From “**Song of Lawino**,” WM 1354

*Before Reading*

Okot p’Bitek, author of “Song of Lawino,” said, “An artist should tease people [and stick] needles into everybody so that they don’t go to sleep and think everything is fine.”

1. What do you think this quote means?
2. If you were p’Bitek’s kind of artist, and you were trying to “stick needles into everybody” about a certain topic that you feel is important, what would it be, and why?

*During Reading*

1. Who is the speaker of the poem?
2. Identify 4 metaphors used to describe Ocol.
3. Describe the metaphor used to describe Ocol’s papers.
4. Describe the metaphor used to describe Ocol’s house.
5. Describe what has happened to Ocol.
6. How does Ocol’s situation affect the rest of the village, according to Lawino.

*After Reading*

1. Write two more stanzas that would finish the poem, leaving the tone as it is.
2. Write two more stanzas that would change the tone of the poem.