

LIRA TOWN COLLEGE

P.O. BOX 125, LIRA

S.1 ENGLISH PASSAGE

READ THE FOLLOWING PASSAGE. IT COMES FROM AN ADVENTURE STORY BY CYPRIAN EKWENSI, A NIGERIA WRITER

Suddenly, there was a violent jerk. Samankwe sat up. Uncle Silas clutched his case nervously. 'I wonder why the bus has stopped'. They could still see the early street lights in the town. Two well-dressed young men stood on the highway beside their travelling bags. When the bus stopped so suddenly near them they said 'Agbor'.

A number of touts and hangers – on immediately rushed towards the bus as they always do at waiting points along the highway.

Suddenly the luggage compartment of the bus flew open. Samankwe clearly saw one young man snatch a suitcase and run zigzag into the gathering darkness.

'Thief !..... Thief!' cried all the passengers but the raider did not stop.

Samankwe started in total shock. He held his suitcase tighter. The passengers leapt out of the bus. The man in a silk **Jumper** held his head in his hands and cried, I warned you! It's a plan!

He chased after the thief but soon came back. Some warned him that if he went further the gang might **ambush** him and stab him to death.

'conductor, I must take you to the police station. That's all!

'The police station is not far from here,' the other passengers explained .

'What did I say when I entered the bus? I said "Take care of my suitcase."

'Who's to blame?' asked the conductor.

There was no trace of the men who had stopped the mini-bus. In spite of protest from the other passengers. The mini bus drove to the Police Station and a report was made. The police took down statements from some passengers. The driver was allowed to leave but was instructed to report to the station on his return. The owner of the suitcase removed his other property from the bus and remained behind at the Police Station with the conductor.

Looking back on the incident, Samankwe shook his head. It appeared they were having their first taste of trouble ahead.

As the bus set out again on the Niger Bridge, the passengers could not help talking about what had happened.

A man said, those robbers are terribly bold. They work in gangs. Those who stopped the bus are gang members. Those who shouted "Thief! Thief! Are gang members. The conductor -----

'Yes, that conductor,' said another. How did he know there was money in the suitcase? The woman seated in front said. 'Robbers should be hanged, not shot. Shooting is too gentle for them.

C: After reading

- Discuss in pairs what the main incident in the story is. Mention some things in the passage that make this seem like a dangerous journey.
- Now read the passage again carefully before answering the questions that follow, to test your understanding.

EXERCISE 6 (WRITTEN WORK)

Choose the right answer to each statement below, only one of the four answers given is correct.

1. The bus stopped.
 - A. At Agbor.
 - B. At an unexpected place.
 - C. Because it had had a puncture.
 - D. Because the passengers told the driver to stop.
2. The luggage compartment 'flew open' because
 - A. It had not been locked properly.
 - B. A thief had opened it from outside.
 - C. It had not been locked and the bus had stopped suddenly.
 - D. The conductor had forced it from inside.
3. The man in the silk jumper who ran after the thief.
 - A. Was a policeman.
 - B. Was the owner of the suitcase
 - C. Knew who the thief was.
 - D. Was one of the gang
4. The two men who stopped the bus
 - A. Wanted to travel to the next town.
 - B. Were friends of the driver
 - C. Had planned the robbery alone.
 - D. Were probably parts of a gang of robbers

EXERCISE 7 (WRITTEN WORK)

- ANSWER THE FOLLOWING QUESTIONS

1. Why do you think the bus stopped with a jerk?
2. Why did the two well- dressed young men say 'Agbor'?
3. Why did the thief run in a zigzag way?
4. How did Samankwe feel when he saw what happen?
5. What did the man in a silk jumper mean by saying it's a plan'?
6. Who did the passengers suspect most about the 'plan'?
7. How did the conductor behave? What do you think of his behavior?
8. Why do you think the driver was instructed to report the police station again after his return from the journey?
9. Why Do you think the woman who sat in front said that hanging robbers was better than shooting them

READ THE FOLLOWING PASSAGE. IT COMES FROM THE BOOK CHILD OF THE KARIMOJONG BY MARGARET IIUKOL

During the first eight or nine years of my childhood, which I spent **wandering** with my family in Karamoja, I never knew about God. In our language, we had a name for God (Akuj), which I thought was just the blue sky above. We had never **celebrated** Christmases while I was in Mulago. Here, every Christmas, I received many presents from nursing staff, doctors, and the people from the community who had read about me in **newspapers**. I took the presents without knowing what they were for.

Whenever Christmas was near, most of those who lived in the Salvation Army Hostel, which was across from Mulago, came marching to the hospital, singing, shaking their **tambourines** merrily and wishing the staff as well as the sick a merry Christmas. Some of us were too sick to care what Christmas was going to be for us, or to be in high spirits, or even to care what the next twelve months would be like.

Early on Christmas day, or a few days before, a man called Father Christmas came along carrying a large bag of presents on his back. The bag always appeared **heavy** because he walked with his body bent forward. While other children ran happily to meet him, the first time I saw him I dived under my bed in great fear. His red clothes and long white beard **frightened** me.

As the Christmas season came and went, and I learnt a bit more about it each time, I began to understand its meaning from a **spiritual** point of view and its **spirit** of sharing. I found myself looking forward to it each year. This was the time a few special friends I made, like Mrs. Musoke (my godmother) and her family, came and took me to their homes for a few hours or days, depending on my state of health.

In Dodoth, my home county in northern Karamoja, the visiting missionaries, both from the Church of England and the Roman Catholic White Fathers, Spread the word of God. They probably explained the meaning of Christmas mostly around the trading centres and villages. They used Moroto (the main town of Karamoja) as their base.

A KARIMOJONG SCENE

At that time, probably with great difficulty, most of the children of the local shop – keepers were encouraged to attend Sunday Schools and the local primary schools, which were poorly equipped and built of sticks and mud. They learnt a few letters of the alphabet and heard stories about God. Those who showed interest, as long as their parents let them go, went to missionary boarding schools near Moroto.

The missionaries did not reach our remote **nomadic** living areas far out in the heart of the **jungle**, where there were no roads. Our parents and other grown-ups made a few trips to the towns to shop for a few **necessities** or to take cattle to the local markets when food was **scarce**. But they were not there long enough to listen to the visiting white men and women. They never went near these missionaries, believing that they brought more harm than good in trying to change the community's way of living.

EXERCISE

Choose the right answer to each question or statement below; only one of the four answers given is correct.

1. Where was the writer during the first eight years of her life?
 - A. She was in a missionary boarding school.
 - B. She was living in various places with her family in Karamoja.
 - C. She was living with friends near Mulago.
 - D. She was living with friends of her family in Karamoja.
2. Before she came to Mulago
 - A. She never knew about Christmas.
 - B. She probably had an idea about Christmas but had not understood its meaning.
 - C. She and her family had celebrated Christmas.
 - D. She had heard about Father Christmas in Moroto but not seen him.
3. Whenever it was Christmas time at Mulago
 - A. She hid under a bed.
 - B. She received visitors from Karamoja.
 - C. She pretended to be too sick to celebrate.
 - D. She received many presents.
4. In her home county in Karamoja.
 - A. The missionaries preached about God.
 - B. The family encouraged her to attend Sunday school.
 - C. The missionaries explained about Christmas and gave gifts.
 - D. Her family often met the missionaries preaching.

EXERCISE 6: (ORAL AND WRITTEN WORK)

1. Why do you think the writer never knew about God' up to the age of nine years? What was her idea about God at that time?
2. Why do you think she was in Mulago?
3. What made her dive under the bed? Why?
4. What made the writer understand the meaning of Christmas while she was in Mulago?
5. How did people show her the spirit of Christmas?
6. What kind of family did the writer come from? What did they do for a living?
7. Why didn't the missionaries reach the writer's part of Karamoja?
8. Did her parents learn anything from the visiting missionaries? Give reasons for your answer.
9. Why do you think parents and other grown-ups in her part of Karamoja believed that the Missionaries 'brought more harm than good'?
10. What 'harm' do you think they thought would be brought? What 'good' did the missionaries bring?