

# Ngũgĩ wa Thiong'o

Anglo-African Literature

# Ngũgĩ wa Thiong'o

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- born James Ngugi
- born 5 January 1938 in Kenya
- one of the most popular and politically committed authors of postcolonial Africa
- novelist, essayist, playwright, journalist, editor, academic and social activist



# Works

## Novels:

- Weep Not, Child (1964)
- The River Between (1965)
- A Grain of Wheat (1967, 1992)
- Petals of Blood (1977)
- Caitani Mutharaba-Ini (Devil on the Cross, 1980)
- Matigari ma Njiruungi, 1986 (Matigari, translated into English by Wangui wa Goro, 1989)
- Mũrogi wa Kagogo (Wizard of the Crow, 2004)
- The Perfect Nine: The Epic of Gĩkũyũ and Mũmbi (2020)

# Works

## Short story collections

- A Meeting in the Dark (1974)
- Secret Lives, and Other Stories, (1976, 1992)
- Minutes of Glory and Other Stories (2019)

## Plays

- The Black Hermit (1963)
- This Time Tomorrow (three plays, including the title play, "The Rebels", "The Wound in the Heart" and "This Time Tomorrow") (c. 1970)
- The Trial of Dedan Kimathi (1976)
- Ngaahika Ndeenda: Ithaako ria ngerekano (I Will Marry When I Want) (1977, 1982) (with Ngugi wa Mirii)

# Works

## Essays

- Homecoming: Essays on African and Caribbean Literature, Culture, and Politics (1972)
- Writers in Politics: Essays (1981)
- Decolonising the Mind: The Politics of Language in African Literature (1986)
- Moving the Centre: The Struggle for Cultural Freedom (1993)
- Penpoints, Gunpoints and Dreams: The Performance of Literature and Power in Post-Colonial Africa (The Clarendon Lectures in English Literature 1996), Oxford University Press, 1998
- Secure the Base: Making Africa Visible in the Globe (2016)

# Works

## Memoirs

- Detained: A Writer's Prison Diary (1981)
- Dreams in a Time of War: a Childhood Memoir (2010)
- In the House of the Interpreter: A Memoir (2012)
- Birth of a Dream Weaver: A Memoir of a Writer's Awakening (2016)

## Other nonfiction

- Education for a National Culture (1981)
- Barrel of a Pen: Resistance to Repression in Neo-Colonial Kenya (1983)
- Mother, Sing For Me (1986)
- Writing against Neo-Colonialism (1986)
- Something Torn and New: An African Renaissance (2009)
- Globalectics: Theory and the Politics of Knowing (2012)

# Works

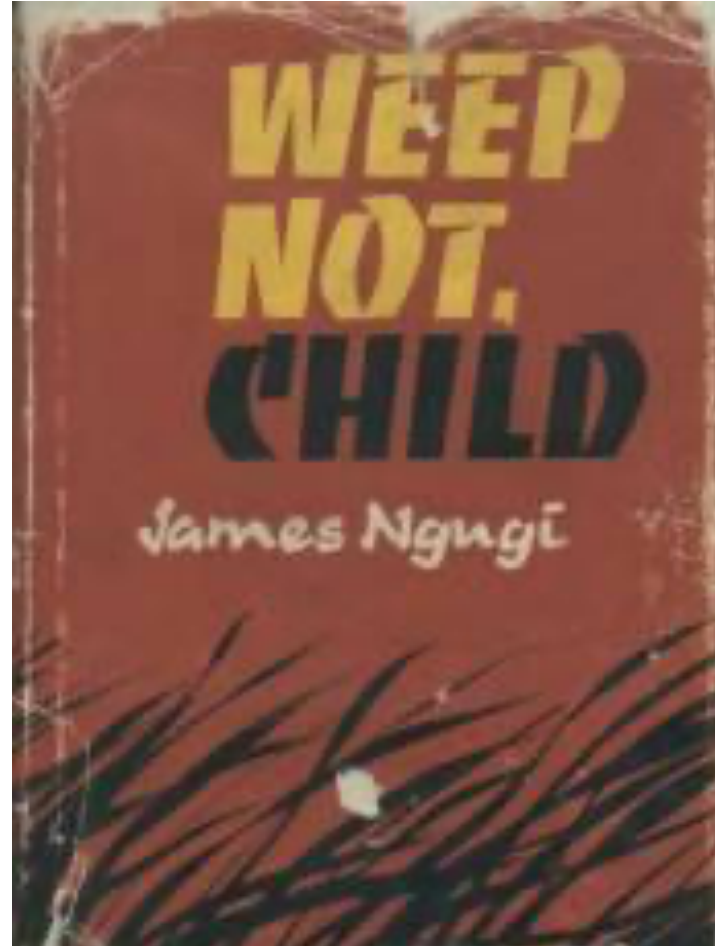
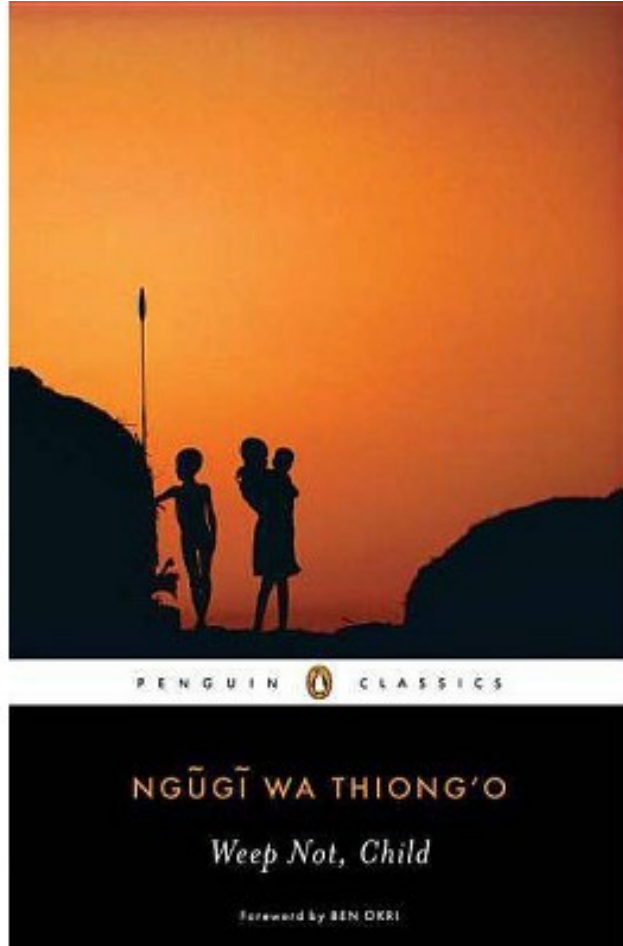
## Children's books

- Njamba Nene and the Flying Bus (translated by Wangui wa Goro) (Njamba Nene na Mbaathi i Mathagu, 1986)
- Njamba Nene and the Cruel Chief (translated by Wangui wa Goro) (Njamba Nene na Chibu King'ang'i, 1988)
- Njamba Nene's Pistol (Bathitoora ya Njamba Nene, 1990)
- The Upright Revolution, Or Why Humans Walk Upright, Seagull Press, 2019

- Ngũgĩ wa Thiong'o: “Europe and the West must also be decolonised”
- <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=FOXqc-8zCPE>



# Weep Not, Child



- It follows the tragic story of Njoroge, a young boy who seeks an education during the 1952-1960 Emergency in Kenya. This tumultuous time period saw the emergence of Kenyan revolutionary groups against the British colonists.
- It integrates Gikuyu mythology and the ideology of nationalism

# Themes

- Grief
- Social class
- The land
- Love

“Aaa! You could never tell what these people would do. In spite of the fact that they were all white, they killed one another with poison, fire and big bombs that destroyed the land.” (Narrator, Page 5)

"That's why you at times hear Father say that he would rather work for a white man. A white man is a white man. But a black man trying to be a white man is bad and harsh." (Kamau, Page 22)

“Njoroge did not want to be like his father working for a white man, or, worse, for an Indian.” (Narrator, Page 46)

“Yes, that’s how your land was taken away. The Bible paved the way for the sword.” (Kiarie, Page 61)