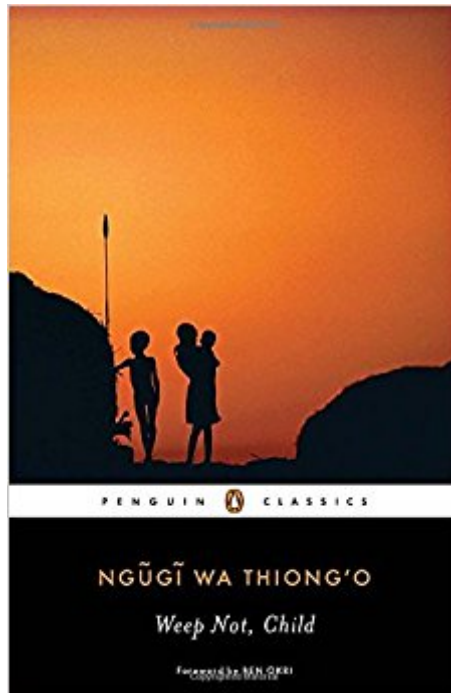




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# Weep Not, Child (Penguin African Writers Series)



## Synopsis

The Nobel Prize–nominated Kenyan writer–s– A powerful first novel Two brothers, Njoroge and Kamau, stand on a garbage heap and look into their futures: Njoroge is to attend school, while Kamau will train to be a carpenter. But this is Kenya, and the times are against them: In the forests, the Mau Mau is waging war against the white government, and the two brothers and their family need to decide where their loyalties lie. For the practical Kamau, the choice is simple, but for Njoroge the scholar, the dream of progress through learning is a hard one to give up. The first East African novel published in English, *Weep Not, Child* is a moving book about the effects of the infamous Mau Mau uprising on the lives of ordinary men and women, and on one family in particular. For more than seventy years, Penguin has been the leading publisher of classic literature in the English-speaking world. With more than 1,700 titles, Penguin Classics represents a global bookshelf of the best works throughout history and across genres and disciplines. Readers trust the series to provide authoritative texts enhanced by introductions and notes by distinguished scholars and contemporary authors, as well as up-to-date translations by award-winning translators.

## Book Information

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## Customer Reviews

–“His novels . . . have been deservedly canonized by the iconic [Penguin Classics] series.” –*The Wall Street Journal* –“One of the signal novels to emerge from an artist listening to both the well of tradition and the troubled oracles of his time . . . In *Weep*

Not, Child, Ngugi's art is at its purest. To my mind it is classic Ngugi, his Romeo and Juliet, his tale of young love set against the backdrop of opposing families and a world seething with violence and injustice. • Ben Okri, from the Introduction

Ngugi wa Thiong'o is an award-winning novelist, playwright, and essayist from Kenya whose novels have been translated into more than thirty languages. He lives in Irvine, California, where he is Distinguished Professor of English and Comparative Literature at the University of California, Irvine. Ben Okri won the Booker Prize in 1991 for his novel *The Famished Road*. He was born in Lagos, Nigeria, and lives in London.

Like many of Wa Thiong'o's books, this novel deals with the question of Kenyan Independence and the Mau-Mau. But unlike "a grain of wheat", this conflict is not the theme of the novel, but the backdrop. The story itself centres around a family that has lost its land to the colonial settlers, a psychological portrait of how the farmer, the soldier and the child deals with the changing world around them. Crucial to the book is the child Njoroge, a schoolboy whose thirst for education and diligent Bible study blends into an almost Messianic vision, a vision that shines the brightest when the conflict around him is at its peak. A conflict, it is revealed, he cannot escape... It is this Icarus motif, coupled with the Romeo and Juliet-like love story that accompanies it, that reveals the complexity of the author. A post-colonial writer? By most definitions, yes. But also a man that knows the subtlety of the human soul.

Ngugi story *Weep Not Child* presented a story of conflict, determination and disappointment. Great story that keeps your imagination of a village in a distant land but you could see it, feel its struggles and the characters' dispositions as the story was told. Great book and great author.

Had to read it for class... Good book though

The time lines in this story are hard to follow. The end of the story was not true. The Kenyans have continued to progress in running their country. Education has, in fact made a positive difference in their lives. Hope in God is never lost. Our expectations or interpretations may be incorrect but God is always true.

This book brought tears to my eyes.

I had to purchase this book for one of my classes. The story held my attention easily. It made me think outside of my own circumstances, and I appreciate that about a book.

This is a story of Njoroge, a young man whose dreams are shattered by the effects of colonialism and struggle for self rule in rural Kenya. An excellent must read novel by one of Africa's finest!

I had to read this book for an African History class and I loved this book. What really did it for me was the build up of misery that was never resolved so it ended with a less than Disney style ending where everyone is happy.

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