

GATITU GIRLS HIGH SCHOOL  
FORM ONE HOLIDAY ASSIGNMENT  
ENGLISH AUGUST 2015 HOLIDAY

NAME: \_\_\_\_\_ ADM NO: \_\_\_\_\_

**COMPREHENSION: Read below given passage and answer the question that follows**

If, one morning, you happened to see a spider on the window, you probably would say; "Nasty, horrid spider." You might even run for a duster or a brush or roll up a newspaper and knock the poor spider down. If you did this; you would have slandered and perhaps murdered one of your best friends.

Why, you may wonder, should spiders be our friends? The reason is that they destroy so many insects, and insects include some of the greatest enemies of the human race. If it were not for the protection we get from insect-eating animals, insects would make it impossible for us to live. They would devour all our crops and kill our flocks and herds. We owe a lot to the birds and beasts that eat insects, but all of them put together kill only a fraction of the numbers destroyed by spiders. Moreover, unlike some of the other insect eaters, spiders never do the least harm to us or our belongings.

How many spiders are engaged in this work on our behalf? One authority on spiders made a census of the spiders in a grass field in the south of England. He estimated that there was more than 2,250,000 in one acre. That is something like 6,000,000 spiders of different kinds on a football pitch.

Spiders are busy for at least half the year killing insects. It is impossible to make more than the wildest guess at how many they kill, but they are hungry creatures, not contented with only three meals a day. It has been estimated that the one year would be greater than the total weight of all human beings in the country.

There are in Britain about 540 species of spiders, ranging in size from the one we are all familiar with, the house spider, which is the largest, down to some so small that one can barely see them. And they are everywhere, from the tops of the highest mountains down to the edge of the sea.

The only spiders that count for anything are the ladies. Men are kept very severely in their place by their wives. Indeed, some spiders appear to think that the only proper thing to do with a husband is to eat him! It is essentially a woman's world.

Even if you cannot learn to like these hard-working faithful friends, remember the old rhyme that warns you:  
If you wish to live and thrive, let a spider run alive.

(a) Why might you describe a spider as nasty and horrid?  
(2mks)

(b) Explain why the spider is one of your best friends?  
(2mks)

(c) In note form, give the advantages human race get from spiders.  
(4mks)

(d) How can you tell from the passage that a football pitch is larger than one acre?  
(2mks)

(e) Find proof from the passage to show that some spiders are cannibals.  
(2mks)

(f) Why are 'men' spiders severely kept by their wives?  
(1mk)

(g) The reason is that they destroy so many insects and insects include some of the greatest enemies of human race  
(write in passive voice)  
(1mk)

(h) They would devour all our crops and kill our flocks and herds.  
(Change the above into an interrogative)  
(1mk)

(i) It is essentially a woman's world.  
(Give the contextual meaning of the above sentence)  
(1mk)

(j) How does the following sentence summarize the content of the passage?  
(1mk)

'If you wish to live and thrive, let a spider run alive.'

(k) Give the meaning of the following words as used in the passage.  
(3mks)

- (i) Slandered:
- (b) (i) Horrid
- (c) (i) Devour:

(ii) Explain two character traits of the ogre as brought out in this story.  
(4mks)

(iii) Explain how African authenticity is maintained in this story.  
(2mks)

(iv) With specific reference to this story, explain what the ogre symbolizes.  
(2mks)

(v) "You dove; you have eaten all my castor seeds." (write in reported speech)  
(1mk)

(vi) What aspects of this story qualify it as an oral narrative?  
(4mks)

(vii) Discuss one major theme in the story.  
(2mks)

(viii) Identify one moral lesson that is evident in this story.  
(3mks)

**2) CLOZE-TEST: Use the most appropriate word to fill the blank spaces**

The following morning, the hare -----up at dawn and -----fast to the well. The cold -----numbed his tiny feet. When -----he got there ,he put -----his mask and got into the well to ----- .When he had drunk enough and was just -----to out ,he noticed two huge animals -----towards the well. The earth ----- More and more as they come closer and closer to the well. He remained-----in the water and waited.

**3) Functional Skills:**

a) Creative writing: write a composition starting with the following statement. "----I was woken up by a loud noise in the sitting room-----". (20 marks).

Or

b) Your English textbook has been missing for a week. Write a public notice for members of your class notifying them of the loss and the desire to have the book back. Remember to use the correct format of writing notices.(20 marks).

ORAL LITERATURE: ORAL NARRATIVE

Read below given narrative and answer the given question

A long time ago, there was a pregnant woman whose husband had gone to work in a distant land. He was a blacksmith. This woman got a baby and ogre played mid-wife to her. He also played the role of her nurse, cooking for her and gathering firewood.

Every time the ogre came back from the forest with firewood, he would pretend to offer the food to her saying, "Wagaciari nduke tuhiuhio: (Newly delivered mother, take this delicacy). He then munched down the food himself. He would repeat the same with gruel saying: "Wagaciari nduke gacuru. Warega nganywa." And drank it himself.

This practice continued and the nursing mother became very thin and weak. The ogre himself became fat and sleek.

In those days, women used to put out castor seeds to dry in the sun. Doves used to come and steal these seeds. So one day, the woman talked to one of the doves saying: "You dove, you have eaten all my castor seeds. Now, if I ask you to carry out a small errand for me, can you do it?"

"Yes, I can," answered the dove.  
"Right, I would like you to fly to the land of the blacksmiths and once you get there, pass the following message:

*Muthuri uguturai  
Cangarara-il-ca  
Taratura narua-il  
Cangarara-il-ca  
Mukaguo niaachiarire-i  
Cangarara-I-ca  
Agiciaithio ni irimu -I  
Cangarara-I-ca  
Ekwiruo nduke tuhiuhio-I  
Cangarara-i-ca  
Na warega ngaria-I  
Cangarara-il-ca*

I say, oh you blacksmith  
*Cangarara-I-ca*  
Hasten to finish whatever you're doing  
*Cangara-I-ca*  
your wife is with child  
*Cangarara-i-ca*  
An ogre is playing nurse to her  
*Cangarara-i-ca*  
She's being offered food  
*Cangarara-I-ca*  
But the ogre eats it all  
*Cangarara-i-ca*

The dove did as she was told. When she got to the place where blacksmiths were working, she sang the song. The blacksmiths heard the dove's song and asked each other, "Which left his wife expecting a child?"

One of them confessed he had and so the others asked him to go and find out what was going on at home. When he got home, he found his wife had given birth to a baby boy but the mother was very thin and weak.

She told the husband the whole story and how the ogre was eating all her food and tormenting her. By this time, the ogre was in the forest gathering firewood. The husband sharpened his spear and hid himself in the house. Presently, the ogre came home with a load of firewood on his back. He dropped the firewood with a thud and malevolently rebuked the nursing mother. "Wagaciari urogua na mururumo ucio." (Newly delivered mother, may you fall with a similar thud!)

The nursing mother answered back, "O nawe urogua." (You too!)

The ogre was surprised. He said, "You surprise me with your arrogance today. Could it be that the blacksmith has come back?"

The woman's husband was very angry. He could see all that was going on from his hiding place. Even before the ogre had finished talking about the gruel, the husband stood up, took aim and speared the ogre in the mouth knocking him flat on the floor.

Before he died, the ogre cried with aloud voice saying, "It is just as I had said. The sojourners have come back. Oh dear me I am dying because of my greed!" And with these words he died.

There ends my story. But may I not end with it.

Why is it ironical that the ogre mistreats the nursing mother?

(2mks)

#### 4) GRAMMAR AND USAGE

- a) The water that is boiling is for making tea.(identify the post-modifier in above sentence) (1 mark).
- b) He is poor but very honest.( identify the co-ordinating conjunction in given sentence) (1 mark)
- c) Every child \_\_\_\_\_ to go school.( needs/need). ( 1 mark).
- d) We pray always before having our meals.(identify the adverb of frequency in given sentence).(1 mark).
- e)We shall soon be at the hospital .(identify the adverb of time in given sentence). (1 mark).
- f) The girl danced beautifully to the delight of the audience.( identify the adverb of manners) (1 mark).
- g) missing a session is \_\_\_\_\_ than being punished (bad) {use correct degree of adjectives to fill the blank space} (1 mark).
- h) I had already \_\_\_\_\_ to write the poem when the teacher came.(began) .{use the correct form verb to fill the blank space}.
- i)The log fell on the ground with a thud ,making the leaves to rustle shhrrrch!shhrrch!.{Identify both the onomapoeic and ideophonic sound}. (2 marks).

#### j) Punctuate below given paragraph

Kenobi and magi were notorious burglars everybody in the estate feared them so much that they dared not report to the police one day they broke into the house of a couple who were out for a Christian fellowship just as about to leave with their loot they heard couple opening the front door engaged in deep conversation.(5 marks).

#### k) use appropriate collective noun in below sentences

- i) The hen was sitting on a \_\_\_\_\_ of eggs.
- ii)An irate \_\_\_\_\_ lynched the thief.
- iii) A \_\_\_\_\_ of ten piglets was born in the sty yesterday. (3 marks).

#### l) chose the correct pronouns from the brackets

- i) Rodgers and (i/me) have finished the assignment.
- ii) Take (we/us) with you.
- iii) It was (she/her) who won the lap.
- iv) Charity gave Wangari and (i/me) her promise.

**M) ORAL SKILLS**

- a) Imagine that you have reported late after the school holidays. The head teacher has called you to her voice. Write a play-dialogue between you and the head teacher. (5 marks).