

GATITU GIRLS SECONDARY SCHOOL P.O.BOX 327-01030 GATUNDU

ENGLISH PAPER 2 FORM THREE

NAME:.....ADM NO:.....

CLASS:.....DATE:.....

A.COMPREHENSION.

MWALIMU DAWOOD'S LOVELY FRIGHT

Mwalimu Dawood Salat was in a panic. It was the last day of the holidays and he had missed the last bus to Garissa. This meant he would not be able to catch the weekly bus from Garissa to Mandera, where he taught, the next day. He would be a whole week late for school. Then a friend made a useful suggestion. If Dawood could get to Wilson Airport in Lang'ata, he might be able to hitch a plane lift on one of the small private aeroplanes which flew daily to Mandera to deliver commodities such as medicines, miraa and fuel. All it took was to have a word with one of the pilots who plied the route.

Dawood hardly heard his friend's last words. He was already racing for the nearest matatu to Wilson airport. On arrival he was introduced to an ancient looking Italian pilot, who was preparing to take off for Mandera. Dawood's enquiries about the fare and other conditions of the flight were met with a dismissive wave of his hand and a thick voiced command to board and fasten his belt. "Don't waste time", the old fellow wheezed, "we'll discuss everything while we are airborne." Soon, the tiny single-engine plane, packed to the gunwales with miraa, was taxiing down the runway. Dawood was the only passenger on the craft, and he was sitting beside the pilot, in what would have been the co-pilot's seat.

Mwalimu Dawood began sensing trouble when, just before the lift off, the pilot pulled a hip flask out of his trouser pocket and took a long swig of it. Dawood fervently wished that the pilot was only drinking water, but there was no mistaking the sharp smell of whiskey in the cockpit as the pilot wiped his mouth and slipped the hip flask back into his pocket. Dawood recoiled inwardly. Pilots were required to keep off alcohol at least twenty-four hours before any flight, and certainly not to touch any during a flight. Dawood had been told that on very good authority. Moreover, Dawood was strongly averse to the taking of alcohol under any circumstances, and he would rather not have anything to do with lovers of the bottle. For a moment, he contemplated asking the pilot to let him to get off the plane, but it was apparently too late.

The pilot suddenly jacked down the joystick and the little plane leapt into the air with a jerk that left Dawood feeling as if all his intestines had been hauled out of his stomach. Dawood gasped, but the sour look that the old pilot shot him told him in no uncertain terms that he would have to keep his feelings to himself, and his mouth shut, if he hoped not to be thrown off the craft. In any case, Dawood 'hadn't seen nothing yet'.

About half an hour after they had left Nairobi, with nothing visible under them but brown and black patches of what the pilot said was sandy desert, the plane began to roll and lurch dangerously. At one moment it shot up a thousand feet into the clouds, and the next it nosedived another thousand. Its droning hum had now turned into a strident chirp, like that of a giant cricket.

'Mechanical trouble,' croaked the pilot, as he took yet another guzzle from his whiskey flask. Then, without ceremony, he slithered the plane straight down towards a brown patch.

Dawood, too frightened to think even of praying, was sure they were crashing. By the time he came out of his daze, the plane was sitting on a rocky patch of grass and the pilot had taken nearly half of it apart. Dawood scrambled out of his seat and walked over to where the old pilot was tinkering with the engine of the plane. 'Can I help?' he asked, out of sheer politeness.

'Naaah!' growled the pilot, though a little friendlier than before. 'It's just a few loose nuts and bolts. The propeller was just about dropping off. I think I can fix it.'

Dawood had by now learnt that he should not show his fright. He looked around and all that he could see was sand and shrubs, right up to the horizon on every side. Not a single sign of life, let alone a human settlement. Soon the pilot was done with his tinkering. One more swill of whisky and he called out cheerfully to Dawood, 'Right! Let's go.'

Much as Dawood did not relish the idea of further travel in a plane whose single propeller could drop off any minute, he could not even begin to consider the alternative of being left stranded in the middle of a desert. He slouched back into his seat and soon the little plane was racing off its grass rock 'runway' and soaring up into the sky.

Maybe the final leg of the flight was smoother than the first or Dawood had simply resigned himself to his fate, because for quite a while after they took off, he did not notice anything untoward. Then, suddenly, he saw what looked like a sheer greybrown wall looming ahead of them.

'What's that?' Dawood caught himself asking reluctantly in consternation.

'Oh, it's just a range of hills,' answered his companion nonchalantly. 'We'll just try and gain some altitude and rise a little above them, mind you,' he added, almost cheerily, 'if you don't watch out, it's quite easy to ram your plane smack into them.'

This time Dawood succeeded in preventing himself from asking what would happen then. In fact, he did not utter another word until they made their bumpy landing at the Mandera Airstrip. It had been Dawood's first flight, and it had been a truly memorable *fright*.

Questions.

1. What did Dawood want to do in Garissa? (1mk)

2. Which of the following is true about the Italian pilot? (1mk)
 - A) He is very old.
 - B) He is an alcoholic.
 - C) He is not friendly.
 - D) He does not like Dawood.
3. Give two reasons why Dawood was uncomfortable when the pilot took some whisky. (2mks)

4. State the meaning of the phrase 'hadn't seen nothing yet' (1mk)

5. The writer presents a negative image of the pilot. Give any four words or phrases that describe the pilot or his actions negatively. (4mks)

6. How do you think Dawood would have made the flight uncomfortable? (2mks)

7. Why was Dawood reluctant to ask the pilot questions? (2mks)

8. What catches the reader's attention in the last sentence? (1mk)

9. Give the meaning of the following words in the passage.
 - a) Daze
 - b) Untoward
 - c) Ply
 - d) Cock-pit

- e) Swig
- f) Slouched

B.EXCERPT.

“Tell me about your sister. Your twin sister, if you please!”

“Yes, Becky; she is the most beautiful woman I have ever met. I mean she is perfect. You know the way most of us however pretty could always do with a little more of this or a little less of that? But not Becky. I loved her absolutely when we were children. Everybody did; but you know there is something about a really beautiful person that eventually makes them repellent. They take a lot of things for granted. I suppose they learn that they don't have to try as hard as other people, after all everybody tries to please them. When we were teenagers I gradually realized how selfish and difficult she was. We quarreled and things were never the same again. After sixth form, she ran away from home and became an air-hostess. What she wanted was what mattered to her-not how anybody else felt. My father was against it. Naturally he wanted her into teaching, nursing or some such occupation. But an air hostess! Exposed to all sorts of people of questionable character! Never. That did not deter her and I personally thought it a good thing that she was determined on at least one score. Anyway yesterday I managed to track her down and would you believe it, she is living with a *mzungu* pilot whom she intends to marry soon- in secret.”

“What do you have against him?”

“Nothing. As a matter of fact I rather liked him. He is obviously madly in love but I have doubts about my sister.”

“Are you sure you are not jealous of her? She can't be that bad.”

“Yes, I must have been a little jealous, she was of me also of course. We were so different that I suppose some jealousy was inevitable. She had the beauty and I had the brains. But so many people exclaiming about one's beauty can get to anybody's head and it went to hers. Though you might just be right, I also had a feeling that she has become a little warmer, less centred on herself, so I may be mistaken.”

(The *River and the Source*, Focus Publishers Ltd, 1994)

Questions.

1. Place this excerpt in its context.(2mks)

2. Give evidence to show that Vera loved Becky absolutely when they were children.
(3mks)

3. State incidences that had made Vera stop loving Becky. (3mks)
4. Are the father's fears about Becky justified? Explain.(2mks)
5. What does Vera doubt about her sister? Is she right? Explain.(3mks)
6. What evidence do you find in the story that Becky was jealous of Vera? (3mks)
7. What one theme is highlighted in this excerpt?(2mks)
8. Explain the meaning of the following words as used in the excerpt.(2mks)
 - a) Get to anybody's head
 - b) Questionable

C. ORAL LITERATURE.

Why the leopard hides his food up a tree.

The Ndebele tell their children that long ago, there were three friends: the beautiful leopard, the jackal and the hyena. They went everywhere together. Whenever Leopard killed an animal, he would always leave part of it for his friends so that they could have a good feed too.

One day it happened that leopard was ill, and so he could not hunt. "Jackal," he said, "please catch some food for us, for I am not well."

But lazy Jackal said, "No, I am too weary. Ask Hyena."

So leopard said, "Hyena, please hunt for us today, for I am not well enough to do so."

But Hyena too made an excuse: "No, I have a sore foot."

So leopard roared in anger. "I thought you were my friends, but you are a no-good, lazy pair. Never again will I leave you meat when I make my kill. From this day on, I will make sure of it. I shall take what is left and hang it in a tree, when I have eaten all I want. Then neither of you will be able to get at it."

Leopard was true to his word-for since that day he has never left any meat for his selfish friends. Up into a tree it goes, high out of reach of jackals and hyenas. They have become scavengers now instead, and they eat the scraps that other animals leave behind. It was a sad day for them when they lost leopard's friendship.

(When Hippo was Hairy and Other Tales from Africa, Lutterworth Press, 1990)

Questions.

1. Giving a reason for your answer say what kind of a narrative this is.(2mks)
2. Describe the character of leopard. (4mks)
3. Identify feature typical of oral narrative used in this story.(4mks)
4. Never again will I leave you meat when I make my kill.(rewrite this sentence beginning: I ...) (2mks)
5. What lessons do we learn from this story? (4mks)
6. What function is usually played by the opening formulae in an oral narrative such as this? (4mks)

D. GRAMMAR.

Fill in the blanks below with the noun form of the verbs given in brackets.(4mks)

- a) Due to theof theall thewere returned to prospective.....
(interview, cancel, advertise, apply)

Fill in the blanks with the most appropriate phrasal verb from the choices given.(3mks)

- a) It was a pity that weof petrol. (ran over, ran out, ran in, ran down)
b) Dada's worry was that he might.....during the long poetry recitation.(drop off, drop out, drop in)
c) The waiter was dismayed to learn that the well dressed man had.....before paying the bill.(gone ahead, gone off, gone through, gone on)

The following sentence is ambiguous. Give it two possible meanings.(2mks)

- a) Lying in the sidewalk, Jane found, a wallet.

Give the meaning of the following idiomatic expression underlined below.(1mk)

- a) Don't trust him. He heard it on the grapevine.

Rewrite the following sentence into indirect speech.(1mk)

- a) He said that he was not going and he would not be influenced to change his mind by anything that anyone said or did.

Complete the sentence with the correct preposition. (1mk)

- a) We took the old man.....a beggar but we were quite wrong.

Fill in the blank with infinitive "to" of the verb in brackets.(2mks)

- a) Farida expected.....(find) everyone settled.
- b) She is the best person.....(cook) pilau.

Fill in the blanks with a suitable relative pronoun. (1mk)

- a) I do not know the man.....answered the question.(1mk)