

NAME: STREAM:

ST. STEPHEN'S COLLEGE BBAJJA

S.5 LITERATURE IN ENGLISH

PAPER ONE

Read the following extract from Okot's Song of Lawino and answer the questions that follow.

Her lips are red – hot
Like glowing charcoal,
She resembles the wild cat
That has dipped its mouth in blood,
Her mouth is like raw yaws
It looks like an open ulcer,
Like the mouth of a field!
Tina dusts powder on her face
And it looks so pale;
She resembles the wizard
Getting ready for the midnight dance.

She dusts the ash – dirt all over her face
And when little sweat
Begins to appear on her body
She looks like a guinea fowl!
The smell of carbonic soap
Makes me sick,
And the smell of powder
Provokes the ghosts in my head;
It is then necessary to fetch a goat
From my mother's brother.
The sacrifice over
The ghost-dance drum must sound
The ghost be laid
And my peace be restored.

I don't like dusting myself with powder.
The thing is good on pink skin
Because it is already pale,
But when a black woman has used it
She looks as if she has dysentery;
Tina looks sickly

And she is slow moving,
She is a piteous sight.

Some medicine has eaten up Tina's face;
The skin on her face is gone
And it is all raw and red,
The face of the beautiful one
Is tender like the skin of the newly born baby!

And she believes
That this is beautiful
Because it resembles the face of a white woman!
Her body resembles
The ugly coat of the hyena;
Her neck and arms
Have real human skins!
She looks as if she has been struck
By lightening;
Or burnt like the kongoni
In a fire hunt.

And her lips look like bleeding,
Her hair is long,
Her head is huge like that of the owl,
She looks like a witch,
Like someone who has lost her head
And should be taken
To the clan shrine!
Her neck is rope – like,
Thin, long and skinny
And her face sickly pale.

Song of Lawino (the woman with whom i share my husband)

Okot P' Bitek (Uganda)

Questions.

1. What is the subject matter of the poem?
2. Identify the figures of speech used in the above poem and show their effectiveness.
3. Describe the feelings of the person in the above poem.

END.