Instructions
1. Summarise the Notes below to One Page in your Exercise book
2. Attempt the Questions
3. Copy the commentary notes.
4. Read chapter 3. All work to be completed by Tuesday 9th June 2020.

CHAPTER TWO
THE CULTURE SHOCK

- Taiyo and Resian realize that the morning in the village is in sharp contrast with that in Nakuru. Here, there is an atmosphere of tranquility and serenity while in Nakuru, there is rowdy clatter of hooting and revving matatus and shouting of touts at dawn.

- The girls share breakfast of tea and bread in their senior-most aunt’s house together with their sixteen cousins, their aunts and mother.

- After breakfast, Taiyo and Resian decide to while away time by taking a walk around the neighborhood.

- Mama Milanoi feels quite uncomfortable about her daughters’ uncircumcised status in the midst of a community that cherishes girl child circumcision. She has a strange sense of premonition.

- As they walk, the girls discuss the matter of large families. While Taiyo thinks they are a good thing, Resian believes that when people are so many in one home, apprehension and rivalry cannot be absent.

- Suddenly, a tall heavyset man accosts them and takes them to task over their state of being uncircumcised. He makes it clear to them that there is no place in their society for women of their kind.

- Although terribly shaken, they feel relieved when the man releases Taiyo’s hand and walks away from them without harming them. They had feared he was going to rape them or perhaps circumcise them by force.
• They decide to keep the incident to themselves away from their parents because their father would simply blame them for moving out without his permission.

• Ole Kaelo pays a visit to his mentor, Soin Ole Supeyo, an immensely rich man who is also reputed to be shrewd, scrupulous and honest.

• In spite of having no formal education, Ole Supeyo is able to embrace modern culture and balance it appropriately with the old Nasila culture. For example, all his children are taken to school.

• When Minik ene Nkoitoi; the anti-girl circumcision crusader had tried to persuade him not to circumcise his daughters, he forcefully ejected her out of his home.

• During their conversation, Ole Supeyo notices that Ole Kaelo is quite pompous about his business arrangements and he is not comfortable with that. Ole Kaelo feels slighted when his mentor advises that he will have to be careful with how to organize his sales. He believes that being educated; he should know better how to organize his sales than the old illiterate Ole Supeyo.

• To his shock, Ole Supeyo learns that his friend has already got into a contract with the most corrupt person in Nasila-Oloisudori-to supply government institutions in Nasila with agricultural inputs. Little does he know that Ole Kaelo is already deep in the murky business of the underworld.

• Ole Supeyo warns him that Oloisudori is not to be trusted. *‘Don’t trust him any further than you would a hyena in your homestead.’* (Pg26)
• Same afternoon, the Ole Kaelos relocate to their new home, one kilometre away from Simiren’s.

• As they ride there, each of them is wrapped in their own thoughts. Mama Milanoi thinks of the fulfillment of a dream of a house; Resian, of a foreboding following the young man’s threat, Taiyo of being unclean after the attacker held her hand, and Ole Kaelo of the gravity of Ole Supeyo’s warning over Oloisudori.

• Mama Milanoi and the girls are excited about the house—a solid stone-built, red-tiled, roofed house on a hill where it commands a beautiful scene.

**TASKS**

i) The girls think that their mother’s caution to be careful as they walk around the neighborhood is misplaced. Why? Are they right to feel so?

ii) What are Soin Ole Supeyo’s business interests?

iii) How has he built his business empire?

iv) Trace how Ole Supeyo and Ole Kaelo’s closeness developed.

v) What are Ole Supeyo’s beliefs about female circumcision?

vi) Why does Ole Kaelo visit his mentor especially at this time?

vii) *‘The man with the meat is also the man with the knife.’* What does this statement mean in the context of this chapter? How does it influence Ole Kaelo’s morality?
viii) Why do you think Ole Kaelo does business with Oloisudori when he knows he is a criminal?

ix) What things do the Ole Kaelos find to be different in Nasila from what they are in Nakuru?

COMMENTARY

- There are both good things and bad things that await Taiyo and Resian and their parents at Nasila. For example, they find Nasila serene in the morning as opposed to the hustle and bustle of town life. What are the bad things?

- Each member of this family comes face to face with a new environment and a new culture and reacts differently to their new experiences.

- The practice of polygamy and having large families unsettles Resian. She believes when families are so large, apprehension and rivalry cannot miss. She would like to complete her studies before considering raising a family.

- Ole Kaelo’s belief that one can only cross from poverty to wealth by compromising his morality and corrupting his way is challenged by his mentor, Ole Supeyo. The latter has immense wealth through sheer hard work and warns Ole Kaelo about his business association with the corrupt Oloisudori.

- But the most spectacular culture shock comes about when a young man confronts the girls, Taiyo and Resian, over their uncircumcised status calling them intoiye nemengalana. They had thought earlier that they could easily defend themselves and stand their ground against men until this encounter. They realize how serious the community is about the ritual.
• The girls discover that out here in Nasila, they are vulnerable and they cannot stand their ground against male confrontation because the males are rough and unreasonable.

• This chapter also deals with the issue of corruption and the message is that you do not have to be corrupt to become rich. One does not have to live by the maxim that one has to accept that the man with the meat is also the same man with the knife and therefore if you want to eat meat you must of necessity dance to the music of that man. This state rationalizes corruption and Ole Supeyo’s rise proves this belief wrong.

• The idea of communality and brotherhood comes out clearly in the way the family eats together and how Ole Kaelo is warmly received by Ole Supeyo at his home.

• It appears throughout this chapter that culture is quite skewed against women, disadvantaging them in many ways. The position of women does not seem to be respected. In which ways would one say culture discriminates against women in this society?