

Notes 9/15/06
Keita "Heritage of the Griot"

Difference in Old Africa and New Africa

- Griot teachings vs formal school
- Mabo's mother does nothing but boss around cleaning lady
- Changed from old to new due to increased wealth (wife had no necessity to work)

The movie only told half of the Sundiata epic

- Reasons it ends early
 - Leaves audience curious about the story
 - The target audience of the film is familiar with Sundiata
- Ended fairly anti-climatic, but lead to ask what happened to Sundiata
- Did not give Sundiata a chance to develop as a character

Movie Vs. Book (Depiction Vs Imagination)

- Small hut Vs. large temple
- Bull woman Vs. water buffalo type bull
- Budget of movie likely caused many of the differences

Oral traditions effect on real world

- Dad understands what Mabo is going through more than the mother or the teacher
- Mabo's attitude changed: good student changed to poor student
- Westernization of school caused teacher to forget his own past
- Why learn useless facts when you don't know where you came from
- Oral tradition difficult to pass on, but still important
 - Shows book learning as cheap learning

Wedding

- People did not dress up for old wedding Vs. present day wedding people dressed up in colorful clothing

Differences in movie and book (age, iron rod, and length of pregnancy)

- Disrespectful to the old blacksmith (the fact that the iron rod broke)
- Act of standing depicted much differently
- The small branch lifted him when the large iron rod could not
- Length of pregnancy being long attributed to the "Buffalo" woman
- Theme: Great things need a lot of time to develop
- Theme: Impatience of modern people Vs. Old African people
 - Mabo's impatience of knowing meaning of his name

Djeliba's relationship with the family

- Father approved of him being there
- Mother approved of Mabo learning, but not during school

- Mother may not of understood Mabo's need to learn as a right of passage