Grade 10 Short story
The Late Bud

Notes and questions
After reading the short story study the notes below and then answer the questions on the following page. All activities must be completed in your literature workbook.

Characters:
Yaaba, Adwoa, Kakra, Panyin, and Maami

Setting:
The story takes place in Ghana

Summary:
Yaaba is daughter of Maami and does practically no work inside or outside the house. Due to this lack of work and attitude from Yaaba, Maami always seems to call her daughter a witch and asks god why she has such a bad and useless daughter. One night while playing with Panyin and Kakra, Yaaba decides that she will try and be good and appease her mom by bringing her red earth. During the night while everyone is fast asleep, Yaaba plans to grab the hoe and fetch the red earth. While on the way out of the house though, Yaaba stumbles on a large water bowl and awakens the angry Maami. The next morning, the mother comes to meet Yaaba and tells her that she realized that Yaaba had tried to go out to fetch red earth and continues to thank the puzzled Yaaba until she falls asleep.
**Themes:**

**Change** - At the start of the story Yaaba knew she was bad and had no problem with it. The narrator states that Yaaba could rob some child for his great portion of food when she received none and she threw pebbles instead of sitting quietly as well as doing no work. However, by the end of the story Yaaba wants to be a good girl. She wants to help her mom by trying to retrieve the red earth. The universal meaning of this is that people are subjected to change and the change can be for the better.

**Girlhood** - It is clear in the story that gender roles are fixed in these societies. Girls are/were expected to help their parents with housework.

**The central conflict:**
There is an internal dispute for Yaaba since she always thinks if she should do the right thing or not such as if she should be running errands which she does not at the start of the book. She also chooses to retrieve the red earth but has second thoughts on it as well since she decides if it is worth it or not. The choosing not to do work and not running errands leads to the conflict between her Maami and Yaaba.

What did we learn about this culture?
The specific thing we learned about the culture is that the elders are very much respected as the narrator states one must not ask family related questions or eavesdrop on them. Work is also an important element in their culture as the people who did more work received more food.
Questions
Respond to the following questions in your literature workbook.

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<td>1.1</td>
<td>Who is the main character of the story?</td>
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| 1.2 | Complete the sentence below by selecting the correct option (write only the question number and the corresponding letter):
The protagonist of the story can be best describe as being:
   A> Innocent
   B> Rebellious
   C> Brave
   D> spiteful |
| 1.3 | Describe the setting of the story. |
| 1.4 | Suggest why the following saying is a favourite of Maami: “The good child who willingly goes on errands eats the food of peace.” |
| 1.5 | What did Yaaba long for most from her mother? Explain if she ever gets this from her mother. |
| 1.6 | What does the story suggest about when a girl is regarded as a woman? |
| 1.7 | Why do you think Maami refers to her daughter as a curse (pg 132)? |
| 1.8 | Explain why Maami gave Yaaba a beating. |
| 1.9 | Suggest why Yaaba decided to fetch red sand for her mother. |
| 1.10 | Why did the mother need red sand? |
| 1.11 | What caused Yaaba to fall over in the house? |
| 1.12 | Why did men rush to Maami’s house? |
**Extension:**

Write a dialogue.

Assume that Yaaba awakens later that day with her mother standing over her. Write a dialogue of the conversation you think is most likely to take place. Your dialogue should reflect an understanding of the characters and their situation i.e. Yaaba desires to change and Maami realises that Yaaba wants to be a good girl.

Review the format of the dialogue on page 65 of the Answer Series. Complete the dialogue in your literature books.
**The Late Bud – Ama Ata Aidoo**

**Suggested answers**

1.1 Who is the main character of the story?

**Yaaba**

1.2 Complete the sentence below by selecting the correct option (write only the question number and the corresponding letter):

   The protagonist of the story can be best describe as being:
   
   A> Innocent  
   B> Rebellious  
   C> Brave  
   D> spiteful

1.3 Describe the setting of the story.

   **In a village in Gahana.**

1.4 Suggest why the following saying is a favourite of Maami: “The good child who willingly goes on errands eats the food of peace.”

   **The saying is about rewarding a child who helps others around the house e.g. when they do their chores they get eat of a particularly delicious meal. The mother likely says this to encourage her children to help around the home.**

   *Consider other valid interpretations.*

1.5 What did Yaaba long for most from her mother? Explain if she ever gets this from her mother.

   **The hear her mother call her “my child”**

1.6 What does the story suggest about when a girl is regarded as a woman?

   **A girl is regard as a woman at the age of 10.**

1.7 Why do you think Maami refers to her daughter as a curse (pg 132)?

   **Yaaba does not help around the house. Instead she is a burden. Furthermore, it might be seen as embarrassing for the family as the community might look down on them.**

   *Consider other valid points.*

1.8 Explain why Maami gave Yaaba a beating.

   **Maami was angry at Yaaba’s laziness. Maami was also frustrated because she didn’t have red soil. When Maami saw Yaaba sleeping her anger rose to the point that she beat her daughter.**

1.9 Suggest why Yaaba decided to fetch red sand for her mother.
She realised that other children were doing jobs for their parents. She might have realised that it would be a good idea to help her mother.

1.10 Why did the mother need red sand?

The red soil was to polish the floor.

1.11 What caused Yaaba to fall over in the house?

She tripped over a water bowl in the kitchen. She couldn’t see where she was going because it was dark.

1.12 Why did men rush to Maami’s house?

They heard Maami shouting that there was a thief. They thought they would protect her.

Extension:

Write a dialogue.

Assume that Yaaba awakens later that day with her mother standing over her.

Write a dialogue of the conversation you think is most likely to take place. Your dialogue should reflect an understanding of the characters and their situation.

Review the format of the dialogue on page 65 of the answer series.

Complete the dialogue in your literature books.