*Tomorrow I’ll Be Twenty* (2013)

Jenine’s *Tomorrow I’ll Be Twenty* Classwork (transcription)

by Alain Madanckou

Instructions: In your number groups, analyze the three passages below by following steps A, B and C:

*Note: Letters in italics indicate that the individual in that letter group is to lead the task.*

A: Which character says the quote? To whom is this character speaking? (*A*)

B: Write the passage in your own words. (*B*)

C: What is the connection between this passage and Congolese cultural roots? (*C*)

(Read aloud – *D*)

1. “I like the way maman Martine’s voice sounds when she tells the story about her and papa Roger. Somehow she puts a bit of magic into it. I sort of believe her, but sometimes it sounds a bit like one of those stories from the time when animals and men could talk to each other about how to live together in peace.” (page 1, paragraph 5)

A.

*Michel to the audience, talking about Maman Martine.*

B:

*Michel likes the way Maman Martine tells the story of how they met because it has a sort of magical quality about it, but it also sounds a bit unrealistic.*

C:

*They passed stories down by generation orally. The tribe could be good story tellers.*

(Read aloud – *E*)

1. “The old people went a long way off from village and held a big meeting against the rude young man who was poking fun at them.  They nearly started fighting among themselves in the meeting. They all accused each other of inviting that rude Roger le Prince. But in the end they reached agreement: they must make sure that the stranger’s dance went no higher than ten centimetres off the ground.” (page 2, paragraph 9)

A:

*Maman Martine to Michel*

B:

*The old people don’t like Roger le Prince because they think he’s rude, so they made sure that he wasn’t going to show them up by dancing more than 10 cm.*

C

*Elders make the decisions and are traditional + reluctant to change.*

(Read aloud – *F*)

1. “‘Hey, son, this isn’t just any village you know. You’re in our village here, and here we have rules that date back to the time when our ancestors walked about naked and didn’t yet know the word made flesh. You’ve got no grey in your beard yet, you’re too young to understand certain things only those with four ears and four eyes can grasp. You’d better watch out, you mark my words. You may not respect our village, but you’d better respect my grey beard and bald head.’” (page 2, paragraph 11)

A:

*Elders to Roger le Prince*

B:

*Saying that the village has a long history since the beginning of mankind and since they are the oldest of the village, they have to respect them, since they have experience and age and he doesn’t.*

C:

*Elders have authority and are supposed to be highly respected. Traditional.*

Discuss: Roger le Prince and Maman Martine were not *actually* levitating and dancing ten centimeters off the ground. Explain this metaphor. (*G*)

* *Representing that he is a bit above the people*
* *Messing with how spirits go to afterlife*
* *Used to lift spirits up*