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### DEACON MATA

*Oral Traditions as Philosophy* East African Publishers

This is a study of the Ugandan poet and cultural critic Okot p'Bitek. In his poems and critical essays, Okot engages with the oral traditions of his people—the songs, dances, funeral dirges, and so forth—seeing them as manifestations of the people's philosophy of life. Imbo's book aims to make explicit the philosophical questions raised in Okot's work, placing them within the wider picture of contemporary African philosophy as a whole. Visit our website for sample chapters!

**The Man with the Compound Eyes** Fountain Books

Song of Lawino and Song of Ocol are among the most successful African literary works. Song of Lawino is an African woman's lamentation over the cultural death of her western educated husband - Ocol. In Song of Ocol the husband tries to justify his cultural apostasy. These songs were translated from Acholi by the author. They evince a fascinating flavour of the African rhythmical idiom.

**White Teeth** LifeRich Publishing

Engaging important discussions about social conflict, environmental change, and imperialism in Africa, *Different Shades of Green* points to legacies of African environmental writing, often neglected as a result of critical perspectives shaped by dominant Western conceptions of nature and environmentalism. Drawing on an interdisciplinary framework employing postcolonial studies, political ecology, environmental history, and writing by African environmental activists, Byron Caminero-Santangelo emphasizes connections within African environmental literature, highlighting how African writers have challenged unjust, ecologically destructive forms of imperial development and resource extraction. *Different Shades of Green* also brings into dialogue a wide range of African creative writing—including works by Chinua Achebe, Ngũgĩ wa Thiong'o, Bessie Head, Nadine Gordimer, Zakes Mda, Nuruddin Farah, Wangari Maathai, and Ken Saro-Wiwa—in order to explore vexing questions for those involved in the struggle for environmental justice, in the study of political ecology, and in the environmental humanities, urging continued imaginative thinking in effecting a more equitable, sustain-able future in Africa.

**Gender Representation in Song of Lawino and Song of Ocol** Plume

First published in Acholi as *Lak Tar*, this novel from the late Ugandan author of *Song of Lawino*, *Song of Ocol* and other major works, is the story of society on the threshold of change. A young Acholi man wishes to marry but cannot raise the bridewealth. He travels to Kampala to find work, and the author humorously relates his efforts.

**Gabriel Okara** East African Publishers

The fine arts first emerged divided by the five senses yet, since their very origin, they have projected aesthetic networks among themselves. Music, song, painting, architecture, sculpture, theatre, dance -- distinct in themselves -- grew together, enhancing each other. In the present outburst of technical ingenuity, individual arts cross all barriers, as well as proliferate in kind. Hence the traditional criteria of appreciation and enjoyment vanish. The enlarged and ever-growing field calls for new principles of appreciation and new values, essential to our culture. This collection initiates an inquiry into the aesthetic foundations of the fine arts. Their common aesthetic nature, as well as the differentiating specificities which sustain them, might reveal the universal role of aesthetics in human life.

*Song of Lawino* Heinemann Educational Books

Poems that recall the senseless loss of life and of innocence in Rwanda.

**The Cow-Tail Switch** University of Alberta

The narrative of this wonderful gem of a novel weaves together a rich tapestry of characters who are both nameless and faceless, representing everyman and everywoman, to tell stories of parting and

return, suffering, healing and desire in a lyrical and moving exploration of the human heart. Like a bird in flight, the reader travels across a borderless landscape composed of tales of daily existence, news reports, allegories and ancestral myths, becoming aware in the course of the journey of the interconnection of individual lives.

**Song of Lawino** Manila Publishers Company

Gabriel Okara, a prize-winning author whose literary career spans six decades, is rightly hailed as the elder statesman of Nigerian literature. The first Modernist poet of anglophone Africa, he is best known for *The Fisherman's Invocation* (1978), *The Dreamer, His Vision* (2005), and for his early experimental novel, *The Voice* (1964). Arranged in six sections, *Gabriel Okara: Collected Poems* includes the poet's earliest lyric verse along with poems written in response to Nigeria's war years; literary tributes and elegies to fellow poets, activists, and loved ones long dead; and recent dramatic and narrative poems. The introduction by Brenda Marie Osbey contextualizes Okara's work in the history of Nigerian, African, and English language literatures. *Gabriel Okara: Collected Poems* is at once a treasure for those long in search of a single authoritative edition and a revelation and timely introduction for readers new to the work of one of Africa's most revered poets.

**As the Crow Flies** Macmillan

This edited book examines the crucial role still played by African languages in pedagogy and literatures in the 21st century, generating insights into how they effectively serve cultural needs across the African continent and beyond. Boldly positioning African languages as key resources in the 21st century, chapters focus on themes such as language revolt by marginalized groups at grassroots level, the experience of American students learning African languages, female empowerment through the use of African languages in music, film and literary works, and immigration issues. The contributions are written by scholars of language, literature, education and linguistics, and the book will be of interest to students and scholars in these and related areas.

**Notes on Okot P'Bitek's Song of Lawino & Song of Ocol** Heinemann

An anthology designed for the enjoyment and instruction of students from junior-secondary school onwards. The poems focus on aspects central to African life and culture: lover, identity, death, village life, separation, power and freedom. Guidance for teachers is included.

*Lak tar* Waveland Press

*A Nation In Labour* is a collection of social conscience poetry that paints a picture of the giant politician, the restless citizen, the clueless youth, those struggling to heal from life's scratches and the ones hunting for words to describe fiery flames of affection.

**Notes on Song of Lawino and Song of Ocol** African Books Collective

*Song of Prisoner* confronts the tragedy of Africa's decade of freedom. The traverses the whole spectrum of her political sickness and contrasts it with the enduring reality of the bush - roots of family and clan, and the optimism of Africa's children in the face of hunger, hardship and humiliation.

**The Horn of My Love** Heinemann International Incorporated

*The Song of Our Father* (cf. *The Song of Hiawatha*) is the story of a patriarch of the Niger Delta in West Africa, told in poetry like its homophonic cousin, and rhymed in 29 of 30 chapters. The Prologue flashes back to 1834 when the British explorer Richard Lander made his second expedition to the area and was killed while passing through the protagonist's home town, Angiama. Interestingly, the forebears of John Lander, Richard's brother and co-explorer - Megan and Emily - made an anniversary trip in 2004 to mark the 200th birthday of Richard Lander's birth. The Frank-Opigo family made contact with them through the British High Commission in Nigeria to encourage them to come down the River Niger as far as Angiama, the point where Richard died. That "event" is captured in the Epilogue. Between the Prologue and the Epilogue is a microscopic story of Nigeria and the Niger Delta, told through the life of Nicholas Abo Frank-Opigo, 1926 - 2010. Snapshots of

Nigeria's pre-independence, independence, the Biafra civil war and its aftermath, are all retold in a new perspective and with fresh details. The culture of the people of the Niger Delta underline sections of the narrative. Certain previously untold details of the Biafran warlord, General Chukwuemeka Odumegwu-Ojukwu, come to light, as the protagonist was one of his provincial Administrators. Above all, it is the poignant story of a man, told by his son, who grew up in challenging circumstances and rose through sheer gumption from grass to grace - to gasp.

*Song of Lawino and Song of Ocol* Rowman & Littlefield

During his lifetime, Okot p'Bitek was concerned that African nations, including his native Uganda, be built on African and not European foundations. Traditional African songs became a regular feature in his work, including this pair of poems, originally written in Acholi and translated into English. Lawinos words in the first poem are not fancy, but their creative patterns convey compelling images that reveal her dismay over encroaching Western traditions and her Westernized husbands behavior. Ocols poem underlines Lawinos points and confirms her view of him as a demeaning and arrogant person whose political energies and obsession with wasting time are destructive to his family and his community. The gripping poems of Lawino and Ocol capture two opposing approaches to the cultural future of Africa at the time and paint a picture that belongs in every modern readers cognitive gallery.

*Song of Lawino and Song of Ocol* East African Educational Publishers

The Heresiad by Ikeogu Oke was the 2017 winner of The Nigeria Prize for Literature. The poet employs the epic form in questioning power and freedom and probes metaphorically the inner workings of societies and those who shape them. The book speaks to an intense commitment to innovation, tenacity, joyful experimentation and social commentary in a way that provokes delight and engagement.

**Growing Up with Poetry** U of Nebraska Press

Contains seventeen stories gathered from the Ashantis of West Africa.

*Song of Lawino & Song of Ocol* Penguin Random House South Africa

When a tsunami sends a massive island made entirely of trash crashing into the Taiwanese coast, two very different people—an outcast from a mythical island and a woman on the verge of

suicide—are united in ways they never could have imagined. Here is the English-language debut of a new and exciting award-winning voice from Taiwan, who has written an “astonishing” novel (The Independent) that is at once fantasy, reality, and dystopian environmental saga. Fifteen-year-old Atile'i—a native of Wayo Wayo, an island somewhere in the Pacific—has come of age. Following the custom of his people, he is set adrift as a sacrifice to the Sea God but, unlike those who have gone before him, Atile'i is determined to defy precedent and survive. His chances seem slim, but just as it appears that hope is lost, Atile'i comes across a sprawling trash vortex floating in the ocean and climbs onto it. Meanwhile, on the east coast of Taiwan, Alice, a college professor, is overcome with grief. Her husband and son are missing, having disappeared while hiking in the mountains near their home. Alice is so distraught that she decides to end her own life. But her plans are interrupted by a violent storm that causes the trash vortex to collide with the Taiwanese coast, bringing Atile'i along with it. Alice and Atile'i subsequently form an unlikely friendship that helps each of them come to terms with what they have lost. Together they set out to uncover the mystery of Alice's lost family, following their footsteps into the mountains. Intertwined with Alice and Atile'i's story are the lives of others affected by the tsunami, from environmentalists to Taiwan's indigenous peoples—and, of course, the mysterious man with the compound eyes. A work of lyrical beauty that combines magical realism and environmental fable, *The Man with the Compound Eyes* is an incredible story about the bonds of family, the meaning of love, and the lasting effects of human destruction.

**Song of Lawino & Song of Ocol** Springer

A new translation of the late Okot p'Bitek's classic epic poem 'Wer pa Lawino', first published in Acholi in 1969, and recently listed in Africa's 100 Best Books. Lawino is a female voice, taking issue with her husband whom she witnesses imitating a European culture which is destroying a more deeply rooted African culture.

**Notes on Okot P'Bitek's "song of Lawino", And, "Song of Ocal".** Springer Science & Business Media

This is a study guide to Okot p'Bitek's famous "Song of Lawino." It is a close reading of the text within the broader context of African literature and literary theory.

[Notes on Song of Lawino](#) University of Virginia Press