

Charles Mungoshi
If you don't stay bitter for too long
Easier questions to cut your teeth on!

Worksheet by:
Keith Tankard
Knowledge4Africa.com

1. "If you don't stay bitter
and angry for too long
you might finally salvage
something useful
from the old country"
 - What is this bitterness and anger about which the poet is speaking? (2)
 - What does the poet mean when he refers to "the old country"? (4)

2. "a lazy half sleep summer afternoon
for instance, with the whoof-whoof
of grazing cattle in your ears
tails swishing, flicking flies away"
 - What language device (figure of speech) is "whoof-whoof"? (1)
 - To what does "whoof-whoof" refer? (2)

3. "the bantering tone you used with your
grandmother and their old laugh
that said nothing matters but death"
 - What is meant by "the bantering tone"? (2)
 - Explain the relationship between the boy and his grandmother. (4)
 - Why is their laugh an "old" one? (4)

4. "If you . . . have the courage to go back
you will discover that the autumn smoke
writes different more helpful messages
in the high skies of the old country."
 - What does the poet mean when he says "go back"? Go back where? (4)
 - Why does the poet refer specifically to "the autumn smoke"? Is there any special significance to "autumn"? (4)

<www.knowledge4africa.com>

This worksheet is copyrighted. No part of it may be copied or printed in any form whatever without the express permission in writing of the author. The sole exception is for non-profit educational purposes.