

Charles Mungoshi  
If you don't stay bitter for too long  
Some challenging questions!

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 meant by "salvage"? (4)
  - In what way would one "salvage something useful from 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"
  - Comment on the poet's choice of words in "a lazy half sleep summer afternoon". (6)
  
3. "birds hopping about  
in the wake of the plough  
in search of worms"
  - What point is the poet making when he speaks of the birds' search for worms "in the wake of the plough"? (4)
  
4. "or the pained look of your father  
a look that took you all these years  
and lots of places to understand"
  - What is the "pained look of your father"? (4)
  - Why did it take "all these years and lots of places to understand"? (2)
  - Contrast the attitude of the father to that of the grandmother. (4)
  
5. "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."
  - Comment on the idea of the "autumn smoke" writing "different more helpful messages in the high skies of the old country". (4)
  - What does the poet mean when he speaks of "the old country"? (4)

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