**OPCVL Source Evaluation**

**Directions:**

1. Read the source below. *The primary source is in the yellow box, the text above is context and background information to help you further understand the text.*
2. Fill out the OPCVL chart by answering all of the guiding questions.

|  |
| --- |
| *Kofi Awoonor was born George Awoonor-Williams in Wheta, Ghana, to Ewe parents. He was a poet, literary critic, professor of comparative literature and served as an ambassador for Ghana. Awoonor earned a BA from University College of Ghana, an MA from University College, London, and a PhD in comparative literature from SUNY Stony Brook. He is the author of novels, plays, political essays, literary criticism, and several volumes of poetry.**In the early 1970s, Awoonor served as chairman of the Department of Comparative Literature at SUNY Stony Book. He returned to Ghana in 1975 to teach at University College of Cape Coast. In Ghana, he was arrested and tried for suspected involvement in a coup. He was imprisoned without trial and was later released; he wrote about his time in jail in The House by the Sea. Awoonor resumed teaching after his sentence was remitted. In the 1980s, he was the Ghanaian ambassador to Brazil and Cuba and served as ambassador to the United Nations from 1990 to 1994; in 1990 he published Ghana: A Political History from Pre-European to Modern Times.**Awoonor is author of the novels This Earth, My Brother… (1971) and Comes the Voyager at Last: A Tale of Return to Africa (1992). He died in the Westgate shopping mall attack in Kenya in September 2013.* |

# The Weaver Bird

BY [KOFI AWOONOR](https://www.poetryfoundation.org/poets/kofi-awoonor)

The weaver bird built in our house

And laid its eggs on our only tree.

We did not want to send it away.

We watched the building of the nest

And supervised the egg-laying.

And the weaver returned in the guise of the owner.

Preaching salvation to us that owned the house.

They say it came from the west

Where the storms at sea had felled the gulls

And the fishers dried their nets by lantern light.

Its sermon is the divination of ourselves

And our new horizon limits at its nest.

But we cannot join the prayers and answers of the communicants.

We look for new homes every day,

For new altars we strive to rebuild

The old shrines defiled by the weaver's excrement.

Kofi Awoonor, "The Weaver Bird" from *The Promise of Hope: New and Selected Poems, 1964-2013*. Copyright © 2014 by Kofi Awoonor. Reprinted by permission of University of Nebraska Press.

Source: *The Promise of Hope: New and Selected Poems, 1964-2013* (University of Nebraska Press, 2014)

**OPCVL Chart**

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
|  | **Values** | **Limitations** |
| **Origins*****Focus on the author, nothing about what is written*** | 1. Is this source a primary source or a secondary source?
2. Who is the author?
3. When was this source created / published? *(date of creation can be a different day from date of publication for some sources)*
4. Where (location) was this source created? If it is not known, can you infer where it was created?

Discuss the values of this source’s origins *(all of the information answered in questions 1-4 above)* to historians studying about European imperialism of Africa? How does the origins provide insight and perspectives for historians to understand African imperialism? *\*Remember a bias/one-source does have its values* | Discuss the limitations of this source’s origins *(all of the information answered in questions 1-4 on the right)* to historians studying about European imperialism of Africa? Is the author bias? If so, how do you know that the author is bias?  |
| **Purpose*****Focus on why the author write the words that he/she did*** | 1. Why was this source written? Why do you think the author is writing this?
2. Who is the author’s target audience?
3. What format was this source written in? Newspaper? Journal/diary entry? Published book? Official government document?

Discuss the values of this source’s purpose *(all of the information in questions 1-3 above)* to historians studying about European imperialism of Africa? How does the purpose (focus on the why the author wrote the words) provide insight for historians to understand the motives for African imperialism? | Discuss the limitations of this source’s purpose *(all of the information in questions1-5 on the right)* to historians studying about European imperialism of Africa? What bias does the message of this source have? What information is missing, not true and/or exaggerated?  |
| **Content*****Focus on the words written, nothing about the author*** | 1. What is the literally message of the source? What is the source saying on the surface/at first glance?
2. Is there a hidden message to this source? If so, what is the hidden/ulterior message?
3. What information or examples does the author use to support their point?

Discuss the values of this source’s content (all of the information in questions 1-3 above) to historians studying about European imperialism of Africa? How does the content (focus on the words written) provide insight for historians to understand the motives for Africa imperialism? | Discuss the limitations of this source’s content (all of the information in questions 1-3 on the right) to historians studying about European imperialism of Africa? Is there information missing from the content? Are their inaccurate information being presented in the content? Is there exaggerated truths/information being presented in the content? |