**Comprehension Questions – *Dead Men’s Path***

Answer in full sentences and use quotations where appropriate.

1. What hopes were fulfilled for Michael Obi?

2. Why did the Mission authorities decide to send in a new head teacher?

3. What impression of Michael is created in paragraph 1?

4. What does Michael’s wife want to achieve when Michael starts at his new job?

5. The story says, “In their two years of married life she had become completely infected by his passion for ‘modern methods’”.

(a) What connotations (associations) do you get from the word “infected”?

(b) Why do you think the writer chose this word? Do you think he agrees with Michael’s passion?

6. What does Nancy (Michael’s wife) think being a head master’s wife will be like?

7. How does the writer suggest that Michael is hard working and cares a lot about his work? Choose a quotation as evidence.

8. What were Michael’s two aims?

9. Why do you think Michael was “scandalised” to see an old woman walking through the gardens?

10. What is Michael’s attitude towards the path?

11. What does Michael do to stop the villagers using the path?

12. How does the description of the fence suggest that Michael is trying to keep the villagers and their old fashioned ways out?

13. According to the priest, why is the path important?

14. How would you describe Michael’s attitude towards the priest?

(a) friendly

(b) respectful

(c) rude

(d) smug

(e) uncaring

15. According to Michael, what is the school’s purpose?

16. What advice does the priest give to Michael?

17. What solution does Michael suggest?

18. In your own words, describe what happened two days later.

19. What happened when the Supervisor came?

20. What do you think is the message behind the story? Put these statements in order, the 1st one being the one you most agree with and number 6 the one you least agree with.

* Michael was unfortunate to work in such a superstitious, primitive place
* Pride comes before a fall
* Progress is always bad
* Young head teachers aren’t a good idea
* It is vital to respect the beliefs, ideas, cultures and traditions of others
* A good head teacher realises that a school has a responsibility to the community too