*Tomorrow I’ll Be Twenty* (2013)

Serena’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 (narrator) is talking to the reader*.

B:

*Michel likes Maman Martine’s voice when he tells her story about her and papa Roger. She added her own touch to her stories.*

C:

*Their culture was preserved by oral traditions*

(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 was telling the story to Michel.*

B:

*There was a disagreement/argument about the invitation of Roger.*

C:

*The elders made decisions and were not particularly keen of strangers.*

(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:

*Village owner to Roger le Prince*

B:

*Roger le Prince must respect the old village owner. Roger is too young to be disrespecting the elder.*

C:

*Elders are the boss, they have experience and wisdom.*

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

*The elders/village is not accustomed to change and modernization. The elders don’t want to be surpassed and are holding Africa back.*