

# UPPER LEVEL

## Weep Not, Child by Ngugi Wa Thiong'o

### A Before Reading

- 1 Look at the picture on the cover of the book. What can you see?
- 2 Here are four chapter titles and four pictures from the book. Which picture do you think is in each of these chapters?

Two Deaths    Kamau Talks to Njoroge    'There's no Safe Place'    Fear and Anger



### B While Reading

- 3 Njoroge is the main character in this book. He grows from being a child to being a young man. Keep a record of the important things that happen to Njoroge and to his country. And keep a record of how Njoroge feels and reacts to what happens.

Chapter or Page number	What happens?	How does Njoroge feel/react?

Chapter or Page number	What happens?	How does Njoroge feel/react?

4 Read to the end of Chapter 6. Here are some of the people in this story.

Boro      Ngotho      Mr Howlands      Kamau      Nyokabi

Choose three of these characters. Write three short speeches. Imagine you are each of these characters. Introduce yourself, say what you do and say what you think about what is happening in Kenya.

### C After Reading

- 5 Read pages 30 and 31 again. It is difficult for Njoroge and the other students to learn English. Write about one of your lessons. Or make up the story of an English lesson. Write about the lesson as if it is happening now. Your story can be funny or serious.
- 6 What happens next? What will Njoroge do? Write the next chapter of **Weep Not, Child**.
- 7 Make a tape recording of the speeches you wrote for question 4.
- 8 (a) Write two exciting newspaper articles about *The Strike* in Chapter 7. Tell the story from two different points of view. Write one article from the point of view of the black people, like Njoroge and his family. Write the other article from the point of view of the white people like Mr Howlands.  
or (b) Write an interesting magazine article about Kenya in the 1950s. Use the information from the *Note on the Historical Background to This Story* on pages 5 and 6. (Don't copy it!) And use the information from the story. Include interviews with some of the characters in the story – black people and white people.

*Mine Boy* by Peter Abrahams and *The Grapes of Wrath* by John Steinbeck  
are two more Readers at Upper Level.