

Brief Questions in Petals of Blood

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- **Who is Ngugi wa Thiong'o?**

Ans:

A Kenyan postcolonial writer, born 1938.

- **In which language does Ngugi write his novels?**

Ans:

First English; later his Gikuyu language.

- **What do you know about the Mau Mau revolt?**

Ans:

An anti-British uprising, 1952–1960, led by Kimathi.

- **From where are the novel's epigraphs taken?**

Ans:

Revelation, and Whitman's poem on Europe.

- **Who are murdered?**

Ans:

Mzigo, Chui, and Kimeria are murdered.

- **Who is Abdulla?**

Ans:

An ex-Mau Mau fighter and shopkeeper.

- **Who is Joseph?**

Ans:

Abdulla's adopted brother.

- **Who is Mukami?**

Ans:

Munira's sister; she committed suicide.

- **Who is Old Mariamu?**

Ans:

A worker on Munira's father's farm.

- **Who is Wanja?**

Ans:

Nyakinyua's granddaughter; returned to Ilmorog.

- **What is Wanja's new job?**

Ans:

She is a barmaid at Abdulla's shop.

- **What about Wanja's first love?**

Ans:

A school friend; her father beat her.

- **How does the new police officer treat Munira?**

Ans:

Kindly; he gives paper for confession.

- **What does Karega reveal to Munira?**

Ans:

He is Old Mariamu's son and an ex-student.

- **Who was Nding'uri?**

Ans:

Karega's brother; a Mau Mau fighter.

- **How did Abdulla become a shopkeeper?**

Ans:

He restored a building; Joseph helped.

- **What is the Kamwane Cultural Organization?**

Ans:

A state group arranging oath-taking tea parties.

- **What did Karega do at Gatunda?**

Ans:

He sold skins, fruit, and vegetables.

- **How did Ilmorog's history begin?**

Ans:

With Ndemi settling and farming there.

- **Why was there a marketplace massacre?**

Ans:

After a white man's death, Europeans fired.

- **Why is Karega compared with Ndemi?**

Ans:

He urges action, not waiting for gods.

- **Why is it called Abdulla's feast?**

Ans:

He killed an antelope for the meat.

- **What does the lawyer do for them?**

Ans:

He shelters, feeds, and frees them.

- **How does Nderi wa Riera behave?**

Ans:

Cold welcome; then he sends police.

- **What festival follows harvest?**

Ans:

The circumcision festival.

- **What drink is taken then?**

Ans:

Theng'eta, a hallucinogenic brew.

- **How is Theng'eta made?**

Ans:

Maize flour, water, Theng'eta juice; brewed.

- **What news shocks Munira?**

Ans:

Mukami loved Karega; Ndung'uri cut father's ear.

- **What is Muratina?**

Ans:

A milder drink allowed by colonials.

1. Why does Karega return to Ilmorog?

Ans:

He was fired for union organizing.

- **Why is Karega taken to the red chamber?**

Ans: For torture and forced confession.

- **How does Wanja answer Abdulla's proposal?**

Ans:

She rejects the proposal.

- **What does Abdulla decide seeing Kimeria?**

Ans:

To kill Kimeria that night.

- **What does Wanja do before the fire?**

Ans:

She invites Mzigo, Kimeria, and Chui.

- **Who killed Kimeria?**

Ans:

Wanja hit him with a frying pan.

- **How is Wanja saved?**

Ans:

Burned, but Abdulla rescues her.

- **What does Munira's father do at trial?**

Ans:

He asks Munira why he did it.

- **What news does the girl give Karega?**

Ans:

Workers unite; a mass strike looms.

- **What is Munira's view of Wanja and Karega?**

Ans:

He is jealous of their love.

- **Who are the Samaritans?**

Ans:

Munira, Abdulla, Karega—helpers in drought.

- **Who is Mwathi?**

Ans:

The town's prophet and medicine man.

- **What follows Wanja's love with Kimeria?**

Ans:

Pregnancy; rejection; she becomes a barmaid.

- **Why does Munira befriend Julia?**

Ans:

To make Wanja jealous.

- **Which project brings development to Ilmorog?**

Ans:

The Trans-African Highway.

- **How is Ilmorog modernized?**

Ans:

Road, bank, cooperative, and many shops.

- **Who sets fire to Wanja's brothel?**

Ans:

Munira does, out of jealousy.

- **What is the novel's background?**

Ans:

Kenya's independence after the Mau Mau.

- **What was the Mau Mau Revolt?**

Ans:

Armed resistance to British rule, 1952–1960.

- **How was Abdulla's donkey killed?**

Ans:

A plane crash killed the donkey.

- **Who is Munira?**

Ans:

A schoolteacher running Ilmorog's school.

- **Who inspires villagers to visit Nairobi and their MP?**

Ans:

Karega inspires the journey.

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