

NAME \_\_\_\_\_ INDEX NUMBER \_\_\_\_\_  
SCHOOL \_\_\_\_\_ DATE \_\_\_\_\_

## LITERACY APPRECIATION

### 1. 2006 P2

*Read the passage below and answer the questions that follow:*

In the days after the bomb went off the air was full of whispers. Paulina knew the sense of them although they were often enough phrased in difficult English purposely order to exclude her. But she could not be excluded. Had she not lost a child? They said that Kariuki had gone to Zambia, had registered in a hotel there. But the elder Mrs. Kariuki was an acquaintance of the house and she did not know of it, her co-wife also did not know. There had been no preparations for going: there had been no custom of keeping unnecessary secrets. It was small husbands with small concerns who did that.

Whisper, whisper, whisper. They said the police officers had been transferred from here to there. That officers had been consulting with the missing man here and there. That there was a lot of money. That parliament- whisper, whisper, whisper.

Paulina went about her duties, ironing, setting tables, supervising the servant in the cleaning of the house and the hard washing. Sometimes her belly throbbed with the child who had been so casually taken from her at another time like this and the others who had been denied her. And yet a child was a child with a light hold on life. When it came to a man, a wealthy man, golden tongued, greatly loved, though he was not of her own people she knew this much, that the passing of such a man would be remembered, celebrate. Still not a week passed without someone speaking of Tom.

And when the body was found, discreetly mutilated, you knew what the event was that for weeks you had been expecting, although the real event was still not known. The police officers went about their leave or their business outside the station without referring to it, the mortuary keeper who had a well-dressed corpse of appropriate size and weight and characteristics in his charge did not tumble to it. The airline clerks checking flights to Zambia did not tumble to it, the children playing in the streets did not tumble to it -children who were of the age to have been shot in Kano or Patel flats, children who did not shy away from the sight of a gun or hold their noses against white smoke from a bonfire, children who had been conceived after their fathers had come back from the camps, after the squatters had missed their chance to buy up the white farm settlement plots, after the land titles had been written, children who did not know the eerie stillness of the forest of the KEM prohibited signs. Children of the New Method, who knew John Wayne and the Aga Khan and Bruce Lee and Charlie Chaplin by sight, who knew how to figure on a base of five and counted out diligently in their nursery schools.

“Eeny, meeny, miny mo,  
Catch a little baby so,  
If he hollers let him go,  
Eeny, meeny, miny mo.”

Even those terribly sharp children did not tumble to it.

Nobody really knew how it tied up with the bomb. There was no need to know, Hyenas were there to settle with those who asked too many questions. But while the casualties of the bomb were nameless people absorbed into the daily casualty lists of fire, flood and domestic quarrels, J.M burst upon the scene as a martyr and a paroxysm of grief ran through the city. The skies were leaden that April and it grew colder and colder. Eyes grew hard in Nairobi and conversations were rounded off with polite, empty phrases, even before the stranger came close. Photographs of J.M alternated with the Pope and the Sacred Heart on the roadside framing stands. The book was reprinted and within a few months parliamentary speeches were printed too. A kikuyu gramophone record was banned Mr. Mwangale remarked bluntly in parliament, “This is time we cannot be told Njenga did it. “Paulina and Martin did not discuss it. The employers spoke of it in low tones. In May the rains came, chill and steady, a bit late, and in the shanties by the river people squirmed and shivered over the water-logged ground and fires smoked damply at the amount of airless polythene shelter.

- a) Which bomb is referred to in this extract? (1mark)
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- b) Explain why the author repeats the word “whisper”? (3marks)
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- c) “.....the child who had been so casually taken from her at another time like.” What incident in the novel does this relate to? (4marks)
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- d) Write notes on the aspects of the politics contained in this extract. (4marks)
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- e) Mr. Mwangale remarked bluntly in parliament,  
“...this time we cannot be told Njenga did it”.  
Rewrite as reported speech. (1mark)

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- f) In about 80 words, summerise the cover-up (6marks)

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- g) Identify and explain one use of sarcasm in this extract. (3marks)

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- h) What shows that J.M became even more popular after he died? (3marks)

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2. 2007 P2

*Read the except below and then answer the questions that follow*

ANTONIO: I am as like to call thee so again,  
To spit on thee again, to spurn thee too.  
If thou wilt lend this money, lend it not  
As to thy friends- for when did friendship take  
A breed of barren metal of his friend?  
But lend it rather to thine enemy  
Who, if he break, thou may'st with better face  
Exact the penalty.

SHYLOCK: Why look you how you storm!  
I would be friends with you and have you love,  
Forget the shames that you have stained me with,  
Supply your present wants, and take no doit  
Of usance for my moneys, and you'll not hear me.

BASSANIO: This were kindness

SHYLOCK: This kindness will I show  
Go with me to a notary; seal me there  
Your single bond, and. In a merry sport,  
If you repay me not on such a day  
In such a place, such sum of sums as are  
Expressed in the condition, let the forfeit  
Be nominated for an equal pound  
Of your fair flesh, to be cut off and taken  
In what part of your body pleaseth me.

ANTONIO: Content, in faith. I'll seal so such a bond  
And say there is much kindness in the Jew

BASSANIO: You shall not seal to such a bond for me!  
I'll rather dwell in my necessity

ANTONIO: Why fear not, man, I will not forfeit it.  
Within these two months- that's a month before  
This bond expires – I do expect return  
Of thrice three times the value of this bond

SHYLOCK O father Abram, what these Christians are,  
Whose own hard dealings teaches them suspect  
The thoughts of others! (TO BASSANIO) pray you tell  
Me this  
If he should break his day, what should I gain  
By the extraction of the forfeiture?  
A pound of man's flesh taken from a man  
Is not so estimable, profitable neither  
As flesh of muttons, beefs or goats. I say  
To buy his favour I extend this friendship

If he will take it, so, if not adieu  
And for my love, I pray you wrong me not

ANTONIO: Yes, shylock I will seal unto this bond

SHYLOCK: Then meet me forthwith at the notary's  
Give him direction for this merry bond  
And I will go and pursue the ducats straight  
See to my house, left in the fearful guard  
Of an unthrifty knave and presently  
I'll be with you (Exit)

ANTONIO Hie thee, gentle Jew  
The Hebrew will turn Christians, he grows kind

BASSANIO I like not fair terms and a villain's mind

ANTONIO Come on, in this there can be no dismay;  
My ships come home a month before the day.  
(Exeunt)

- (a) What is Antonio referring to when he says:  
I am as like to call thee so again? (2 marks)

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- (b) Why does Antonio hate Shylock? (4 marks)

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- (c) Rewrite Shylock's first speech in this excerpt in your own words without  
changing its meaning (4 marks)

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- (d) Shylocks says he will cut off a pound of flesh from the part of the body that “pleaseth” him. Later he is more specific. Which part does he target and why? (2 marks)

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- (e) What do we learn about the friendship between Bassanio and Antonio in this excerpt? (4 marks)  
Explain your answer

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- (f) Describe the character of Shylock as seen in this excerpt. (4 marks)

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- (g) Rewrite the following in indirect speech  
ANTONIO: yes, Shylock, I will seal unto this bond (2 marks)

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- (h) Explain the irony in the last speech by Antonio in this excerpt (3 marks)

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**3. 2008 P2**

*Read the passage below and then answer the questions that follow:*

She lay there, more dazed than dozing, she did not know for how long.. No water, No charcoal. There was a little hand mirror in the cupboard and she looked at the dark bruises on her checks, but they were less swollen than her back and shoulders. She had opened the window a crack to see in the mirror, then closed it again but now there was a tapping on the shutter.

‘Who is it?’ she called, fearful that he might be testing her by sending visitors

‘It is Ahoya Don’t be afraid,’ came the welcome voice in Luo.

‘Are you all right, Paulina?’

‘Are you all right, Paulina?’

‘I am all right but not very,’ said Paulina shamefacedly, pushing at the shutter,’ and I cannot open the door’.

‘Yes, I thought so,’ replied the matter-of-fact voice. ‘He has locked you in. Did he beat you also?’

‘Yes, he beat me also.’

‘And that is the first time?’

‘The first time. He used to love me.’

A hoyla laughed gently. ‘Well, he does love you. I could see it in his face as he caught sight of you. But I thought also he would beat you, for it is a shame to him to have you lost, though you did not mean it so. Have you anything to eat?’

‘No. I do not need anything, thank you.’

‘Or any medicine?’

‘No, I shall be all right.’

‘Be sensible, child. Every wife who comes to Nairobi from the country has problems. Do not think it is the end of the world. Every young man has problems too. Probably all his friends and workmates have been telling him he is too young to marry and now he begins to wonder how he will manage. Don’t you know that if you had been married in the old way your husband would have given you a token beating while the guests were still there? They say that is so that if you are widowed and inherited you will not be able to say that your new husband was the first person ever to beat you. So don’t start to wish backwards. You praise God that He has given you a husband to love you, just as I have been able to do without one.’

‘You too?’ asked Paulina, wondering. ‘You too, like Drusilla, you are not married and yet you seem to understand so much?’

‘You have met Drusilla, have you? Well, she is a very great friend of mine. And Miriam, who lives quite near here is another. And we all know that God can look after us in all that is needful. But you, who have a husband, also need food and medicines, and I will bring it myself so that no one can accuse you of having men visitors, but you can give the tray to Amina in the front room and I will get it collected.’

She rushed away and Paulina at once felt comforted. After half an hour Ahoya came back in the car.

She handed through the window a tube of ointment and a tray with thick slices of bread and jam and cold orange drink on it.

‘Now if he smells ointment, tell him I bought it and he can come and ask me questions he likes.

Paulina heard the car start. She ate carefully, forcing herself to finish, and when Amina tapped at the window to take the tray away they exchanged such small courtesies as can be managed without a common language. Paulina slept until the stiffness softened into a small ache all over her body, and Amina gathered her cronies to tell them:

That Martin, soft he may have looked and spoken but my goodness, did he go for her! And the mother’s milk hardly dried on her lips; poor thing. We’ll see that she learns to give him something to think about, won’t we just’

- a) Explain what happens just before this extract. (2marks)

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- b) Describe the first meeting between Paulina and Ahoya. (4marks)

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- c) Explain the meaning of the following words as used in the extract. (2marks)

i) Dazed

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ii) Courtesies

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- d) What does Paulina think of Martin after the events so far recorded in the novel? (2marks)

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- e) Rewrite the following in reported speech: (1mark)



“No. I do not need anything, thank you.”

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- f) Describe two character traits of Paulina revealed in this extract. (5marks)

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- g) Make notes on Ahoya’s view of wife beating. (4marks)

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- h) Who is Drusilla? (3marks)

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- i) Comment on the expression ‘and the mother’s milk hardly on her lips’. (2marks)

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#### 4. 2009 P2

*Read the story below and then answer the questions that follow:*

Hare, the cleverest and funniest of animals, was once on good terms with Elephant and Hippo. He knew very well that he was weaker than his mighty friends, yet oddly enough he was always seeking ways of showing that he was, in fact much stronger than they.

While drinking at the lakeshore one day, he met Hippo, “How are you, brother, you big-for-nothing brute?” he began. “I’ve been waiting a long time to prove how much stronger than you I am. It’s time you recognized your betters and gave me the respect I deserve.”

“What!” Hippo retorted, unable to believe his ears, “do you really dare to address me like that, you worthless little creature? Have you forgotten I’m the biggest and strongest of all the water creatures?”

Hare’s reply was deliciously cool. “You may well be,” he said, “but I’m the strongest of all animals, wherever they live; and from now on be sure you remember it. If you want to see how weak you are, let’s meet here in three days’ time and try a little tug-of-war. I promise you I’ll haul you clean out of the lake into the forest”. Such imprudence infuriated Hippo.

“Stop this idle prattle” he retorted. “Go home and eat for a few years. You will need to before you start dreaming of pulling me from the lake.”

And so they parted. Now as it happened, Hare, as yet, had no idea how he could outwit Hippo. He spent the remainder of the day deep in thought. By late afternoon the rather obvious idea of tying one end of the rope to a tree-trunk was taking root in his mind when suddenly his friend Elephant appeared. His mind raced like the wind. “Hello, you long-eared oaf!” he shouted. Why on earth do you keep swinging your snout like that?”

Elephant was not amused. He replied in rather hurt tones. “What’s wrong with you today, Hare?” he asked. “Have you taken leave of your senses? You sound like someone who’s never slept a night in his grandfather’s house. Have you forgotten how to respect your elders?”

Hare pretended that he had, “stump-footed fool!” he roared. Don’t talk such nonsense. It’s you who should recognize your betters and one day I’ll teach you how.”

Elephant was growing weary. “Look, I’m busy today,” he said, “run along and find a child to play with – someone like yourself.”

Hare pretended that he had. “Stump-footed fool” he roared. “Don’t talk such nonsense. It’s you who should recognize your betters and one day I’ll teach you how.”

Elephant was growing weary. “look, I’m busy today,” he said, “run along and find a child to play with – someone like yourself.”

Hare now pushed out his tiny chest, quite swollen with self-confidence. “All right” he showed, I’ll offer you a challenge. Come here in three days and I’ll prove I’m stronger than you by dragging that great canvass of yours out of the forest and into the lake. “And without more ado, he turned on his heels and bounced off into the forest.

Three days later, Hare took the longest rope he could find and ran to the shore to find Hippo. He gave his friend one end, saying, “Here, catch this and hold tight. Do nothing until you hear a horn blowing: then pull as hard as you can. “Taking the rope, Hippo sank back complacently into the water, his big eyes twinkling merrily on the surface of the lake. The rope’s other end Hare carried to Elephant who, reliable and punctual as ever, was waiting in

the forest. Raising his voice to his huge friend, Hare shouted, “Hold this and stay put. Don’t pull until you hear a horn blowing. Now I’m off to drag you into the lake.”

And away he sped, hiding himself in a clump of bushes where he enjoyed a clear view of both animals. In the forest, Elephant waited patiently; in the lake Hippo smiled to himself, convinced in his heart that it was all just a bad joke. Hare now blew his horn, and with a crashing of trees and a wild cascading of water, the colossal beasts began their tug-of-war. Hour upon hour the struggle went on, forest and shore echoing to the noise of their furious grunting and trumpeting. At last seeing his friends reduced to complete exhaustion, Hare again blew the horn and told them to stop.

Then quickly rolling in the dust, he ran down to the shore and addressed himself to Hippo. “Brother,” he began, “I hope you now realize your mistake. You see, I’m not only clever but remarkably strong as well. From now on perhaps you’ll respect me.” They shook hands and parted, Hare leaving his friend to go to Elephant. “Well, you wouldn’t believe me,” he said, speaking boldly to Elephant, “Now you’ve learnt your lesson. You may be as big as a mountain, but basically you’re a weakling.” Puzzled and dumbfounded, Elephant shook his head, and after reluctantly shaking hands, humpered away into the forest.

**(From *Keep My Words* by Onyango-Ogutu and A.A. Roscoe) EAEP Ltd.**

(a) From the first paragraph how can we tell that Hare was not contented with his state.

(2 marks)

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(b) From the information in paragraph 5, explain what Hippo’s attitude towards Hare is.

(3 marks)

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(c) Rewrite the following sentence in your own words:

“Now as it happened, Hare, as yet had no idea how he could outwit Hippo” (1 mark)

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(d) In about forty words, summarize Elephant's feelings about Hare. (6 marks)

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(e) Both Hippo and Elephant do what Hare says. What does this prove? (3 marks)

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(f) Explain the meaning of the following expressions as they are used in the story:

(i) Imprudence (1 mark)

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(ii) taking root (1 mark)

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(iii) lumbered (1 mark)

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5. 2010 P2

***Read the excerpt below and then answer the questions that follow:***

Again Nyambura glanced over her shoulder in the direction of her home. She wondered whether to stop or to go on. She heard Waiyaki's voice.

"I am going to see Kamau."

"And I Johana. My father has sent me to him to tell him to come to our home today."

"Then we can walk together," he suggested.

They moved on slowly. He was thinking of this girl. Muthoni had been the cause of their first meeting. Then Nyambura had been a fairly tall girl with well-formed features. Now he could see the woman in her under the bright moonlight.

"What are you going to do there?" she asked. Waiyaki thought: What am I going to do there? It was then that it occurred to him that he did not want to see Kamau. Not now.

He too thought of the people and what they would say now if they saw them walking together. Above them the moon gazed and lit the whole land, Nyambura was not circumcised. But this was not a crime. Something passed between them as two human beings, untainted with religion, social conventions or any traditions.

"Just to see Kamau and the family."

Nyambura felt a little angry. She thought; their activities. They came to a place where their ways parted. They stopped there and stood as if held together by something outside themselves. Perhaps it was the magic of the moon that held them both rooted to the spot. Waiyaki wanted to dance the magic and ritual of the moon.

His heart beat hard, beating out the darkness. And Nyambura stood there looking as if she were the embodiment of serene beauty, symbolised by the flooding moon and the peace around.

Suddenly Waiyaki felt as if the burning desires of his heart would be soothed if only he could touch her, just touch her hand or her hair. He controlled himself. A strange uneasiness began to creep through him.

"Are you still teaching?"

"Yes..."

"I have not seen your school."

"You should come some day. And why not tomorrow in the afternoon just after school closes? I could take you round."

(a) Why did Waiyaki want to see Kamau at that time of the evening?

(2 marks)

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(b) Muthoni had been the cause of their first meeting. Explain how Muthoni had been the cause of Nyambura and Waiyaki's first meeting. (4 marks)

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(c) What indicates that both Nyambura and Waiyaki are uncomfortable in the circumstances they find themselves in this excerpt? (4 marks)

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(d) Identify and explain any **two** character traits that Nyambura and Waiyaki share in this excerpt. (4 marks)

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(e) "What are you going to do there?" she asked.  
(*Rewrite in reported speech*) . (1 mark)

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(f) Briefly describe aspects of the themes of the Novel that come through in this excerpt. (6 marks)

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(g) Identify and illustrate any **two** aspects of style used in the excerpt. (4 marks)

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**6. 2012 Q2 P2**

**Read the extract below and then answer the questions that follow.**

A few people applauded. And then there was silence. (Kabonyi too had stirred something in their hearts). Soon they began to talk. Some saw a lot of truth in what Kabonyi had said. They knew they were not cowards. And surely it was easier to drive away the white man and return to the old ways! But others, especially the young people, were on Waiyaki's side. Waiyaki himself was hurt. Kabonyi had touched on a sore spot, the question of youth. When Waiyaki stood up again the old defiance came back. The courage that had made him famous among the boys of his *riika* was now with him. At first he just looked at the people and held them with his eyes. Then he opened his mouth and began to speak. And his voice was like the voice of his father. No - it was like the voice of the great Gikuyus of old. Here again was the saviour, the one whose words touched the souls of the people. People listened and their hearts moved with the vibration of his voice. And he, like a shepherd speaking to his flock, avoided any words that might be insulting. In any case, how could he repudiate Kabonyi's argument? Waiyaki told them that he was their son. They all were his parents. He did not want to lead. The elders were there to guide and lead the youth. And youth had to listen. He, Waiyaki, would listen. All he wanted was to serve the ridges, to serve the hills. They could not stand aloof. They could never now remain isolated. Unless the people heeded his words and plans, the ridges would lose their former dignity and would be left a distance behind by the country beyond ...

So he spoke on, pointing out the importance of learning, of acquiring all the wisdom that one could get. People wanted him to go on, on, on telling them the sweet words of wisdom. When he sat down the people stood and, as if of one voice, shouted. "The Teacher! The Teacher! We want the Teacher!". And some shouted: "Our children must learn. Show us the way. We will follow."

What more could Waiyaki want? He felt elated with gratitude and happiness.

Thereafter every elder and teacher who spoke added nothing but praise for the Teacher. An inter-ridge committee was elected to look after the education of all and see to the building of new schools in the country. Kabonyi was not on it.

(a) Explain what happens just before this extract (2marks)

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- (b) “The courage that had made him famous among the boys of his riika was now with him” Give an incident earlier in the novel where waiyaki demonstrates this courage (2 marks)

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- (c) “And his voice.... Was like the voice of the great Gikuyu of old” what was it in Waiyaki’s background that explains Kabonyi’s antagonism? (3marks)

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- (d) Identify and illustrate two character traits of Waiyaki brought out in this extract (4marks)

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- (e) Briefly state Two serious accusations that Kabonyi raised against Waiyaki in similar setting latter in the novel (4marks)

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- (f) Identify and explain any two figures of speech used in this extract (4marks)

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- (g) Rewrite the following sentences in direct speech

Waiyaki told them, unless the people heeded his words and plans, the ridge would lose their former dignity and would be left a distance behind by the country beyond..... (1mark)

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