



A. S. Hornby Educational Trust

REPORT ON HORNBY-FUNDED TEACHER ASSOCIATION PROJECT

Title: Developing teachers' capacity to provide their own contextually appropriate teaching materials

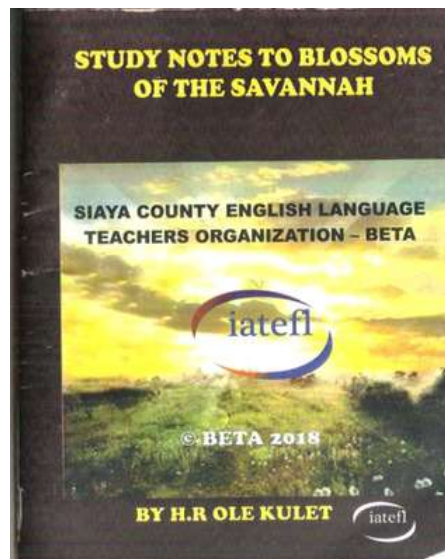
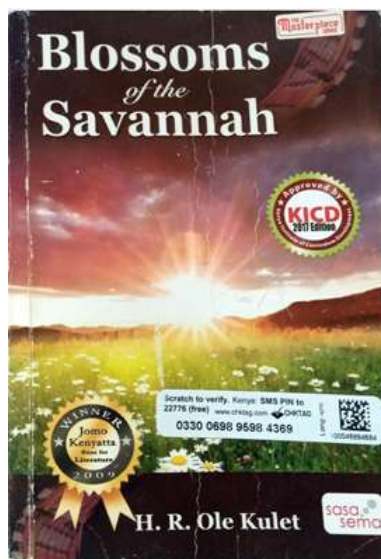
Country: Kenya

Dates: 27 July 2019, 3–18 August 2019, 17 December 2020

1. BACKGROUND AND RATIONALE

The Ministry of Education (MoE) in Kenya normally introduces new literature in English set texts every three years to examination classes (upper classes F3–4). Teachers are never involved in the selection of the texts; nor are they provided with Teachers' guides. As a result, teachers have to teach the texts based on previous professional knowledge and experience which may not fully cover ideas and language included in the new set texts. There is, therefore, a need to develop these teachers', and especially our TA (BETA-SIAYA ELT Group) members' capacity to write their own contextually appropriate Teachers' guides/materials.

In 2018, a small number of our TA members in fact produced such a Teachers' guide – *Study Notes to Blossoms of the Savannah* – and the skills/expertise that they developed and attained needed to be cascaded/shared among all TA members and with a wider audience, especially since there were other set texts for which there were no guides. The process of doing so would enable teachers who were involved in the first Teachers' guide to take a lead in helping other teachers to develop a new guide.





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2. PROJECT OBJECTIVES

The objectives of the project were to:

- broaden access to and use of what had already been completed;
- involve teachers from a wider range of schools in the area (Siaya) and more local members of the TA in developing a second guide book, and thereby spread the idea of writing and publishing guide books for English Literature texts;
- widen teacher participation and use more teachers' experiences to generate ideas for the second Teachers' guide;
- give other teachers the opportunity to experience participating in the development of Teachers' guides for new texts;
- disseminate our experience of writing the guide books more widely across Kenya/ any other countries in the region that also follow the Kenyan integrated language and literature path.

3. PROJECT MEMBERS AND THEIR ROLES

Team leader

Name: Fredrick Otieno Odhiambo

Institution: Tingare Secondary School (and Patron of the BETA-SIAYA ELT Group)

Responsibilities: Supervise the project at all stages

Team members

Name: Tiberius Barasa

Institution: Agoro Oyombe Secondary School

Responsibilities: Chairman. Preside over all meetings (at every stage). Bring skills used in writing the first Teachers' guide to assist in writing the second guide

Name: Beatrice Onyango

Institution: Ulafu Secondary School

Responsibilities: Secretary. Keep records of the activities and correspondence. Bring skills used in writing the first Teachers' guide to assist in writing the second guide

Name: Daniel Omolo (new team member)

Institution: Nduru Secondary School

Responsibilities: Vice Chairman. Contribute to and compile the contributions from members together with the other team members

Name: Charles Achwiya

Institution: Siginga Secondary School

Responsibilities: Bring skills used in writing the first Teachers' guide to assist in writing the second guide

Name: Emily Baraza

Institution: Uranga Secondary School

Responsibilities: Bring skills used in writing the first Teachers' guide to assist in writing the second guide

Name: Mathews Omondi

Institution: Apuoyo Secondary School

Responsibilities: Bring skills used in writing the first Teachers' guide to assist in writing the second guide

Name: Rodgers Ondiro (new team member)

Institution: Yenga Secondary School

Responsibilities: Contribute to and compile the contributions from members together with the other team members

All team members were selected by TA members during the Annual General Meeting (AGM). Elections of office bearers are held every two years for two terms in each office.

4. DESCRIPTION OF ACTIVITY

27 July 2019 – We introduced the existing Teachers' guide, *Study Notes to Blossoms of the Savanna*, to TA members (117 teachers) and ELT teachers (20) selected from other schools by their Department Heads during a one-day workshop.

3–18 August 2019 – We brought all teachers (117) who were members of the TA and other teachers representing 10 counties (at least two from each county) together to contribute ideas for the new Teachers' guide, decide which ideas to use and put them together into a book.



Teachers contributing and discussing ideas for the Teacher's guide.

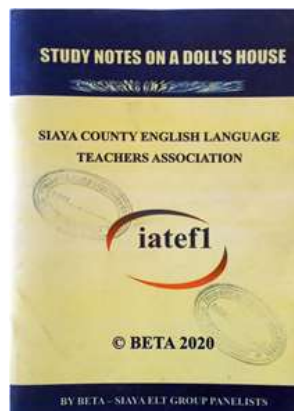
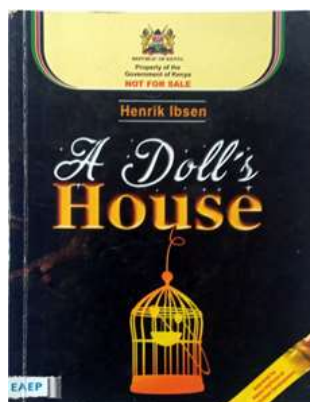


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14 days were spent on printing, proof reading the manuscript and publishing the guide. The team, which included more and less experienced members, supervised the publishing and printing (140 copies) of the guide – *Study Notes on A Doll's House*.



Panel members working on the manuscript



17 December 2020 – There was a meeting of all team members to launch the new guide. A copy of the guide and a USB flash drive was given to each participant/member school free of charge.



Team members during the book launch



Frederik being given a free copy



USB flash drive



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5. EVALUATION

The project resulted in a number of positive outcomes.

- a. It contributed to the improved performance in the final examination for learners from the member schools.

BETA - Siaya Results										
Sheet1	Sheet2	Sheet3								...
A	B	C	D	E	F	G	H	I	J	K
RODGERS OMONDI ONDIRO										
SECRETARY GENERAL - BETA Siaya										
BETA - SIAYA FORM 4 TERM 1 2021 RESULTS - SEPTEMBER 2021										
POS	SCHOOL	STUDENTS	MEAN P1	MEAN P2	MEAN P3	MEAN %(2021)	MEAN 2020	MEAN 2019		
1	SEGA GIRLS	175	34.120	36.520	21.800	51.154	50.901	49.152		
2	BISHOP OKOTH GIRLS MBAGA	347	28.549	32.087	29.123	50.954	50.124	49.935		
3	RANGALA BOYS	124	30.342	37.012	20.456	50.909	48.962	50.358		
4	TINGARE SECONDARY	74	34.341	31.218	23.120	49.345	48.652	48.389		
5	SINAGA GIRLS	155	27.102	39.203	20.009	48.772	49.128	39.389		
6	EKAMBULI	57	23.934	49.543	13.834	44.698	47.954	41.299		
7	SIRANGA MIXED	96	28.329	35.234	17.034	44.667	44.505	36.389		
8	GOT OSIMBO GIRLS	55	31.655	21.732	19.992	40.447	42.562	39.388		
9	SIMERO	105	22.212	25.923	25.234	40.259	39.961	39.123		
10	MWER BOYS	47	25.456	28.346	18.344	39.607	40.128	33.389		
11	SIDINDI	47	32.334	21.567	17.986	39.596	32.201	35.389		
12	FR. GULIK URADI GIRLS	89	28.345	27.655	17.450	39.078	39.925	32.389		
13	AMBROSE ADEYA ADONGO	89	24.457	26.866	18.095	39.029	41.109	29.045		

14 SIFIYO	51	23.934	23.756	16.755	38.936	38.45	34.389
15 MAHOLA MIXED	103	34.332	18.345	17.345	38.885	39.221	30.789
16 YALA TOWNSHIP	47	23.455	21.866	17.347	38.707	38.004	32.389
17 UMINA MIXED	113	25.375	28.675	14.834	38.549	41.638	28.379
18 ULAFU	75	23.748	27.865	15.004	38.025	37.089	29.388
19 NYASANDA	102	27.280	25.821	15.196	37.977	37.058	35.389
20 NDURU MIXED	40	24.734	28.339	14.984	37.876	30.987	34.389
21 YENGA	43	25.842	26.934	14.744	37.772	33.098	34.378
22 MOI ULOMA	89	24.893	27.344	15.234	37.467	36.127	25.339
23 NYAJUOK	57	23.432	27.834	14.849	36.956	35.014	30.001
24 RAMBO	45	25.383	27.023	13.934	36.777	33.984	34.339
25 NGUNYA MIXED	90	23.748	26.238	17.289	36.581	37.251	29.379
26 ST. CHARLES HUMWEND	103	24.339	29.655	13.359	36.404	35.147	30.389
27 APUYOYO	43	22.893	30.34	20.738	36.217	41.801	33.389
28 URANGA	116	23.488	29.234	12.378	36.156	32.708	27.389
29 NDENGA	92	28.024	23.488	13.802	36.117	29.052	38.389
30 ST. BARNABAS ANYIKO	45	23.389	26.128	18.388	36.102	32.051	43.389
31 AGORO OYOMBE	214	25.382	25.234	13.923	35.859	29.964	32.183
32 DIRK ALLISON GSM	89	21.934	28.324	14.384	35.679	30.147	29.289
33 KIT MIKAYI	109	24.406	24.297	14.465	35.559	35.301	28.349
AVERAGE		26.400	28.474	17.316	40.034	38.794	35.301

b. It also made the work of the teachers easier in terms of lesson preparation.



Learners who benefit from the guide



Learners using the study guide in a group activity



Teachers guiding discussion on questions from the guide

BETA – SIAYA ELT GROUP

ANALYSIS OF QUESTIONNAIRE USED TO EVALUATE THE GUIDE BOOK

	POOR	FAIR	GOOD	VERY GOOD	EXCELLENT
ULUTHE					✓
GOT OSIMBO GIRLS				✓	
SIMERO SECONDARY				✓	
EKAMBULI SECONDARY			✓		
MWER BOYS				✓	
SIRANGA MIXED					✓
SIDINDI SECONDARY					✓
TINGARE SECONDARY					✓
SEGA GIRLS				✓	
ST. CHARLES HUMUEND					✓
RANGALA BOYS				✓	
NGUNYA MIXED				✓	
RAMBO SECONDARY				✓	
FR. GULIK URADI GIRLS				✓	
NYASANDA MIXED					✓
UMINA MIXED			✓		
MOI ULOMA MIXED					✓
YALA TOWNSHIP					✓
YENGA SECONDARY					✓

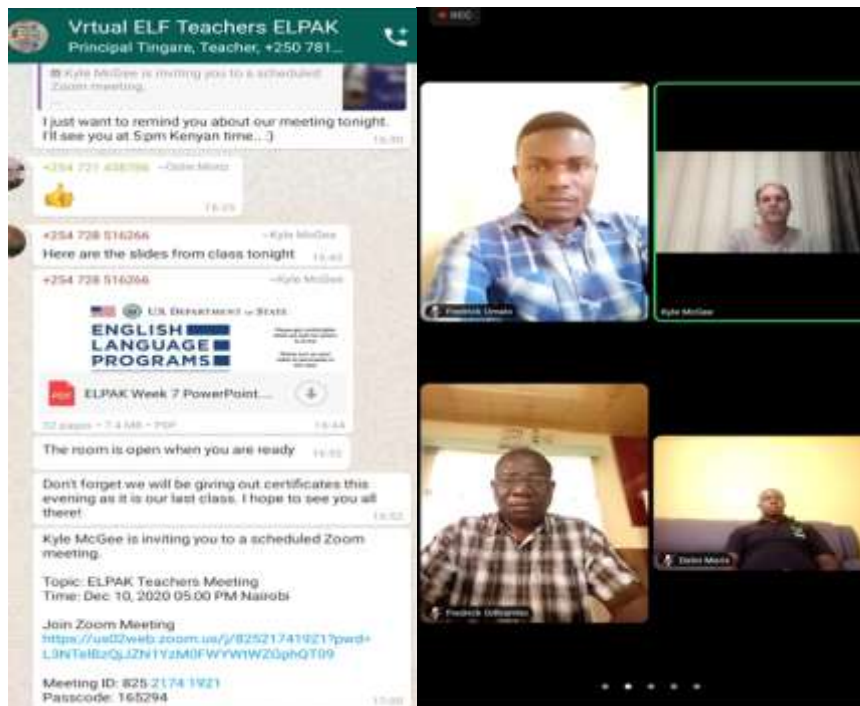


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RAMBO				✓	
AMBROSE ADEYA ADONGO					✓
NDURU MIXED					✓
NYAJUOK SECONDARY					✓

Through BETA – SIAYA ELT GROUP 70% of member from different schools said that the Guide Book had made work easier in terms of lesson preparation

- c. Teachers from other counties enrolled as members of the TA (BETA-SIAYA ELT Group), resulting in an increase of our membership from 117 to 211.
- d. The TA has now resorted to virtual meetings to share information. Guidelines by the Ministry of Health in response to Covid-19 stipulated that the movement and gatherings should be limited to 50 participants, yet there was a need for us to share information with teachers from different parts of the country. We responded by holding virtual meetings via Zoom, which we continue to do, and this means that more teachers can participate, develop professionally and learn and practice using digital tools.





6. EXPENDITURE

Publishing the guide	£400
Purchase of 65 USB flash drives with holders	£400
Transport and subsistence to Nairobi to collect the USB flash drives	£100
Logistics (breakfast and lunch) during the three main meetings with teachers	£750
Writing and instructional materials	£250
Contingency	£100
Total	£1,000

Note: Hornby funds received and used = £500; other £500 sourced from membership fees and participation fees from participants (participants were supported by KSSHA: head teachers of schools).

7. DISSEMINATION TO A WIDER AUDIENCE

We shared information with teachers and head teachers of schools that had not participated in the project. We also met most teachers in National Examination Marking Centres in April 2021 and introduced the published materials to them, and we recommended the Teachers' guide to their head teachers during conferences and meetings in May 2021. Most teachers were enthusiastic about the guide and bought some copies for their schools at a minimal price of £5.00. Most head teachers wanted more copies for their schools. They were even prepared to get extra copies for a fee if we would sell the books. Teachers were also willing to join our TA and become involved in our next Teacher's guide publication(s).

8. OVERALL REFLECTIONS

We learnt that team work and consultation is crucial at all stages in the management of a project and that responsibilities must be shared. We found that we had to share the different topics to groups of 3–5 teachers:



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- plot analysis/synopsis
- characterisation and character analysis
- thematic issues
- stylistic devices
- revision questions
- printing and publication.

We shall encourage most teachers to pay annual subscription at the beginning of the year to enable the TA to run its programmes. The strength of the TA relies on paid membership. Some TA members could not meet the agreed deadlines and had to be pushed by the team leaders/officials through reminders.

Something different we may want to do is to nurture the development of a national TA. BETA-SAIYA will then be a chapter of the new National TA.

9. GOING FORWARD/LOOKING AHEAD

The TA plans to write more guide books for the next round of set books that have been approved by the Ministry of Education 2022–2025. For this, we plan to involve more teachers in the process of writing the guides. The TA may also want to share soft copies of materials produced electronically by creating a website, and involve members of the TA in more virtual meetings and training on how to use digital tools.

New books released in a circular to schools

New set books for Secondary and Diploma Courses

- KICD has released new set books that will replace those whose timelines have lapsed.
- For literature in English, set books by Oxford, KLB, Longhorn, Spotlight and East African publishers have been picked to replace the existing ones.
- Kenyan novel, ‘Blossoms of the Savannah’ which lapses in 2022 will be replaced by *Fathers of the Nation* in January 2023.
- The play, ‘A doll’s House’ which lapses in 2022 will be replaced by *The rest of the World* in January 2023.
- ‘The Pearl’ which lapses in 2021 will be replaced by *From the rest of The World* in May 2022.
- ‘Inheritance’ which lapses in 2022 will be replaced by *Parliament of the Owls* in January 2023.
- Anthology ‘Memories we Lost’ which lapses in 2021 will be replaced by *A Silent song and other Stories* in May, 2022.
- And for Kiswahili Fasihi, Tamthilia ‘Kigogo’ which lapses in 2021 will be replaced by *Si Shwari* in 2022.
- Hadithi Fupi, ‘Tumbo Lisoloshiba’ which also lapses in 2021 will be replaced by *Pambazuko ya Machweo na Hadithi Nyingine* in 2022.
- Riwaya, ‘Chozi la Heri’ which lapses in 2021 will be replaced by *Cheche za Moto* in 2023.
- KICS also released list of set books for Diploma in Primary Teacher Education.



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Tamthilia 'Kifunganjia by Story Moja publishers will start in September 2021.

- The novel 'The Spider's Web' by OnePlanet will also start in September 2021.
- And for set books for Diploma in Secondary Teacher Education, the Kenyan novel 'Grain of Wheat' which lapses in 2020 will be replaced by 'Vanishing Herds' in September 2021.
- The play 'The Successor', which lapses in 2020 will be replaced by 'A hole in the Key' in September 2021.
- An anthology 'Give me a Chance' by Bookmark Africa will also start in September 2021.
- And the novel, 'Maru', which lapses in 2020 will be replaced by 'Eyo' in September 2021

Our TA, as a prominent chapter of English Language Professionals Association of Kenya (ELPAK), has also partnered with the Regional English Language Office (U.S. Embassy) to offer workshops via Zoom in October 2021.



Online Teacher Workshops, sponsored by the United States Department of State, with Virtual Language Fellow, Julie Cutelli.

Workshops are every Tuesday from 5-7pm East Africa Time via Zoom starting October 19th, 2021.

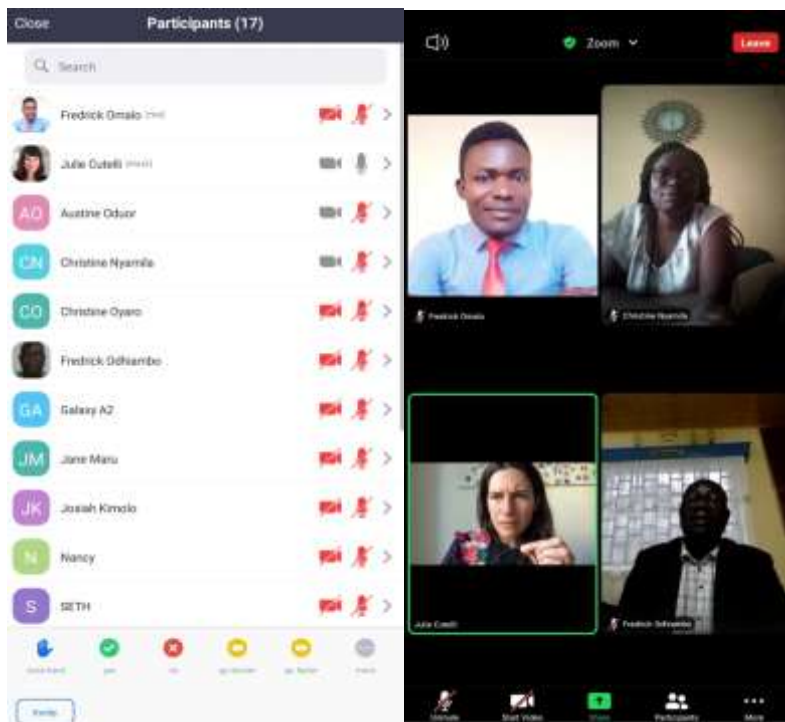
Topics to include online teaching strategies, formative assessment, teaching receptive and productive skills, and teaching grammar from context.

We look forward to working and learning together.

Zoom Meeting ID: 543 789 8055 Passcode: DN6Bmr



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Additionally, I, Fredrick Otieno Odhiambo, and Tiberius Barasa, Chairman of our TA, will train English Access teachers in the coastal region of Kenya on the English Access Micro-scholarship Program that is scheduled to take place from 10–12 December 2022. During this training we plan to share the activities that we, BETA-SIAYA, have been involved in, including our work developing the Teacher’s guides.

