

Weep Not, Child Performances

I. While reading the novel, focus on the following themes:

Education

- Religious schooling
- Language
- Gender

Family

- Family roles
- Gender roles
- Rites of passage (circumcision...)

Land, as an issue and as a commodity

- Traditional owners
- Settlers
- Freedom fighters

Racial Tension

- White/black
- Class conflict between blacks
- Opportunities and challenges

Mau Mau

- Civil war
- National identity
- Use of violence– oathing

Tradition vs. Modernity

- Ancestors and religion
- Language
- Oathing

- II. Each group of three will take one of the themes and then brainstorm ideas to convert the novel into a play with scenes, dialogue, characters, costumes, and props.
- III. Write a play **6–8 minutes long** that provides a thematic window into the book. The bulleted sub-topics are just suggestions on angles that you might take. You may see other options.
- IV. Portray characters from the novel.
- V. Use at least **ONE quote EACH** from the book.
- VI. Outside historical context is encouraged.
- VII. Your play must clearly tell some aspect of the story so that your audience can understand the theme and its significance to Kenyan history and culture!
- VIII. **Produce a play bill** (scenes, context, characters, actors, advertisements! Etc.) that you will give to the class prior to the performance.
- IX. You will **perform the play** in class.