

LIRA TOWN COLLEGE

S.4 ENGLISH PASSAGE, ENGLISH IN USE STUDENT'S BOOK 4, NJH GRANT AND C.R. WANGOMBE

JOURNEY THROUGH THE FOREST

On the morning of the journey, Kaiga was careful to note who the first person to knock on his door was. People from certain clans bring bad luck. These people are well-known. If one of them knocks, you have to cancel the whole journey.

The first person to knock was Wakonyo, this new girl who was employed just the other day to wash clothes and scrub the floor. She is a girl, she is not yet married, and she is bound to be a good omen.....

Kaiga and Karanja were away early in the morning. People were still asleep, but the milk boys were already at their job. There was a lot of dew on the grass and the cold air made the ears hard and painful.

Travellers can walk fairly fast in the morning, but by noon the thigh muscles get tired. The soil on the path is hot and the sandals sink into it. Then you know it is time to take a rest. It is time to eat the bananas and drink the sour milk.

Inside the Nyandarua forest, it is dark during the day and the night. You do not know the time until you come out of the forest on the other side. The paths are very narrow. They wind themselves between huge trees, into great big gullies and out again into more trees. The falling leaves have formed a carpet on the ground. Sometimes a little light filters through and this gives rise to some very weird shapes among the thick trees. You see what looks like a buffalo but it turns out to be a tree- stump. You see an object moving in the distance but then you decide that it is not moving at all. But when Kaiga saw white spots across the path, he began wondering.

"Karanja, do you see those white spots?"

"Which ones?"

"Those ones near the big podo tree?"

"Yes, now I see them. They look like black and white spots spread out across the path."

"Do you see the head?"

"Which head? Where is it?"

"On one end of the black and white spots."

"Yes. It is the head. It is the head of something."

"Do you see the tail?"

"Which tail? Where is it?"

"Opposite the head?."

"Yes. Now I see the tail. It is the tail of something."

"Karanja, what does a head and a tail and lots of black spots in between add up to?"

"A leopard. We are finished!"

"Yes, we are. If we go into a hole, the leopard will find us there. If we run, it will run after us. If we climb a tree, it will also do the same."

"And if we sit down?"

"Just calm down, Karanja. The most important thing with a leopard is not to sit down but to be careful not to step on its tail. We won't sit down, we will keep going. We must go slowly pass it."

"Kaiga, you mean we must pass it on the head side?"

"Yes. That is what I mean."

"Then you go in front."

"No, if we change places the leopard will get frightened and jump on us. Keep going, karanja."

"I think we had better go back, Kaiga. That girl Wakonyo is not a girl of good luck."

Well, maybe. But you cannot blame Wakonyo for this. It is the light that is to blame. Without the light there would be no optical illusions. And this was one of them.

PART 1

1. Explain why Kaiga wanted to know who was the first person to knock on his door?
2. Look at paragraphs 3 and 4. In what two ways did Karanja and Kaiga feel different at noon from the way they felt early in the morning? (In the morning, they felt; at noon...)
3. Why does one not know the time of day when one is in the Nyandarua forest?
4. What did Kaiga see in the forest?

| | |
|--------------------|--------------------------|
| A. a buffalo. | C. a leopard. |
| B. a tree – stump. | D. a trick of the light. |
5. Who do you think was the more cowardly Karanja or Kaiga? Give reasons for your answer.

PART 2: VOCABULARY AND USAGE

1. Explain the following
bound to be (l.12)
a good omen (1.12)
gullies (l.32)
humid (l.34)
filters (l.36)
weird (l.37)
optical illusions (1.89)
2. Look at the other sentence beginning "Travellers can walk...."(Line 22 – 22) Re-write it without using can. Begin: It.....
3. Look at the other three sentences in the same paragraph. Join them into one sentence, beginning : When.....
4. Look at the first two sentences at the beginning of paragraph 5. Re-write them as one sentence, beginning: Inside the Nyandarua forest, it is so....
5. "I Think we had better go back, Kaiga." (Line 83) (Re-write this, beginning: I think it)

PART 3 DISCUSSION

1. "People from different clans bring bad luck..... "What do you think of this?
2. How would you like to go for a long walk through the forest? Have you ever doe so? Describe what it was like?.
3. Have you ever encountered a leopard, or some other wild animal? Describe what happened.
4. Was this passage intended to amuse the reader, or frighten him? What is your opinion of (a) the passage (b) the two men?

FROM 'THE MONEY – ORDER'

The letter-writer translated into Wolof as he read. A beggar with watery eyes came up, led by a child,
5 repeating all the time, “Ngir Yallah, by the grace of God”.

The letter – writer handed the letter back and said: “Fifty francs.”

10 Dieng hunted. He had only ten francs left. His fare, along with Gorgui Maissa’s, had reduced what money he had by forty francs.

“I’ll cash my money-order and come back and pay you”.

15 “What do you think I live on?” asked the letter – writer. He eyed his customer with suspicion.

Dieng held out the advice – note for him to see.

20 “All right, I’ll wait,” he said convinced.

The fat woman had left, muttering about wasting her time, even though she had got what she
25 had come for. Dieng went up to the window. The post- office clerk extracted a slip and compared it with the advice – note.

“Ibrahim Dieng, your identity card.”

30 “Man, I haven’t got an identity card. I have my tax receipt and my voter’s card”.

“Is there a photo?

“No No.”

35 “Give me something with a photo on it. Driving license, military service certificate”

“I have nothing like that.”

“Well, go and get an identity card, then”

40 “Where from?

All that could be seen above the window was an oval black ball, out of all proportion with the
45 tubercular shoulders upon which it rested. At the question “Where from?”, the clerk looked up at Dieng. It was a closed face. From the neck upwards, it was all severity. Dieng was cowed.

50 “I’ve got an identity card,” intervened Gorgui Maissa, stretching his arm out with his card held between thumb and index finger, and looking at the clerk.

“Is the money – order in your name?”

55 Gorgui Maissa did not reply. He held his arm, out for a few seconds, and then withdrew it.

“Get away from here,” thundered the clerk.

60 “Ibrahim Dieng, are you going to give me your identity card or not?”

“Man, I have no card, “Dieng replied in a quavering voice.

“Go and get one”

“Where from?”

65 They looked at each other. Dieng though he saw a look of contempt appear in the civil servant’s eyes. He suffered. He came out in a cold sweat of humiliation. He felt as if a painful bite had been taken out of his flesh. He said nothing. There came into his mind the saying that circulated among all the ordinary people of Dakar: “Never upset a civil servant. He has great power.”

75 “Go and ask the police in your quarter,” advised – note. “The money –order will remain here for two weeks

PART 1

1. Explain clearly exactly why the clerk would no cash Dieng’s Money- order.
2. In complete sentences, explain the meaning of the following words as they are used in this extract:
 - (a) Out of all proportion with (l.42) (Begin: “This phrase indicates that the clerk’s head was....”)
 - (b) *closed* (l.46) (Begin: “The word ‘closed’ here means that the....”)
 - (c) *quavering* (l.62)
 - (d) *humiliation* (l.69)
3. Explain why Gorgui’s attempt to help Dieng was useless.
4. From this passage we can infer that
 - A. Dieng was trying to get money by tricking the clerk
 - B. The clerk was deliberately trying to cheat Dieng.
 - C. The clerk was taking routine precautions.

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A high speed tree for Africa?

For most people in the world, energy does not mean coal or oil, but firewood. In the tropics and sub-tropics, half that available timber has already been used up. An average user in Africa burns as much as one tone of firewood a year.

Every day, the peasant must go a little further away from the village to find firewood. Everyday, the charcoal burner charges a little more. Every day, more forests are felled and soil erosion grows worse. The trees simply cannot grow fast enough to meet the villagers' demands.

A remarkable species called *Leucaena* may provide the answer. *Leucaena* matures in less than eight years, burns well, and needs little attention. It has the drawbacks. The long tap root digs deep, allowing the tree to survive periods of drought. After felling, the peasant need not worry about replanting: new shoots sprout rapidly from the old stump.

In the Philippines, growing *Leucaena* for firewood is well-established. In one mountainous area, *Leucaena* trees have been harvested continuously for 60 years without depletion. And three large companies, attracted by its remarkably short harvesting cycle of three to ten years, have planted thousands of hectares for commercial use. Exp

The tale of a tap

A few weeks ago I woke in the morning as usual with a light heart and a foggy head and, as usual, sang out for my cup of tea.

⁵ My wife sang out equally cheerfully that sorry, this morning there was to be no tea because there was no water.

“What?” I said.

“There is no water anywhere,” she said. “Not in the whole town. According to the radio, the pipes have burst”

Determined to do something about the situation, I phoned the water department and after a lot¹⁵ of humming and hawing, I was told that the supply would be reconnected for half an hour at 10:00 am but that there would not be sufficient pressure to take the water up to us on the second floor.

²⁰ I looked at my watch. It was five minutes to ten! There was a tap in the yard. “Quickly,” I told my wife, “bring out all the jerry cans and buckets we have got.”

She stood there staring at me with a hard look. "What jerry cans are you talking about? As for buckets, the only bucket we have has a hole in the bottom because you insist on playing the drums on
³⁰ it." So I dashed off to the hardware store to buy three large jerry cans and rushed home. It was already 10:15.

I made a beeline for the yard tap which has been left open and was now trickling precious
³⁵ water away. Out of the corner of my eyes I saw Third Floor bearing down like a berserk buffalo, eyes fixed on the tap and water containers banging about his kness.

⁴⁰ We are on a collision course but there was nothing we could do. We closed like a couple of old tankers and both of us went down in a tangle of arms and legs, our utensils going everywhere.

⁴⁵ By the time we had disentangled ourselves, sorted out our containers and tossed for first go at the tap, the stream of water had died down to a trickle. When we reached the tap, it gave an apologetic gurgle and a mocking hiss.

⁵⁰ Before we could leap at each other's throats, a good Samaritan looked into the yard and told us that water could be had from the well in the mosque nearby. The only trouble with this news, as with
⁵¹ all news, is that by the time it reaches me, it has already reached half the town.

The mosque was packed with sweating, cursing humanity armed with a startling variety of
⁶⁰ containers and utensils. The focus of everybody's attention was the solitary tap connected to the well and the scowling, barrel-chested individual who had control over the hose pipe that was fitted to it. He
⁶⁵ was directing this hose pipe to a gross or so of debes that his helpers kept bringing up to be filled.

⁷⁰ We were all waiting for him to finish filling his containers before making an assault on the hose pipe. The chance came sooner than I expected. One of his helpers had been filling his debe without
⁷⁵ undoing the top and the scowling man, noticing this, let go the hose pipe to personally unscrew the top.

I dived for the pipe. So did about three score other human beings. Somehow I survived and
⁸⁰ what is more, came out of the mêlée still clutching the hose pipe. I stuffed the end into the first open aperture. This happened to be my neighbour's open mouth fortunately I realized my mistake before I had properly drowned him.

⁸⁵ Eventually, after a fierce a fierce struggle and a rich harvest of bruises, I extricated myself from the mass with a jerry can full of water and directly proceeded home with it. I laid the full can proudly before
⁹⁰ my wife and still panting from the exertion, waited for her praise.

"only one little can! Why it's not enough to fill the basin and wash the children's clothes with,"
⁹⁵ were the sweet words which greeted my triumph.

"Oh it is," I said, getting heated. "It's enough to fill three basins, four basins if you like..." and to fill three basins if you like....." and the drain!" It was too late. Three quarters of the water gushed out and drenched me to my shoes.

“You are wasting all the water,” said the woman I am married to. I didn’t murder her. I just hit¹⁰⁰ her a couple of times on the head with the jerry can and then we kissed and made up; but from the day the water stopped flowing, we have never again taken anything for granted.

Part 1

Choose the best answer for each of the following:

1. From this passage we can tell that the writer
 - A. Lives in a block of flats.
 - B. Lives in a house
 - C. Lives in a bungalow.
 - D. Lives on the ground floor of a block of flats.
2. The writer went to the tap in the yard because
 - A. The water supply would be reconnected for half an hour.
 - B. It was the nearest available water supply.
 - C. The well in the mosque was too crowded.
 - D. He wanted to get there before his neighbour from the Third Floor did.
3. The writer didn’t like going to the well in the mosque because
 - A. He wasn’t a Moslem.
 - B. He was afraid of the barrel- Chested tough in charge of the hose pipe.
 - C. It was far too crowded.
 - D. It was too far away.
4. When he got home with a jerry can full of water, his wife
 - A. Was very glad to see him.
 - B. Greeted him triumphantly.
 - C. Was very pleased to see that he had at last managed to get some water.
 - D. Was disappointed at the small amount of water he had managed to obtain.
5. The writer seems to have intended this passage to be
 - A. A serious essay on the importance of maintaining a regular water supply.
 - B. An attack on the incompetence of the water department.
 - C. A light – hearted account of a minor domestic crisis.
 - D. A bitter attack on the laziness and ingratitude of modern women.

PART 2

Write clear, concise but complete answers to the following questions.

1. Who was 'Third Floor', and why does the writer describe him as a 'berserk buffalo'?
2. Explain the following phrases. Use complete sentences!

(a) *on a collision course* (1.39)

(b) *tossed for first go* (1.46)

(c) *the mêlée* (1.79)

(d) *made up* (1.111)

3. Explain in one sentence how the writer managed to get the hose pipe from the "Scowling, barrel-chested individual"
4. What serious point is the writer making in this otherwise humorous article?
5. Find three expressions in the first eight paragraphs that mean "to move quickly"

Part 3 Vocabulary.

1. Explain the following, using complete sentences:

a light (l.2)

a foggy head (l.2)

humming and hawing (l.13)

out of the corner of my eye (l.34 – 35)

a good Samaritan (l.51)

exertion (l.86)

exertion (l.91)

2. Find out the meaning of any other words you don't know.