

Time: 2 hours

Name: .....

## WOMAN POWER

When Sophia Kiarie moved from Kenya's forested highlands to the arid community of Ruiru 20 years ago, she was immediately struck by the lack of greenery. She looked over the dry fields and wondered where she could possibly find enough firewood for her family. So she began studying informally, asking Kenyan foresters their advice and carefully observing the life cycles of different trees. « some died of drought », she recalls, putting a finger into the Kenyan soft soil. « others died when the hard rains came. »

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Though she never took a class in forestry or botany, Kiarie, 41, learned quickly. «I have a diploma in understanding the problems of my area, » she says with a smile she became a local field officer for the Geneva-based Belle rive Foundation, a non-profit organization that focuses on environmental issues. That woke her up to the dangers of land degradation around Ruiru, about 20 kilometres north of Nairobi. Soon she opened a tree nursery, which has so far distributed more than 500.000 plants to schools, hospitals and individual farmers. In addition, Kiarie has led a successful campaign to conserve trees by promoting an energy efficient, low-cost stove designed by engineers from the Belle rive Foundation. The stove, which burns far less wood than the traditional stone-bordered fire, has become a local hit; more than 2.000 Kenyan families and 600 institutions now use one. «I can convince people because I use one myself », says Kiarie. «It's easier to convince people when they can identify with you».

Kiarie is not just a local hero. Last November she was invited to Miami to attend the United Nations-sponsored Global Assembly on Women and the Environment, where she spoke about her crusade to establish hundreds of «green islands» -plots of trees-around government institutions Kiarie believes that women are the key to a healthier future for Kenya and hopes to get more of them involved in her reforestation projects.«women know how to nurse», she says. « they have caring hands. »

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**COMPREHENSION : (15 PTS)**

Base your answers on the text.

**A. ARE THESE SENTENCES TRUE OR FALSE ? JUSTIFY : (6PTS)**

1- Sophia studied forestry at university.

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2- Thanks to her tree nursery, Sophia participated in reforestation in Kenya.

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3- Sophia is known only in Kenya.

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**B- ANSWER THESE QUESTIONS : ( 3PTS)**

1- How did the highlands compare with Ruiru?

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2- What are the advantages of the stove that Sophia promoted ?

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3- Why does Sophia think women can play an important role in her country ?

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**C- WHAT DO THE UNDERLINED WORDS IN THE TEXT REFER TO ? (3PTS)**

1- Others: p (1).....2.one: p (2).....3- them: p (3).....

**D- FIND IN THE TEXT WORDS THAT MEAN THE SAME AS : (3pts)**

1. Is concerned with (p2) .....

2. Take part in (p3) .....

3. land (p1).....



