



Introducing **Rafiki**

A film by Wanuri Kahiu, 2018

Type d'activité : Avant le film

Durée : 2h

Introduction

Une Afrique joyeuse, colorée et pop : le film de la réalisatrice kenyane Wanuri Kahiu, qui se revendique de « l'afro-bubblegum », tourne le dos aux représentations misérabilistes (sous-développement, guerres, corruption) du continent africain pour montrer le quotidien et les préoccupations d'une jeunesse urbaine mondialisée, dans laquelle se reconnaîtront sans doute les élèves français.

Ils s'y projeteront d'autant plus aisément que le film aborde des thématiques essentielles à l'adolescence : les rapports de genre, la tolérance et le regard des autres, la difficulté à imposer ses désirs et ses choix face aux injonctions normatives, qu'elles viennent de la famille, des amis ou de la société en général.

Cette fiche d'activités est destinée à être utilisée avant le film, pour préparer la projection. Elle permettra de présenter le Kenya, un des grands pays anglophones d'Afrique, avant d'entrer progressivement dans les thématiques du film par l'étude de l'affiche, de la bande-annonce et un focus sur les droits LGBT dans le pays.

Dans les programmes

Niveau	Objets d'étude	Compétences
Seconde	Sentiment d'appartenance : singularité et solidarité	► Compréhension orale ► Expression orale
Cycle terminal	Lieux et formes du pouvoir / Idée de progrès	► Expression écrite



Rafiki

Storyline

A film by :
Wanuri Kahiu
Genre : Drama
Year : 2018

Kena and Ziki long for something more. Despite the political rivalry between their families, the girls resist and remain close friends, supporting each other to pursue their dreams in a conservative society. When love blossoms between them, the two girls will be forced to choose between happiness and safety. *Rafiki* challenges deep rooted cynicism about same sex relationships among actors, crew, friends, and family in Kenya.

I/ Discovering Kenya

1/ Look for information to complete the identity card of Kenya:

Location		Name of the current president	
Capital City		Estimated population	
Official languages		Main ethnic groups or communities	
Type of government		Main religious groups	



Meaning of the flag

2/ Match the following dates to the corresponding historical event:

a- 600	
b- 800	
c- 1498	
d- 1895	
e- 1944	
f- 1952-1962	
g- December 12th 1963	
h- 1992	
i- 2010	
j- 2012	
k- 2015	
l- 2017	

1- Election of President Uhuru Muigai Kenyatta
2- Formation of the British East-African Protectorate
3- Independence from the United Kingdom
4- New constitution is adopted
5- Vasco de Gama is the first European to reach Kenya
6- Swahili becomes the trade language in Kenya
7- First LGBT Pride event in Kenya
8- Arabs set trading stations in Kenya
9- Mau Mau uprising : a war between rebels and the British settlers
10- Tribal conflicts in the west of Kenya
11- Barack Obama visits Kenya, urges the improvement of LGBT rights
12- Creation of Kenya African Study Union to reach independence

II/ LGBT rights in Kenya

1/ a/ Read section a) and c) of the Kenyan Penal Code from 1930, revised in 2006:

Section 162 : Unnatural offenses

Any person who -

a) has carnal knowledge of any person against the order of nature or [...]

c) permits a male person to have carnal knowledge of him or her against the order of nature, is guilty of a felony and is liable to imprisonment of fourteen years.

b/ Pick out words and phrases indicating that homosexuality is illegal in Kenya.

c/ Say what the use of the term « person » suggests.

2/ Watch the video [«Being Gay in Kenya»](#)

a/ Fill in the blanks

« In Kenya, homosexuality has been described as and against African But homosexuals have defended their sexual just as The question never asked though is how would you with a family who comes out to say they're gay? »

b/ How does Eric Gitary qualify his high school experience? Justify quoting three examples.

c/ Explain how Eric revealed his homosexuality and the consequences of this coming out.

d/ Comment on the arguments given by the people interviewed in the street.
What do they show about the way homosexuality is perceived in Kenya?

Did you know?

LGBT is an initialism for “lesbian, gay, bisexual, and transgender”.

III/ Before watching Rafiki

1/ Observe the poster and complete the board



Characters' position and attitude

Use of colors

Structure and organization

2/ a/ Watch the [trailer of the movie](#) from 00:00 to 00:55.

Make hypothesis about the subject of the film. Justify your answer with elements from the trailer.

b/ Watch from 00:56 to the end.

Say what the turning point is. Comment on the change of music and atmosphere.



Éléments de correction

I/
1/

Location	East Africa	Name of the current president	Uhuru Muigai Kenyatta (since 2013)
Capital City	Nairobi	Estimated population	49,125,325 inhabitants
Official languages	English and Swahili	Main ethnic groups or communities	Maasai, Kikuyu (the most famous) but also Luhya, Kalenjin, Luo, Kamba, Kisii, Mijihenda, Meru and Turkana (NB: it points out to the diversity of cultures and legacies in Kenya)
Type of government	Republic	Main religious groups	Christians = 83 % Muslims = 11.2 %
Meaning of the flag			
Black = people of the Republic of Kenya Red = the blood shed in the fight for independence Green = nature White = peace + The Maasai shield reminds of the need to protect these values.			

2/

a	8
b	6
c	5
d	2
e	12
f	9
g	3
h	10
i	4
j	7
k	11
l	1

II- 1/ b/ The words or phrases indicating that homosexuality is illegal in Kenya are « guilty », « felony » and « imprisonment ».

c/ The term « person » suggests that Kenyan society does not tolerate same-sex relations of any sort (gay or lesbian) but also any relation that is not in keeping with the « order of nature » = not in the aim of procreating.

2/ a/ « In Kenya, homosexuality has been described as **immoral** and against African **tradition**. But homosexuals have defended their sexual **orientation** just as **passionately**. The question never asked though is how would you **relate** with a family **member** who comes out to say they're gay? »

b/ Eric's high school experience was difficult, as he mentions peer pressure, suspicion coming from his schoolmates, and the use of pejorative nicknames against him.

c/ Eric revealed his homosexuality in 2013, through Facebook. But the consequences were quite hard: he was the victim of discrimination, some of his friends blocked him on the social networks or rejected him. Some relatives saw him as a shame on his family and his village, he was considered as an outcast, as abnormal, as demon-possessed.

d/ - Homosexuality is a disgrace and must be violently repressed so that homosexuals can access heaven.
 - A homosexual friend is hard to accept, but for a family member the blood link can perhaps lead to understanding. These opinions reveal deeply rooted prejudices, a lack of information about homosexuality (see Eric's brother wondering about homosexuality and DNA), a rejection of homosexuals from mainstream society.

III/
1/

Characters' position and attitude	we see them from behind, smiling faces indicating joy, they look at each other with complicity, they are about to enter in an undefined place, they have two very different styles: girl on left = very long hair, two buns on her head / girl on right (or boy?) = yellow glasses (intellectual?) / headscarf → both look fun and trendy.
Use of colors	pink light on the two characters: playing with gender stereotypes, in the background: door enlightened with green → indicating hope, probably at night.
Structure and organization	the two characters are in the foreground, between the two girls in the background: undefined shadows of people and green door → in a world of their own, untouchable.

2/ a/ The first part of the trailer suggests a story of friendship, an outlook on how teenagers with modern values try to evolve in Kenyan society. The music is catchy and modern, the atmosphere hopeful. Elements to justify it: music, the pact between the girls.

b/ The turning point is the mentioning of same-sex marriage, which indicates that the relationship between the girls is more than friendship. The music becomes more sorrowful, hinting at pain and hardship, the atmosphere becomes darker, violence is shown. It proves that homosexuality is a difficult subject to deal with in Kenya.