

## Parts of content

.Theme: results of general and abstract thinking in literature, themes relate to meaning, interpretation, explanation and significance.

.literature: embodies values along with themes are vital to an understanding and appreciation of literature

.Themes: are not as obvious as character of setting

.it is important to consider the meaning of what you've read and then develop an explanatory and comprehensive assertion.

.message: is what the reader learns from a literally work

## Identifying Main Features of Different genres

Genres of literature include:

A Novel is a factious prose narrative of book length, typically representing characters and actions with some degree of realism

A play is a work of art which involves performance in a stage, and dialogue.

Poetry: is made up offigurative language, songs, symbolic language with emphasis on imagination, emotions, and heartfelt ideas written in stanza and verses. A Stanza is a single line in a poem.

## **Literature analysis**

Analyse the form in passed like a shadow

Author: BERNARD MAPALALA

SETTING: WESTERN PART OF UGANDA

PUBLISHER: DAR-ES-SALAAM UNIVERSITY PRESS (DUP)

YEAR : 2006

TITTLE: PASSED LIKE A SHADOW

This is a symbolic title that reflects the catastrophe that attacked the members of the two families, Adyeri's and David's family. They all passed away like a vanishing shadow, except only one member of Adyeri's family (Abooki) who survived the pandemic.

.PLOT: A chronological arrangement of events in a story. Example in this novel the first chapter of the novel introduces Atwoki and Abooki. In chapter six and seven we are introduced to Atwoki as a famous footballer. Adyeri was brought back home seriously sick, after a few days he passes away. Atwoki becomes a victim; he wishes to die in Kitagwenda. The plot of this book is straight-forward narration.

### **Characters and characterization**

. Adyeri: He was the father of Atwoki and Abooki. He was a hot-tempered man and an irresponsible father. He was a womanizer, he was trapped by Birungi and at the end he found himself a victim he passed away through great suffering. His family isolated him and found himself alone.

Amoti. A short woman and very talkative. She was Atwoki and Abooki's mother; she had a bad heart and could not forgive other people. A very responsible mother who fulfilled her duty of her family, she was not faithful in her marriage.

Atwoki: He was a talented footballer with expectations of becoming a superstar. He was a good lad and did not know the way of the world. When he went to Kampala he was disfigured or persuaded by David to start engaging in sexual affairs with girls. He was a kind boy and forgave easily unlike his mother. He becomes a victim of HIV/AIDS as a result of engaging with prostitutes like Edda

Abooki; she was kind and an introvert. She took care of her mother when she was seriously sick on bed. She was raped by John and lost her virginity. When she tested for HIV she had negative results. She was optimistic and a good adviser

Vicky: she was an orphan whose parents passed away long time ago. She tolerated mistreatment from her uncle and aunt but later on she ran away and got married to Aliganyira. She became a reputable prostitute as the result of peer pressure she was infected with HIV/AIDS and passed away.

Uncle Araali: He was a kind man who encouraged Atwoki to be a great footballer in future. He welcomed Abooki and Atwoki to live with them

Aliganyira: he was Vicky's husband, famous business man and a womanizer. He was superstitious due to his prostitution he infected his wife (Vicky) with HIV

Tusiime and Kunihira: they were Vicky's friends, prostitutes who earned their daily bread through selling their bodies, they convinced Vicky also

David : Atwoki's friend in kampala. He was the only son from a rich family. He was a university reject. he was a reputable and when atwoki visited him, he taught him to hunt women .he infected girls knowing that he was infected with HIV/AIDS. At the end his family perishes completely with HIV.

Birungi: she was Adyeri's secretary at St. Leo's High school. She trapped Adyer and cornered him. When he notices that Adyeri is bankrupt, she chased him away. At the end Birungi falls a victim of HIV/AIDS.

Jonathan: he was a counselor who used to encourage Abooki , in the end they fell in love.

## STYLE

Style is the technique used by the writer in writing his or her work. Style has to do with the ability of language by the writer example the use of figures of speech. Simple or complex language used by writer.

Hyperbole: example Abooki was in a nightmare. Dad gave him a classic slap. Amoti's eyes nearly popped out

Smile. Comparison of two objects which are unlike using 'as' or 'alike' example she walked towards him as a lioness (pg 3). He was as humble as a dove (pg 8)

Sayings: example life is not easy (pg 9). I have hit the jackpot Men are like buses (pg 6)

Personification. Example Amoti's eyes nearly popped out (pg8)

Idioms: example Amoti don't have a hard Heart (pg 28)

Imagination or imagery language is an art of author to create an image: example His eyes popped out of his face

Symbols: I regret to have married a pigSlim-HIV/AIDS

Analysis on the content in passed like a shadow

## THEMES

1.HIV/AIDS PANDEMIC: passed like a shadow is a symbolic representation of how the diseases kills many people suddenly. The following events and situations reveal the existences, causes and impacts of the disease in the society. For example in the novel , Tusiime, Kunihira and university students like david and grownups like Adyeri's family perish as they contract

HIV/AIDS. That shows all youths are sexually responsible. They stand a high chance of being infected by AIDS.

2. **POVERTY:** In the novel 'passed like a shadow' poverty is general situation of inability to get basic needs. It acts as another catalyst in the spread of HIV/AIDS. Due to this situation, some people especially girls look for men who are well off economically so that they may survive. Example Kunuhira, Tusiime and some university girls use this way as an alternative to get money. For example when Kunuhira told Vicky 'look how poor your dress is, you must be the most poorly dressed girl in fort portal.....' this shows the level of poverty affects the individuals so that lead people to get HIV/AIDS.

3. **FAMILY INSTABILITY:** the stability of a family brings peace, love, prospect and success but when there is uncertainty the family loses direction and stand at risk of breaking up. For example conflicts between parents or children or both of them, even drunkardness, irresponsibility, marriage, unfaithfulness, leads to family conflicts example Adyeri's family breaks up due to having poor relationship with his children and wife. He ends up dying with HIV/AIDS and his family fell apart.

4. **IRRESPONSIBILITY:** IS the habit of not caring or thinking carefully about something. In this novel there are many events as we can see Adyeri was a drunkard and unfaithful to his wife. That led him to have no time to care his family as the result his children received poor parental care.

5. **MARRIAGE SYSTEM:** Most couples are not faithful to each other as in 'passed like a shadow' Adyeri had many concubines, one of them being Birungi. Since he was unfaithful in marriage, he ended up bringing HIV/AIDS to his wife, Amoti, also Aliganyira was not faithful and hence acquired the disease and infected his wife (vicky)

6. **CONFLICT:** There was a conflict in Adyeris family , also Adyeri was a cruel father , his children hated him, Amoti was not in a good terms with Vicky and she caused her to run away from home, also had a conflict with his ex-concubine Birungi.

7. **SUPERSTITION:** Amoti believed that her husband has been bewitched by Birungi his concubine. The drunk man who used to drink together with Adyeri believed that Adyeri's death was due to slim. They had very little knowledge about the disease; hence there was a belief among people that the disease was based on witchcraft..

8. **POSITION OF A WOMAN:** This refers to the place in which woman is put in relation to men in a given society. In this novel, a woman is regarded as a tool for sexual pleasure by men. This was shown through Adyeri, David and his father, Atwoki who had many sexual partners for pleasure, for example, David told Atwoki "these were not created for nothing..... if you can't enjoy girls, then I wonder what else can you enjoy in this world" they had careless behavior that

they all perish of HIV/AIDS. Women are treated as source of money to men, Adyeri demanded big bride price from Akenain order to marry her. Tusiime and Kunihira used their bodies to run commercial sex to men. Men bought them as commodities. Tusiime tells Vicky “as for me I will sleep with any man to make money, life is not easy. Beauty can make your life different. Put your love for sale. Also it was abominable for woman to ride bicycle in this community as was termed to be sign of prostitution

NOVEL

UNANSWERED CRIES

AUTHOR: OSMAN CONTEH

SETTING: FREETOWN, SIERRA LEONE

PUBLISHER: MACMILLAN

YEAR:2002

CHARACTER AND CHARACTERIZATIONS

1.OLABISI: The main character in the novel. She fought in opposition of circumcision. At the end she won the case and was not circumcised.

2. MAKALAY: Olabisi’s mother, she was educated yet she remained to be superstitious, she believed in women’s circumcision to her a clean and real woman is the one who is circumcised. The gorka (uncircumcised girl) was despised and isolated by the society.

3.ADE JONES: Olabisi’s father,, he lives in Freetown with another women (OYAH). He is fond of chasing skirts, he opposed her daughter to be circumcised and let the issue be settled in the court of law

4.OYAH: Ade’s girlfriend in town. She was a lawyer by profession; she is a good woman since she loved olabisi like her own daughter. She won the case as Ade’s lawyer though on the other hand they were in love relation

5. DAUDA: Makalay’s second husband. He was wise sincehe did not support his wife on the issue of circumcising olabisi.

6. EDDY: Olabisi’s boyfriend. He left the rat out of the sack about his relationship with olabisi hence betrayed his girlfriend

7. RUGIATU AND SALAY: Daughters of Yah Posseh. They were badly beaten by Olabisi at the well and later at the forest. They, like their mother, believe that clean and real woman is the one who is circumcised.

8: AMADU: The hunter who collided with Olabisi in the forest. He believes in superstitions since he ties a big amulet on his hand. He betrayed Makalay since he let the girl go after being given money enough to buy two goats by Olabisi

9. SALAAM SESSAY: Makalay's lawyer, he pleaded the case on the side of Mkalay but at the end they lost the case regardless of his knowledge in law, he supported the bondo secret group on women's circumcision

10. DR.ASIATU: A gynecologist who explained the disadvantages of women circumcision in the court.

## THEMES

**CONFLICT:** This is misunderstanding occurred between the following: OLABISI versus RUGIATU and SALAY, the conflict occurred at the forest when Olabisi asked them if they are circumcised or not, so they started fight when Olabisi called then gorka . they also felt jealous as Olabisi came from town; ADES HONES versus MAKALAY: the conflicts between them occurred as the result of lack of faithfulness in marriage result to marriage broke down and the act of Ades prohibiting her daughter to be circumcised increased the conflict between them. MAKALAY versus OYAH; every one considered that she had the right to be Ades wife , due to jealous on love resulted to misunderstanding . MKALAY versus HER DAUGHTER; the conflict was due to Makalays demand of circumcising Olabisi without her will. Olabisi did not support her as she realized the effect of women circumcision.

**BETRAYAL:** Makalay betrayed her only daughter (Olabisi) when she conspired with bondo secret group to circumcise her. Mkalay says "whatever the spirit says I will do". The betrayal of Olabisi's father when he decides to marry a lawyer and leave her wife suffering in the village. Also Mkalay betrayed her husband when she got a man to live with (DAUDA).

**JEALOUS:** Makalay felt jealous since her ex-husband fell in love with another woman Rugiatsu and Salay felt jealous since Olabisi was from the city and shows that she had confidence and self awareness.

**SELF AWARENESS:** Olabisi is aware that women circumcision is dangerous to women during child birth. Doctor Asiatsu was aware of the problems caused by genital mutilation. Ade was aware that circumcision of women did more harm than good.

**PROSTITUTION:** This issue of prostitution is portrayed by the writer of this novel. The writer reveals through the main character Olabisi who started engaging in love at the age of fourteen years old. Makalay got pregnancy and hence this proved the failure of circumcision to reduce sexual desire. Also Ade Jones was notable skirt chaser. He did not control his sexual desire and ended up making love with other women who came close to him

**PHYSICAL FITNESS:** Olabisi was trained by her boyfriend to defend herself. She used her body to defend Rugiatu, Salay and other people. The author shows how people can use their bodies to defend themselves

**AFRICAN CULTURE:** The writer portrayed the customs and traditions of Temne people, the tribe found in Sierra Leone. According to Temne tradition and beliefs, all women have to be circumcised to reduce sexual desire and become faithful to their husbands. So in their tribe, woman who is not circumcised is called borka. People believe in magic and outdated customs and traditions.

**POSITION OF WOMEN IN THE SOCIETY:** The writer portrays a woman as weak creature; women are circumcised without their will in order to reduce their sexual desire. Also in this novel women are portrayed as refreshment tools to men; Ade made love with different types of women before he got married to Oyah.

#### **THE ROLE OF COERCIVE ORGANS IN DECISION MAKING**

The court can be used by people to get their rights. The dispute between Ade and Makalay was settled in court. Judge Lansana Kanuru led the judgment that Olabisi could not be forced to be circumcised without her own consent since she was grown up. The bondo secret group was defeated before the court.

#### **LANGUAGE USED IN THE NOVEL**

The author uses simple English easy to understand since it is straight forward

#### **MESSAGE FROM THE NOVEL**

The author shows good message to the society that women circumcision is not good since it brings a big effect to our health such as getting problems during birth, and lead transmission of disease such as HIV/AIDS, and most of women lose much blood and that lead to their death. So people need education about circumcision and stop ignorance.

#### **RELEVANCE OF THE NOVEL IN THE SOCIETY**

There are many people who practice circumcision. Most of Africans believe in superstition. As in the novel, the Temne people in Sierra Leone engaged in women circumcision. Other societies who still practice are the Maasai, Kikuyu, Luo and Kurya

