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# Song Of Lawino Song Of Ocol By Okot Pbitek

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Song of Lawino

Notes on Okot P'Bitek's "Song of Lawino" And" Song of Ocol"

Wer pa Lawino

Song of Lawino

The Fat Black Woman's Poems

Different Shades of Green

Song of Lawino and Song of Ocol

Book of Songs (Shi-Jing)

The Song of Our Father

Song of Lawino & Song of Ocol

Song of a Prisoner

Hare and Hornbill

Kweema kwa nakalindu

African Languages and Literatures in the 21st Century

Coming to Birth

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

Gender Representation in Song of Lawino and Song of Ocol

Song of Lawino and Song of Ocol

Always Coca-Cola

Songs of Ọdámọ̀lúgbẹ̀

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

The Defence of Lawino

The Horn of My Love

Song of Lawino and Song of Ocol

Africa's Cultural Revolution

The Cow-Tail Switch

Song of Lawino  
White Teeth  
Notes on Okot P'Bitek's "song of Lawino", And, "Song of Ocol".  
East African Poetry of Assertion  
The Man with the Compound Eyes  
The Aesthetic Discourse of the Arts  
Song of Lawino and Song of Ocol  
Lak tar  
Efuru  
A Lament, by Okot P'Bitek : Song of Lawino  
Gabriel Okara  
Song of Lawino & Song of Ocol  
Oral Traditions as Philosophy

*Song Of Lawino Song Of Ocol By Okot  
Pbitek*

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## **CURTIS KEAGAN**

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*Song of Lawino* Interlink Publishing  
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.

*Notes on Okot P'Bitek's "Song of Lawino" And" Song of Ocol"*  
Springer Science & Business Media  
Humorous and ironical folk tales revealing the customs and

thought of the West Africans.

Wer pa Lawino African Books Collective

Grace Nichols gives us images that stare us straight in the eye, images of joy, challenge, accusation. Her 'fat black woman' is brash; rejoices in herself; poses awkward questions to politicians, rulers, suitors, to a white world that still turns its back. Grace Nichols writes in a language that is wonderfully vivid yet economical of the pleasures and sadnesses of memory, of loving, of 'the power to be what I am, a woman, charting my own futures'.

*Song of Lawino* East African Educ Press

In this quietly powerful and eminently readable novel, winner of the prestigious Sinclair Prize, Kenyan writer Marjorie Macgoye deftly interweaves the story of one young woman's tumultuous coming of age with the history of a nation emerging from

colonialism. At the age of sixteen, Paulina leaves her small village in western Kenya to join her new husband, Martin, in the bustling city of Nairobi. It is 1956, and Kenya is in the final days of the "Emergency," as the British seek to suppress violent anti-colonial revolts. But Paulina knows little about, about city life, or about marriage, and Martin's clumsy attempts to control her soon lead to a relationship filled with silences, misunderstandings, and unfulfilled expectations. Soon Paulina's inability to bear a child effectively banishes her from the confines of traditional women's roles. As her country at last moves toward independence, Paulina manages to achieve a kind of independence as well: She accepts a job that will require her to live separately from her husband, and she has an affair that leads to the birth of her first child. But Paulina's hard-won contentment will be shattered when Kenya's turbulent history intrudes into her private life, bringing with it tragedy—and a new test of her quiet courage and determination. Paulina's patient struggles for survival and identity are revealed through Marjorie Macgoye's keen and sensitive vision—a vision which extends to embrace the whole of a nation and a people likewise struggling to find their way. As the *Weekly Standard of Kenya* notes, "Coming to Birth is a radical novel in firmly asserting our common humanity."

**The Fat Black Woman's Poems** Waveland Press

The Book of Songs (or Shi-jing), the oldest existing anthology of Chinese poetry, comprises 305 works created over centuries. Some feature lyrics in simple language that reflects the common people, addressing love and courtship, political satire, and protest. Others focus on court life and dynasties; nearly all rhyme. This stunning dual-language edition features 32 beautiful

verses, including "Se Miu," about a man exhaustedly working for the king, and "Odes Of Yong (Bo Zhou)," a melancholy love poem. *Different Shades of Green* Virago Press

The narrator of *Always Coca-Cola*, Abeer Ward (fragrant rose, in Arabic), daughter of a conservative family, admits wryly that her name is also the name of her father's flower shop. Abeer's bedroom window is filled by a view of a Coca-Cola sign featuring the image of her sexually adventurous friend, Jana. From the novel's opening paragraph—"When my mother was pregnant with me, she had only one craving. That craving was for Coca-Cola"—first-time novelist Alexandra Chreiteh asks us to see, with wonder, humor, and dismay, how inextricably confused naming and desire, identity and branding are. The names—and the novel's edgy, cynical humor—might be recognizable across languages, but Chreiteh's novel is first and foremost an exploration of a specific Lebanese milieu. Critics in Lebanon have called the novel "an electric shock."

**Song of Lawino and Song of Ocol** Heinemann

First published in Acoli 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 Acoli man wishes to marry but cannot raise the bridewealth. He travels to Kampala to find work, and the author humorously relates his efforts.

Random House

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!

*Book of Songs (Shi-Jing)* 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.

*The Song of Our Father* Heinemann Educational Books  
 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.

**Song of Lawino & Song of Ocol** Waveland Press

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.

*Song of a Prisoner* The Feminist Press at CUNY

A collection of essays about the author's concern about Africa's cultural future.

*Hare and Hornbill* LifeRich Publishing

"Song of Lawino is a biting, though profoundly compassionate,

satire on modern Africa, in which the author has almost incidentally evolved a new African form of English literature and language"--Back cover

Kweema kwa nakalindu Rowman & Littlefield

On the island of Wayo Wayo, every second son must leave on the day he turns fifteen as a sacrifice to the Sea God. Atile'i however is determined to defy destiny and become the first to survive. Across the sea, Alice Shih's life is interrupted when a vast trash vortex comes crashing onto the shore of Taiwan, bringing Atile'i with it. In the aftermath of the catastrophe, Atile'i and Alice retrace her late husband's footsteps into the mountains, hoping to solve the mystery of her son's disappearance. On their journey, memories will be challenged, an unusual bond formed, and a dark secret uncovered that will force Alice to question everything she thought she knew.

*African Languages and Literatures in the 21st Century* Chinese Bound Classics

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, sustainable future in Africa.

**Coming to Birth** Macmillan

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. Studies by Paula Carabell, J. Fiori Blanchfield, R. Riese Hubert, R. Gray, D. Lipten, J. Parsons, S. Brown, C. Osowie Ruoff, T. Raczka, K. Karbenier and others.

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

*Song of Lawino & Song of Ocol* Waveland Press

*Gender Representation in Song of Lawino and Song of Ocol* University of Virginia Press

Two African literary works by Okot P'Bitek available together in the African Writers Series.

*Song of Lawino and Song of Ocol* East African Publishers  
 Appearing in 1966, Efurū was the first internationally published book, in English, by a Nigerian woman. Flora Nwapa (1931–1993) sets her story in a small village in colonial West Africa as she describes the youth, marriage, motherhood, and eventual personal epiphany of a young woman in rural Nigeria. The respected and beautiful protagonist, an independent-minded Ibo woman named Efurū, wishes to be a mother. Her eventual tragedy is that she is not able to marry or raise children successfully. Alone and childless, Efurū realizes she surely must have a higher calling and goes to the lake goddess of her tribe, Uhamiri, to discover the path she must follow. The work, a rich exploration of Nigerian village life and values, offers a realistic picture of gender issues in a patriarchal society as well as the

struggles of a nation exploited by colonialism.

**Always Coca-Cola** U of Nebraska Press

During his lifetime, Okot pBitek 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. Ocol's 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.

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