

**Weep Not, Child** by Ngugi Wa Thiong'o**1**

- 1 (a) Njoroge's mother. (b) He gasped, but said nothing.
- 2 Because his family was poor.
- 3 'The thought of going to school was like a bright light in Njoroge's mind.'
- 4 (a) He was Njoroge's brother. (b) Kamau was being trained as a carpenter, which was a useful trade.
- 5 He thought he would get rich.
- 6 Ngotho was the father of Njoroge and Kamau. He had two wives, Njeri and Nyokabi.
- 7 Mwangi. He had been killed in the Second Big War.
- 8 (a) The first man and woman. (b) The white man.
- 9 Nothing.
- 10 (a) He was Ngotho's eldest son. (b) He had fought for the white man. (c) He thought Ngotho was wrong to work for a man who had taken the family's land. (d) 'To hell with waiting.'

**2**

- 1 (a) Jacobo. (b) The land on which Njoroge's family lived. (c) He grew pyrethrum as a cash crop and sold it in the market.
- 2 She did not want him to be friends with a rich man's daughter.
- 3 She thought that if Njoroge got a white man's education, perhaps her husband could stop working for Mr Howlands.
- 4 Because he did not have his school clothes on. He was dressed in his old piece of calico.
- 5 Because he had land.
- 6 Because he treated Kamau like a servant, and he did not let him do the work of a carpenter. Kamau had to learn just by watching.
- 7 He meant that a black man who tried to be like a white man could be worse than a real white man.

**3**

- 1 (a) 'How can you work for a man who has taken our land? How can you go on being his servant?' (b) Had the black men waited too long for their land to be returned to them? Was it wrong to wait at all? Was waiting the coward's way?
- 2 (a) His farm. (b) She was a bad-tempered woman. (c) Because Mr Howlands refused to send him away.
- 3 He was tall and heavily built, with a big stomach. His oval-shaped face ended in a double chin.
- 4 (a) 'I don't know who will look after it when I am gone.' (b) He thought that Mr Howlands meant that he was going back to England. (c) When he said 'when I am gone', what he meant was 'when I am dead'. (d) He did not understand that the white men saw his country as their home.
- 5 Because his son had been killed in the white man's war. And Ngotho's own son, Mwangi, had been killed fighting for the white man.

**4**

- 1 Jomo Kenyatta. Perhaps it means that education is like a light because educated people can see what is in front of them, they can see their way forward.
- 2 He believed that owning land was more important.
- 3 He believed in his heart that he was looking after the land that would one day belong to his family.

- 4 They had left home because there was no work for them there. They had gone to Nairobi.
- 5 He was angry because Ngotho worked for another man. He hated the white man because he blamed the British for the death of Mwangi.
- 6 He was not sure if the strike would help the black people.
- 7 They hoped they would get their land back.
- 8 In the Bible, Moses led his people to the land God had given them. The black people hoped that Kenyatta would do the same.
- 9 In England.

**5**

- 1 (a) Because they had made many mistakes in speaking English. (b) Mr Howlands. (c) Because he knew that Mr Howlands thought that white people were better than black people. And he knew that missionaries thought black people were as good as white people.
- 2 He thought that Kamau would change, like Boro and Kori had changed.
- 3 He saw that the young men who worked in Kippanga were bored and sad. He wanted a different future.
- 4 His education and his belief in God.
- 5 He could not think of the right words.

**6**

- 1 They did not laugh and joke as young men usually did.
- 2 The Children of Israel. Jomo Kenyatta.
- 3 All the black men who worked for white men or the government.
- 4 More money.
- 5 The money and happiness that they would all have after the strike.
- 6 Mr Howlands said that anyone who went on strike would lose his job.
- 7 He thought that the strike might fail. Then he would lose his job, and the land would never be his.
- 8 Nyokabi did not want Ngotho to go on strike. She thought the strike might fail. Ngotho said he would not take orders from a woman.
- 9 (a) 'Oh, God, do you think the strike will be a success?' (b) There was no answer.

**7**

- 1 (a) They had passed their exams. (b) She was not interested. She behaved coldly. (c) Because his mother was crying.
- 2 *Student's own answer, mentioning the following:* Speakers had come from Nairobi, including a young man Boro had brought to the village. The meeting was surrounded by policemen with heavy sticks. The young man said that the strike must be peaceful. He said that if people were hit, they should not hit back. Then Jacobo spoke. He spoke for the white men. He told the strikers to go back to work. Ngotho was very angry with Jacobo. He went forward and stood facing him. Then he turned and cried 'Arise!' The people rushed towards Jacobo, but the police attacked them with guns and tear-gas. A policeman hit Ngotho, and he fell unconscious.
- 3 He had been told to leave Jacobo's land.
- 4 It failed.
- 5 Nganga, the carpenter.

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- 6 She was sent to a boarding-school, far away.
- 7 Kamau's wages were raised, and he gave the money to Njoroge. Kori gave him the rest of the money for his school fees.

**8**

- 1 He was the leader of the African Freedom Army. The stories said that he was able to turn himself into any shape. The stories could not be true.
- 2 Ngotho had no job. Jacobo had been made a chief.
- 3 It meant walking five miles to school and five miles back every day.
- 4 The police put Kori and other young men in a truck, to take them to be killed. When the truck slowed down, Kori jumped out and escaped into the forest. Then he got a lift in a lorry.
- 5 He thought that everyone would be let out of prison.
- 6 He said that Ngotho's attack on Jacobo had spoilt everything.
- 7 He refused to take the Mau Mau oath from Boro. A man could not take oath from his son, because it was against all custom and tradition.
- 8 He had been tried under the white man's laws.
- 9 Because everyone in Kenya was now afraid. She did not know who might hear what Boro said.

**9**

- 1 To protect his land from Mau Mau.
- 2 He thought he was a savage, like the other blacks.
- 3 He told him to arrest Ngotho's sons for breaking curfew, or for anything. He told him to put them in a camp.
- 4 Because Ngotho had led the attack on him at the strike meeting.
- 5 Njeri and Kori went out of Nyokabi's hut to go to their own hut. It was after curfew. A terrible shout rang out: 'Halt!' Njeri and Kori were taken away.
- 6 Because he had watched his wife and son being taken away and he had done nothing. He blamed himself for being a coward.
- 7 Kori was sent, without trial, to a detention camp.
- 8 Because Mau Mau had threatened to kill forty boys if his school was not closed.
- 9 He bought clothes and food. He paid Njoroge's school fees and he paid for his circumcision.

**10**

- 1 Because their fathers were enemies. He remembered her soft hands and her clear eyes. And he longed to see her so he could speak to her.
- 2 It was Nganga's body. Five other people were killed. Njoroge did not know who had killed them. He did not know whether white men or Mau Mau had killed them.
- 3 Because she said, 'I'm so lonely here.'
- 4 Because Mwhiki looked sad when he started to refuse.
- 5 He looked tired and his face was older.
- 6 She suggested that they should go away and come back when the dark night was over. Njoroge said they could not leave their parents.

**11**

- 1 The blacks were destroying each other.
- 2 (a) Stop – or we will have your head. This is our last

warning. (b) Three. (c) He said, 'They must be. A few months ago, his youngest son was at my house – with my daughter.' But he really said that the messages were from Ngotho because he hated him.

- 3 He did not really believe he was fighting for Freedom. He was only interested in killing.
- 4 *Student's own answer. It could include the following information:* Mwhiki was sad when they met and she had no hope for the future. She said that there was fear in the air, but it was not fear of death, it was fear of living. Njoroge still had hope. He said, 'The sun will rise tomorrow.' When they parted Njoroge thanked Mwhiki for being like a sister to him.

**12**

- 1 (a) He thought that people were taught to fear each other. (b) He said that he was born in Kenya. Kenya was his home, not England. (c) Because he thought that Stephen had no home anywhere.
- 2 The homeguard post known as the House of Pain.
- 3 They thought he might have taken the Mau Mau oath.
- 4 They wanted to know where he was.
- 5 He tortured him. He pressed his sexual organs with pincers.
- 6 He had been murdered.
- 7 Jacobo had told Howlands that Njoroge had been to his house. Perhaps the police thought Njoroge went there to find out how to kill him.
- 8 His two mothers, Njeri and Nyokabi.
- 9 He felt that he had caused all the trouble by being Mwhiki's friend.

**13**

- 1 Because Kamau had been arrested for the murder. He did it to save his son.
- 2 Because Howlands was nearly mad with hate and he tortured Ngotho terribly.
- 3 Perhaps because he knew that he had not really killed Jacobo.
- 4 (a) He asked Ngotho to forgive him. (b) To stay with him. (c) 'I must go on fighting. I can't stay here.'
- 5 Boro came into Mr Howlands' office and pointed a gun at his head, told Howlands to put up his hands, and said that he was the person who had killed Jacobo. Boro said that Howlands had stolen his land, but Howlands said it was his land, not Boro's. Boro shot him.

**14**

- 1 Money was badly needed at home and he had to work.
- 2 Because he could not do the work properly, and his staring unhappy eyes frightened the children.
- 3 In Chapter Eleven, Njoroge has hope and Mwhiki has none. In this chapter, Njoroge has lost his hope and now it is Mwhiki who says, 'The sun will rise tomorrow.'
- 4 (a) To kill himself. (b) Nyokabi, his mother.
- 5 (a) He asked him to look after the women. (b) She asked him to wait for a new day.
- 6 *Student's own answer.*