him by offering low prices so he decides not to sell it because he has some knowledge on the value of pearl.



Lastly, Kino has gained more power and has no fear of anyone because of the pearl which he regards more valuable and defends it by killing dangerous people who want to steal his pearl yet by the time he had no pearl he was afraid of people.

Answer (B)

Firstly when the doctor's servant informs him that Coyotito is in dire need of help, the doctor replies, "I am a doctor, not a veterinary" and refuses to treat Coyotito without payment, which Kino does not have.

Secondly when the doctor hears that Kino has acquired "the Pearl of the World", he claims that Kino is a client of his and goes to visit Kino in his home. He is not concerned about the chance of Coyotito dying, and instead tries to squeeze as much money out of Kino as possible.

Thirdly the priest comes to visit Kino's house after hearing about the world pearl discovery but he's super-condescending because he considers the natives to be children. He flatters Kino and puts in his two cents about how they should donate money to the church.

Lastly The pearl buyer pokes at the pearl and calls it "clumsy" for being too large and finally offers a thousand pesos just to make sure they keep a low price for something which is worth fifty thousand so that they should make more profits out of it.

3. Discuss eight points that show the theme of curiosity in the book "The Pearl".

Answer

Curiosity is the strong desire to know about something in this case the pearl. Almost everyone in the book is curious to know the pearl of Kino which drives some people to come to his house to see this pearl. The book of Pearl has displayed a lot of curiosity from different characters found in the book, it is therefore this essay's reason to offer detailed analysis of the theme of curiosity found in the book of the pearl.

In the first place, the pearl divers at the ocean are very curious to know and see the pearl which Kino has just found. This has led them to abandon their work for a while and rush where Kino and



his wife are just in order to see the pearl. By this time Kino has not officially informed them but they have enough evidence that Kino has found the pearl due to his shouting for joy.

In addition to that, Kino becomes curious after finding the pearl he looks forward to what it can bring. His life has become ambitious; he thinks of buying new clothes, wedding at church, buying a rifle and sending Coyotito to a good school.

Another point is that, Juana becomes curious for Kino to find the pearl as a result she prays when Kino dives into the ocean so that he can be successful. Even when Kino comes out of the water she becomes curious to know if Kino has really found the pearl from the different Oysters he has collected deep down the sea.

Fourthly, relatives and neighbors of Kino are very curious to see the pearl and they all rush to his brush house to see this pearl. They gather at his house in order to have a look at the pearl and to know what Kino will do with the money after selling the pearl.

Above that, the priest becomes very curious when he hears the news of Kino's pearl which he later visits Kino for the same. He desires to see it and reminds Kino to remember the un-repaired church after the sale of the pearl and thanking God by giving tithe to the church.

Furthermore, the French Doctor becomes curious about Kino's Pearl and visits him. At his house the doctor become curious to know where Kino has hidden the pearl, this made him to have glances at the corner of the house where he thinks the pearl can be hidden. He later asks Kino to give him the pearl so that he can keep it in safe place as Kino in order to avoid was stolen.

The seventh point is that, the pearl buyers are curious to see the pearl of Kino which have shaken the whole area because of its large size. They prepare to give Kino the cheapest price so that they sale it at a higher price.

Lastly, the beggars become curious to see the sudden change of Kino from poverty to prosperity and they wanted to escort the Kino to see how his fortune will become at the market. In this case they are even hopeful to get more from Kino because as he once tested poverty so he will remember his friends still suffering.



This essay have discussed how the theme of curiosity is portrayed in the book of the pearl beginning with the pearl divers, Kino's wife, Kino himself, the neighbors, the priest, the doctor, the pearl buyers and the beggars.

4. *Describe the mistakes made by individuals and explain how each mistake would have been avoided in the book, "the pearl".*

Answer

Firstly Juana makes a mistake by thinking that the doctor is going to cure her baby. She does not realize that he is the one who made the baby sick in the first place by giving the baby the white powder. This could be avoided by sticking to their tradition medicine rather than involving the doctor who does not have the best interests of the people at heart.

Secondly, Juana makes another mistake by returning the pearl to her husband when she decides to throw it at the sea. The pearl is trouble. This item they thought would make them rich causes them to lose everything. Because of it, their baby dies, and their lives will never be the same and this could have been avoided by throwing the pearl back into the sea when she had the chance.

Thirdly Kino is aware that everybody in the town or the village wants to steal his pearl and faces many attacks in the process. This could be avoided by selling the pearl just to get rid of it and free himself from the attackers when he is offered fifteen hundred pesos.

In addition to that, the Pearl buyers know that the world pearl is worth a lot of money and will give them more profits once they buy it but they offer an acceptable price as low as six hundred pesos which makes Kino not to sell it . This could be avoided by the buyers offering at least a fair price.

Furthermore Kino knows that after the pearl discovery everybody is an enemy because they all eye the pearl to the point of hunting him like an animal. Despite all this, He proceeds to take his wife and a kid on a dangerous journey to sell the pearl and lost the baby on their way. This could be avoided by putting some senses into Juannas head to stay safe at his brother's house.



Kino also makes a mistake by not taking advice from Juana and Juan Thomas that the pearl is evil and he should get rid of it. It later brought troubles like losing their only house and a canoe which could have been avoided by taking the advice.

Another mistake is made by the doctor who refuses to help Kino when his Son Koyotito is beaten by a scorpion because kino has no money. Later The Doctor pays a visit to kino upon hearing that he has found the world pearl and asks for the pearl to keep it safe but is not given. This could have been avoided by being there for Kino when he needed help to gain his trust.

Lastly Juan made a mistake by not listening to Kino when she was told not to follow Kino on his way to sell the Pearl because that's where the son was shot dead. This could have been avoided by staying at Juan Thomas house.

5. With examples from the book, "the pearl" show how the following themes are portrayed:

A) Poverty

B) Exploitation

Answer to (A)

Kinos family lives in a brush house which shows that the family is poor. kino is failing to provide money for the medicine to treat his son Coyotito which also indicated that they are poor. The baby has no crib or cradle. His bed is hung from ropes that extend from the ceiling. This is to prevent any insects or scorpions from hurting the baby.

In addition to that when the story begins, Kino is waking up in the early morning inside his hut on the beach. Juana starts the fire in a fire pit which is where she has to cook the meals and the hut that they live in has no door and the floor is dirt.

After the discovery of the pearl Kino said after the sells he will make a church wedding and send his son to school which shows that he was poor and could not even afford a church wedding and school for his son.

Answer for (B)



Firstly, the pearl buyers want to exploit the poor Kino so that he remains poor by buying his pearl at the cheapest price. They actually have a meeting agreeing on the cheapest price to buy the pearl of Kino in order that he continues to live a miserably life.

In addition, the priest wants to take advantage of Kino by demanding him to thank God in form of paying tithe to church and to repair the church simply because he has the pearl.

Another point is that, the doctor wants to exploit the poor Kino by demanding to keep the pearl on his behalf as if he do not know how to keep. In true sense he wants to steal the pearl from him in this way.

Lastly, the doctor exploits the poor people by not giving them treatment even if they are at a point of death simply because they cannot or they can pay little.

7. Explain eight points that show Kino as a strong character in the book, "the pearl".

Kino dives in the ocean searching for the pearls and He is able to stay under the waters for almost two minutes which shows that he is strong even in the waters.

Kino also shows a strong character by going to the sea everyday using his canoe to dive for the pearls so he can provide for his family.

Upon discovery of the great pearl, One intruder comes to Kinos house at night in attempt to steal the great pearl. Kino gets smashed on the head, but chases off the bad guy this also shows how strong he is.

Although Kino is pushed by pressure form the surrounding people like Juana n Juan of about the pearl that it is evil, Kino is able to stand still on his idea of having the Pearl to improve his life and family since it is his only hope to become rich after the sales .This shows how strong minded he is.

When the doctor visited kinos house, he proposed an idea to kino that he need to keep his pearl at his safe since the house is not safe for valuable things, but Kino rejects the offer and He is ready to defend his pearl against all odds.



Juana seeing that the Pearl is evil and that Kino is rejecting to throw it away, she decides to throw the Pearl back into the ocean but Kino manages to stop her just as she is about to throw the pearl into the water. He wrestles it back, strikes her in the face, and kicks her once she's fallen to the ground.

As Kino makes his way back to the hut, a figure attacks him. He stabs the figure with his knife and leaves him on the ground bleeding while the pearl is knocked onto the ground proving how strong he is once again.

As the trackers follows into the mountain, Kino leaps up and stabs his knife into the man's neck just as the gun goes off. Kino goes nuts on the three men, managing to stab two, steal the rifle, and shoot the other man between the eyes proving even more how strong he is.

8. *Discuss eight points that shows the theme of disillusionment.*

Kino dives into the sea, and finds the great pearl which He and His Wife Juana believes will bring more money to the family which will be used for medical payment to the doctor for coyotito's but later Juana discovers that the Pearl is evil and a source of problems into their family.

When Kino is about to sell the Pearl, the buyers quoted that the pearl is useless and far away from what they are expecting as the way people are talking about the pearl and this disappoints Kino.

Just like Juana, looking at the situation that has reached of burning kino's house, Juan Thomas also starts to believe that the pearl is evil and that Kino should throw it away since it is bringing more trouble than expected.

The priest comes to visit, but he's super-condescending because he considers the natives to be children. He flatters Kino and puts in his two cents about how they should donate money to the church after the sells but the great pearl ends backinto the sea. After Kino's discovery of the pearl the native Indians believes that the pearl will bring more wealth to Kino and his family but at last they end up realizing that the pearl is not good because of what the buyers say and it leads to the death of their son koyotito.

The native Pearl divers thinks collecting all pearls together extracted from the ocean and give it to one person to sell it to the capital will earn them more money in attempt to run away from the low prices. Unfortunately the one assigned for the job ends up running away with all the money.



When Kino disagrees with the buyers offer for the pearl, He decides to sell it to the capital thinking he will get better prices there but along the way his son is shot dead and the pearl is thrown back into the sea.

Kino decides he wants to get married to his wife—officially and in the church, now that they can pay for it after selling the great pearl. He looks into the pearl and sees a vision of them at the altar, dressed all spiffy. Then he says he wants a rifle and continues that his son Coyotito will go to school but the great pearl turns out to be an evil thing.

9. With examples from the book “the pearl” show how the following themes are portrayed:

b- Violence

Answer for (b)

Firstly in chapter 3, we see Kino waking up from his sleep with the song of evil pulsing through him. What follows is a scuffle in the dark with at least one intruder who smashed Kino on the head, but chases off the bad guy.

Secondly in chapter 4 we see Kino going home from La Paz after failing to sell the pearl. While at home as the night grows darker, Kino goes to the doorway, after sensing some danger and when Juana follows she finds him on the ground bleeding from the head after being kicked by the pearl chasers.

Thirdly when Juanna is about to throw the pearl into the water, Kino wrestles it back, strikes her in the face, and kicks her once she’s fallen to the ground. This also shows how violent Kino has become because of the pearl.

Lastly in chapter 6 Kino leaps up and stabs his knife into the man’s neck (the trackers) just as the gun goes off and Kino goes nuts on the three men, managing to stab two, steal the rifle, and shoot the other man between the eye.

10, Explain in eight ways in which symbols have used in the book “the pearl”.

Answer:



Firstly the pearl is a symbol of wealth which is quite ambivalent in its nature throughout the novel. When Kino first finds the pearl, it is a symbol of hope and salvation. The pearl and what it holds of wealth represents a great potential for the family and so their ambitions grow big.

Secondly, the same Pearl represents all the evil in the world. It seems all the greed and evil surfaces in the presence of wealth.

Thirdly the scorpion is a form of foreshadowing as well as a symbol of the evil that is yet to come into Kino's life. The scorpion sneaks into the family's home in attempts to take away their most valuable possession, their son.

Another symbolic meaning of a scorpion is also foreshadowing of the many town's people who are filled with poisonous envy and evil as they sneak into Kino's home to steal the pearl and poison his life.

Kino's canoe is the tool he uses to provide for his family and is an essential part of his life. Kino's canoe enables him to catch fish and carries him to deeper waters, where he dives for pearls. Steinbeck writes that Kino's canoe was the "one thing of value he owned in the world" and was passed down through generations in his family. Symbolically, the canoe represents Kino's heritage, culture, and family.

Given the fact that Kino planned on escaping the village in his canoe, the destroyed canoe symbolically represents the loss of hope and peace in Kino's life. The Song of Evil surrounds the sunken canoe, and Kino's life takes a turn for the worse. Kino's family, heritage, and peaceful existence are destroyed once his canoe is irreparably damaged.

The village symbolizes oppression of Mexican Indians who are ignorant and poor.

The town and the sea possess certain symbols of way of life and death.

The scorpion is a symbol of evil and foreshadows the evil that is to come in future in the novel.

The pearl is the symbol of beauty, hope, riches and love at first when it is glimmering and attractive but when it has caused problems (evil) to Kino it turns ugly and it is thrown back to the sea.



SECTION 5

SHORT STORY

AFRICAN SHORT STORIES

Introduction to a short story

- ♣ A short story is a story with fully developed theme but is shorter than a novel.
- ♣ We can also define a short story as an invented story shorter than a novel with few characters and deals with more with feelings than events.
- ♣ The person who writes stories is called an author.
- ♣ Different authors tell stories using different ways; they use a voice that we call a narrator in a short story or a novel.
- ♣ A short story can be fiction or factual.

Features of a story

The following are the features of a short story.

- a. A short story usually talks about one single event or experience
- b. A short story usually is between 500-1500 words in length. Hence it can be read in one sitting
- c. A short story has a beginning middle and an end
- d. A short story has few characters.

Elements of a short story

The elements of a short story are the same as that of other genres of literature which include; setting, characters, characterization, point of view, plot and themes. All these elements have been explained in chapter one. Refer to the introduction to a novel above.

Key to the study of a short story

When analyzing a short story, consider the following



1. Understand the story by asking yourself the questions what is the story all about? This is important because you cannot analyze a short story if you don't understand it.
2. The second step involves analyzing literary terms. Just as we did with poetry consider plot, setting, themes characters and narrator (point of view)
3. The third and the last step is to analyze literary devices. Appreciate the use of language by the author.

STORY BY STORY ANALYSIS

1, THE FALSE PROPHET

By Sembene Ousmane – *Senegal*

Mahmoud Fall comes from Upper Senegal. He is lazy that he doesn't want to do any work. Where he comes from people never keep cats as they say that cats eats but never work. So Mahmoud is like a cat. He changes his identity and his name to Aidra. He then travels to the southern part of Senegal where he describes himself as a Muslim scholar who had studied in Mauritania. He takes on the job of an Imam (Muslim leader) and is given all the best gifts the people can afford.

After Mahmoud (Aidra) accumulated enough wealth, he takes a journey back to the north, through the deserts, to his hometown to enjoy his booty. Leaving his pretense behind, he becomes Mahmoud Fall, the thief. He comes to a certain tree, digs the soil and hides his hoards there. Then he falls asleep. He dreams while walking in the desert and then sees somebody ransacks his wealth and removes his hair. He wakes up and finds that his hair has been cut short, so are his beards. He hears voices but doesn't see anybody. He digs where he hid his wealth and he only finds his hair there. The voices ask him to pray to God but he refuses as his wealth is gone. He thinks God will not hear him.

The setting of the story is **rural**. The people admire and respect a learned man Mahmoud. They seem to live in a less developed location with few educated people. Mahmoud loses his wealth in the desert, that is, he becomes as dry as the desert itself. The story has a third person point of view.

CHARACTER ANALYSIS



Mahmoud Fall: He is deceptive – he changes his name only to collect wealth from people. He is cunning – he devises a method of getting food, respect and money from people. He is dishonest – he doesn't tell the people the truth and he doesn't give back to God (Almighty). He is lazy – he doesn't want to work.

THEMES

- a. **Deception (dishonesty):** Mahmoud Fall changes his identity to steal from people as he pretends as a religious and learned Muslim.
 - b. **Religion:** people in Senegal believe in Islamic religion. They have the faith and they respect men of God like Aidra (Mahmoud Fall).
 - c. **Superstition:** the way Mahmoud loses his hair and wealth is beyond human knowledge, it is mystical and superstitious.
 - d. **Transience of wealth:** Mahmoud was busy assembling wealth but he doesn't sit down and enjoy the wealth. This shows that money and wealth are but for a short time.
 - e. **Just reward of the unjust:** Mahmoud loses all the wealth he took from people in a false manner. He is rewarded for cheating people that he is educated and an imam.
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2, CERTAIN WINDS FROM THE SOUTH

By Ama Ata Aidoo-Ghana

M'ma Asana has a daughter called Hawa. Hawa is married to Issa. She becomes pregnant and gives birth to a child, Fusen. After the child's birth, Hawa moves to stay with her mother. However, there is hunger in the land.

Issa decides to go to the South to find employment so that he can provide for the family. However, Issa knows that Hawa will not agree to his proposal. Therefore, he goes at night to M'ma Asana's home. He meets M'ma Asana and tells her of his plans to go to the south. M'ma Asana tries at first to discourage Issa from going to the south by saying that there are only grass-cutting jobs there. She tells him that such jobs should be left to tribes that are more backward from the further north. Later, she agrees that Issa should go to the South. Issa disappears and M'ma Asana goes back to



bed. She is at pain to note that most women in the north are losing their men to the south. M'ma Asana breaks the news to Hawa who becomes disappointed.

Asana also recalls how her husband (Hawa's father) died in the South while fighting in the war between the Germans and English, the Westerns forcefully recruited the black soldiers. Friends and relatives advised M'ma Asana to go to the South to claim compensation but she refused saying she was interested in her husband and not money.

The story has a rural setting – Issa moves from the rural area to look for a job in an urban area (the South). M'ma Asana also depends on Farming so are people in the area. The mood of the story is sad.

CHARACTER ANALYSIS

- a. **M'ma Asana:** The woman is not greedy and doesn't love money. She is not forgetful that she considers how her husband died. The woman is a hard worker; she works to feed her family.
- b. **Hawa:** She is a loving woman – she loves Issa so much.
- c. **Issa:** He is selfish and inconsiderate that he doesn't seek the wife's consent to go to the South. He is responsible and fore-sighted – he goes to the South to look for money to support his family.

MAJOR THEMES

- 1. **Effects of poverty:** Poverty forces Issa to leave his wife and the baby home and goes to the South. It makes M'ma Asana loses her husband.
 - 2. **Hardworking:** M'ma Asana works hard and feeds her family.
 - 3. **Plight of women:** The women who lose their husbands experience many challenges, e.g. M'ma Asana who works in the farm to support her family.
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3, THE APPRENTICE

Odun Balogun – *Nigeria*



Apprentice (trainee) is a story of a young man, Ogunmola, who trains to be a blacksmith. Ogunmola had the chance to go to school but he chose not to. He starts learning blacksmith at the workshop of Omotaiye. Unfortunately, Ogunmola fails to make hoes the same way Omotaiye does. Ogunmola has his own way of forging hoes, cutlasses, knives and other implements. Omotaiye expresses his dissatisfaction with Ogunmola work which doesn't reflect that of Omotaiye workshop. The boy promises a change but the more he tries to forge hoes that resembles that of Omotaiye, the more he forges hoes more different from of the workshop.

Ogunmola tries to convince his master that what matters is originality. By and by, his relationship with Omotaiye becomes worse. To make life at the workshop easy, Ogunmola recalls what his mother, who died seven years ago, told him about his family. His mother told Ogunmola that his great grandfather, the then Oba (king), was a great ruler. He ruled the area well and he was a legend. Oba was a great ruler until the time when a plague hit the area and the effects were swift and disastrous. People died in hundreds. The wise men consulted the oracles and established that the Spirit of the land was offended. The oracles advised the wise men that someone has to sacrifice himself to the spirits to end the frequent death or the whole population would be wiped out.

The king then told his subjects that he is ready to sacrifice himself to save the area. People had mixed reaction, many said that they could not afford losing such a wise ruler with others maintained that they could not continue dying. Eventually the king walked towards the Hill. A silent crowd followed him. On the way they passed bereaved mourning their beloved – people who were strong a day or hours ago. At the precipice (the top rock of a hill) he jumped into the bottomless abyss. The spirit was pacified.

Then the dead ruler's son, Ogunmola's grandfather, became the next ruler. Young Oba ruled the same way as his father. However, one day white people came and told the king that he didn't know how to rule. Due to mounting pressure, the king died prematurely. Ogunmola was dismayed that his father, the son of the disliked king, could not become the next king. Ogunmola thinks he couldn't either. For that Ogunmola chose not to go to school as education was brought by the same people who ousted this grandfather from the throne.

Ogunmola tries to make his work resemble that of Omotaiye but he fails. The enmity grows and finally, Omotaiye chases Ogunmola from his workshop, criticizing Ogunmola of being untrainable



and non-compliant. Ogunmola leaves the workshop without a certificate that could allow him to practice as a blacksmith.

Ogunmola goes to Omotola at the other side of the river. Omotola is Omotaiye's twin brother but the two are greatest enemies in the business of blacksmith. Omotola welcomes Ogunmola very well, promises him freedom to his own forging. Life becomes meaningful again. However, after a year, Omotola tells Ogunmola that the new master (Omotola) has tried to wipe out all what Omotaiye put in Ogunmola's head. He says that it is now time that Ogunmola starts doing things the same way the master does. Ogunmola believes it is impossible to do blacksmith the way Omotola does. The boy believes in own work. However, he has to do Omotola's way to get a certificate.

The story has a gentle mood with a rural setting. The setting is rural because the people believe in oracles and sacrifices. The point of view is third person.

CHARACTER ANALYSIS

- a. **Ogunmola:** He is innovative – he makes hoes his own way. He is obedient – he takes the demands of his two masters patiently. He is patient – he doesn't lose his temper when Omotaiye says he fails to forge hoes but he stays only to get a certificate
- b. **Great Grandfather:** He is a loving king that accepts to lose his life to save his people from the plague.
- c. **Omotaiye:** He is primitive that he doesn't recognize change. He is arrogant that he doesn't accept the new way of forging hoes by Ogunmola.
- d. **Omotola:** He is deceptive – he tells Ogunmola that the boy will have the freedom to forge hoes his own way only to make him stay as he later changes and tells the boy to forge hoes his workshop's style.
- e. **Ogunmola's mother:** She is informative – she kept the information on how Ogunmola's grandfather was thrown from the throne.

THEMES

- 1. **Sacrifice:** The king gives his life to the Spirit to save his area.



2. **Good leadership:** Ogunmola's great grandfather (Oba) rules the area very well and is liked by every soul.
 3. **People hate innovation:** The two masters of Ogunmola disliked their apprentice (Ogunmola) because he is doing things his own way.
 4. **Colonialism:** colonialists come and change the way of living in the area.
 5. **Anger:** it is out of anger that Ogunmola chose not to go to school because his grandfather was dethroned by the same government that brought education to the area.
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4, THE WILL OF ALLAH

By David Owoyele – *Nigeria*

This is a funny story about how two thieves meet their just rewards. Dogo and Sule walk at midnight to a certain village to steal. The two are thieves and they carry knives wherever they go. Sule is tall and powerful. Dogo whose name means tall is thick, short and squat. Dogo suggests that the clouds that are above are rain clouds but Sule, who is religious, says it is wrong to say that it would rain. Sule's religion forbids prophecy. He suggests that Dogo could say "if it is the will of Allah it will rain". The two have been to prisons for robbery. Crime is Sule's and Dogo's livelihood.

In his last trial, the judge told Sule that he (Sule) is a threat to the society and life and property must be protected from people of his caliber. The judge stared at Sule and Sule returned the stern gaze. Sule never feared judges as he had seen many in his life to be intimidated, he only fears God. The judge advised Sule that crime leads to frustration, punishment and suffering. The judge added that Sule should try to earn an honest living but Sule replied that it was impossible. The judge rapped a gavel before he ordered the constable to arrest Sule and take him to jail. The judge concluded that Sule was only trying to break the law as he would end up by getting broken. "... He who attempts to shake a stump only shakes himself" (23). The judge handed him a three month jail term of which Sule answered "the will of Allah be done".



Sule believes that one's livelihood is from Allah and it is deliberate that Allah gives others a lot so that those with too little should help themselves (steal) to some of it.

Dogo have served jail sentences in all major towns. Prison is like his home. Dogo and Sule steal together because they feel it is convenient and not that there is love and friendship in their midst.

Together they cross the river. Sule washes his arms and legs and head. Dogo sharpens his sheath-knife on the stone. Dogo asks if washing at midnight is Sule's religion. Sule answers: 'Wash when you find a stream, for when you cross another one is entirely in the hands of Allah'.

The two thieves suspect each other. Their suspicion is sometimes genuine and sometimes not. Today Sule accuses Dogo of conniving with Sule's lover to sale Sule's coat and black bag for fifteen shillings and share the proceeds. Sule calls Dogo and the woman bastards for that. Sule also reveals that the woman stabbed him on the thigh. Dogo tells his companion (Sule) that to get a stab is their occupational hazard as they walk at night with knives. He (Dogo) advises Sule to go to the hospital but Sule says that at hospital they ask many questions.

They enter the village. There is no light. The village looks deserted. However, people have shut every hole of a window against the threatening storm (heavy rain). The pair walks for fifteen minutes as it looks for a house to rob. Finally, they reach dilapidated house that looks deserted. They agree to break into that house believing that there is no relationship between how a house looks like and what it contains.

Sule enters the house and Dogo is outside to keep watch. Sule opens the window and passes a heavy gourd to Dogo with an advice that Dogo should run to the river (stream).

At the stream Dogo wants to take some of the contents of the gourd before Sule comes. Whenever they steal, they share fifty-fifty. Today Dogo believes that Sule has taken some before handing the gourd to him. Dogo thrusts his right hand into the gourd but he gets a sharp stab on the wrist. He removes the hand and holds it with the left hand and waits for Sule's arrival. Sule approaches and asks if there is any problem and if Dogo has already opened the lid of the gourd. Dogo says no to both questions. Then Sule removes the lid and thrust his hand into the gourd. Immediately, he gets a sharp stab. He quickly removes the hand and looks at Dogo. He realizes that Dogo is holding his arm. Dogo says that Sule always demands for fifty-fifty share so he wanted Sule also to get stabbed.



Together they feel the pain but Dogo stands up to go home but Sule advises him not to. They realize that they are bitten by a cobra and there is a belief that one who is bitten by a cobra must die there at the spot. There are no chances of survival for the two thieves.

Sule uses the knife to cut through the gourd and kills the cobra. Dogo laughs at this companion that their end is that of a snake bite. Sule groans noisily. The rain comes and they two get soaked in it. Finally, both of them know that their death is few minutes away from them. Sule says “the will of Allah be done”.

The story has a rural setting as the village the two rob from has mud houses. The story has a third person point of view.

CHARACTER ANALYSIS

- a. **Dogo:** He is uncivilized – he earns his livelihood through thievery. He is stubborn – although the judge advised him to stop stealing, he continues earning his livelihood in robbery. He is dishonest that he lies to Sule that he has not opened the gourd.
- b. **Sule:** He is uncivilized – he earns his livelihood through thievery. He is lazy as he fails to work to earn a living. He is arrogant and stubborn that he doesn’t take the judge’s advice to find a better way of earning his livelihood.

THEMES

- 1. **Evil men do leave with them**– Sule and Dogo’s deaths are caused by evil deeds (stealing). The snake stabs Sule because he wants to cheat his companion, Dogo.
 - 2. **Stubbornness:** the judge advises Sule to stop thievery but he turns a deaf ear and die because of stealing.
 - 3. **Crookedness:** Sule accuses his girlfriend and Dogo of conniving to sell his coat and share the proceeds.
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5, CIVIL PEACE

Chinua Achebe – *Nigeria*



Jonathan loses his youngest son in the war, but he chooses to be happy for three children and the wife who have survived, and his old bicycle which he digs up, greases, uses it to transport people, and makes enough money to open a palm-wine bar. When he goes to his home in Enugu, he finds his house intact in Ogui Overside. Though the house has lost some of its fittings, he is happy for the concrete and is thankful that unlike others the structure has withstood the shelling; he looks for old roofing sheets and discarded timber to fix what he can. He hires a poor carpenter to fix it.

When his ex-gratia - earned as a rebel fighter - is paid, he is glad. He keeps the money safe to avoid robbers. At his home he digs inside his house and puts the money there. At night thugs come and ask Jonathan to give them hundred pounds. Jonathan and his wife Maria shout for help but nobody comes to their rescue. He threatens the robbers that he will call the police but the robbers say they work together with the police. Later the leader of the thugs advises Jonathan to give them the money and he will be safe.

Jonathan tells the thugs that he is only having twenty pounds as egg-rasher (ex- gratia) he got as a rebel fighter. Though other thugs say it is too little, the leader, in informal English, commands Jonathan to give them the money through the window. Jonathan gives the thugs the money. The money is gone but Jonathan remains unworried. 'I count it as nothing,' he tells his sympathizers, his eyes on the rope he is tethering. 'What is egg-rasher? Did I depend on it last week? Or is it greater than other things that went with the war? I say, let egg-rasher perish in the flames! Let it go where everything else has gone. Nothing puzzles God.' [34]

This is a man eager to rebuild his life and who would not allow any obstacle to negatively affect this determination. The war has changed everything to such an extent that the thieves who had come to rob him of his ex-gratia claimed that they do not have a predilection to violence as the war has wreaked enough of it upon the people. Though this story is a serious one, there are tinges of humour in it, especially when the thieves help their victims to call the police (knowing they are either in league with them or are afraid of them) and when the robbery becomes a negotiation. 'Ok. Time de go. Make you open dis window and bring the twenty pound. We go manage am like dat.' [33]

The geographical setting of the story is semi-urban. The story has a third person point of view.



CHARACTER ANALYSIS

- a. **Jonathan:** He is **optimistic** – he only considers the good part of a thing and doesn't worry about some sad moments such as the death of the last child and the loss of ex-gratia seriously. He is **resourceful** – he uses his bicycle to transport people and make money, and open a palm wine bar. He is **sensible** and **reasonable** – he surrenders his ex-gratia to the thieves only to save his life and those of his family.
- b. **Robbers:** they are **heartless** – they demand Jonathan a lot of money or lose his life that they take all the ex-gratia Jonathan received from the government.
- c. **Maria:** She is resistant – she advises her husband not to give robbers money.

THEMES

- 1. **Evils of war:** people are homeless. Jonathan loses his son in the war who is shot. There is growing robbery as the economy is disabled.
 - 2. **Right choices in life:** Jonathan chooses to save his life and loses the money he has just received some hours ago.
 - 3. **Resourcefulness:** Jonathan and his children use the available resources to make money to support their family. He transports people using his bicycle and also opens a palm-wine bar. The children also sell mangoes to make money.
 - 4. **Optimism:** Jonathan looks at the good part of life and hopes for good things. He doesn't worry after losing a son: he has hope in the three that survived the war.
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6, THE GENTLEMAN OF THE JUNGLE

Jomo Kenyatta – *Kenya*

A man befriends an elephant and offers Mr. Elephant a shelter for his trunk during one heavy rainfall because the room is too small for both of them. The elephant's trunk enters the room and the elephant whisks out the man and takes over the house. The two argue and many animals come. Finally, the king of the jungle, the lion, asks his ministers to appoint a Commission of Enquiry to investigate the problem. The commission comprises Mr. Rhinoceros, Mr. Buffalo, Mr. Alligator,



and The Right Honourable Mr. Fox as a chairman and Mr. Leopard as secretary. It doesn't include a single human being. When the man complains of the composition of the commission, the Commission members say that the man's side has no any well-educated member to understand the sophisticated law of the jungle. In short, the commission consists of only gentlemen of the jungle.

When Mr. Elephant appeared before the commission it lies that the man asked it to cover the unoccupied space in his hut to protect the house from the hurricane. When the man appears before the commission, commissioners interrupt him saying they have evidence from unbiased sources. The members of the commission eat delicious meals during the meeting, courtesy of Mr. Elephant.

The commission concludes that Mr. Elephant has fulfilled his sacred duty of protecting the man's interests as it is clearly that the space should be put to its most economic use, and as the man has not reached the stage of expansion which would enable him to fill it, the commission considers it necessary to arrange a compromise to suit both parties. Commission rules that Mr. Elephant should continue his occupation of the man's hut, but it gives the man permission to look for a site where he can build another hut. Fearing that further argument may expose him to anger (claws and teeth) of the commission, the man concedes defeat.

Every other hut that the man builds is taken over by all other animals in the same. Mr. Rhinoceros, Mr. Leopard, Mr. Hyena, Mr. Buffalo and other animals take the next huts that man builds. When all the animals thus get sheltered and the huts start decaying, the man builds a bigger and better hut. All the animals that took over his previous huts come to takeover this one leading to a fight among them. This provides the man the chance to set the hut ablaze, killing the animals altogether. The man goes home happily saying that 'Peace is costly but it's worth the expense' (39) which means that peace or independence doesn't come easily but one has to put a gallant fight to have peace all the same.

The story is about colonisation and the struggle for independence in Kenya where after a long struggle with the white government, local people gained independence.

The story has a third person point of view.

The setting of the story is rural, particularly in the forest where animals live.



CHARACTER ANALYSIS

1. **Lion, the king:** He is nepotistic as he favours fellow animal, Mr. Elephant.
2. **The man:** He is sensible and innovative – he comes up with a plot to punish all animals that trouble his peace. He is patient – he waits for the day he would defeat the animals patiently. He is helpless – animals abuse him by taking his huts.
3. **Mr. Elephant:** He is abusive – he abuses his friend, man. He is corrupt – he uses its money to influence the verdict of the commission of Enquiry.
4. **Commission of enquiry members:** They are corrupt – they favour Mr. Elephant because he is a member of the jungle. They are incredible and unfair – the findings of their enquiry are biased towards their fellow minister.

THEMES

- a. **Favouritism-** The commission of Enquiry fails to be impartial by favouring the side of Mr. Elephant because the members of the commission are all animals at once.
 - b. **Corruption:** the commission is corrupt that it gives a wrong verdict after being fed by Mr. Elephant.
 - c. **Racial segregation:** the animals say that they cannot incorporate people in their commission they are not well educated to understand the law of the jungle.
 - d. **Struggle for independence:** the man continues building huts although animals come and take them. At the end the man gains independence as he defeats all animals.
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7, THE GREEN LEAVES

By Grace Ogot – *Kenya*

It is night and the whole community wakes up. Cattle thieves are in the village. The people chase the four thugs. Nyagar, who has two wives, wakes up to join the pursuers. He moves towards his gate and hides to allow the people to pass, lest they mistake him for the robbers. Nyagar joins the pursuers and together they chase the thieves towards a river. He discovers that the four men that



passed his gate first are cattle thieves. The chasers are confident of capturing the robbers as it is impossible to cross the river on this direction.

The thieves try to cross but fail. The villagers round the thugs. The villagers beat the thugs mercilessly that a villager produces a knife and cut one of the thugs. One of the robbers also cut one of the pursuers. Two thugs escape; one through the thick and thorny bush and the other unbelievably swims across the river. At this point, the village beat the remaining thug. After believing that the thief is about to die, they put green leaves on him and leave for the village. They go home only to avoid witnessing the death of a man as that is considered as bad luck in the community. They agree to come early in the morning to take the dead body and report the matter to police. The police discourages people from killing thieves themselves put the people think the police doesn't understand life.

Nyagar goes to his home. Other villagers see him opening his gate and walking into his compound. While in his room Nyagar recalls that cattle thieves always have a lot of cash made from sales of the stolen cattle. At this memory, Nyagar decides to go to the place where the robber is left to search his pocket. Although Nyagar has money and countless heads of cattle, he goes on with the idea of going to the place. He leaves his compound and walks into the thick darkness of the night. He reaches the place where the man is covered with leaves. Nyagar hurriedly removes the green leaves and starts searching the robber's pockets. The first pocket is empty so is the second one. Then Nyagar establishes that the body is still warm. He hesitates but he gains courage and tries to continue with the searching. As Nyagar stoops on the thief, the thief hits Nyagar. Nyagar falls down and hurriedly, the thief finishes him and put all the green leaves on the body of Nyagar. The thief then ducks into the darkness.

Early in the morning, men converge at one place and the chief sends a good number of men to the council to report to government that the area has killed the cattle robber. They agree not to mention anybody as the police would arrest the killer. The rest of the community gather and are ready to go to the place where the thief was killed last night. Everyone is anxious to see the thief. Then a van from the council drives into the village and pulls up near the crowd.

The white office, policemen and the men who were sent disembark from the van. The officer asks the chief who murdered the thief but the chief maintains that all of them killed the thug. The officer



warns the chief that the police are not going to leave the murders scot free but the chief tells the officer that if the police want, it can arrest the whole village.

Then the officer orders that they should go and see the dead thief first. At place of death, the people remove the leaves and to every villager's surprise, the dead body is of their fellow villager, Nyagar. The two wives of Nyagar mourn their husband together forgetting that they were not in terms all the time they have been with Nyagar at his compound. Other men fail to believe their eyes to see Nyagar lying dead as last night they saw Nyagar opening his gate and enter his compound before they proceeded to their respective houses. The chief is short of words so are many people as well as the police. Nobody is ready to tell and lead the next course of action. Nyagar;s wives mourn and mourn bitterly.

The story has a rural setting in a village where people believe in cattle farming. The story has a sad mood as the village mourns the death of Nyagar. The point of view is third person.

CHARACTER ANALYSIS

- a. **Nyagar:** He is unsatisfied – he wants to take money from the thief although he is rich with many cattle, he also has two wives as if one is not enough. He is foolish – he fails to notice that the thief has gained consciousness and can harm him.
- b. **The chief:** He is strong that the police and the government officer fail to intimidate him to reveal the name of a person who murdered the thief.
- c. **Thieves:** they are troublesome – they trouble the peace of the area. They are cunning especially one who is covered with green leaves by pretending as if he is dead and finally escapes.
- d. **Villagers:** they are united – they all wake up and chase the thieves. They also agree not to tell the police who really killed the thief.
- e. **The two wives:** They are loving women that they mourn for their departed husband. They are helpless and heart-broken as they mourn Nyagar.

THEMES

- 1. **Greed:** Because he wants a lot of money, Nyagar is killed by the thief.
- 2. **Robbery:** Thieves terrorize the village by stealing from villagers.



3. **Communism:** The villagers live united as they wake up and chase the thieves and also agree not to tell the officers of who really killed the thief.
 4. **Effects mob justice:** some time mob justice can lead to the death of an innocent person. If the thief was taken to police, Nyagar could not lose his life.
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8, BOSSY

By Abdulrazak Gurnah – *Tanzania*

The narrator recalls the journey he had with his friend Karim Rashid. It is Karim's letter that prompt him to reminisces the time. Rashid called himself the Bossy because he was an expert in swimming, a footballer and a left-arm bowler. Rashid kept on reminding his friend Haji that he (Rashid) had the responsibility of looking after his old mother and his sister Amina. His father was dead by then. He feared that he might go elsewhere and took up the job of a forest officer only to come back home and finds his mother dead and his sister a whore.

The two friends took a journey to Prison Island. They decided to take Yunis. Yunis was also called Wire because he was considered somehow abnormal. The narrator was once a good friend of Yunis. They spent time together. That time Haji (narrator) and Yunis started a prison –of-war club. The narrator boasted how intelligent he was at school and Yunis lied to him that his father had an estate in India. The truth of the matter was that Yunis' father lived in the narrator's father's house and had an almost empty shop. Yunis's father used to ask anyone who came to his shop to borrow him money.

Yunis said his father had a large estate in India but cannot find enough money to come back home. He also said that one day he would build a boat and go and take his family back home. However, Yunis did not go with Haji and Karim to Prison Island. So Karim and the narrator took the journey. The water was blue and the weather was fine. They finally reached the island.

At the island they had nothing to eat. They ate only mangos that had flies all over. Then The Bossy decided that he could swim faster and reached home earlier even if Haji was to use the boat. Haji accepted. They got into the boat and at the same time Rashid jumped into the water and started



swimming. Haji struggled to control the boat on the sea as there was wind. Haji called Rashid but Rashid was already gone.

The wind changed the direction of Haji's boat that he ended up landing at Mbweni, three miles from his home town. He was beaten by men with sticks, saying it was a day Arabs like him were getting theirs (meaning they were punished). He became conscious at the beach and stopped by men with machetes and guns. The men said Haji was a soldier and they wanted to shoot him. They said the sultan (Muslim ruler) had already surrendered and Haji was supposed to die for being an Arab. They also said he got the cuts on his body at the barracks. One man suggested that they should sleep with Haji before they kill him but the other man said they should beat him with steel and should urinate at him. They beat and urinated at him and left him unconscious.

Here Haji is acting as responding to Karim's letter. He tells his friend that the time he left him in the boat he suffered a lot. It is like a letter to Rashid, the Bossy, and that is why the title is Bossy.

The setting of the story is urban, during the time of colonialism. It also goes to the Island where the two friends visit.

Point of view: The story has first person point of view from Haji.

CHARACTER ANALYSIS

- a. **Haji (narrator):** He is strong that he survives all the torture in the strange town. He is sharp-minded or witty-minded as he can recall all what happened when he took a trip with a friend to Prison Island. He is intelligent narrates that he was intelligent in class.
- b. **Rashid (Bossy):** He is adventurous as he jumps into the water and swims home. He is multi-talented as he is an expert in swimming, a footballer and a left-arm bowler. He is carefree: he leaves his friend on the sea and swims home. He is responsible that he looks after his sister and his old mother.
- c. **Yunis (Wire):** He is a liar that he lies to Haji that his father owns an estate in India. He is friendly that he is a good friend of the narrator.

THEMES



1. **Racism:** The narrator is beaten because he is an Arab.
 2. **Bad governance:** people are not happy with the government that they stand up against it.
 3. **It never rains but it pours:** the narrator undergoes a serial of brutal beatings and in two occasions he becomes unconscious.
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9, THE SPIDER'S WEB

Leonard Kibera

Ngotho works for the family of Njogu. He is worried that Mrs. Njogu can't trust him even with sugar or milk. In fact, Ngotho is wasteful and uses to eat a lot of food when Mrs. Njogu is away. He usually steals sugar by putting it in his breast pocket. Nevertheless, Ngotho is still the trusted servant of his mistress, Mrs. Njogu, only that the mistress cannot tell him as she considers it sensitive and risky. However, what Ngotho cares for his job as unemployment rate in the country is high.

Mrs. Njogu is age-mate of Ngotho's daughter and she comes from Ngotho's home. In the village, Mrs. Njogu was known as Lois. In those days, Lois remained unmarried until she finished her school and become a teacher. She was a role model in her village. Lois became a heroine when she hit a white inspector who came to her school. Lois's learners failed to answer questions and the white lady wanted to slap Lois but the inspector ended up beaten up and Lois locked in prison.

Later Lois got married to Mr. Njogu, a university graduate who secured a well-paying job in government. He came to live in the house of Mr. Knight, a white man who was returning home since colonial government was defeated. In this house, Mr. Njogu found Ngotho who worked for Knight Family for years.

Mrs. Knight abused Ngotho so much. It was a relief that the family was going home and he was to have a black boss. Ngotho expected end of exploitation in the whole country. It was so as black people were now leaders for fellow blacks. But that is not the case as people who fought for independence together are now divided and everyone cares for oneself. House servants suffer in the hands of black masters and the case of Mrs. Njogu and Ngotho is a perfect example.



Last night Ngotho dreams while dead and could hear people who are about to inter his casket into the grave. At this moment he becomes conscious and tries to break the coffin and tell people that is not dead. Then he wakes up. He becomes worried. He does physical exercises to remove stress. It is Sunday but he never goes to church as church depresses him so much.

He is ready to start cooking. He talks to another servant, Kego, who was employed to go on errands, cut grass and clean the compound. Kego also takes care of Wambui, the dog. Kego respects Mrs. Njogu. As Kego is busy with the chores, Ngotho uses a kitchen knife cutting a painful corn in his toe. He stops after hearing his mistress flushing the toilet

Mrs. Njogu beats Ngotho. It is the first time a woman beats Ngotho outside his mother's house. He becomes angry and goes outside and cuts a branch of tree and renters the house with the branch and a knife. Mr. Njogu, who tries to stop Ngotho from attacking Mrs. Njogu, is stabbed by the knife. Mr. Njogu locks himself in the toilet as Mrs. Njogu calls the police. Knowing that he is in trouble, Ngotho goes to his room and locks himself in.

The conflict which was there between white people and black people has now changed to bosses and leaders against servants and poor people. Mrs. Njogu slaps Ngotho, an old man whose daughter is as old as she is, for no offence the way she was slapped by a white government officer. The independent and economic transformation people wanted is not there even after colonial rule.

The setting of this story is urban, in the city where Mr. Njogu works as a government officer. The story has a third person point of view.

CHARACTER ANALYSIS

1. **Mrs. Njogu:** She is short-tempered that she beats the white lady as well as Ngotho. She is ambitious that she remains single only to achieve her goals.
2. **Ngotho:** He is regretful that he lost his time thinking that Mrs. Njogu would be better than Mrs. Knight. He is short-tempered that he reacts soon after his mistress beats him.

THEMES



- a. **Change that brings nothing:** The change of government from the white minority to independence has no impacts as black leaders are also mistreating fellow blacks.
 - b. **Exploitation:** Workers are treated badly and there is no economic freedom.
 - c. **Betrayal:** Leaders promised people change when they were fighting for independence together but changed and adopted the same old style.
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10, MINUTES OF GLORY

By Ngungi wa Thiong'o – *Kenya*

Beatrice (actually Wanjiru) is a black and poor woman. She was born in a village in Niery and she leaves home in search of good job in other town. But she doesn't find any as she doesn't have qualification for any decent job. Desperate, she finds a man that deceives her with promises of big works in Limuru, where, after sleeping with her, he deserts her. Alone, she begins her life as a barmaid. She longs for attention and concern of other people, especially men. But Beatrice is insignificant and no one realizes her presence and she knows this. Beatrice envies her colleagues in the bar, because of things like the attention that they have for the other men, assurance in life, freedom, that Beatrice thinks they have, especially one called Nyaguthii. She thinks that the supposed light of Nyaguthii switches her off.

Then she goes to Illmorog, but the other women including Nyaguthii soon come there. To try to attract attention, she uses Ambi (a skin-lightening cream) but she doesn't have enough for the whole body. After she is dismissed at the bar, she secures a job in another bar in Illmorog. There she knows a man that drives a lorry. He begins to talk and to sleep with Beatrice. In spite of the man paying for this, she thinks he cares about her. He is a man that has something in common with Beatrice, both were born poor and have the desire to be recognized as equals by people that have prestige in colonial Society (white people), but like Beatrice he is ignored by them.

Beatrice discovers that the man doesn't care about her, and she decides to throw all her rage of life in that man. She steals the money of him while he is asleep. She uses the money to buy new clothes and shoes and comes back to the bar. With a new look and money in her pocket she wins the



admiration of everybody around her. Beatrice enjoys this moment. She is, finally, in glory, but this doesn't last long. The lorry's driver comes to Treetop Bar with a policeman and Beatrice is arrested. The driver gets the attention that he wants telling about the robbery and Nyaguthii is the only one who is sad about Beatrice.

The story has a colonial historical setting as Beatrice tries to obey colonial laws. Beatrice left home for the city to look for a job. The story has third person point of view.

CHARACTER ANALYSIS

Beatrice (Wanjiru) – a young, poor and black woman. She is admiring - she admired the life and culture of the whites. She is shy – she feels shamed of her own name. This obsession by the white culture was so strong that she used a cream that became the skin most white. Beatrice represents all black nations, and her feeling of inferiority, insecurity and shame elevated with the

colonization promoted by the whites. She represents too, the hope transformed in despair and disillusionment.

Nyaguthii – assure, indifferent, admired. In spite of being in the same condition of Beatrice, she appears like a strong woman. But after, the reader discovers that she is different of Beatrice because she didn't accept the Christian culture. She left home to run away of the laws and rules of her Christian family. One interest point of the story is that she waited for a moment of glory without to forget her scrupulous and always trying behaviour according to rules of the colonization. Then she realized if she remain with this behaviour she never wouldn't be what she wanted, and she gave up her scrupulous and became a thief, and only this way, she has your minutes of glory. Other irony is that the driver of the lorry, that had almost the same desire of Beatrice and having become one type of "friend" of her; he won glory of him, thanks to her misfortune. And Nyaguthii, who was envied by Beatrice, ended in the only one that cries for her.

THEME: The story talks about the feeling of inferiority of the colonized, in which the Christian culture (also Europe culture or white culture), was considered superior in relation to the others.



11, AN INCIDENT IN THE GHOBASHI HOUSEHOLD

By Alifa Rifaat – *Egypt*

The mother, Zeinat, wakes up after the call of her cockerel in the Ghobashi house. The cockerel call is followed by the voice of muezzin from the lofty minaret of the mosque. Zeinat wakes her oldest daughter Ni'ma. The woman asks her daughter if she is fit to carry the grain to the market since it is market day. Ni'ma accepts to go to market since nobody else can go. Zeinat wakes up and walks sluggishly to a courtyard for the Morning Prayer (ablutions).

Zeinat goes where her husband, Ghobashi, stored maize in sacks before he left for work in Libya through an aero plane. She asks Lord to take care of her husband. Zeinat stoops up the grain and pours it into the basket. She tells Ni'ma that the money for the sale of the grain is to be used as wages for Hamdan who cultivated their beans garden. Ni'ma prepares tea in a teapot. Zeinat suspects something in Ni'ma: 'since when has the buffalo been with young' which means that Ni'ma seems to be pregnant. Ni'ma confirms her mother's suspicion that she has a four-month pregnant. Zeinat is worried as when Ghobashi was leaving for Libya he promised a marriage dress for the girl who looked ripe but Ni'ma is already pregnant before the return of her father the next Great Feast.

Zeinat has to find a solution for Ni'ma's pregnancy before the return of Ghobashi. It is crucial for a girl to be pregnant in the culture of Ghobashi which encourages chastity before marriage. This is so because in Egypt a girl is supposed to get married to a man who deflowers (have first sexual intercourse with) her.

Zeinat gives Ni'ma her life savings and asks the daughter to pack her clothes and go to Cairo to live there until she gives birth. Zeinat wants to save her marriage from breaking apart. Zeinat will go to the market herself.

The story has a rural setting where farming is the main activity the people do for their livelihood. It is a Muslim community as Zeinat works up in the morning for ablutions. The sound of muezzin



also indicates that it is a Muslim community. The setting suits the story as it is the discussion between Ghobashi household (people who live in Ghobashi house)

The story has a third person point of view.

CHARACTER ANALYSIS

- a. **Zeinat:** She is observant as she discovers that Ni'ma is pregnant. She is submissive that she takes all her husband's commands.
- b. **Ni'ma:** she is loose as she sleeps with a man and gets pregnant before she is married. She is honest as she tells the truth about her pregnancy.
- c. **Ghobashi:** he is responsible as he makes sure that his family has enough food before he leaves for Libya.

THEMES

- 1. **Early pregnancy:** The girl Ni'ma is pregnant while she is young and before she is married
 - 2. **Problem solving:** Zeinat chases her daughter to the city of Cairo only to save her marriage from breaking up. This is her solution to the problems that Ni'ma's pregnancy might bring.
 - 3. **Consequences of sex before marriage:** Ni'ma is chased to the city because she slept with a man before marriage and got pregnant. If she had waited for her time, she would not be chased from her parents' home.
 - 4. **Responsibility:** before going to Libya, Ghobashi makes sure that he leaves enough food for his family.
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12, A HANDFUL OF DATES

By Tayeb Salih – *Sudan*

Masood had been selling his land to his neighbour anytime he married or was about to marry. And because he had married several times, he who owned large hectares of land has become almost a destitute tenant. Whatever dates he harvests on the remaining piece of land is handed over to his debtors whilst he scrounges to live.



The grandfather tells his grandson - the narrator - of his ambition to buy the remaining one-third of Masood's land; the grandson is sad and broken. When the boy sees the state Masood is in, that to Masood every piece of date counts, he cannot believe the man's passivity and his grandfather's ambition. The narrator thought that the land which his grandfather owns was his from the past, sympathizes with Masood for selling the land carelessly. Like unwanted phlegm in his throat, he runs off to vomit all Masood's date palms he had been eating.

On this day, Masood tells the grandfather that it is the day of harvesting. They go to the fields and harvest dates (a type of fruit). Although Masood's piece of land has dates, he gets nothing as he gives all his dates to debtors.

NB: the narrator is liked by his grandfather as an intelligent boy who knows what to do and when.

The story has a first person point of view from the grandson. The setting is rural as people depend on farming for their livelihood.

CHARACTER ANALYSIS

- a. **Masood:** He is unreasoning that he sells the land for no proper reason. He is unsatisfied as he goes on marrying many women.
- b. **Grandfather:** He is intelligent – he buys the land of Masood and makes Masood work in it. He is ambitious as he thinks of owning extra land.
- c. **Narrator:** He is sympathetic that he sympathizes with Masood for losing his fertile land.

THEMES

Lack of reasoning: Masood loses his land because he sells it anyhow without thinking properly.

13, A CONVERSATION FROM THE THIRD FLOOR

By Mohamed El- Bisatie – *Egypt*



A woman Aziza comes to visit her husband in prison but has to speak from the compound of the prison to her husband who is on the third floor room. The tensed conversation is about the work that is to be done in the household, which perhaps would have been done by the man.

After waiting for some time, the woman sees a soldier at the window of a third floor. Then Aziza hears a noise and sees a hand waving from between the bars of a window to the third floor. She hears her husband Ashour calling her “Aziza”.

Ashour shouts to the wife that he is transferred to another prison as he indicated in his last letter. This prison is to be pulled down any day. He asks the woman why she has not come with their children Hamid and Saniyya. Ashour wants to see their baby, Shakir, and Aziza lifts it up.

Ashour asks Aziza if she pruned the two dates palm tree but Aziza answers nothing.

Ashour asks Aziza if she have built the wall and she answer no but she is to get bricks from the furnace her uncle Ahmed lighted. Ashour also tells her not to come to the prison as he is going to write her a letter informing to which prison is to be transferred. Then the husband disappears. Aziza sits down feeding the baby and then she leaves.

Setting of the story is at prison premises in an urban geographical setting. The story has a third person point of view.

CHARACTER ANALYSIS

Ashour: he is caring that he cares for his children. He asks his wife why he hasn’t brought the two children.

Aziza: she is a loving woman that she goes to prison to see her husband. She is observant that she sees many things that happen in the third floor.

THEMES

- a. **Imprisonment:** Ashour is in prison and has no chance of caring for his family.
- b. **Love:** Aziza goes to prison to see her husband.



- c. **Sufferings** of women when men are in prison: Aziza fails to prune the dates because she is a woman and her husband who could do the work is not around.
 - d. **Reality of life**: one may think it is not possible to speak with someone from a third floor but it becomes a reality in Aziza and Ashour's life.
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14, PAPA, SNAKE & I

By Luis Bernado Honwana – *Mozambique*

The story takes place at Tchembene's household in a certain township. Tchembene's family is rich and has servants. They have a housemaid Sartina and a garden boy Madunana who flirts with Sartina. Nandito, Joaozinho, Nelita, Gita and the narrator are all the children of the household. On this day, the father and the mother discover that the narrator is well ok and needs to take laxatives (pain killers). Then the two go to chicken pen where they discover that chicken are missing and fowls are dying after being beaten. The father suggests that he will find a way of killing the snake that beats the fowl and eats the chicken. The father leaves for work. The mother advises the narrator not to take the gun and go hunting. She warns Madunana of being close to Sartina. Finally the mother leaves the home for work.

Tchembene is next to Senhor Castro's household. The two families have pointers (dogs), Toto for Tchembene and Wolf for Senhor Castro.

The narrator goes to the chicken runs and starts looking for the snake. He stops after seeing the snake. He sits somewhere watching it. Then his young brother, Nandito comes to the pens. They discuss about snakes and Nandito reveals his fear of the snake. Then the two dogs come to the pens and as Toto tries to bite the snake, the snake the dog several times. Later, Madunana kills the snake. The wolf goes to its master's compound but with some snake biting.

When Tchembene comes in the evening, Senhor drives in and tells Tchembene to pay him for his dog, Wolf that came from his compound barking and it's now dead. He thinks the dog was poisoned or done something that contributed to its death. Senhor threatens Tchembene of taking him to court if he fails to pay him. He drives away after Tchembene's attempt for discussion proved



futile. Later the narrator tells his father that the snake bit the dogs. The narrator also tells his father that he doesn't like his parents.

The story is having an urban setting with both masters going to work.

The story has a first person point of view.

CHARACTER ANALYSIS

- a. **Tchembene:** He is calm and peace loving – this is shown from how he talks to Senhor. He is a good father who chats with children. He chats with the narrator.
- b. **Narrator:** He is fearless that he searches for a snake in the kraal and helps Madunana killing the snake.
- c. **Sartina:** She is loose and cheap that she allows Madunana to touch her anyhow and laughs at it. She is dutiful as she is seen busy washing.
- d. **Madunana:** He is immoral as he touches a fellow worker's buttocks. He is fearless and helpful that he kills the snake.
- e. **Tchembene's wife:** she is caring that she knows that the narrator is ill and needs laxatives.
- f. **Nandito:** He is fearful that he cries and runs out of the kraal after seeing the snake.
- g. **Senhor:** He is short-tempered that he just says Tchembene must pay him even though he doesn't know what really killed the dog. He is unfriendly –he talks to his neighbour in a rude manner.

THEMES

- 1. **Poor neighbourhood relations:** Tchembene and his neighbour are not in good relationship. The way Senhor approaches Tchembene confirms this.
- 2. **Fear:** Nandito fears the snake that he runs out of the kraal after seeing it.
- 3. **Anger:** the way Senhor comes to Tchembene's compound shows that Senhor is unhappy with the death of his dog.

15, THE BRIDEGROOM



By Nadine Gordimer – *South Africa*

The young comes from Francistown and works as an overseer for a road project. He lives with Kaffirs (black) although he is an Afrikaan. His cook, Piet, is black, so are other twenty boys at the camp. In the tent he stays, the young man has an iron bed, pillow case and a big kaross (jacket) on it; canvas seat and a clothes chest with a clock and a photograph of his seventeen-year-old fiancée from Francistown. The young man leaves tomorrow for Francistown for his wedding that he is a bridegroom. He visualizes his return journey with his wife. He had problems convincing parents of the girl and now they are convinced. What remains is that the parents are worried that their daughter will be associated with blacks as it is the case with the young man.

This evening he goes out, walking round the camp and comes back at sunset. He sits outside on his fire place. At his tent there is light while at his cook, Piet, there is no light. This shows how the two are different, one being white and the other black. He calls for Piet for his meal. The cook brings the meal from his dark tent. Piet is a good cook who can even cook Koeksusters just after told how to do it by his boss.

The young man eats the meal and then he smokes. Then he thinks of how his compound will change with his wife around. He worries how he is going to stop the boys who come always to ask him questions as they are kaffirs. His wife grew up at a farm and is not used to kaffirs. He takes a bottle of brandy he brought from Francistown and drink there. He doesn't drink too much – he drinks mostly during celebrations like wedding ceremony and Christmas.

Music and cries comes from other camp tents. Then two men come to him from the dark. One has paraffin tin and the other attachment of gut and wire. The two play the instruments. Another thin yellowish man comes and sits on his haunches (the buttocks, hips and thighs together). He has a keyboard of metal tongues in its mouth. Then people come to watch. They watch the young man plays the instrument though with difficulties. He thinks of giving Piet sugar and things from the store so that he prepares beer that these people should drink when he returns from Francistown next week.

When the lyre-player starts again, he feels good that he sings inside him but later his voice becomes audible. All the people become silent. He, for a moment, forgets all his wedding preparations.



The music stops and people leave for their tents. He tells Piet to wake up early in the morning. He goes to his tent and takes a final stare at his fiancée's photograph. He puts his things in the chest ready for the journey.

The story has a rural setting in an area where there is no electricity. The point of view is third person as none of the characters is a narrator.

CHARACTER ANALYSIS

The young man: he is anxious more especially his wedding. He is social and friendly that he doesn't see any problem living together with kaffirs. He also chats and sings with them (blacks).

Piet: he is a fast-learner who learns how to make Koeksusters just after being told how to do it by his boss. He is obedient that he takes orders from his boss.

THEMES

Excitement of a bridegroom before marriage day – the young man is so anxious about his wedding day that he keeps on looking at his fiancée's photograph.

Racial segregation: the girl's parents do not want their daughter to associate with kaffirs.

Socialism: The young man socializes with the kaffirs though he is Afrikaans.

16, THE BETRAYAL

By Ahmed Essop – *South Africa*

Dr. Kamal is a physician, politician and connoisseur. He is a Muslim and goes to Mosque every Friday to genuflect in prayer. He is in dilemma due to emerging of a new political party of youth in Fordsburg. The party imposes a threat to his party, Orient Front, in which he is the president. Being the political mentor of Fordsburg youth, he fears losing his position to the new party once the new party welcomes deserters of the Youth League. He thinks of crushing the new group. He doesn't know how as he had been a support of Gandhi who was for peace. He addresses members



of the Youth League. The Youth League is led by Salim Rashid. Dr. Kamal tells the Youth League members to stop the new party of Indians of the country as it will destroy the mother of the league, Orient Front. On his way back, Dr. Kamal passes through Gandhi Hall where the new group is to hold its meeting tomorrow and he finds out that the grouping is also holding its nocturnal meeting. He goes home and he recalls the days when he joined the Orient Front and used to hold lectures to Fordsburg youths on “A Study of The Dynamics of Political Action and Political Truth’ which gained him support and later power.

Orient Front planned to disturb the Fordsburg meeting by attending it. Dr. Kamal attends the meeting so is the chairperson of the Youth League. The members of the new grouping are told to leave but they resist. Then Salim Rashid tells the people that they have insulted the Orient Front. He starts commotion and all league members follow suit. The whole is turned into a drama theatre as the stage becomes the mass of seething, pushing, wrestling, punching and shouting combatants. Dr. Kamal struggles to go out of the battle he has initiated himself though he wants to remain in the hall to see people fighting. Somebody informs the police and they come armed with guns and truncheons. Dr. Kamal, who is outside the hall, re-enters the hall to see what is to happen next. But he changes his mind and flees.

The setting of the story is in the city in Ghana as it has the hall, Gandhi Hall. The story has a third person point of view.

CHARACTER ANALYSIS

Dr. Kamal: he is violent as he tells the Youth League to crush the new political grouping. He is also intolerant as he fails to accept the emerging of the new political grouping.

THEME

Political intolerance: Orient Front members and their president want to crush a newly formed political grouping as they want their only party in the country.

17, PROTISTA



By Dambudzo Marechera – *Zimbabwe*

The narrator is describing his exile - more of a soul and mental exile than a political one but even then the former results from the latter. It also results from adult imposition which the narrator could not bear as he sees himself transform into things to escape the dryness, the drought, the barrenness of the world. He escapes his tormentors through death and even then he is forced back to life to live this abhorrent life. He is the Protista - that unicellular organism that undergoes fragmentation to create new ones. Yet he could not escape.

His - the narrator's - creative and highly imaginative mind sharpens the torments, bringing it closer than it should be. He sees death as the only end, but it was an end which will not come. He's transformed into a tree - his freedom truncated and rooted into the soil and the only way to extricate him is to wound him. No one listens to his cries - which he does not waste time to do, for he is alone in his wilderness. Yet his suffering was prophesied to him in a dream and also through his huntress who left him one early morning; the only woman whom he spent time with in his exile - that period of time that traverses his youth and encapsulates both his fears (the worst moments in his life) and his good memories - making its excision difficult.

This is an interesting short story that will mean a lot of things to different people. It is a political oppression carried out by society. It is about someone struggling to express himself and in doing so is rejected and persecuted by society. It is about our inability to accept people who are different to us.

The story has a first person point of view. The setting is in a country where there is no freedom (land with drought) as the narrator turns into a tree.

CHARACTER ANALYSIS

1. **Narrator:** he is hopeless as his cries are not heard. He is also desperate in the drought season.
The narrator is radical as he tries to force change
2. **Society:** stubborn as it doesn't listen to the narrator.

THEMES



- a. **Lack of freedom:** There is no freedom as the narrator's exile is of political oppression.
 - b. **Drought:** the narrator is desperate in the drought.
 - c. **Political oppression:** The narrator is victimized and abused that he ends up in exile.
 - d. **Failure to accept opposing views:** the society doesn't listen to the narrator's cries and different views but sends him into exile.
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18, THE COFFEE-CART GIRL

By Ezekiel Mphahlele – *South Africa*

The story which takes place in a rural setting starts with the main character, Zodwa - a girl who sells coffee in a cart outside Metropolitan Steel Windows Ltd witnessing a strike of workers. She sells coffee and buns to workers. On this day the workers are at the picketing line for poor salary and working conditions. Zodwa is busy selling the coffee to customers. She fails to realize the stampede of workers who come round her. One man crushes with her back as other workers fall on his cart. Before her cart overturns and the coffee is spilt on the ground, Roben Lemeko, one of the workers shouts at the people and hurriedly rides away the bicycle. He shouts "Give way you black monkeys".

The young man, Lemeko gives the cart to Zodwa but before Zodwa could ask the man's name, Lemeko is already away. She has no time to say thank you.

Workers disperse and the town is calm. It is known that the management has announced that all workers should go back to work or they are to be dismissed (signed off). Black workers have no right to strike and many are already fired.

One day while selling her coffee, Zodwa meets Roben. Roben wants to buy coffee and two buns. Zodwa remembers the man and calls him "the good uncle who saved my cart". Roben introduces himself so does Zodwa. From this day, Zodwa (Pinkie) and Roben (china) become friends. Zodwa promises free coffee any time Roben has no money for coffee.



The two strikes a friendship the next time they meet which transforms into love, though each is silent about it until China - the man - becomes jealous of Naidoo- another street trader. This jealousy resulting from an exchange of a ring (from Naidoo) for coffee (from Pinkie, the woman) almost becomes lethal. Regretting his deed, China promises not to repeat that; however, he stays from Pinkie's cart for the next three days, within which period the authorities comes to sack all black coffee traders for unsightly siting of carts. So China loses Pinkie forever, hoping that they might meet one day, and then they could exchange their life stories. At least that is what China thought.

The story has an urban setting where Pinkie sells her coffee in the city.

CHARACTER ANALYSIS

- a. **Zodwa:** She is resourceful as she sells coffee to support life. She is grateful as she appreciates China's help when he saves his cart.
- b. **Roben:** He is jealousy that he becomes angry when he learns that Zodwa has received a ring from Naidoo. He is helpful as he saves Pinkie's (Zodwa's) cart.

THEMES

1. Jealousy: China is jealousy of Naidoo and Pinkie as Pinkie receives a ring from Naidoo
 2. Hard work: the workers work hard to earn a living but they are exploited by their bosses.
 3. Friendship: there is a mutual between Pinkie and China although the two fail to speak of their loving each other.
 4. Exploitation: workers are given little money and once they complain they are fired from work.
 5. Hardship of town life: People in the city struggle to get food, e.g. Naidoo who gives Pinkie a ring in exchange for food.
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19, SNAPSHOT OF A WEDDING

By Bessie Head – *South Africa*



Snapshot of a wedding is a story set in a rural area in Botswana. It is a story of the wedding day of Kegoletile and Neo. They are marrying while Neo is six months pregnant. She got pregnant after her aunt warned her of losing Kegoletile because of her bad manners. At this time, Kegoletile has two wives, Neo and Mathata but he has chosen Neo because she is educated up to **O- level** and is working as a secretary. She doesn't know how to plough herself. Men are nowadays interested in marrying women that are educated and at a salaried job and Kegoletile isn't an exceptional.

Though Neo is getting married but the society knows her as a woman without manners. She is proud because she is educated and she never greets people. Mathata, on the other hand is quite different. She is the opposite of Neo.

Mathata is illiterate but she is beautiful and always smiling. She got pregnant of Kegoletile so did Neo. When the children were born, Kegoletile said that he would marry Neo. For that court ordered Kegoletile to pay maintenance of R10.00 per month to Mathata until the child is twenty years old. However, all the time Kegoletile is was preparing for his wedding; he frequently visited Mathata and brought her gifts like food, shoes, dresses and underwear. Mathata thanked Kegoletile for the gifts.

The women from the bridegroom come early in the morning to the bride's home, MmaKhudu. They are welcomed by women who ululate and dance. They bring with them an ox and some gifts. One woman describes the wedding as "modern" as no diphiri (traditional wedding breakfast) is cooked for the people as it has been the tradition.

Since Kegoletile doesn't go to church and doesn't care about the church, the ceremony is to take place at the police camp. It is a quick wedding because the woman is pregnant. At the same time, Neo's relatives wants her just marry. Everyone is worried of the girl's pride.

The bride's aunts sit at one corner of the compound. Women give them all sorts of food. These aunts have a very important task to do – to hand over the bride to the bridegroom's maternal aunts that are to come at sunset. Before the sun hides from the earth, the bridegroom's aunts arrive.

Kegoletile has provided food for the day's feast. After eating, Kegoletile's maternal aunt asks the bride's side if they have agreed to the wedding or they have any reservations. Neo's aunts agree to the marriage. Then Neo's maternal aunts advise the bride Kegoletile that he must work hard in the



farm to feed his wife (“... and supply us with corn each year” page 148). Kegoletile’s maternal aunts advise Neo to draw water for her husband always remember that Kegoletile is the owner of the house (head of the family) and has the right to go to other women and can come home at any time. They say Kegoletile is free to sleep around with other women (do not mind if he stops now and then and talks to other ladies) without her being jealous.

After the counselling ceremony, the women together with the bride and his groom start to Kegoletile’s compound for a second round feast. As they reach the compound, an old woman suddenly appears and chops the ground – it is only a formality. Another woman takes Neo to a smeared and decorated hut where Neo is made to sit on a Tswana animal skin. The woman wraps round a shawl and a kerchief around Neo’s shoulders and head respectively to symbolize that Neo is now a married woman.

Women dance and ululate. They come forward to greet the bride. Neo laughs at women who bump at each other’s buttocks while dancing.

Finally Neo’s aunt who warned her about bad manners appears and with her fist pounding the ground advises Neo to “Be a good wife!” – page 149.

The story has a rural geographical setting as people still believe in farming and traditional marriages. The mood is celebratory as people eat, dance and ululate.

CHARACTERS

- a. **Neo:** She is proud – she considers herself more important than others because she is educated. She is sensible – she hears the warning her aunt gives her about the possibility of losing her fiancé. She is seductive – she tries her best to persuade Kegoletile to marry her.
- b. **Neo’s aunt:** she is advisory – she advises Neo to consider her behaviour lest she loses Kegoletile to Mathata.
- c. **Kegoletile:** he is unsatisfied – he has two girlfriends. He is crooked – she fails to marry Mathata although she has his child. She is materialistic – he marries Neo because she is educated and employed only to have money from her salary. He is responsible – he buys gifts to Mathata although he is not married to her. He is forgiving – he goes to Mathata and buys her clothes



despite the fact that Mathata took him to court and he is paying maintenance of R10.00 per month to Mathata.

- d. **Mathata:** she is good mannered – she is admired for her good behaviour. She is unlucky – Kegoletile impregnates her and dumps her.

THEMES

1. **Moral decay:** women allow sleeping with a man before marriage. Mathata is impregnated by Kegoletile.
 2. Misinterpretations of privileges
 3. **Traditional wedding:** Kegoletile follows traditional marriage when marrying Neo.
 4. **Infidelity:** Kegoletile is having affairs with two women and abandons Mathata after impregnating her.
 5. **Wrong choices:** Kegoletile is having difficulties choosing a better wife as he looks for money and not manners.
 6. **Haste:** Mathata and Kegoletile hurried to have sex before they get married.
 7. **Pride:** Neo is rude because she is educated and goes to work. She is proud that she is educated.
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20, REFLECTION IN A CELL

By Mafika Gwala – *South Africa*

The narrator, Mike is in prison after he attempted to buy gun from a certain woman illegally. He was with his friend, Dougie.

Mike's life has been all miserable. He was first sent to Mrs. Lane at Eshowe for juvenile delinquency. Later, he was also sent to a reformatory for refusing to go to school. He thought it was not a crime as he used to go to cinema to watch Fu-Manchu episode. Soon after his release from the reformatory, he stole his father's money (ten bob). He fought with his father and he ended up the next day retained and abused at May Ville police station. A police officer advised Mr. Zondi, Mike's father to send Mike to reformatory. It was at the reformatory where Mike first met Joey, a guy who escaped from the centre.



Later, Mike was released from the reformatory. Mr. Kwa-Mashu took Mike home. Mike found his parents separated. His father called him all sorts of names that he lived a dull life (the father called him a thief and a black sheep of the family). He was only comfortable when his brother came home from the university. Mike one day visited the bar and fell in love with a bar girl. Other men were jealous of him after the girl had just refused their beer. However, as he waited the girl at the gate so that they go and had an affair, Mike was provoked by some Tsotsi (young men with bad manners in South Africa) and he hit one of them. He ended up serving a six month jail term. He liked the prison as prisoners were friendly unlike at the reformatory. It is here where he met Dougie for the first time. Likewise Mike, Dougie left school at JC only that Dougie was a genius and good at Mathematics and engineering. Unfortunately, Dougie hate school and called all people who were educated 'bastards' including his brother who is a doctor.

After their release from prison, Mike and Dougie used to do gamble with other people. Later they planned to have a gun which they should use when stealing. They approached a certain woman but at the end the plan was discovered by the police. Dougie was arrested first. Then the following day, police came to Mike's home. His grandmother told him of that. Just after a day, Mike was arrested by the police and taken to police station for interrogation. He wanted to see Dougie's confession before he spoke. The officers abused in many ways to compel him to confess but he kept silent. That was yesterday. Today he is in the dark cell. Police have told him that they are keeping him until he confesses and allow them to have his statement.

In short, a serial offender, a juvenile delinquent who cut deals was arrested when he attempted to purchase a gun. He was bent on not divulging any information to the authorities. There was use of the prisoner's dilemma here. It captures the realities of most youth where rebelling against family and society, they end up with crime and jail term.

The story has a first person point of view from the protagonist, Mike. The setting of the story is urban since the narrator uses to go to clubs and shebeen.

CHARACTER ANALYSIS



Mike (narrator): He is disobedient – He doesn't listens to his parents and grandmother. He is crooked and stubborn as he doesn't learn from his first stay in prison and at the reformatory. He is regretful that he wishes he is released from the cell he is.

THEMES

Effects of bad company: Mike ends in prison for his company with Dougie as they tried to buy guns.

Consequences of disobeying parents: Mike is always in prison because he failed to go to school. His parents wanted him to stay in school but he disobeyed.

Hard life in prison: Mike is beaten and stays in darkness in prison

