

## EPREUVE ORALE D'ANGLAIS

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## 10. Be Proud of Who You Are

Wariinga was convinced that her appearance was the root cause of all her problems. Whenever she looked at herself in the mirror, she thought herself very ugly. What she hated most was her blackness. She would disfigure her body with skin lightening creams like *Ambi* and *Snowfire*, forgetting the saying: What is born black will never be white. Now her body was covered with light and dark spots like the guinea-fowl. Her hair had browned to the colour of moleskin.

Wariinga also hated her teeth. They were a little stained not as white as she would have liked them to be. She often tried to hide them and she rarely laughed openly. If by mistake she laughed and then remembered her teeth, she would suddenly fall silent or would cover her lips with her hands. [...]

But when Wariinga was happy and forgot to worry about the fading whiteness of her teeth and the blackness of her skin and laughed, with all her heart, her laughter completely disarmed people. Her voice was as smooth as perfume oil. Her eyes shone like stars in the night. [...] When she walked along the road without self-consciousness her breasts looked like two ripe fruits that stopped men passing in the street. But Wariinga could never appreciate the splendor of her body.

Adapted from Devil on the Cross by Ngugi Wa Thiong'o, p. 11.

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