

ST MARGARET COLLEGE MAKARERE

BOT TERM III 2011

S.1 LITERATURE

Instructions: Answer all questions.

Time: 1 Hrs

1. Read the story below and answer the questions that follow.

She was happy, the mother was. She hummed as she peeled bananas, dropping them on the banana leaves placed on the small basket. The hum was deep and lively and skin was smooth and rich. Her child sat on the mat playing with the mid-rib of a green banana leaf, twisting it and forming a hoop and then straightening it. The mother's hands were skilled hands. She would peel bananas without looking at what she was doing. She would sometimes gossip with the neighbouring women and laugh: but her hands would peel bananas methodically, yet tenderly and with much affection, until the basket was filled with well-peeled bananas using a sharpened homemade knife while she hummed. And the hum was very rich in the evening silence. Occasionally she glanced at draw a line of blood would worry her and she would spend a sleepless, anxious night!

The mother stopped humming and sighed with satisfaction. Her avid eyes glowed as she looked at the pile of peeled – bananas and then at her child. She would cook the bananas and would feed her child, and her child would grow fat and would not cry for hung. Her eyes slid to the corner of the kitchen. The mother looked at it, ignoring the thin threads of smoke from a poorly dried piece of wood. She would bath her child with warm water and the lifebuoy soap. She would do this when the sun sank behind the hills. This she always did. And then she would dry the water of her child with her cloth. Her child would be oiled. And she would kiss him and tell him stories of long ago and sing the songs he loved. Yes. she would do this until the cooking pot sent strong, rich smell which meant that food was ready and well cooked.

The mother got up and finished out a sweet potato from under the banana leaves. She looked at it and brushed off with a figures the dry soil that had stacked to it.

‘Look’, he said in warm voice stretching out her arm “let me roast this for you. Am going to cut more banana leaves: Do not move near the fire I will come back soon and give you the potato when it is ready.”

She bent down and buried the potato in the hot ash. then she picked up a tin mug and a rusty table spoon and these she gave to her child.

“play with these,” she said, until I come back. Do not go away or else I shall not sing for you.

She kissed him and held his cheeks re- assuring. She picked up a knife and laughed with joy. And she went out to the kitchen towards the banana plantation still singing. The mother was very happy.

Questions :

1. Suggest a suitable title for the above
2. What was the child's mother doing as the child sat on the mat:
3. What was the child doing as he sat on the mat?
4. How skilled was the mother's hands?
5. How did the mother look after the child? Give four ways
6. Why would the feed the child on bananas?
7. How would the mother know that food was ready and well cooked ?
8. Why did she live the child in the kitchen alone
9. What items did she give the child to play with?
10. Give the meaning of the following words as used in the story
 - i). Sufuria
 - ii). Re-assuring

iii). Hum