

S6 Literature in English paper 2

Holiday work

John Ruganda: *The Floods*

Read the passage below and answer the questions that follow

NANKYA: I said stop despising my mother. Whether she did it with military or monkeys, it's none of your business. She didn't have any choice, I have told you. Don't make it sound as if she was scrounging for it in the barracks. She was caught up in a situation she didn't understand and yet, at sixteen, she got through it with scars only, do you hear? So shut up about my mother. And again, I said supposing I had done it?

BWOGO: But what are you shouting for?

NANKYA: I said supposing I had done it for Christ's sake. And you go on s if I had done it.

BWOGO: (*relieved*) you mean you actually haven't done it yet?

NANKYA: I said just supposing. Can't you understand? Just supposing I had done it?

BWOGO: (*somewhat relieved*) I was beginning to wonder... to doubt your sanity.

NANKYA: That doesn't mean I can't nor I won't do it.

BWOGO: You really don't hate me as you said, do you?

NANKYA (*non-committal*) I don't know.

BWOGO: Hate me enough to do it? Erase all the signs of our intimacy?

NANKYA: It was good when it lasted. Enjoyed every moment with you.

BWOGO: Same here. Still do .Every moment...almost.

NANKYA: All that is now gone with the wind, I'm afraid.

BWOGO: No, Nankya. It is still there intact,

NANKYA: That evening on your carpet. I knew that that was the beginning of the end. Folded it into our arms and wrapped it in the carpet into the dustbin.

BWOGO: (*desperate*) it's still on, Nankya, can't you see? It is still on. Intact.

NANKYA: I had meant our our relationship to be platonic, like you said. Deep and beautiful. Beyond the dictates of the flesh and blood.

BWOGO: We all have our needs and weaknesses... but it was beautiful. I have no regrets.

NANKYA: That's what you say.

BWOGO: It's true. The only trouble is you want me to do things your way.

NANKYA: And you want me to do them your way.

BWOGO: That's the trouble...can't we just be? Cut out the cat and rat game?

NANKYA: The wall is there. And so are the masks.

BWOGO: Which wall now? Which masks?

NANKYA: Between your father's mansion and the servant's quarters.

BWOGO: You are imagining it.

NANKYA: It's impregnable. Re-enforced with iron-bars and granite. Even the square holes are blocked. No chinks for peeping through either. Just one solid impregnable wall between us. In a way it's a pity. Because you are not really that bad.

BWOGO :(*elated and excited*) please say that again. For my sake. Almost the only good thing you have said about me in weeks.

Questions:

a) Briefly show what happens before and after the passage.

- b) Comment on the relationship between Nankya and Bwogo as shown in the in the passage.
- c) Describe the character of Nankya as shown in the passage.
- d) What themes have been highlighted in the passage?