

NAME:**STREAM:**

S.1 ENGLISH LANGUAGE

ITEM ONE

Read the following passage and answer the questions after it

A BOY NURSE

I was not yet four years old when my sister was born. I had got used to sleeping away from my mother's care, having been so long with my uncle. On my return, together with other male youngsters of very nearly the same age, I began to sleep in my grandfather's hut.

Because there was no elder sister in the family, and my mother had to go to work in the '*shamba*' everyday it wasn't long before I was obligated, though still a very young child myself to become the day - to - day nurse for my baby sister. For my mother, to make me succeed in this function, she had to train me, to give me instructions. It took us into the planting season of the following year. As her '*shamba*' work increased, so did my nursing duties.

In our home the day would start with early morning duties for all the members of our household except the baby, Alusa. My father would put out the animals, which included cows, goats and sheep. He would then sharpen the farm tools, and go to the farm very often without breakfast. My mother would fetch water from the river, and clear the house

On my arrival from grandfather's hut, which used to be at sunrise, I would build up the fire ready for my mother to make breakfast. My parents would eat maize meal, while I normally had the remains of the previous night's porridge made from millet flour, and stored in a ground. Before she left for the '*shamba*' she would give me strict instructions about looking after the house and the baby. Then she would leave, not to return until very late in the evening.

As soon as my mother left, loneliness would set in. I was in charge of a huge house; there were wild cats that would eat the chickens. Thieves might come at any moment too. All of these thoughts would frighten me constantly in my early days of home guarding and baby watching. While Alusa slept, I used to sweep the compound, when she woke up, I would feel her according to my mother's instructions. I would shake the gourd that contained the porridge, lay Alusa on my lap with her head resting on my stomach, and fold my left palm and fingers so as to make a curved cup to be placed before her mouth. Into this cup I would pour porridge until

her mouth was submerged. As soon as the porridge touched her mouth, Alusa would suck it in.

TASKS

1. Older children are sometimes left to care for their siblings at home. This is always done for several reasons. Explain according to the passage why the writer had to care for his baby sister. **(01 scores)**

2. The bond or relationship between a child and their parents is often very strong Children dislike being left alone. Identify from the text reasons why the writer did not want to be left alone by his mother? **(02 scores)**

3. While relating with people we show different behaviors. Like the writer shows a variety of behaviors towards the members of his family particularly the baby sister and the mother. Elaborate the kind of person the writer is to;
a) The baby sister **(02scores)**

- b) The mother **(02scores)**

4. The writer was left at home alone by the mother and the other family members and this can happen to anyone else. Imagine you are the writer how would you feel? **(02scores)**
