

Petals of Blood key Facts

Writer: Ngũgĩ wa Thiong'o | Generated: Jan 26, 2026

Key Facts:

- **Writer:** Ngũgĩ wa Thiong'o (1938–2025)
- **Full Title:** Petals of Blood
- **Written Time:** 1971–1976
- **First Published:** 1977 (Heinemann Educational Books, London)
- **Genre:** Postcolonial Novel / Political Allegory / Social Realist Fiction
- **Tone:** Critical, Revolutionary, Reflective, Tragic
- **Structure:** Three Parts – “Walking,” “Toward Bethlehem,” and “To Be Born”
- **Language:** English (later translated by Ngũgĩ into Gikuyu)
- **Narrative Technique:** Third-person omniscient; realist style with symbolic elements
- **Point of View:** Multiple perspectives focusing mainly on Munira, Wanja, Karega, and Abdulla
- **Time Setting:** Post-independence Kenya (around late 1960s–early 1970s)
- **Place Setting:** Ilmorog, a rural village that grows into a town
- **Symbolism:** Fire (purification and destruction), Theng'eta drink (exploitation), Land (identity and power)
- **Major Conflicts:** Rich vs. Poor; Tradition vs. Modernity; Idealism vs. Corruption
- **Significance of Title:** “Petals of Blood” symbolizes beauty born from suffering, hope rising through pain and sacrifice.