





## The Woman and the Ogre

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 an ogre played midwife 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: “Wagaciairi nduke tuhiuhio.” (Newly delivered mother, take this delicacy).

But before she could reach the food he would withdraw it saying, “Warega ngaria.” He then munched down the food himself. He would repeat the same with gruel saying’ “wagaciairi nduke gacuru. Warega nganyua.” 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 ugutura	I say, oh you blacksmith
Cangarara-i- ca	Cangarara-i-ca
Turatura narua-i	Hasten to finish what you are doing
Cangarara-i- ca	Cangarara-i-ca
Mukaguo niaaciare-i	Your wife is with child
Cangarara-i- ca	Cangarara-i-ca
Agiciarithio ni irimu-i	An ogre is playing nurse to her
Cangarara-i- ca	Cangarara-i-ca
Ekwirwo nduke tuhiuhio-i	She is being offered food
Cangarara-i- ca	Cangarara-i-ca
Na warega ngaria-i	But the ogre eats it all
Cangarara-i- ca	Cangarara-i-ca

The dove did as she was told. When she got to the place where the blacksmiths were working, she sang the song. The blacksmiths heard the dove’s song and asked each other, “who 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 that 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 the 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, “Wagaciaire urogwa na mururumo ucio!” (Newly delivered mother, may you fall with a similar thud!)

The nursing mother answered back, “Ona we urogwa.” (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 floor.

Before he died, the ogre cried with a loud 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.

- a) What type of an oral narrative is this? Support your answer. (3mks)

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- b) Why was the husband away when his wife gave birth? (1mks)

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- c) Give four features/ characteristics of the narrative classified in (a) above. (4mks)

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- d) What moral lesson do you learn from the above narrative? (2mks)

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- e) What did the husband use to kill the ogre? (1mk)

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- f) What roles did the ogre play to the woman? (2mks)

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- g) Identify two economic activities of the community from which this narrative is drawn from? (2mks)

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- h) Add a question tag. (1mk)

And with these words he died, .....?

i) Where was the ogre when the husband got home? (1mk)

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j) The ogre is very unkind. Give two reasons to support this. (2mks)

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k) Give three reasons that shows that the ogre is like a human being (3mks)

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### **Question 3**

Cloze test (10mks)

Fill in the blank spaces below with the correct word. Use one word only for each blank space.

Have you ever heard of the Cold War? Through most of the 1960s, 1970s and 1980s, the Americans.....the Russians severally came close.....waging a nuclear war against each other. They hated each.....and both sought dominance of the whole world. The relationship between them.....very tense. Guess what stopped them.....actually bombing each other? Each country.....so many deadly nuclear arms that.....knew if they launched them at each other, and would certainly destroy each other and maybe the .....of the world. So, the Americans and Russians.....both scared of each other. This fear, .....saved the world was often referred to as the 'Balance of Terror.' The official American term for the Balance of Terror was 'Mutual Assured Destruction' in short MAD.

### **Question 4**

GRAMMAR (10mks)

Answer the following questions according to the instructions given.

1) Use the word given in brackets together with 'a' or 'an' to complete the sentences below.

- a) My sister is eating .....mango for lunch. (ripe)
- b) I bought .....umbrella yesterday. (white)
- c) Jamal is .....businessman. (honest)

2) Fill in the blanks below with the correct possessive pronoun.

- a) The ball belongs to them. It is .....
- b) The hospital belongs us. It is .....

3) Fill in the blanks below using the plural form of the noun in brackets.

- a. Many .....were lost in the road accidents. (life)
- b. The farmer has three .....on her farm. (calf)
- c. All his .....died during the dry season. (sheep)

4) Identify the types of nouns underlined below.

- a. God's love is amazing
- b. July is the coldest month in Nairobi.

### **Question 5**

Oral skills (10mks)

1. Provide a word that is pronounced the same as the following.

- a) Heir
- b) Boy
- c) Sweet
- d) Principle
- e) Weather

2. Identify the silent letters in the following words.

- a) Debt
- b) Write
- c) Listen
- d) Watch
- e) Palm

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