Ngala Memorial GIRLS HIGH SCHOOL

TERM TWO TERM EXAMS 2017

FORM TWO ENGLISH

19. ***Read the following passage and answer the questions that follow: (20 marks)***

It is a great fortune to belong to that generation that grew up feeding on tales of Kaka Sungura na wenzake instead of the cartoon network fare. I am sure, in many ways we are better people for it.

But the thing that used to get to me about Kaka Sungura was this; although he was brighter, spiffier, humorous and certainly more interesting than all the other animals he pitted himself against in all his food' hardy acts, he always lost the race, the woman, the maize con or even his life!

The great African moral of the story was that it didn't pay to be too smart for your boots, so while the tortoise won the race through perseverance and some measure of deceit, the cocksure rabbit slept against a tree and got to finish the line only to realize the joke was on him.

Yet we loved those stones even though we had heard them a million times before, even though we knew the outcome. For you Sere, in great tradition of oral folklore, the story teller always varied his rendition for each different audience. He or she also knew when to throw a song, dance or mime.

Their expressions animated, the story although with predictable endings (the rabbit always lost, duh!) never failed to come alive with new twists and turns each time. But the really interesting part came when we retold the Kaka Sungura stories to our peers. We added in characters - like superman and wonder-woman- you see that was way before the time of Batman.

Sometimes we even gave kaka Sungura Superpowers himself. And when we told the story out of the ear shot of the grownups, we occasionally allowed Kaka Sungura to win! So what if he was trickster and too cocksure, we liked the guy! If only we could conjure up that childlike imagination to change our real life situations as easily as that.

Too often we grow up believing that our dreams and desires will unfold for us. When that fails to happen, we may get bitter at worst or resign ourselves to the present drams as it unfolds at best. We may even rationalize that we are too old, too female, too poor and whatever else to significantly steer our lives in another direction.

But then again, why can't we? Why can't we add some drama every now and them to a story that is getting boring? Heck, while we are at it, why can't we just change the ending of the story? Today, during a conversation with a friend, we began to reminisce about our lives and the paths we had chosen at critical moments in life which had led us to our present situations. These included choice of a partner, friends an whether or not to have children. This also in part included choice of a partner, friends and whether or not the have children. This also in part includes choice of-type of education and whether to pursue it further. This even included choice of career and jobs.

The tragedy is that some of us then choose to stay in unpleasant situations because the naysayers insist that one must never change the ending. No matter what happens in between, the rabbit is always supposed to lose

Yet, as Oprah would say, I now know for sure that we can retell our life story. As a matter of fact, if we are very unhappy with our current state of affairs; we can rewrite the script. The courageous in our midst do it every day. It is the woman who at mid life opts for a career change that makes her wake up with a zing. It is the man who unhappy with his health decides to prepare for a marathon, climbs a mountain or changes his lifestyle. It is the woman who walks out of an abusive and demanding relationship. It is the man who changes his outlook and takes a kinder perspective toward life. Yet in all these scenarios, the critical question hinges on whether or not one is committed to remaining where they are and their old story or to moving to where they want to be and rewriting that story. It is certainly much easier than it sounds, and I am sure each of the courageous souls above will tell us that it took some gut, blood and tears. But the good new is that it is possible. Now that is what I call a happy ending to a hare story!

***(Adopted from Daily Nation Sunday August 21, 2005)***

a) Which aspects made Africa folklore a great narration? **(2 marks)**

b) Sometimes we even gave Kaka Sungura super powers himself, (write the above statement in the passive **(1 mark)**

c) What remedies does the writer suggest to reduce boredom of story telling?

**(2 marks).**

d) Identify parenthesis in the paragraph beginning; Their expression....

**(1 mark)**

e) Which factors in the passage made Kaka Sungura likeable? **(3 marks)**

f) State any four factors that can facilitate the destiny of a person in life

**(4 marks)**

g) Give another word with similar pronunciation as the following words.

**(2 marks)**

i) Won \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

ii) Too \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

h) Explain the meanings of the following words and expressions as used in the passage. **(5 marks)**

i) Pitted himself against

ii) We can rewrite the script

1. Demeaning relationship

iv) Reminisce

v) Animated