



Lesson: 8

Gone with the Drought

NOTES:

ABOUT THE AUTHOR:

Ngugi Wa Thiong 'O' born in 1938 was Kenya's most famous writer. Best known as a novelist he also wrote plays, literary criticism and essays on cultural and political topics.

SUMMARY:

The story 'Gone with the Drought' written by Ngugi Wa Thiong'O' is about how the narrator meets an old woman who is considered crazy by the rest of the villagers. The whole country was suffering due to the drought and many people went hungry. And when the narrator enquired about the old woman to his father, his father's reply that the merciless drought is making everyone suffer, intrigue him to know more about the old woman. So he took some yams and beans and went to meet the old woman. He found her huddled in a dark corner and when she saw him and the food she started weeping so he ran away. But a week later he went back and then the old woman told him the story of how her only son died due to a drought years before. Her son was sick from hunger but she couldn't do anything because everyone was suffering and she had nobody to help her. Her husband, mother and grandparent's have all died due to the various reasons. When she finally found some food from the Famine Relief Scheme, her son died before she could reach home. After listening to her he realized she was not crazy or mad but it is due to endurance of too much suffering and misery. Rain has come finally after a week and it has been raining heavily for about a week. This time when he went to meet the old woman he took some sweets potatoes for her. He found her corner and when he spoke to her she let out some words and then she just died. All food that bought for her has never been touched but had been stored in a corner.

WORD MEANINGS:

1. Unnatural - different from what is found in nature or what is normal in society.
2. Mysterious - difficult or impossible to understand or explain.
3. Sorrow - deep distress caused by loss or disappointment.
4. Drought - a very long period of abnormally low rainfall.
5. Yam - the tuber of a tropical plant, eaten as a vegetable.
6. Beans - an edible seed growing in long pods on certain plants.
7. Huddle - curl your body into a small space.
8. Ember - piece of burning wood or coal in a dying fire.
9. Wriggle - twist and turn with quick short movements.
10. Agony - extreme suffering.



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