

# **Chita Pa Bay**



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**And others**

**Bryant C. Freeman, Ph.D.**

# **Chita Pa Bay**

**Elementary Readings in Haitian Creole  
with Illustrated Dictionary**

**Third Edition**



**Institute of Haitian Studies  
University of Kansas  
Lawrence**

**Edisyon Bon Nouvèl  
Pòtoprens  
2004**

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by Bryant C. Freeman

## Table of Contents / Sa ki nan Liv la

Introduction .....	9
<i>Mèt Lawouze</i> [ <i>Masters of the Dew</i> ] .....	11
by Jacques Roumain	
<b>Chapit 1: Fonwouj</b> .....	13
<b>Chapit 2: Mannwèl tounen</b> .....	15
<b>Chapit 3: Mèsi, Bondye</b> .....	19
<b>Chapit 4: Chita pa bay</b> .....	23
<b>Chapit 5: Yon vye istwa</b> .....	27
<b>Chapit 6: Travay nan tèt ansanm</b> .....	30
<b>Chapit 7: Dlo!</b> .....	33
<b>Chapit 8: Yon fil ki pa janm kase</b> .....	37
<b>Chapit 9: Dlo pou ki moun?</b> .....	40
<b>Chapit 10: Yon koze serye</b> .....	43
<b>Chapit 11: Lanmò</b> .....	46
<b>Chapit 12: Mèt Lawouze</b> .....	49
<b>Kèsyon jeneral</b> .....	53
<b>Pwovèb</b> [Haitian Proverbs] .....	54
<b>Blag</b> [Jokes] .....	59
<b>Bouki ak Ti Malis</b> [Folk Tales] .....	69
<b>Kont</b> [Riddles] .....	75
<b>Kèk Ti Pwoblèm Kalkil</b> [Practice with Numbers] .	78
<b>Matye 5: 3-11</b> [Sermon on the Mount] .....	81
<b>Lapriyè Granmèt la</b> [The Lord's Prayer] .....	83
<b>Ti Diksyonè</b> [Illustrated Dictionary] .....	85
<b>Haitian-English Glossary</b> .....	111





## Introduction

Once the beginning student of a foreign language has acquired its rudiments, the need is felt for elementary reading material to reinforce what has been learned. Unfortunately, very little material at this level exists in Haitian. The great majority of texts available are designed either for the native speaker just learning to read, or for the accomplished one who already reads Haitian with ease. Both categories, however, enjoy a wide range of vocabulary far beyond that of a beginning non-Haitian student. Thus it was to provide more relatively elementary readings, which we hope will be both interesting and challenging, that these selections were assembled.

The first edition in 1984 used the Pressoir-Faublas or ONAAC spelling system which was still in general use at that time. Subsequently the spelling system officially endorsed by the Haitian government has become widely accepted and is now used by journals such as *Bon Nouvèl* as well as by the great majority of those publishing in Haitian. The present revised edition has therefore been rewritten using the official system.

The principal selection here is our greatly abridged version of what is probably the only work of Haitian literature to have achieved the status of an internationally known classic: Jacques Roumain's novel written in French entitled *Gouverneurs de la Rosée* (*Masters of the Dew*). Its poignant message of hope and human solidarity has resulted in translations into some 17 languages and been adapted for both stage and cinema. It is followed by a sampling of Haitian proverbs, which are so eloquently expressive of the national character. Some have even stated that the language is worth learning if for no reason other than its rich repertory of proverbs: from much suffering has come much wisdom.

For fun, and of course learning, there is a section of ten jokes, followed by four tales concerning the two most famous characters of Haitian folklore, **Bouki** and **Ti Malis**. Next, there is a taste of another Haitian favorite, the riddle. Included also are some simple arithmetic problems intended both for practice in handling numbers as well as for reinforcing vocabulary. As a fitting close are the

Sermon on the Mount and the Lord's Prayer, from **Bib La**, the masterful translation under the direction of Father Roger Désir of both the Old and New Testaments. Whenever appropriate, there are questions after each section, which we hope will prove useful especially for oral practice in class.

A small dictionary illustrated by various Haitian artists presents some 210 terms essential to the Haitian scene. The Glossary gives English equivalents of all words and expressions contained in the text, including those of the illustrated dictionary. In addition, there are frequent "mini-glossaries" throughout the texts intended as a handy learning device for expressions - indicated by an asterisk - which may well be new to the beginner.

In using this text, we cannot stress enough the importance of attempting to *think in the foreign language*. Once the initial "decoding" of a passage has been accomplished, it is essential that the passage be read for a second and third time, *thinking it in Haitian*. These additional readings will prove far more useful than the first. It is in this way that reading material can be most effective in improving one's active use of a foreign language.

We wish to express our appreciation to Jowel Laguerre and Vania Sévère for assistance in editing the texts. Thanks go also to Father Roger Désir for resolving a number of problems. Kind permission was granted by Temps Actuels to adapt Jacques Roumain's *Gouverneurs de la Rosée*, and by Gérard-Marie Tardieu to reproduce a number of riddles from his *Tim? Tim? Bwa chèch!* Illustrations are by Astrel Gilles, Frantz Jean Mary ("Fanfan"), and B. Brice, with generous permission from the Ministry of Education of Haiti, *Bon Nouvèl, Boukan*, and the late Dr. Raphael G. Urciolo ("Fayo"). The cover drawing is by Astrel Gilles, from Fayo's *3333 Proverbs in Haitian Creole*. Finally, it is thanks to the direction of Father Henk Kaal ("**pè Anri**"), *Bon Nouvèl's* able and energetic former director, that this work was initially published.

Lawrence, Kansas (USA)  
June 2004

Bryant C. Freeman

**Masters of the Dew**, by Jacques Roumain (1907-1944), is almost certainly the best known masterpiece of Haitian literature.

Published posthumously in 1945, this novel has been translated into no fewer than 17 languages, has been adapted four times for the stage, and was the subject of an award-winning film. Its message of hope and human solidarity, related in a style of exceptional poetic beauty, has assured an appeal which transcends linguistic and cultural barriers.

Our greatly abridged version presented here in the Haitian language can serve as an introduction which we hope will encourage one to read either the original French version, **Gouverneurs de la Rosée** (Paris, 1946), or the excellent English translation by Langston Hughes and Mercer Cook (New York, 1947).

*Men\* moun n ap jwenn nan Mèt Lawouze:*

**Mannwèl**      jenn nèg\* ki te deja pase kenzan nan  
koupe kann\* nan peyi Kiba\*

**Byenneme**    papa li

**Delira**        manman li

**Anayiz**        mennaj\* li

**Jèvilen**        pitit gason Doriska, e ki renmenAnayiz

*Epi de (2) moun ki mouri deja, men ki enpòtan  
nan istwa a:*

**Sovè**            frè Byenneme ki te mouri nan prizon  
gen\* lontan

**Doriska**        papa Jèvilen; se Sovè ki te touye li gen\*  
dizan konsa



**gen**            ago; to have

**kann**         sugar cane

**Kiba**         Cuba

**men**          here is, here are;

hand; but

**mennaj**      girlfriend; boyfriend

**nèg**            man; black man

## Chapit 1: Fonwouj



Nou nan yon ti bouk\* pa twò lwen Pòtoprens. Bouk sa a rele Fonwouj. Li gen yon pwoblèm ki gwo anpil anpil: pa gen dlo. Pa gen dlo menm menm. Plant ap mouri, bèt ap mouri. Yon jou se moun ki ka mouri tou. Depi lontan lontan lapli pa tonbe. Tout bagay sèk, tout bagay tris. 5

Petèt\* se paske yo te koupe tout pyebwa\* yo, men sa ou vle? Yo te bezwen bwa a pou fè chabon\*, pou fè kay, lantiray\*, mèb\*. Epi yo te bezwen tè a tou pou plante mayi\*, pou plante pwa\*, pou yo jwenn manje. Si yo pa travay tè a, yo p ap manje. 10

Devan yon ti kay pay\* gen de vye granmoun ki chita\*: yon nèg ki rele Byenneme, ak Delira, madanm li.

### Byenneme

“Zafè nou pa bon. Tout bagay ap mouri. Bondye bliye nou nèt.”

### Delira

“Pa pale konsa. Se pa byen, non. Deja nou pa gen lespwa\*. Pitit gason nou an kite nou depi lontan, pou ale koupe kann nan peyi Kiba. Li p ap tounen. Non, se vre, pa gen lespwa.” 15

## Chapit 1: Kèsyon

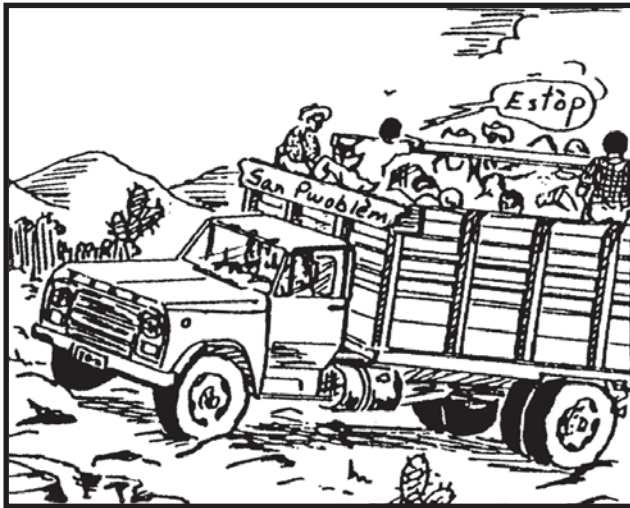
*Reponn an kreyòl ak yon fraz konplèt:*

1. **Ki kote ti bouk la ye?**
2. **Kijan bouk sa a rele?**
3. **Ki gwo pwoblèm li genyen?**
4. **Kisa k ap mouri?**
5. **Depi kilè lapli pa te tonbe?**
6. **Kisa moun yo te koupe?**
7. **Poukisa yo te bezwen bwa a?**
8. **Ki bagay yo te plante sou tè a?**
9. **Si yo pa travay tè a, sa k ap rive?**
10. **Ki kote de vye granmoun sa yo chita?**
11. **Kisa Byenneme di?**
12. **Epi kisa Delira reponn li?**
13. **Kote pitit gason yo a te ale?**
14. **Kisa li te fè la?**
15. **Yo kwè l ap tounen?**
16. **Èske yo kwè gen lespwa pou yo?**

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<b>bouk</b>	village	<b>mayi</b>	corn
<b>chabon</b>	charcoal	<b>mèb</b>	furniture
<b>chita</b>	to sit down, be seated	<b>pay</b>	straw
<b>lantiray</b>	fence	<b>petèt</b>	perhaps, maybe
<b>lespwa</b>	hope	<b>pwa</b>	bean; pea
		<b>pyebwa</b>	tree

## Chapit 2: Mannwèl Tounen



Sou gran wout la, yon gwo kamyon rete. Yon nèg desann. Li gen anpil fòs, li vanyan\*. Li gade toupatou, li sezi\*. Li te kwè li konnen peyi sa a, men gen lè se pa peyi pa l\* la, li pa rekonnèt anyen. Tout bagay sèk, tout bagay tris. Li fè yon ti mache\*, epi li wè yon bèl nègès\*.

5

### Mannwèl

“Bonjou! Kijan ou ye?”

### Anayiz

“M pa pi mal, non.”

### Mannwèl

“Mwen menm se natif natal\* isit la. Gen kenzan konsa depi m te kite peyi a. M te ale koupe kann Kiba. Mezanmi! sa te rèd\*!”

10

Anayiz

“Sa ou vle? Nou fèt\* nan mizè, se nan mizè n ap mouri. Isit la, tè a sèk anpil. Epi sèl chans nou, se tè a. Se vre, wi. Men kounyeya, tè a pa\* bay anyen ankò\*. Lapli pa tonbe ankò.”

Yo kontre yon fanm ki di: “Bonjou, Anayiz!”

5

Mannwèl

“O! Se konsa yo rele ou, Anayiz! Mwen menm, yo rele m Mannwèl. M se pitit Byenneme ak Delira. Yo pa rete lwen isit la.”

Lamenm\*, nègès la ale, san li pa di anyen. Nèg la sezi anpil. Li pa konprann anyen. “Li difisil pou konprann fanm!”

10

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<b>fè yon ti mache</b>	to walk a bit
<b>fèt</b>	to be born; done, made, completed
<b>lamenm</b>	immediately
<b>natif natal</b>	native
<b>nègès</b>	woman
<b>pa . . . ankò</b>	no . . . longer
<b>pa l</b>	his ( <i>possessive indicator</i> )
<b>rèd</b>	hard, tough
<b>sezi</b>	surprised
<b>vanyan</b>	robust; hard-working



## Chapit 2: Kèsyon

*Reponn an kreyòl ak yon fraz konplèt:*

1. Kisa kamyon an fè?
2. Ki moun ki desann?
3. Kisa li fè lè l desann?
4. Poukisa li sezi?
5. Ki moun li wè?
6. Kisa li di l?
7. Kisa nègès la reponn?
8. Ki kote nèg sa a te ale?
9. Konben tan li te pase la?
10. Ki gwo pwoblèm yo gen isit la?
11. Ki sèl chans yo genyen?
12. Kijan yo rele nègès la?
13. Kijan yo rele nèg la?
14. Ki moun ki papa l?
15. Ki moun ki manman l?
16. Kisa nègès la fè lamenn?
17. Kisa nèg la di?

## Numbers are important in every language!

<b>1</b>	<b>youn</b>	<b>11</b>	<b>onz</b>
<b>2</b>	<b>de</b>	<b>12</b>	<b>douz</b>
<b>3</b>	<b>twa</b>	<b>13</b>	<b>trèz</b>
<b>4</b>	<b>kat</b>	<b>14</b>	<b>katòz</b>
<b>5</b>	<b>senk</b>	<b>15</b>	<b>kenz</b>
<b>6</b>	<b>sis</b>	<b>16</b>	<b>sèz</b>
<b>7</b>	<b>sèt</b>	<b>17</b>	<b>disèt</b>
<b>8</b>	<b>wit</b>	<b>18</b>	<b>dizwit</b>
<b>9</b>	<b>nèf</b>	<b>19</b>	<b>diznèf</b>
<b>10</b>	<b>dis</b>	<b>20</b>	<b>ven</b>

## Chapit 3: Mèsi, Bondye!



Nan yon lakou\*, yon vye granmoun fanm chita. Li tris, li bouke ak lavi a, li pa gen lespwa. Bò kote li, yon vye granmoun gason chita ap fimèn\* pip li. Li tris anpil tou.

Sanzatann\*, yon vanyan gason antre nan lakou a. Delira gade, san li pa konprann anyen, epi:

5

### Delira

“Pitit mwen, ay! pitit mwen!”

Delira kriye\*, pip Byenneme tonbe. Yo pa ka kwè pitit gason yo a tounen lakay\*. Sa fè kenzan depi li pati, kenzan depi y ap tann\* li, san pran nouvèl li. Epi kounyeya, li rive, li la.

10

**Delira**

**“Mèsi, Bondye! Mèsi, lwa\* yo! Pitit gason nou te pèdi a tounen vin jwenn manman l ak papa l!”**

**Delira ba li yon ti vè kleren\*. Mannwèl bwè l.**

**Byenneme**

**“Sa ou ap fè la! Ou bliye lemò\* yo! Chak fwa ou bwè, se pou ou lage\* kèk ti gout\* atè\* pou lemò. Yo swaf tou!”** 5

**Delira**

**“Pitit mwen, m te pè\* pou m pa mouri san m pa wè ou yon dènye fwa. Paske isit la tout bagay ap mouri, epi kretyen vivan\* tou. Pa gen lapli menm. Bondye bliye nou.”**

**Mannwèl**

**“Non, manman, se pa Bondye ki bliye nou, se nou ki bliye 10  
tè a. Se nou ki koupe twòp pyebwa, se nou ki pa okipe\*  
tè a. Se nou ki mèt tè a, se nou ki mèt lawouze\* tou.”**

## Chapit 3: Kèsyon

*Reponn an kreyòl ak yon fraz konplèt:*

1. **Kibò vye granmoun fanm lan chita?**
2. **Èske li kontan anpil?**
3. **Ki lòt moun ki chita nan lakou a tou?**
4. **Sanzatann, sa k rive?**
5. **Kisa Delira fè lè l wè pitit gason li a?**
6. **Kisa Delira di?**
7. **Kisa Delira ak Byenneme pa ka kwè?**
8. **Depi konben tan Mannwèl te kite lakay li?**
9. **Kisa manman Mannwèl ba li pou l bwè?**
10. **Kisa Mannwèl bliye fè?**
11. **Poukisa pou li ta lage kèk ti gout atè?**
12. **Poukisa Delira te pè mouri san l pa wè pitit li a yon dènye fwa?**
13. **Dapre\* Mannwèl, kisa yo te bliye?**
14. **Se fòt\* ki moun?**
15. **Ki moun ki mèt tè a?**

<b>atè</b>	on the ground
<b>dapre</b>	according to
<b>finen</b>	to smoke
<b>fòt</b>	fault, mistake, error
<b>gout</b>	drop, drip
<b>kleren</b>	raw rum
<b>kretyen vivan</b>	human being
<b>kriye</b>	to cry, weep
<b>lage</b>	to let go, drop; to pour
<b>lakay</b>	home
<b>lakou</b>	yard, enclosure
<b>lawouze</b>	dew ( <i>symbolic for water</i> )
<b>lemò</b>	the dead
<b>lwa</b>	Voodoo spirit
<b>okipe</b>	to take care of; busy
<b>pè</b>	fear; to be afraid
<b>sanzatann</b>	suddenly; unexpectedly
<b>tann</b>	to wait, wait for

## Chapit 4: Chita Pa Bay



Yon lòt jou konmanse. Mannwèl chita nan lakou a. Manman l pote yon tas kafe ba li.

### Mannwèl

“Manman, m pa konprann. Kijan nou fè pou n viv, si pa gen dlo, si pa gen mayi, si pa gen pitimi\*?”

### Delira

“Bondye bon, pitit mwen! Nou pa ka fè anyen.”

5

### Mannwèl

“Non, non, manman. Chita pa bay.\* Nou ka lapriyè sen\* yo, lemò\* yo, men yo p ap fè anyen pou nou. Si nou nan lamizè, se pa fòt yo, se fòt nou. Se nou menm ki pou donte\* tè a, se nou menm ki pou ale jwenn dlo. Si nou pa regle\* lavi nou, se pa lezòt yo k ap regle l. Pa\* gen mirak ankò\*, manman, se pou nou travay.”

10

Delira

“Ou konn\* pale, pitit mwen, men pa bliye: se Bondye ki Granmèt, se li ki kòmande tout sen\* yo, tout lwa yo.”

Mannwèl sòti nan kay la. Li vle mache nan plenn\*, nan mòn, li vle wè ak de je l si pa gen dlo. Men, toupatou pa gen anyen. Tout kote sèk, sèk, sèk. Men, li di nan tèt li, 5  
dèyè mòn gen mòn, epi nan mòn sa yo petèt gen dlo.

Sanzatann, li wè yon ti nèg lèd ki mande l:

Jèvilen

“Se ou ki Mannwèl, pitit Byenneme ak Delira?”

Mannwèl

“Wi, se mwen menm.”

Lè sa a, nèg la gade l ak rayisman\*, epi l krache\*. 10  
Mannwèl pa konprann anyen.

---

<b>Chita pa bay</b>	Sitting around won't get you anywhere. ( <i>proverb</i> )
<b>donte</b>	to tame, master
<b>konn</b>	to know how; to be in the habit of
<b>krache</b>	to spit
<b>lemò</b>	the dead
<b>pa . . . ankò</b>	no . . . longer
<b>pitimi</b>	millet
<b>plenn</b>	plain ( <i>open country</i> )
<b>rayisman</b>	hate, hatred
<b>regle</b>	to regulate, guide, direct
<b>sen</b>	saint



## Chapit 4: Kèsyon

*Reponn an kreyòl ak yon fraz konplèt:*

1. Kote Mannwèl chita?
2. Kisa manman l pote ba li?
3. Ki manje yo pa ka jwenn, san dlo?
4. Ki moun yo lapriyè?
5. Si moun Fonwouj nan lamizè, se fèt ki moun?
6. Kisa pou yo ale jwenn?
7. Si mirak pa fèt ankò, ki bagay ki ka sove yo?
8. Èske Delira dakò nèt ak pitit li a?
9. Poukisa Mannwèl sòti nan kay la?
10. Kisa li jwenn?
11. Men, kisa li di nan tèt li?
12. Ki moun li wè?
13. Kisa moun sa a mande l?
14. Kijan Mannwèl reponn?
15. Epi kisa lòt nèg la fè?

## **Numbers are still important in every language!**

<b>21</b>	<b>venteyen</b>	<b>31</b>	<b>tranteyen</b>
<b>22</b>	<b>vennde</b>	<b>32</b>	<b>trannde</b>
<b>23</b>	<b>venntwa</b>	<b>33</b>	<b>tranntwa</b>
<b>24</b>	<b>vennkāt</b>	<b>34</b>	<b>trannkāt</b>
<b>25</b>	<b>vennsenk</b>	<b>35</b>	<b>trannsenk</b>
<b>26</b>	<b>vennsis</b>	<b>36</b>	<b>trannsis</b>
<b>27</b>	<b>vennsèt</b>	<b>37</b>	<b>trannsèt</b>
<b>28</b>	<b>ventwit</b>	<b>38</b>	<b>trantwit</b>
<b>29</b>	<b>ventnèf</b>	<b>39</b>	<b>trantnèf</b>
<b>30</b>	<b>trant</b>	<b>40</b>	<b>karant</b>

## Chapit 5: Yon Vye Istwa



### Mannwèl

“Manman, papa, gen yon bagay m pa konprann. Jòdi a m te kontre ak yon ti nèg lèd ki te joure\* m. M pa konprann poukisa li te fè sa. Epitou, lòt jou sou wout la m te kontre ak yon bèl nègès ki te vire do\* kite m lè l te aprann ki moun m ye. Poukisa moun sa yo te fè sa? Gen yon bagay ki pa klè isit.” 5

### Byenneme

“Enben, pitit mwen, se yon vye istwa ki te pase pandan ou te Kiba. Konsa, te gen yon gwo gwo zafè tè. Moun yo pa t ka dakò menm sou kijan pou tè a separe. Epi yon jou mouche yo rele Doriska a te vini sou tè a ak yon konbit\*. Yo konmanse travay tè a. Frè m ki te rele Sovè a kouri al mande l sa l ap fè la a, paske tè sa a pa t pou li. Doriska joure Sovè, Sovè pran manchèt\* li, epi li touye Doriska. Te gen yon gwo batay, te gen anpil san\*. Pita, Sovè mouri nan prizon. Konsa, depi lè sa a, gen yon bò\* bouk la ki rayi lòt bò a.” 10 15

**Mannwèl kanpe. Li sòti nan jaden\*. Tèt li chaje anpil. Kounyeya li konprann, se pa yon pwoblèm dlo ase\* ki genyen, non. Gen de pwoblèm: moun rayi moun, moun pa vle travay nan tèt ansanm\* - epitou, pa gen dlo. Sa vle di\* se vre, pa gen lespwa, sa vle di tout bagay pèdi nèt.** 5

## **Chapit 5: Kèsyon**

*Reponn an kreyòl ak yon fraz konplèt:*

1. Ki moun Mannwèl te kontre jou sa a?
2. Kisa nèg sa a te fè?
3. Epi ki lòt moun li te kontre yon lòt jou?
4. Kisa nègès sa a te fè?
5. Kilè istwa Doriska ak Sovè a te rive?
6. Ki gwo gwo zafè ki te genyen?
7. Èske moun yo te antann yo\* sou kijan pou tè a separe?
8. Kisa Doriska te fè yon jou?
9. Ki moun Sovè te ye?
10. Kisa Sovè te mande Doriska?
11. Epi kijan Doriska te reponn li?
12. Lè sa a, kisa Sovè te fè?
13. Te gen lòt moun nan istwa sa a tou?
14. Kisa ki te rive Sovè pita?
15. Depi lè sa a, kijan Fonwouj vin separe?
16. Poukisa Mannwèl chagren anpil lè l tande istwa sa a?

<b>antann</b> (+ <i>pronoun</i> )	to agree
<b>ase</b>	only; enough
<b>bò</b>	side; near
<b>jaden</b>	field; garden
<b>joure</b>	to insult, swear at
<b>konbit</b>	agricultural work team
<b>manchèt</b>	machete
<b>nan tèt ansanm</b>	as one, in union
<b>san</b>	blood; without; hundred
<b>vire do</b>	to turn one's back
<b>vle di</b>	to mean

## Chapit 6: Travay Nan Tèt Ansanm



Yon jou swa\*, vè senkè, Mannwèl al tann Anayiz sou mòn lan. Nèg la te kontre li nan bouk la, men\* Anayiz pa t vle pale ak li. Mannwèl te di l li gen yon bon ti koze pou l pale ak li. Kounyeya, men\* Anayiz k ap rive:

Mannwèl

“Anayiz, o! Mwen kontan anpil anpil ou vini.”

5

Anayiz

“Wi, men m pa gen dwa vini pale avè ou.”

Mannwèl

“Anayiz, èske ou pa bouke ak tout vye istwa rayisman ki nan bouk la?”

Anayiz

“Men wi! Se sa k mete n nan plis mizè: moun rayi moun.”

Mannwèl

“Tout bagay la, se dlo ki pa genyen, epi youn pa vle travay ak lòt.”

Anayiz

“Men, kisa nou ka fè nan sa?”

Mannwèl

“Nou ka jwenn dlo, fè dlo rive nan jaden nou, fè dlo rive nan bouk nou an pou jwenn lavi.”

5

Anayiz

“E moun ki gen fòs pou jwenn dlo a, se ou menm menm, Mannwèl!”

Mannwèl

“M pa konnen, m pa konnen. Men, si m resi\* jwenn dlo a, fòk\* ta gen anpil moun pou travay nan tèt ansanm, nan yon gwo konbit frè ak frè. E se pou sa m di m bezwen ou anpil, Anayiz.”

10

Anayiz

“Poukisa?”

Mannwèl

“Paske si m resi jwenn dlo a, tout moun bezwen travay ansanm. E ou menm, ou ka pale ak fanm yo. Se fanm yo ase ki ka rive chanje gason yo, fè yo konprann lè frè rayi frè, frè pa ka travay ak frè. Epi si youn pa vle travay ak lòt, tout moun ap mouri. Fòk nou chanje lavi nou ansanm.”

15

Anayiz

“O Mannwèl!” (*Yo bo\*.*)

## Chapit 6: Kèsyon

*Reponn an kreyòl ak yon fraz konplèt:*

1. Kilè Mannwèl al tann Anayiz?
2. Ki kote l ap tann li?
3. Se premye fwa Mannwèl te kontre li depi premye jou a?
4. Poukisa Mannwèl vle pale ak li?
5. Èske Mannwèl kontan wè li?
6. Men, kisa Anayiz reponn li?
7. Kisa Mannwèl vle di lè l pale sou “vye istwa rayisman ki nan bouk la”?
8. Dapre Mannwèl, poukisa moun nan bouk la pa gen anyen?
9. Kisa Mannwèl kwè yo dwe fè?
10. Dapre Anayiz, ki moun ki gen fòs pou jwenn dlo a?
11. Si l rive jwenn dlo, kisa lezòt yo dwe fè?
12. Epi kisa Anayiz menm ka fè?
13. Kisa fanm yo ka rive fè?
14. Sa k rive lè youn pa vle travay ak lòt?
15. Sa k rive nan fen chapit sa a?

---

<b>bo</b>	to kiss, embrace
<b>fòk</b>	it is necessary that
<b>jou swa</b>	evening
<b>men</b>	but; hand; here is
<b>resi</b>	to succeed



## Chapit 7: Dlo!



Anayiz ap tounen lakay li, nan fènwa\*. Sanzatann, li tande yon vwa\*.

### Anayiz

“Ki moun ki la?”

### Jèvilen

“Ou pa konnen? A! a! Se kouzen ou, Jèvilen. Ou pa pè mache nan fènwa konsa? Epi, kisa ou ap fè la a? Ou kwè m pa te wè ou ak vakabon\* sa a, neve\* Sovè a?”

### Anayiz

“Sa pa gade ou!\*”

### Jèvilen

“Sa ou di la a, sa pa gade m! Sa gade m, wi! Ou gentan\* bliye mwen te vle voye tonton\* mwen mande manman ou pou ou? Èske ou chanje lide\* ou depi lè sa a?”

Anayiz

“Bliye bagay konsa, monchè.”

Jèvilen

“Ou ap regrèt sa! Tonnè, fout\*! Sanzave\* sa a, Mannwèl, ap regrèt nèl li te jennen\* Jèvilen, l ap regrèt li te fèt! Ou a wè! Ou a wè!”



Mannwèl ap mache nan mòn. Li gade adwat, li 5  
gade agòch. Li toujou pa wè anyen. Solèy\* la cho  
anpil anpil... Sanzatann, li wè yon bann\* zwazo\*.  
Li kouri vit vit kote yo fèk\* sòti a. Li tonbe\* koupe  
raje\* ki bare\* wout li. Anfen li rive nan fon\*  
rakbwa\* a. Li tonbe fouye\* tè a. “Dlo, dlo, dlo! 10  
Mèsi, Bondye, mèsi!”

## Chapit 7: Kèsyon

*Reponn an kreyòl ak yon fraz konplèt:*

1. **Ki kote Anayiz ap tounen?**
2. **Kisa li tandè?**
3. **Ki moun ki la?**
4. **Poukisa Jèvilen mande l si l pa pè?**
5. **Kisa Jèvilen te gentan wè?**
6. **Èske Jèvilen renmen Anayiz?**
7. **Epi èske Jèvilen renmen Mannwèl?**
8. **Poukisa?**
9. **Ou kwè Anayiz pito\* Jèvilen oubyen\* Mannwèl?**
10. **Anvan li pati, kisa Jèvilen di?**



11. **Kote Mannwèl ap mache?**
12. **Sanzatann, kisa li wè?**
13. **Kote li kouri?**
14. **Poukisa?**
15. **Kisa li tonbe fè?**
16. **Epi, kisa li jwenn?**

<b>bann</b>	flock, band, group
<b>bare</b>	to block, obstruct
<b>fèk</b>	to have just (done something)
<b>fènwa</b>	darkness
<b>fon</b>	bottom, back
<b>fouye</b>	to dig
<b>gentan</b>	already
<b>jennen</b>	to disturb, annoy, get in the way of
<b>lide</b>	mind; idea
<b>neve</b>	nephew
<b>oubyen</b>	or
<b>pito</b>	to prefer
<b>raje</b>	underbrush
<b>rakbwa</b>	thicket
<b>Sa pa gade ou!</b>	That's none of your business!
<b>sanzave</b>	good-for-nothing, bum
<b>solèy</b>	sun
<b>tonbe</b>	to begin to; to fall
<b>tonnè, fout!</b>	damn!
<b>tonton</b>	uncle; old man
<b>vakabon</b>	good-for-nothing, bum, scoundrel
<b>vwa</b>	voice
<b>zwazo</b>	bird

## Chapit 8: Yon Fil Ki Pa Janm Kase



### Anayiz

“Se pa vre, Mannwèl? Ou jwenn dlo? Men, èske ou sèten gen ase dlo pou wouze\* tout tè nou yo?”

### Mannwèl

“Pa gen pwoblèm, Anayiz, gen dlo pou tout moun, tout bagay pral chanje kounyeya.”

### Anayiz

“Ou fò, Mannwèl.”

5

### Mannwèl

“Mwen pa fò, Anayiz, men m gen konfyans. Sa pi enpòtan.”

### Anayiz

“Konfyans nan kisa?”

Mannwèl

“M gen konfyans nan lavi, konfyans moun p ap mouri. Natirèlman, tout moun gen pou\* kite tè a yon jou. Men, ou wè, Anayiz, pou mwen lavi a menm ap kontinye, paske se yon fil\* ki pa janm kase, ni ki pa janm pèdi. Ou konnen poukisa? 5  
Se paske chak moun ki fè yon travay ki itil, se tankou\* yon ne\* li fè nan fil sa a, ki ranfòse l, ki fè lavi a pi bon pou tout lezòt yo k ap vini apre. Nou tout, se travayè nou ye, se frè nou ye. 10  
Youn ede lòt, menm apre lanmò.”

Anayiz

“Mannwèl, o! M renmen ou.”

Mannwèl

“M renmen ou, Anayiz! M vle bati yon kay, ak de pòt, de fennèt, epi yon ti galri - e tout sa pou ou, Anayiz.”

Anayiz

“Montre m dlo a, wi, Mannwèl.”

Mannwèl

“Ann al gade l ansanm, cheri.” (*Yo rive bò sous\** 15  
*la.*)

Anayiz

“O! li fè fre\* isit la. O! li bèl! Gade dlo! gen dlo toupatou! Mannwèl, o!”

Epi yo tonbe atè. E la, bò dlo a, yo fè youn.

## Chapit 8: Kèsyon

*Reponn an kreyòl ak yon fraz konplèt:*

1. Kisa Mannwèl te jwenn?
2. Ki kantite dlo ki genyen?
3. Poukisa Anayiz kwè Mannwèl fò?
4. Kijan Mannwèl diferan ak lòt moun Fonwouj yo?
5. Kisa tout moun gen pou fè yon jou?
6. Poukisa Mannwèl di lavi a, se tankou yon fil?
7. Epi, kisa sa ye, “yon ne” nan fil sa a?
8. Kisa sa kap fè pou lezòt yo k ap vini apre?
9. Kijan fè chak moun se frè youn ak lòt?
10. Kisa Mannwèl vle bati pou Anayiz?
11. Ki kalite kay li ta vle bati pou li?
12. Kisa Anayiz vle al wè kounyeya?
13. Èske li fè cho bò sous la?
14. Ou kwè Anayiz ak Mannwèl renmen youn lòt?
15. Poukisa?

---

<b>fil</b>	thread
<b>fre</b>	cool
<b>gen pou</b>	to have to
<b>ne</b>	knot
<b>sous</b>	spring ( <i>of water</i> )
<b>tankou</b>	as, like
<b>wouze</b>	to water, irrigate

## Chapit 9: Dlo Pou Ki Moun?



(Pip Byenneme tonbe.)

### Byenneme

“Sa ou di la, pitit mwen? Ou te jwenn dlo! Se pa vre! Pitit mwen, o! Mwen rekonnèt san\* mwen byen nan ou! Men, rakonte n: èske se yon ti gout dlo, oubyen èske gen dlo pou wouze tout jaden nou yo?”

5

### Mannwèl

“Pa gen pàn,\* papa! Genyen pou *tout* moun nan bouk la!”

### Byenneme

“Men, lè ou di *tout* moun, ou pa vle di tout vye\* moun sa yo ki lènmi\* ak nou! Yo pa gen dwa sèvi ak dlo sa a, paske se ou menm menm ki te jwenn li!”

10

### Mannwèl

“Non, papa, dlo a se pou tout moun li ye. Tout moun gen dwa sèvi avè l - epi pou dlo rive jouk isit la, fòk



anpil anpil travay fèt\*. Fòk gen yon gwo konbit kote tout moun travay nan tèt ansanm. Fòk nou tout fouye yon gwo kannal. Yon sèl ti ponyen\* moun pa ta kapab.”

### Byenneme

“Non, non, non! Mwen p ap janm asepte travay ak 5  
lezòt yo tou. Yo menm, se moun Doriska\*, ki te vle pran tè ki te pou nou, ki te fè\* Sovè, fre m lan, mouri\* nan prizon. Mwen p ap janm asepte travay ak moun sa yo!” (*Li sòti.*)

### Delira

“Ou wè, pitit mwen. Vye rayisman an la depi twò 10  
lontan.”

### Mannwèl

“Pa gen anyen lòt nou ka fè, manman. Fòk tout moun travay ansanm, oubyen n ap mouri ansanm. M pral pale ak gason yo, epi Anayiz ap pale ak fanm yo. Si tèt yo pa ta vle koute n, enben vant\* yo a koute n. Mwen 15  
konnen yo.”

---

fè . . . mouri	to cause . . . to die
fèt	done, made, completed; to be born
lènmi	enemy
moun Doriska	Doriska’s people
Pa gen pàn!	No problem!
ponyen	handful, group
san	blood; without; hundred
vant	stomach
vye	disgusting; hateful; old

## Chapit 9: Kèsyon

*Reponn an kreyòl ak yon fraz konplèt:*

1. Kisa ki rive lè Byenneme tande nouvèl la?
2. Kijan nou konnen Byenneme kontan anpil ak pitit gason li a?
3. Ki kèsyon Byenneme mande Mannwèl pou konmanse?
4. Ki lòt moun ki te mande Mannwèl menm kèsyon sa a deja?
5. Lè Mannwèl di “tout moun,” kisa li vle di?
6. Dapre Byenneme, poukisa lènmi yo pa gen dwa sèvi ak dlo sa a?
7. Kijan Mannwèl reponn li?
8. Poukisa yo dwe fouye yon gwo kannal?
9. Epi ki pwoblèm ki gen nan sa?
10. Kisa sa ye, yon konbit?
11. Èske Byenneme dakò pou l travay ak lènmi?
12. Kisa Doriska te vle fè?
13. Kisa Sovè te ye pou Byenneme?
14. Kote Sovè te mouri?
15. Poukisa yo te mete l nan prizon?
16. Dapre Delira, poukisa moun Fonwouj yo p ap janm vle travay nan tèt ansanm?
17. Dapre Mannwèl, si tout moun Fonwouj pa vle travay ansanm, sa k ap rive?
18. Poukisa Mannwèl kwè moun Fonwouj yo ap koute l?

## Chapit 10: Yon Koze Serye



Nouvèl Mannwèl te jwenn dlo a te gaye\* toupatou nan ti bouk la. Teledyòl\* mache vit! Anayiz te ale pale ak fanm yo. Tout moun ki lènmi Mannwèl yo ap reyini\* pou diskite zafè sa a. Se lannwit. Sanzatann:

5

### Mannwèl

“Onè!.\*”

### Lezòt

“Respè!\* O! o! se Mannwèl! Sa ou vin chache isit la?”

### Mannwèl

“Frè m yo, m vin pale ak nou. Vye istwa sa a ki mete youn lènmi ak lòt, li la depi twò lontan. Sa m ta vle fè kounyeya, se fè youn vin zanmi ak lòt. M te jwenn yon sous, se vre, men... li lwen anpil. Fòk nou tout travay

10

nan tèt ansanm, nan yon gwo konbit pou fè dlo a rive jouk isit. Sa yon men pa kapab fè, de ka fè l. Fòk nou bay lanmen\*; ki avantaj ki genyen lè nou lènm? Gade timoun yo, gade plant yo. Se lanmò ki make sou yo. Frè 5  
m yo, sèl jan pou nou sove tèt nou\*, se pou nou tout fè youn. Tout moun se moun.\* Youn bezwen lòt, youn ap mouri san lòt!”

### Jèvilen

“Fout! Sa ou ap di nou la a? Ou vle achte nou pou yon ti gout dlo! San an te koule\*, san papa mwen, nou pa 10  
ka janm bliye sa! (*Pèsonn pa di anyen . . .*) M wè sa, nou tout kont mwen! Enben, m ale - men, Mannwèl, konsa ou frape m de (2) fwa. Yon sèl fwa deja, se te twòp!” (*Li sòti.*)

---

<b>bay lanmen</b>	to join hands, work together
<b>gayè</b>	to spread, spread out
<b>koule</b>	to flow
<b>lajounen</b>	daytime
<b>onè</b>	honor ( <i>traditional request to enter home</i> )
<b>respè</b>	respect ( <i>traditional reply to enter</i> )
<b>reyini</b>	to meet, get together
<b>teledyòl</b>	word-of-mouth, “coconut grapevine”
<b>tèt nou</b>	ourselves; yourselves
<b>Tout moun</b>	Everyone is equal. / Everyone
<b>se moun</b>	deserves to be treated as a human being. ( <i>proverb</i> )

## Chapit 10: Kèsyon

*Reponn an kreyòl ak yon fraz konplèt:*

1. Kisa teledyòl gaye vit nan ti bouk la?
2. Kisa Anayiz te ale fè?
3. Ki moun ki reyini pou diskite kounyeya?
4. Èske se pandan lajounen\*?
5. Kisa Mannwèl di lè l rive devan kay la?
6. E kijan yo reponn li?
7. Kisa Mannwèl di sou vye istwa ki mete youn lènmi ak lòt?
8. Èske sous Mannwèl te jwenn lan bò bouk la?
9. Poukisa fòk tout moun travay ansanm nan yon gwo konbit?
10. Ki kèsyon Mannwèl mande yo?
11. Kisa sa vle di: “Tout moun se moun”?
12. Dapre Jèvilèn, kijan Mannwèl vle achte yo?
13. Ki moun ki te papa Jèvilèn?
14. Èske lezòt yo koute Jèvilèn?
15. Poukisa Jèvilèn di Mannwèl te frape l de (2) fwa?

## Chapit 11: Lanmò



Mannwèl ap tounen lakay li. Li kontan. Tout bagay byen pase. Li sèten denmen y ap ba li yon bon repons. Tout moun ap rekonmanse viv tankou frè, tout moun ap rekonmanse travay ansanm. Yo sove, Fonwouj sove.

5

Sanzatann, nan fènwa a, gen yon bri\*. Yon men rive nan do Mannwèl, yon men ak yon kouto\*. Mannwèl tonbe. Li ret atè a pandan lontan. Li rele, men lavwa\* li twò fèb\*. Pèsonn pa tande anyen. Piti piti li konmanse rale\*. Anfen, anfen li rive lakay li.

10

### Delira

“Ki moun ki la?”

Mannwèl

“Manman, manman, se mwen.”

Delira

“Mannwèl, o! Sa k rive ou? Vini, non! Kite\* m ede ou. Kouche\* la. O! o! Apa\* ou benyen san! Ki moun ki fè ou sa? Kite m ale fè plent kay lapolis touswit!”

Mannwèl

“Non, non, manman. M ap mouri. Dènye bagay mwen 5  
mande ou, se pou ou pa di anyen. Di yo m te sot Kiba  
ak yon vye lafyèv; se li ki touye m. Osinon\*, vye istwa  
moun rayi moun, youn pa vle travay ak lòt la, pral  
kontinye - epi sa k pèdi a, se dlo a, se nou, se Fonwouj.  
Anayiz a montre nou kote dlo a ye. Chante antèman\* 10  
m ak yon chante\* konbit. M kite ou, manman.” (*Li mouri.*)

---

<b>antèman</b>	funeral, burial
<b>apa</b>	look how...!
<b>bay manti</b>	to lie, tell lies
<b>bri</b>	noise
<b>chante</b>	song; to sing
<b>fèb</b>	weak, feeble
<b>kite</b>	to let; to leave; to stop (doing something)
<b>kouche</b>	to lie down; to get into bed
<b>kouto</b>	knife
<b>lavwa</b>	voice
<b>osinon</b>	if not, otherwise
<b>rale</b>	to crawl; to pull

## Chapit 11: Kèsyon

*Reponn an kreyòl ak yon fraz konplèt:*

1. Poukisa Mannwèl kontan?
2. Kisa sa vle di: “yon bon repons”?
3. Kijan Fonwouj ap sove?
4. Sanzatann, kisa ki rive nan fènwa a?
5. Lè Mannwèl rele, poukisa pèsonn pa tande l’?
6. Kijan li rive lakay li?
7. Kisa Delira mande lè l tande yon moun?
8. Epi kisa Delira di?
9. Ki moun Delira vle rele touswit?
10. Ki dènye bagay Mannwèl mande manman l’?
11. Kijan Mannwèl vle yo di li te mouri?
12. Poukisa li vle manman l ba\* yo manti\*?
13. Si yo rete toujou nan moun rayi moun, kisa k ap pèdi?
14. Kijan moun yo ka jwenn sous la?
15. Kijan Mannwèl vle yo chante antèman l’?



## Chapit 12: Mèt Lawouze



Tout zanmi Mannwèl yo vini nan veye\* a. Se kriye sèlman Delira ak Anayiz ap kriye. Byenneme rete la tankou yon nonm\* soud\*, yon nonm avèg\*. Zanmi Mannwèl yo desann sèkèy\* la tou dousman nan twou a. Youn di: “Ou ale vre, Mannwèl . . . Lè nou bouke, 5  
lè nou chagren, lè n ap di: ‘Poukisa n ap debat\*, lavi pa vo\* lapenn\*, n a sonje\* ou, Mannwèl, n a sonje egzanp ou a. Nou kapab chanje lavi, nou se mèt lawouze.’”

Jou swa sa a, Delira te ale pou kont li\* nan kay kote 10  
“lènmi yo” te rasanble a. Yo sezi wè li.

### Delira

“Se pitit mwen an, pitit mwen ki mouri a, ki voye m isit la. Li te kite yon mesaj pou nou. Men, dabò\* se pou nou sèmante\* nou p ap janm di anyen sou sa m pral

di aswè a. (*Yo sèmante.*) Nou tout konnen se Jèvilen ki touye gason m lan e nou konnen Jèvilen te gentan kite Fonwouj. (*Silans.*) Men, se pou nou pa di anyen. Se Mannwèl menm ki pa t vle yon lòt vye istwa moun rayi moun konmanse ankò. Deja nou tout te bay anpil sakrifis pou nou ka gen dlo: nou bay san poul, san kabrit\*. Sa pa chanje anyen. Kounyeya, se Mannwèl ki bay san pa l pou nou gen dlo. Se pa poul yo oubyen kabrit yo k ap chanje lavi: se moun ase ki ka fè l. Li te bay lavi li pou Fonwouj ka viv. Li te vle lanmò li sèvi pou lavi. Respekte tèt li. M ale, frè m yo.”



Aprè yon mwa konsa, Delira ak Anayiz ap gade kannal konbit la te fouye a. Tanbou\* ap bat, moun ap chante yon chante pou Mannwèl. Sanzatann, gen yon gran silans. Epi:

### Anayiz

“Manman, o! Men dlo a, men dlo a!”

### Delira

“O! o! Mannwèl, pitit mwen, poukisa ou pa la pou wè sa! Poukisa? Poukisa ou te mouri?”

### Anayiz

“Li pa mouri nèt, manman. Mete men ou la a, sou vant mwen. Mannwèl ap viv ankò, Fonwouj ap viv ankò.”

## Chapit 12: Kèsyon

*Reponn an kreyòl ak yon fraz konplèt:*

1. Kisa Delira ak Anayiz ap fè nan veye Mannwèl?
2. E Byenneme?
3. Nan ti koze zanmi Mannwèl la ap fè a, dapre ou menm, ki bagay ki pi enpòtan?
4. Jou swa sa a, ki kote Delira ale?
5. Poukisa yo sezi wè l'?
6. Poukisa li ale la?
7. Kisa yo dwe sèmante yo p ap di?
8. Kisa tout moun ki la konnen sou lanmò Mannwèl?
9. Kote Jèvilen kounyeya?
10. Poukisa Mannwèl vle zanmi li yo kwè se lafyèv ki te touye l'?
11. Ki sakrifis moun Fonwouj te fè deja?
12. Dapre Mannwèl, ki sèl jan moun ka chanje lavi?
13. Kijan lanmò li ka sèvi?



14. Apre yon mwa konsa, kisa Delira ak Anayiz ap gade?
15. Poukisa te gen yon gran silans?
16. Poukisa Anayiz di Mannwèl pa mouri nèt?

<b>avèg</b>	blind
<b>dabò</b>	first, first of all
<b>debat</b>	to struggle, endeavor
<b>kabrit</b>	goat
<b>lapenn</b>	effort, trouble; sorrow; suffering
<b>nonm</b>	man
<b>pou kont</b>	
(+ <i>pronoun</i> )	alone
<b>sèkèy</b>	coffin
<b>sèmante</b>	to swear, pledge
<b>sonje</b>	to remember
<b>soud</b>	deaf
<b>tanbou</b>	drum
<b>veye</b>	funeral wake
<b>vo</b>	to be worth

## Kèsyon Jeneral

1. Nan istwa sa a, Jacques Roumain pa mete ni yon agwonòm\* ki te sòti nan Pòtoprens, ni yon bann moun ki te sòti lòtbò dlo\*, ki vini sove bouk la. Okontrè\*, li mete yon nèg ki sòti nan bouk la ki tounen sove bouk li a. Poukisa?
2. Èske ou kwè Jacques Roumain te bezwen kanpe\* nan *Mèt Lawouze* yon nèg ki te kite peyi l, anvan li ka tounen ede l? Poukisa?
3. Èske gen moun ki ta ka di se lwa yo ki voye Mannwèl ede Fonwouj?
4. Ou kwè Mannwèl te bezwen mouri nan istwa sa a?
5. Kilès\* ki pi konsekan\* nan istwa sa a: jwenn dlo, oubyen moun k ap travay nan tèt ansanm?
6. Kisa tit\* la vle di: *Mèt Lawouze*?
7. Poukisa ou kwè yo mete istwa *Mèt Lawouze* nan anpil anpil lang lòtbò?

---

<b>agwonòm</b>	agronomist, agricultural expert
<b>kanpe</b>	to place, insert; to stand up, standing
<b>kilès</b>	which, which one
<b>konsekan</b>	important, of consequence
<b>lòtbò dlo</b>	from overseas, abroad
<b>okontrè</b>	on the contrary
<b>tit</b>	title

## PWOVÈB

*Not even a short selection of Haitian readings would be acceptable without a sampling of one of the most characteristic expressions of Haiti's culture: the proverb. Each can be uniquely revealing not only as a general truth, but as an insight into many of the underlying attitudes of this fascinating people.*

*Rather than furnish a literal translation, in most cases we prefer to suggest a broad interpretation. The reader is invited to find others as well. Proverbs are similar to parables: more than one meaning can be valid.*

1. **Bondye bon.**

Whatever God does is for the best.

Whatever is, is good.

*(Haiti's eternally optimistic fatalism.)*

2. **Dèyè mòn, gen mòn.**

After one sorrow, more sorrows.

If it's not one thing, it's another.

There's more than meets the eye.

3. **Sak vid pa kanpe.**

No work gets done on an empty stomach.

You get out what you put in.

4. **Santi bon koute chè.**

A big front doesn't come cheaply.

5. **Kreyon\* Bondye pa gen gòm.\***

God makes no mistakes.

What God promises He will give.

What's traced for you is forever traced.

6. **Bèl fanm, bèl malè.**  
A beautiful woman means trouble.
7. **Nèg di san fè, Bondye fè san di.**  
Man talks, God acts.
8. **Pale franse pa di lespri pou sa.**  
Fancy talk doesn't mean brains.
9. **Bèl larivyè, nanpwen\* rad\*.**  
A beautiful situation, wasted.  
All dressed up and no place to go.
10. **Milat\* pòv se nèg, nèg rich se milat.**  
Money is everything.
11. **Prese bon, dousman bon.**  
There's more than one right way.
12. **Grangou dimanch pi rèd.**  
Hunger is worse when others are feasting.
13. **Bon mache koute chè.**  
Bargains are expensive.
14. **Tan ale, li pa tounen.**  
We can never recapture the past.
15. **Fanm se kajou: plis li vye, plis li bon.**  
Women, like wine, improve with age.

**16. Sa nèg fè nèg, Bondye ri.**

God does not trouble Himself with what man does to man.

**17. Tout moun se moun.**

Everyone deserves to be treated as a human being.

**18. Anpil bèl bagay anmè\*.**

Appearances can be deceiving.

**19. Si ou bay pòv, se Bondye ou prete.**

Charity has its rewards.

**20. Nanpwen\* kòb, nanpwen manje.**

You get what you pay for.

**21. Pitit tig, se tig.**

“The tiger’s cub can be dangerous too.”

*(Jean-Claude Duvalier, 1975)*

**22. Ti nèg fè sa l kapab, grannèg\* fè sa l vle.**

Money and power are everything.

**23. Tande pa di konprann pou sa.**

Hearing is one thing, understanding is another.

**24. Grannèg\* se lalwa.**

Might makes right.

**25. Pitit se richès pòv malere.**

A child is the poor man’s consolation.



26. **Piti piti zwazo fè nich\* li.**  
Everything takes time.
27. **Lanne pase toujou pi bon.**  
The grass is always greener on the other side.
28. **Fanm pou yon tan, manman pou tout tan.**  
Wife for a time, mother for all time.
29. **Pise marengwen ogmante larivyè.**  
Every little drop counts.
30. **Lè ou krache\* an lè, li tonbe sou nen ou.**  
What goes around, comes around.
31. **Aprè dans, tanbou\* toujou lou.**  
After the excitement is over, life can be a drag.
32. **Kreyòl pale, kreyòl konprann.**  
Creole (as opposed to French) means straight,  
honest talk.
33. **Kouri lapli, tonbe larivyè.**  
In avoiding one thing, we fall into something  
worse.
34. **Bay kou bliye, pote mak sonje.**  
The culprit forgets, the victim remembers.
35. **Po tè pa goumen\* ak po fè.**  
Know thyself.
36. **Entelijan twonpe\* 'leve bonè'.**  
The smart person figures the angles.

37. **Fanm se zanj, fanm se denmon.**

Can't live with 'em, can't live without 'em.

38. **CHITA PA BAY.**

Sitting around won't get you anywhere.

---

<b>anmè</b>	bitter
<b>gòm</b>	eraser
<b>goumen</b>	to fight
<b>grannèg</b>	“big shot,” person of importance
<b>krache</b>	to spit
<b>kreyon</b>	pencil
<b>milat</b>	Mulatto
<b>nanpwen</b>	(there is/are) no
<b>nich</b>	nest
<b>rad</b>	clothes
<b>tanbou</b>	drum
<b>twonpe</b>	to deceive, fool

## Blag

### 1 *Gwo deblozay\**

Te gen yon nèg ki te ale nan yon ba\*. Li rele bamann\* lan: “Vit, vit, pote yon ti vè wonm ban mwen anvan gwo deblozay la.” Bamann lan pote yon ti vè wonm ba li.

Nèg la di ankò: “Vit, vit, pote yon ti vè wonm ban mwen anvan gwo deblozay la.” Bamann lan pote yon dezyèm ti vè wonm ba li. 5

Nèg la di ankò: “Vit, vit, pote yon ti vè wonm ban mwen anvan gwo deblozay la.”

Bamann lan di: “O! o! ki gwo deblozay sa a?” 10

Nèg la reponn: “Ou pa konnen? Gwo deblozay sa a, se lè ou ap aprann m pa gen kòb pou peye ou!”

### 2 *Istwa yon bourik\**

Te gen yon nèg ki fèk\* marye. Nèg la moute ak madanm li sou bourik li.

Bourik la fè yon fopa\*. Nèg la di: “Sa fè yon fwa.”

Bourik la fè yon dezyèm fopa. Nèg la di: “Sa fè de (2) fwa.” 5

Bourik la fè yon twazyèm fopa. Nèg la desann bourik la ak madanm li, epi li touye bourik la.

Madanm li di: “Poukisa ou fè sa?”

Nèg la di: “Sa fè yon fwa.”

---

<b>ba</b>	bar	<b>deblozay</b>	uproar, ruckus
<b>bamann</b>	bartender	<b>fè yon fopa</b>	to stumble
<b>bourik</b>	donkey	<b>fèk</b>	to have just (done something)

### 3 *Yon dènye sigarèt?*

Te gen yon nèg yo t apral\* touye. Anvan yo touye li, yo mande l: “Èske ou ta vle fimen yon sigarèt anvan nou touye ou?”

Nèg la reponn: “Non, mèsì, bòs papa. Mwen fèk kite fimen! Li pa bon pou lasante m.” 5

### 4 *Boujwa ak abitan*

Te gen yon boujwa Petyonvil ki te sòti nan bèl machin li pou ale Ench. Lè l rive andeyò\*, li pèdi wout li. Konsa li rete pou l mande yon abitan kijan pou l fè pou l rive Ench.

“Alo! konpè m! Ki kote pou m pase pou m ale Ench?” 5

Abitan an reponn: “M pa konnen.”

Nèg Petyonvil la mande l ankò: “Oke. Èske ou ta ka di m ki kote pou m fè pou m rive Mibalè?”

Abitan an reponn: “M pa konnen.”

Nèg Petyonvil la move\*, li di lòt la: “Kifè, vye papa! 10  
Ou pa konnen anyen?”

Abitan an reponn: “Se pa mwen menm ki pèdi, non.”

**andeyò** country(side), hills, backwoods, “sticks”

**apral** to be going (to)

**move** angry, annoyed; bad

## 5 *Degouden\* pou Bondye*

Yon samdi swa, papa Ti Lifèt te ba li yon pyas\*.

“Degouden, se pou bay legliz denmen maten. Ak lòt degouden an, ou mèt\* al achte yon krèm\*.”

Ti Lifèt kouri vit sòti lakay li. L ale nan boutik krèm lan, men, anvan li rive la, li tonbe: **bip!** Epi yon 5  
degouden tonbe tou: **bling...** Yon gwo chen vale l!

Ti Lifèt di: “O! o! Erezman se degouden papa Bondye a chen an vale la a!”

## 6 *Yon moun Okap*

Yon moun ki sòti Pòtoprens te rive Okap. Lè l rive la, li mande yon moun Okap si se yon bon lavil Okap ye.

Moun Okap la reponn: “O wi, se sa nèt! Lè m te rive isit la, mwen pa te gen fòs pou m di yon sèl mo\*; m pa t gen cheve\* nan tèt mwen ditou\*; menm lè 5  
moun te vle ede m, mwen pa te kapab mache nan lari; tout tan ata\* ede yo te ede m kouche, epi menm bagay tou pou lè m t ap leve.”

Moun Pòtoprens la di: “O! o! Se yon bèl bagay sa a! Depi kilè ou isit la?” 10

Moun Okap la reponn: “Mwen menm? Se isit la mwen fèt.”

---

<b>ata</b>	even	<b>mèt</b>	may ( <i>permission</i> );
<b>cheve</b>	hair		master; owner; teacher
<b>degouden</b>	one-half of a gourde (formerly 10 cents U.S.)	<b>mo</b>	word
<b>ditou</b>	(not) at all	<b>pyas</b>	( <i>familiar expres- sion for</i> ) Haitian
<b>krèm</b>	ice-cream		gourde (formerly 20 cents U.S.)

## 7 *Fanmi mwen*

**Tijak:** “Madanm souple, èske ou ta ka ban m twa goud pou m kap ale jwenn fanmi mwen, tanpri souple?”

**Touris:** “Pa gen pwoblèm, pitit mwen an, men twa goud. Konsa, ou ka ale wè fanmi ou. Men, ki kote fanmi ou ye?” 5

**Tijak:** (*l ap kouri chape poul li\**) “Nan sinema, wi!”

## 8 *Mwen menm tou!*

*Yon mèt lekòl telefonnen manman yon elèv:*

**Mèt:** Bonjou, madanm. Kijan ou ye?

**Manman:** Byen, msye. E ou menm?

**Mèt:** M ap boule piti piti, wi. M telefonnen ou paske gen yon ti pwoblèm ak pitit ou a. Li te pran poul sou\* yon ti zanmi li. 5

**Manman:** Poukisa ou di sa, Mèt?

**Mèt:** Gen de jou, msye ak ti zanmi li a te fè menm fòt nan egzamen m te ba yo a.

**Manman:** Mezanmi! Men, se pa pitit mwen an, non! 10  
Se siman lòt la ki te pran poul sou li.

**Mèt:** M ap esplike ou, madanm. Mwen te ba yo yon ti egzamen kalkil\*: “Konben de (2) plis senk (5)

<b>chape poul</b> (+ <i>pronoun</i> )	to clear out, take to one’s heels
<b>ditou</b>	(not) at all
<b>kalkil</b>	arithmetic
<b>pran poul (sou)</b>	to copy, cheat ( <i>on test</i> )

fè?” Ti zanmi li a te ekri: “M pa konnen!” Pitit ou a te ekri: “Mwen menm tou!”

## 9 *Tout kalite\* kafe*

De moun te vin chita nan yon gran restoran Petyonvil.

Aprè yo fin manje yon gwo dine\*, gason an te mande: “Èske nou ta pito kafe ayisyen oubyen kafe ameriken?”

Fanm lan reponn: “Pote yon kafe ameriken ban mwen, souple.” 5

Epi msye a di: “Pote yon kafe ayisyen ban mwen, souple.”

Gason an reponn: “Touswit!”

Fanm lan di: “Ala\* bon restoran, monchè! Yo gen tout bagay!” 10

Aprè yon ti moman, gason an rive ak de tas. Li bay fanm lan yon gwo tas, epi li bay msye a yon ti tas.

Epi, ak gran seremoni, li vide kafe a nan toude tas yo - sòti nan yon sèl kafetyè\*. 15

---

<b>ala...!</b>	what a...!
<b>dine</b>	luncheon, noonday meal
<b>kafetyè</b>	coffee pot
<b>kalite</b>	kind, sort

## 10 *Mont\* monpè\**

Nan yon ti bouk te gen yon monpè ki te konn\* kite mont li sou yon ban\* nan legliz la, anvan li rantre nan konfesyonal la. Li te konn fè sa pou li pa t janm gen tantasyon gade lè pandan yon fidèl t ap konfese.

Yon jou, yon msye vin konfese. Li di: “Monpè, 5  
padonnen m, m fèk vòlè yon mont.”

Pè\* a di: “Sa pa ase pou ou mande padon, fò ou renmèt\* mont la tou.”

Nèg la mande: “Ou vle l, monpè?”

Pè a reponn: “Mwen menm menm? Non, mwen pa 10  
bezwen l. Se pou ou pote l bay mèt li.”

Nèg la reponn: “Enben, mwen ofri l li, men li pa vle pran l!”

Lè sa a, pè a di: “Oke, konsa pa gen pwoblèm. Ou 15  
mèt pran mont la pou ou!”

Epi, li bay nèg la absolisyon.

Lè nèg la te fin ale, pè a voye je\* sou ban an. Li mete de men nan tèt. Epi, maltèt\* pran l lamenm!

---

<b>ban</b>	bench, pew
<b>konn</b>	to be in the habit of; to know how
<b>maltèt</b>	headache
<b>monpè</b>	Roman Catholic priest
<b>mont</b>	watch ( <i>timepiece</i> )
<b>pè</b>	Roman Catholic priest; fear; pair
<b>renmèt</b>	to give back, return
<b>voye je</b>	to glance



## Blag: Kèsyon

*Reponn an kreyòl ak yon fraz konplèt:*

### **1** *Gwo deblozay*

1. Ki kote nèg la te ale?
2. Kisa li te di bamann lan?
3. Epi kisa bamann lan te fè?
4. Apre dezyèm ti vè wonm lan, kisa bamann lan te mande l'?
5. Kilè ap gen yon gwo deblozay?
6. Rakonte tout ti blag sa a, san gade tèks la.

### **2** *Istwa yon bourik*

1. Kisa nèg la te fèk fè?
2. Ak ki moun li te moute sou bourik la?
3. Kisa bourik la te fè?
4. Lè sa a, kisa nèg la te di?
5. Apre twazyèm fopa bourik la, kisa nèg la te fè?
6. Kisa madanm li te mande l'?
7. Epi, kisa nèg la te reponn?
8. Rakonte tout ti blag sa a, san gade tèks la.

### **3** *Yon dènye sigarèt?*

1. Kisa yo t apral fè ak yon nèg?
2. Kisa yo mande l anvan yo touye li?
3. Kisa li te reponn?
4. Rakonte tout ti blag sa a, san gade tèks la.

#### **4** *Boujwa ak abitan*

1. **Kibò boujwa a te sòti?**
2. **Ki kote li te prale?**
3. **Poukisa li te rete pale ak yon abitan?**
4. **Pou ki de (2) vil li te mande l'?**
5. **Èske ou ka montre de (2) vil sa yo sou yon kat Dayiti?**
6. **Poukisa boujwa a move?**
7. **Epi kisa abitan an reponn li?**
8. **Rakonte tout ti blag sa a, san gade tèks la.**

#### **5** *Degouden pou Bondye*

1. **Konben kòb papa Ti Lifèt te ba li?**
2. **Kilè sa te pase?**
3. **Kisa pou li fè ak yon degouden?**
4. **Epi kisa li mèt fè ak lòt degouden an?**
5. **Lamenm, kisa Ti Lifèt te fè?**
6. **Ki kote li te vle ale?**
7. **Men, sa k te rive l nan wout?**
8. **Kisa yon gwo chen te fè?**
9. **Degouden sa a te pou ki moun?**
10. **Rakonte tout ti blag sa a, san gade tèks la.**

#### **6** *Yon moun Okap*

1. **Montre sou yon kat Dayiti ki kote Okap ye.**
2. **Kisa moun Pòtoprens la mande?**
3. **Lè moun Okap la te fèk rive la, èske li te ka pale?**
4. **Èske li te gen anpil cheve?**

5. Èske li te kapab mache nan lari pou kont li?
6. Èske li te kapab kouche epi leve nan kabann pou kont li?
7. Depi kilè moun Okap la rete la?
8. Rakonte tout ti blag sa a, san gade tèks la.

## 7 *Fanmi mwen*

1. Konben lajan Tijak mande madanm lan?
2. Dapre Tijak, poukisa li bezwen kòb sa a?
3. Kisa fanm lan fè?
4. Epi, kisa fanm sa a mande l'?
5. Ki repons li bay?
6. Rakonte tout ti blag sa a, san gade tèks la.

## 8 *Mwen menm tou!*

1. Ki moun yon mèt lekòl te telefonnen?
2. E poukisa li telefonnen l'?
3. Ki jou mèt lekòl la te bay yon ti egzamen?
4. Èske manman an dakò nèt ak sa mèt lekòl la di l'?
5. Dapre manman an, ki moun ki te pran poul?
6. Ki kèsyon mèt lekòl la te ba yo nan ti egzamen sa a?
7. Kisa ti zanmi an te ekri?
8. Epi kisa lòt la te ekri?
9. Rakonte tout ti blag sa a, san gade tèks la.

**9** *Tout kalite kafe*

1. **Ki kote de moun sa yo te ale manje?**
2. **Èske se dejnen\*, dine, oubyen soupe\* yo te pran?**
3. **Kisa gason an te mande yo, apre yo fin manje?**
4. **Kisa fanm lan ta vle bwè?**
5. **Epi kisa msye a ta vle bwè?**
6. **Poukisa fanm lan kwè restoran sa a bon nèt?**
7. **Ki kalite tas gason an bay chak moun?**
8. **Ki kalite kafe gason an bay chak moun?**
9. **Rakonte tout ti blag sa a, san gade tèks la.**

**10** *Mont monpè*

1. **Ki kote monpè te konn kite mont li?**
2. **Kilè li te konn fè sa?**
3. **Poukisa li te konn fè sa?**
4. **Kisa yon msye te konfese yon jou?**
5. **Dapre monpè, kisa msye a dwe fè?**
6. **Kisa nèg la mande pè a?**
7. **Epi kisa pè a reponn?**
8. **Touswit apre, kisa nèg la esplike?**
9. **Konsa, kisa pè a te di nèg sa a mèt fè?**
10. **Apre nèg la te fin ale, kisa monpè a te fè?**
11. **Rakonte tout ti blag sa a, san gade tèks la.**

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**dejnen**      breakfast

**soupe**      supper

## Bouki ak Ti Malis

*Two of the most enduring characters of Haitian folklore are the shrewd Ti Malis and his slow-witted companion Bouki. They are the subject of innumerable stories and jokes.*

### 1 *Bouki ak chen li*

**Yon jou Ti Malis te ale lakay Bouki. Li te sezi anpil lè l jwenn Bouki ki t ap jwe domino ak chen li. Apre Ti Malis te gade yo byen gade yon bon ti moman, li di: “M pa janm wè yon chen entelijan konsa, papa!”**

**Bouki reponn: “Ou kwè sa? Ou twonpe ou!\* Nan kat pati\* m bat\* li twa fwa deja.”**

### 2 *“Chiklèt\* majik”*

#### Bouki

**Kisa ou ap moulen\* konsa nan bouch ou la, Ti Malis?**

#### Ti Malis

**Yo rele l “chiklèt majik” - plis ou moulen l, plis ou vin entelijan! M ap moulen yon lòt moso epi m a gen anpil bon lide!**

#### Bouki

**Ou pa ta gen yon lòt la pou mwen, tanpri souple?**

**Ti Malis**

M gen yon sèl lòt la ki rete. M a vann ou li pou senk (5) pyas.

**Bouki**

O! o! konsa m ta vin entelijan! Oke. Men senk (5) pyas.

**Ti Malis**

Epi men “chiklèt majik” la.

**Bouki**

O! o! Li bon, papa! Konsa ou kwè mwen entelijan, mwen jwenn anpil lespri? . . . M pa konprann, non. M pa santi\* m diferan. O! o! M kwè se yon blag ou ap ban m la a!

**Ti Malis**

Se konsa ou ap vin entelijan, ti papa!

**3**     *Marasa\* ak marasa twa\**

**Bouki**

M pa te di ou man\* Jozèf te gen marasa twa, epi de senmenn pita li te gen marasa!

**Ti Malis**

Se pa posib sa a! Kijan sa te rive?

**Bouki**

Enben, youn nan marasa twa yo te al rete nan kay grann\* li, konsa kounyeya man Jozèf gen marasa!

## 4 *Tande ak wè*

### Ti Malis

Pa gen dout, se ou menm, wi, ki nèg pi sòt m konnen!

### Bouki

Sa pou m fè? Mwen fèt konsa!

### Ti Malis

Oke - se pou ou reponn m de (2) ti kèsyon. Kisa ki ta rive ou si yo te koupe yon zòrèy ou?

### Bouki

Pa gen pàn. Mwen pa ta kapab tande anyen.

### Ti Malis

Oke. Konsa, kisa ki ta rive ou si yo te koupe toude zòrèy ou?

### Bouki

Enben, si se te konsa, mwen ta avèg\*, m pa ta ka wè anyen.

### Ti Malis

Sa ou di la? Si yo te koupe toude zòrèy ou yo, ou pa ta ka wè anyen?

### Bouki

Enben, pa gen pàn, si m te pèdi toude zòrèy mwen yo, chapo m ta tonbe sou je m!

<b>avèg</b>	blind
<b>bat</b>	to beat
<b>chiklèt</b>	chewing gum
<b>grann</b>	grandmother
<b>man</b>	<i>title of address for woman with one or more children</i>
<b>marasa</b>	twins
<b>marasa twa</b>	triplets
<b>moulen</b>	to chew, grind
<b>pati</b>	game; to leave
<b>santi</b>	to feel ( <i>reflexive</i> ); to smell
<b>twonpe</b>	to be mistaken, be wrong
	(+ <i>pronoun</i> )



## Bouki ak Ti Malis: Kèsyon

*Reponn an kreyòl ak yon fraz konplèt:*

### 1 *Bouki ak chen li*

1. Ki kote Ti Malis te ale yon jou?
2. Lè Ti Malis rive kay Bouki, poukisa li te sezi anpil?
3. Kisa Ti Malis te di?
4. Èske Bouki te dakò ak li?
5. Poukisa?
6. Rakonte tout ti blag sa a, san gade tèks la.

### 2 *“Chiklèt majik”*

1. Kisa Ti Malis t ap moulen nan bouch li?
2. Dapre Ti Malis, kisa “chiklèt majik” la ka fè pou ou?
3. Lè Bouki tande sa, kisa li vle?
4. Konben Ti Malis te vann li “chiklèt majik” sa a?
5. Èske Bouki kwè “chiklèt majik” sa a bon?
6. Men, èske Bouki kwè “chiklèt majik” la ap chanje tèt li?
7. Èske ou kwè Bouki te vin pi entelijan konsa?
8. Rakonte tout ti blag sa a, san gade tèks la.

### 3 *Marasa ak marasa twa*

1. Kisa man Jozèf te gen pou konmanse, epi kisa li te gen touswit apre?
2. Èske Ti Malis kwè sa posib?
3. Ki kote youn nan marasa twa yo te ale?
4. Rakonte tout ti blag sa a, san gade tèks la.

**4**     *Tande ak wè*

- 1. Ki premye kèsyon Ti Malis te mande Bouki?**
- 2. E ki repons li bay?**
- 3. Epi ki dezyèm kèsyon Ti Malis te mande l'?**
- 4. E ki dezyèm repons li bay?**
- 5. Poukisa Bouki ta avèg konsa?**
- 6. Rakonte tout ti blag sa a, san gade tèks la.**

## Kont

*The riddle, or **kont**, is almost as popular in Haitian culture as is the proverb. When offering to tell (**tire**) a **kont**, one says “**Tim? tim?**” If the audience is willing to listen, the reply is “**Bwa chèch!**”*

1. **Kisa ki gen kat pat\*, ki konn manje pay\*, ki gen yon ke\*, epi ki kap wè menm jan devan kou\* dèyè?**
2. **Yo sèvi l manje, li kanpe sou kat pye, men li pa kapab manje.**
3. **Mwen rantre blan, mwen sòti milat.**
4. **Te gen twa (3) gwo moun kanpe anba yon sèl ti parapli\*, men pyès moun\* nan yo pa t mouye\*. Poukisa?**
5. **Lè m chita, mwen pi wo\* pase lè m kanpe.**
6. **Kisa tout moun lemonn\* ap fè kounyeya menm menm?**
7. **Lè ou te pèdi yon bagay, poukisa se toujou nan dènye kote ou chache a, ou fin jwenn li?**
8. **Dezabiye mwen, ou a kouche.**
9. **Yo koupe m sou tab, men yo pa kapab manje m.**
10. **Senk (5) mennen kat (4) nan machin trannde (32).**
11. **Konben kokoye\* ou ka mete nan yon makout\* vid?**

12. **Dekwa\* bwè, dekwa manje, dekwa jete.**
13. **Mwen gen yon ti zwazo: mwen mete li atè, li pa vole; kou mwen ba li dlo, mwen pèdi li.**
14. **Do ale, do vini.**
15. **Poukisa yon kwafè\* ta pito fè tèt dis (10) moun ki sòti Okay, pase yon sèl moun ki sòti Pòtoprens?**
16. **Cache lavi, pèdi lavi.**

---

<b>dekwa</b>	something
<b>ke</b>	tail
<b>kokoye</b>	coconut
<b>kou</b>	when, as; neck
<b>kwafè</b>	barber
<b>lemonn</b>	world
<b>makout</b>	large straw bag
<b>mouye</b>	wet
<b>parapli</b>	umbrella
<b>pat</b>	foot ( <i>of animal</i> )
<b>pay</b>	hay, straw
<b>pyès moun</b>	no one
<b>wo</b>	tall, high

1. Yon bourik avèg.
2. Yon tab.
3. Yon pen.
4. Lapi pa t ap tonbe.
5. Yon chen.
6. Y ap vin pi vye.
7. Paské lè ou jwenn li, ou pa chache l ankò.
8. Yon kabann.
9. Kat pou jwe.
10. Senk dwèt mennen yon fouchèt nan yon bouch.
11. Yon sèl - paské apre sa, makout la pa vid ankò.
12. Yon kokoye.
13. Yon kannòt.
14. Yon dodin.
15. Paské ak dis moun, li ta fè plis kòb.
16. Miyami.

## Repons

## **Kèk Ti Pwoblèm Kalkil**

*Reponn an kreyòl ak yon fraz konplèt:*

### **I**

1. Lendi Jàn pran dis bokit dlo nan tiyo\* a, mèkredi senk bokit, jedi sèt bokit, vandredi wit bokit, epi samdi yon bokit. Konben bokit dlo Jàn pran an tou?
2. Jan Klod ak zanmi li Tijo keyi\* zoranj pou yo voye vann. Si Jan Klod keyi katòz zoranj, epi si Tijo keyi diznèf zoranj, konben zoranj yo voye vann an tou?
3. Filip te keyi vennkat mango. Li separe\* yo bay kat pitit li yo egalego\*. Konben mango chak timoun jwenn?
4. Jak te gen swasant chadèk\*; li vann dizwit chadèk. Konben chadèk li rete?
5. M bay senk moun ki te ede m travay nan jaden m lan sanvennsenk fig mi\*. Konben fig mi chak moun ap jwenn si m byen separe yo?

### **II**

1. Papa te resevwa kenz goud. Li bezwen trannsenk goud pou li peye kay li. Konben kòb li manke?
2. Manman vann pwa nan mache pou karannsenk pyas. Ak lajan an li achte twal\* ak

**manje pou trannkat pyas. Ak konben kòb manman tounen lakay?**

- 3. Kami vann zaboka pou trèz goud. Li vann pwa pou sèz goud, epi li vann diri pou nèf goud. Konben lajan Kami resevwa an tou?**
- 4. Ana fin vann pwa wouj pou swasannsenk goud. Si li achte twal pou senkant goud, konben kòb li pote tounen lakay?**
- 5. Jan vann twa pè\* soulye pou swasannkenz goud bò legliz la. Li vann de pè soulye pou trant goud nan mache a. Konben pè soulye Jan vann an tou, epi konben lajan li jwenn?**
- 6. Grannèg la te peye Tijak katreven goud, men Tijak dwe bay swasanntwa goud pou peye dòktè. Konben pyas l a rete?**
- 7. Mòris te ale nan gagè\* ak katreven-onz pyas nan pòch li, men li pèdi swasanndis pyas. Konben kòb li te gen lè l te tounen lakay li?**
- 8. Blan an rive nan Mache Fè a ak san goud nan pòch li. Li peye katrevenkenz pyas pou yon bèl ti tonton\*. Konben kòb li rete lè l ale?**
- 9. Lè Ameriken an te rive èpòt, li te bay pòtè a twa pyas. Taksi a te koute l senkant goud. Konben lajan li bay an tou?**
- 10. Touris la te peye chanm li sanven goud, ak dejnen e soupe. Li te peye dine a karanteyen goud. Konben lajan li te bay an tou?**

### III

*Prices in Haiti are (strangely) very often quoted in the non-existent “Haitian dollar” (**dola ayisyen**) worth five gourdes (**goud**). Repeat Section II, converting the **goud** into **dola ayisyen** - i.e., dividing the number of **goud** by five. (Converting the **goud** into U.S. dollars would be a meaningless exercise, since the exchange rate varies almost daily.)*

<b>chadèk</b>	shaddock ( <i>small sweet grapefruit</i> )
<b>egalego</b>	evenly, equally
<b>fig mi</b>	banana
<b>gagè</b>	cockfight (arena)
<b>keyi</b>	to pick, gather
<b>pè</b>	pair; fear; priest; to be afraid
<b>separe</b>	to divide (up)
<b>ti tonton</b>	small carved wooden figure
<b>tiyo</b>	pipe; fountain
<b>twal</b>	cloth, material



**(Matye 5: 3-11) [Sermon on the Mount]**

- 3 Benediksyon pou moun ki konnen  
se pòv yo ye devan Bondye,  
paske peyi Wa\* ki nan syèl la,  
se pou yo li ye.**
- 4 Benediksyon pou moun ki nan lapenn,  
paske Bondye va ba yo kouraj.**
- 5 Benediksyon pou moun ki dou,  
paske y a resevwa byen\*  
Bondye te sere\* pou yo a sou latè.**
- 6 Benediksyon pou moun ki anvi viv  
jan Bondye vle l la,  
paske Bondye va ba yo sa yo vle a.**
- 7 Benediksyon pou moun ki gen kè sansib\*,  
paske Bondye va fè yo wè  
jan Li gen kè sansib tou.**
- 8 Benediksyon pou moun ki pa gen  
move lide nan tèt yo,  
paske y a wè Bondye.**
- 9 Benediksyon pou moun k ap travay  
pou lèzòm viv byen youn ak lòt,  
paske Bondye va rele yo pitit Li.**

- 10 Benediksyon pou moun ki anba pèsekisyon  
lè y ap fè sa Bondye mande,  
paske peyi Wa ki nan syèl la,  
se pou yo li ye.**
- 11 Benediksyon pou nou lè moun va joure\* nou,  
lè y a pèsekite nou,  
lè y a fè tout kalite manti sou nou,  
paske se moun pa M nou ye.**

---

<b>byen</b>	possessions, goods, benefits
<b>joure</b>	to insult, swear at
<b>sansib</b>	sensitive, tender
<b>sere</b>	to reserve, save
<b>wa</b>	king

## Lapriyè Granmèt la [Lord's Prayer]

Papa nou ki nan syèl la,  
nou mande pou yo toujou respekte non Ou.

Vin tabli\* gouvènman Ou,  
pou yo fè volonte\* Ou sou latè,  
tankou yo fè l nan syèl la.

Manje nou bezwen an, ban nou l jòdi a.

Padonnen tout mal nou fè,  
menm jan nou padonnen moun ki fè nou mal.

Pa kite nou nan pozisyon pou n tonbe nan  
tantasyon,  
men, delivre nou anba Satan.

Paske, se pou Ou tout otorite,  
tout pouvwa ak tout lwanj\*,  
depi tout tan ak pou tout tan.  
Amèn.

---

<b>lwanj</b>	praise
<b>tabli</b>	to establish, set up
<b>volonte</b>	will, wish



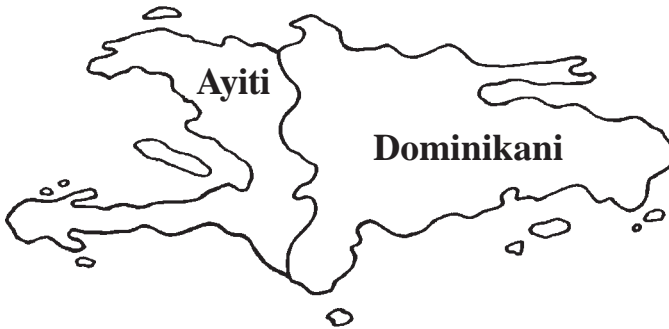
# TI DIKSYONÈ



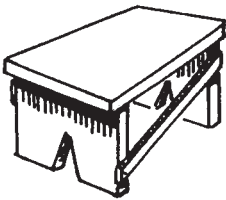
arenyen



avyon



balenn



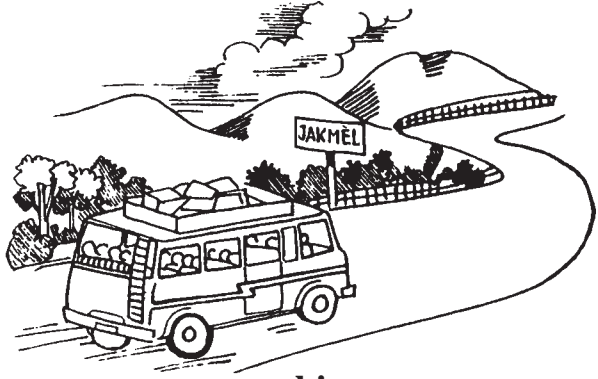
ban



bèf



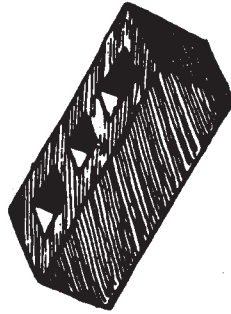
bidon



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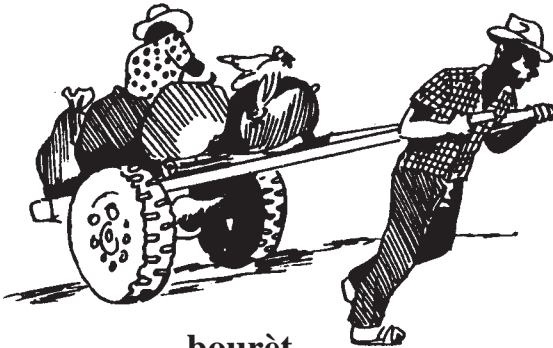
bisiklèt



blòk

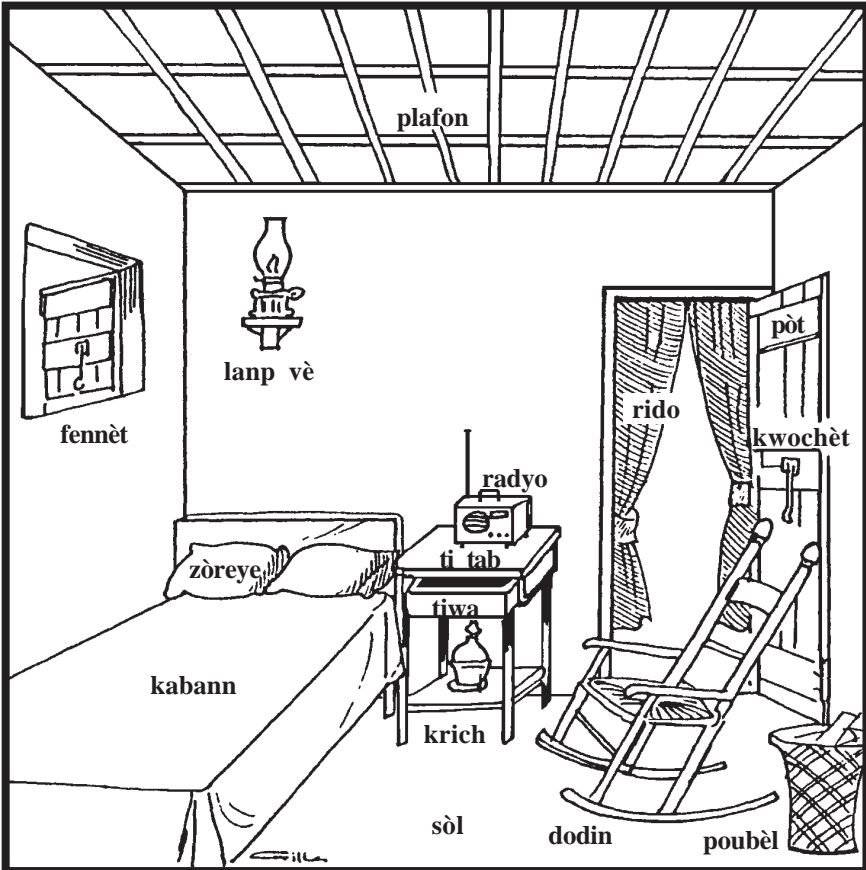


bokit

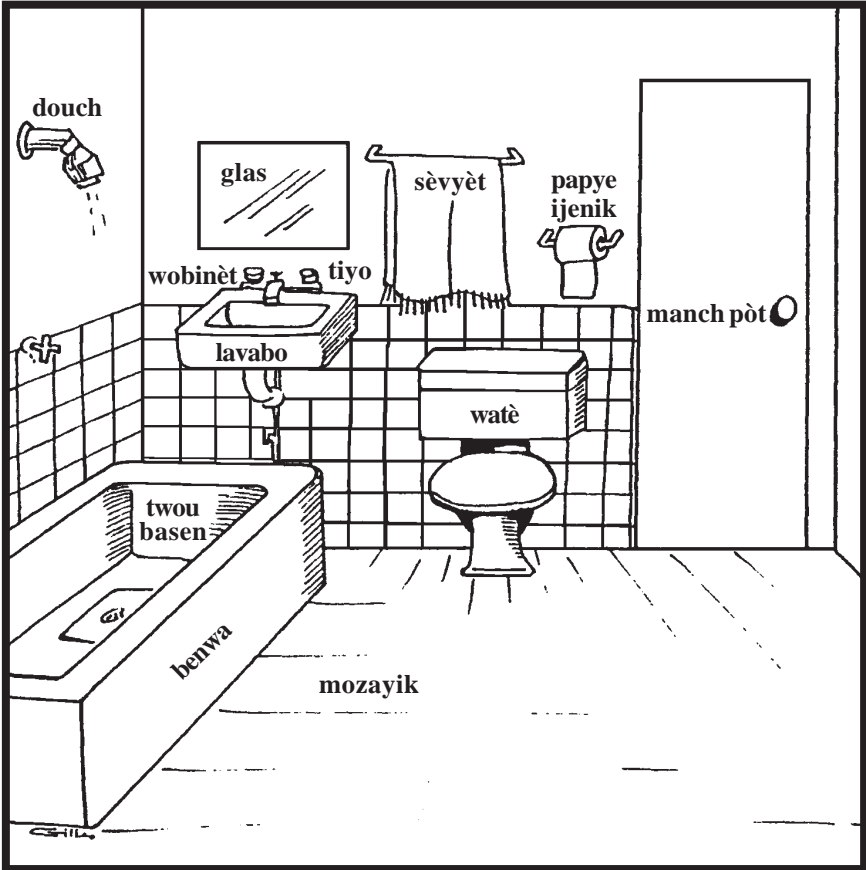


bourèt

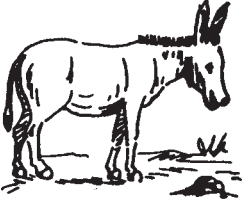
## chanm



# chann twalèt







bourik



boutèy



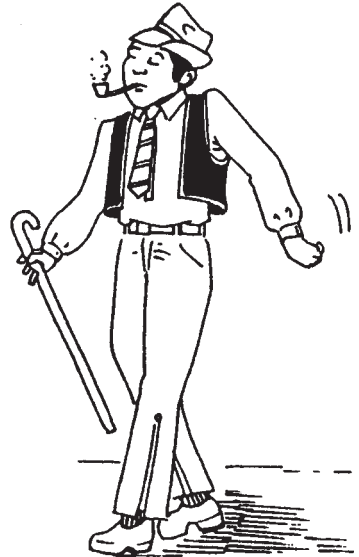
bwòs



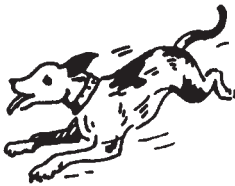
chalè



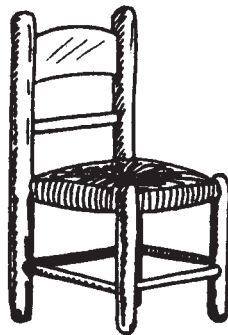
chat



yon chèlbè



chen



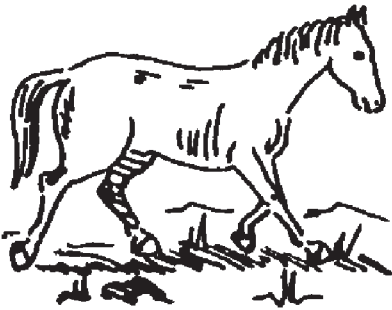
chèz



li chire twal la



chita



chwal



dife



de fanm ap koze



fatra



fèy

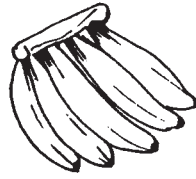


fig (mi)

figi



chagren



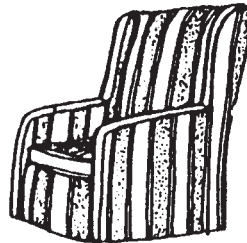
kè kontan



move



flè



fotèy

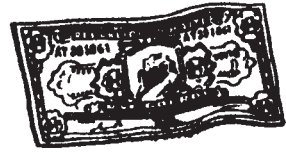


fouchèt



gèp

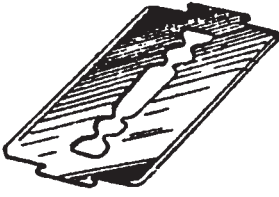
yon ti gason ak yon ti fi



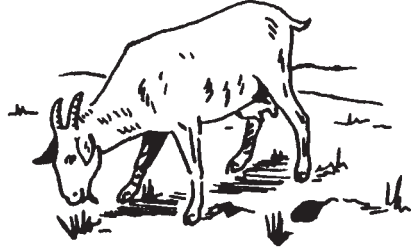
goud



yon abitan nan jaden li



jilèt



kabrit



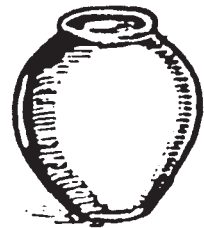
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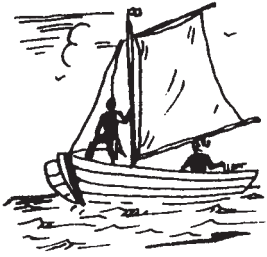
kalmanson



kamyon



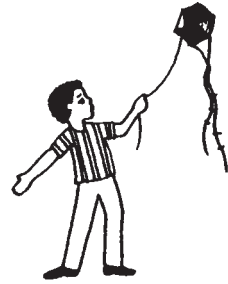
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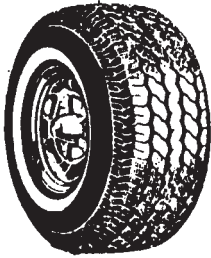
kannòt



kanpe



yon ti gason ap  
moute yon kap



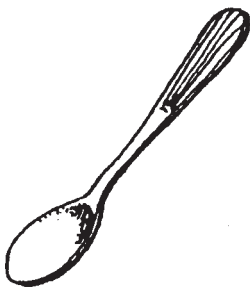
kawòtchou



kè



kivèt



kiyè

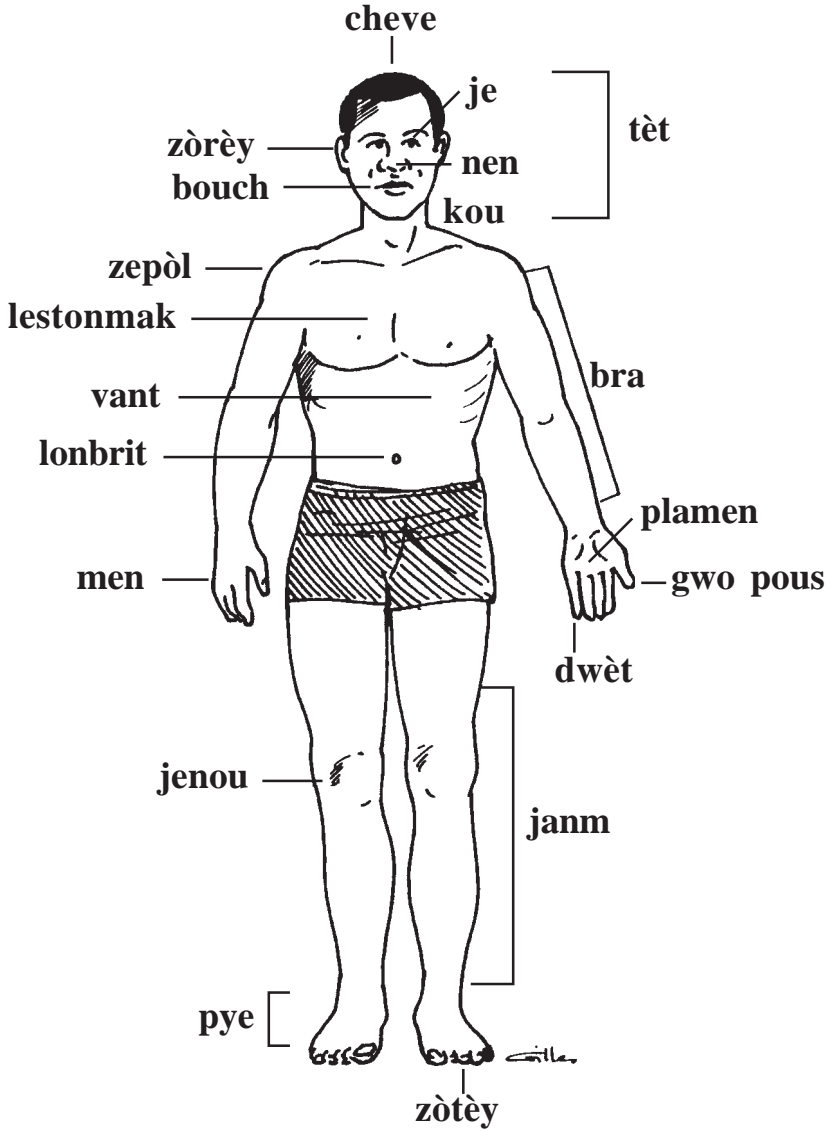


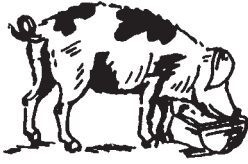
kle



kòb

## kò moun





**kochon**



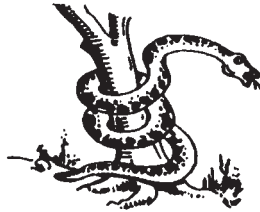
**kòk**



**kokoye sou  
yon pye kokoye**



**kouche**



**koulèv**



**ti fi a ap kouri**



**kouto**



**kreyon**





lajan



lanbi



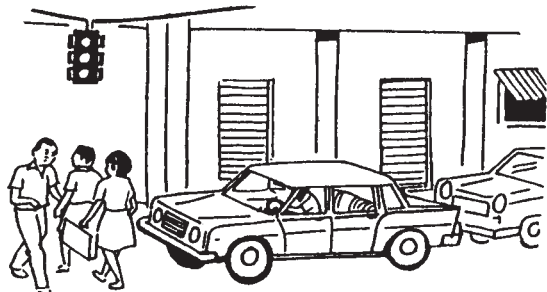
lanp



lantiray



mezanmi!  
lapli ap tonbe!



moun k ap janbe lari



li dezè



li twazè eka



li senkè



li senkè  
edmi



li witàè



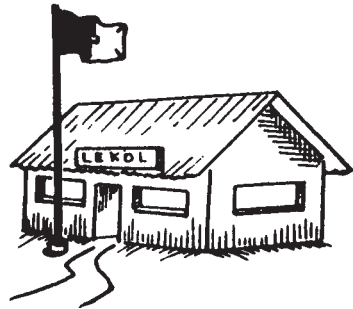
li dizè



li onzè  
mwen ka



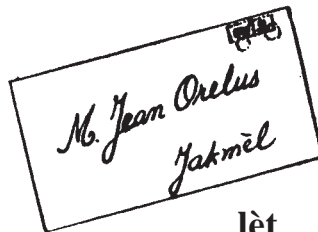
legliz



lekòl



lèt



lèt



**gason an ap  
li yon liv**



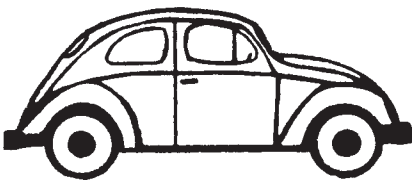
**yon sèvis lwa**



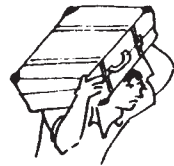
**machann**



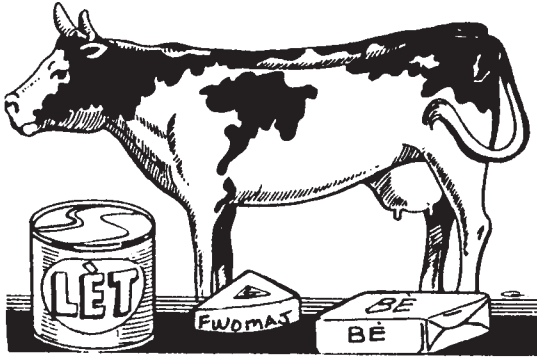
**nan mache a**



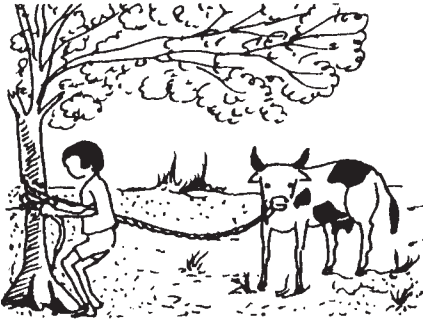
**machin**



**I ap pote  
yon malèt**



manman bèf



ti gason an mare bèf la



marengwen



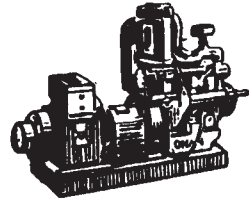
mayi



medam



mòn



motè



nich



panyen



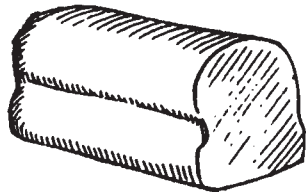
papa



papiyon



pèl



pen



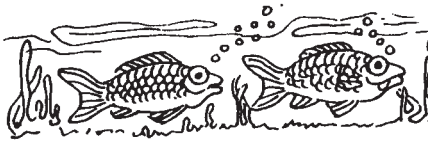
pentad



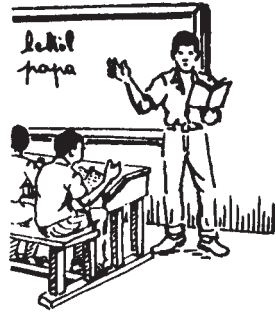
pile



poul



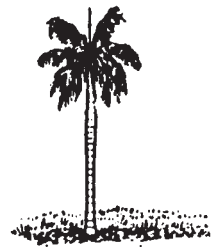
pwason



pwofesè a kanpe  
devan klas la

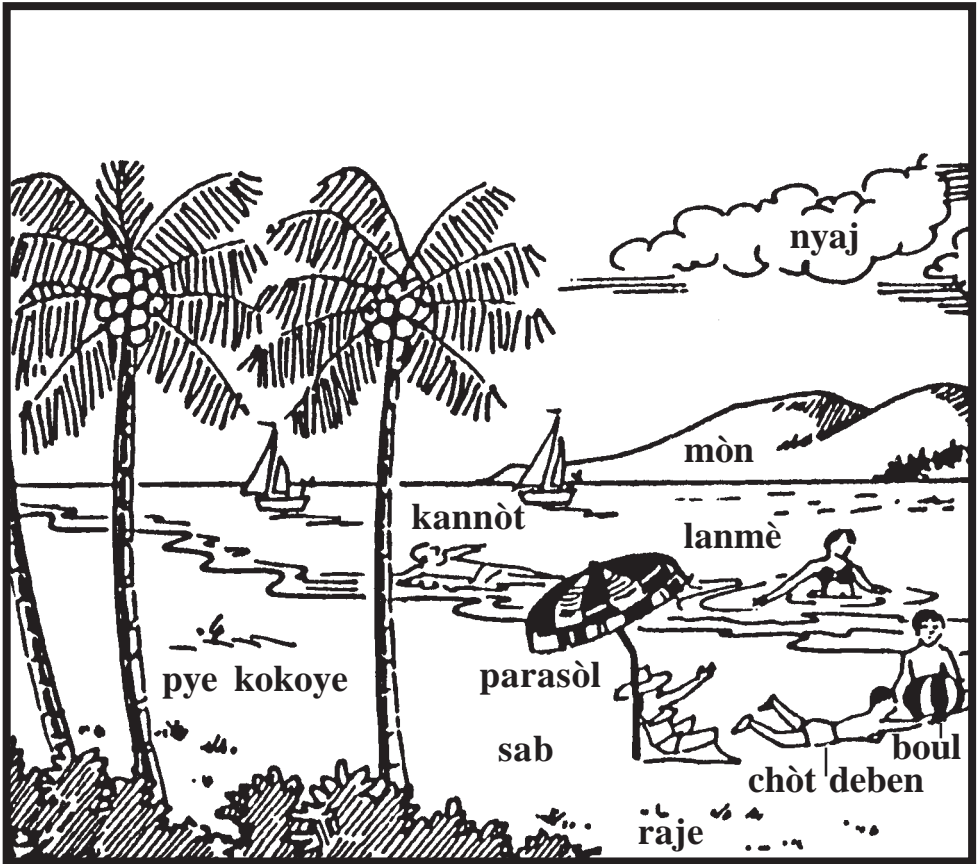


pyebwa



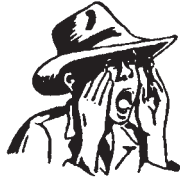
pye palmis

# plaj

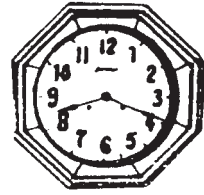




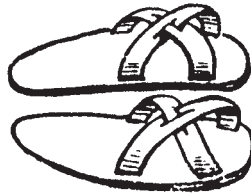
rach



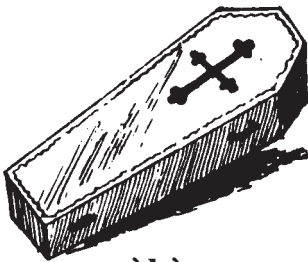
rele



revèy



sapat



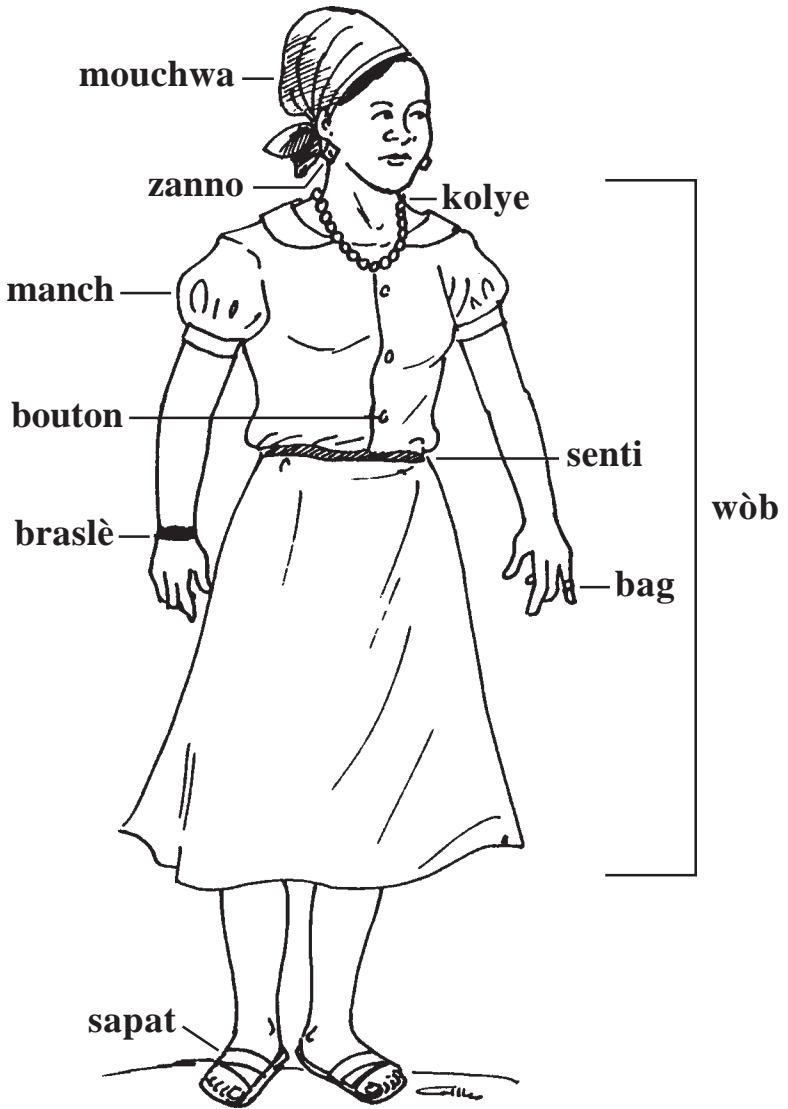
sèkèy



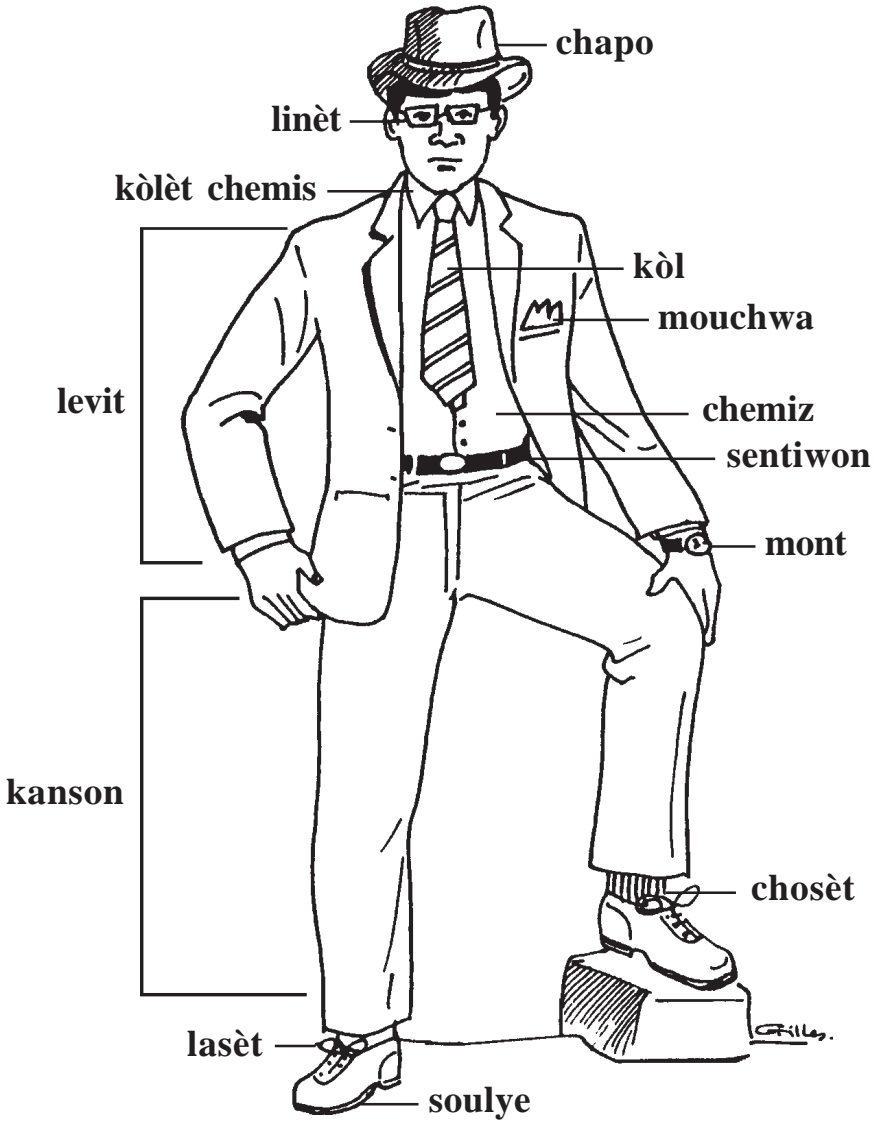
nèg la ap sekle tè

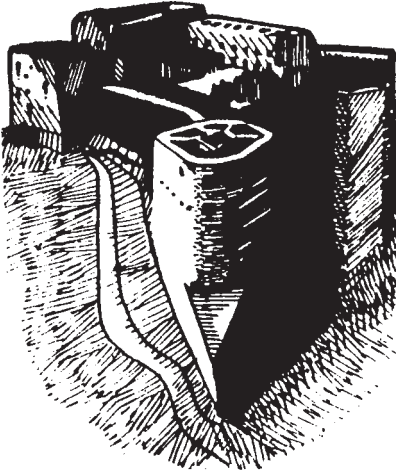


## rad fi

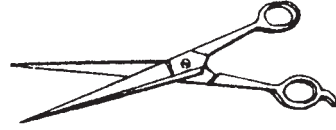


# rad gason

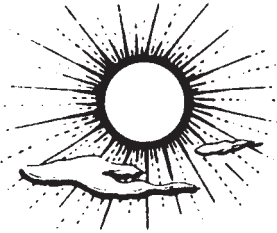




**Sitadèl**



**sizo**



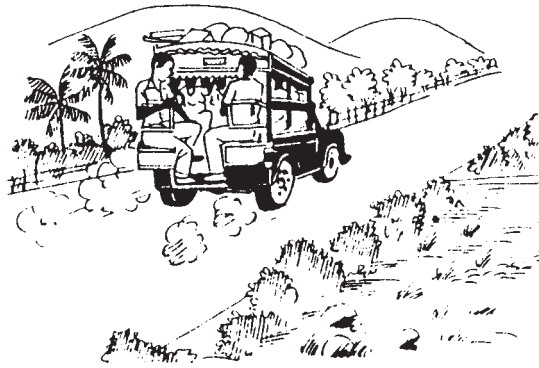
**solèy**



**nèg la ap fè  
yon tablo**



**tanbou**



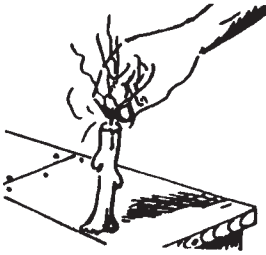
**taptap**



tas



telefòn



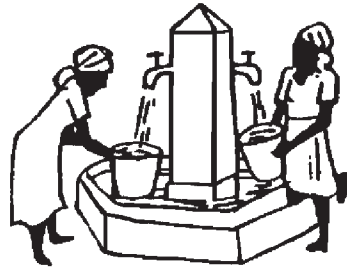
li tenyen balenn lan



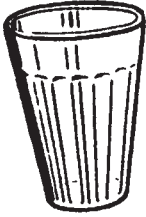
tete



tibebe



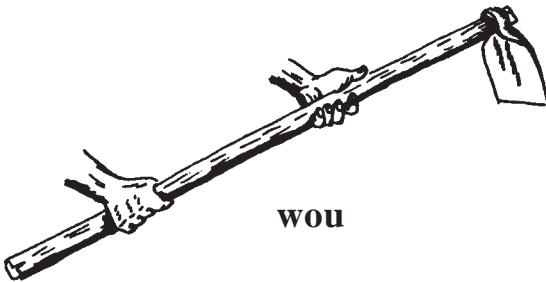
tiyo



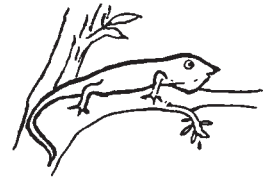
vè



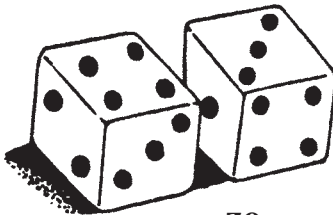
bare vòlè!



wou



zandolit



ZO



ZWAZO



## Haitian - English Glossary

### A

**a** the; ah!

**a, va** *future tense indicator*

**abitan** peasant, farmer

**absolisyon** absolution

**achte** to buy

**adwat** (to the) right

**agòch** (to the) left

**agwonòm** agronomist,  
agricultural expert

**ak, avè, avèk** with; and; by

**al, ale** to go, leave

**ala . . . !** what a . . . !

**ale, al** to go, leave

**alo** hello

**amèn** amen

**Ameriken** American

**an** the; in

**Ana** Anna; *short for Anayiz*

**anba** under, from under

**andeyò** country(side),  
backwoods, hills, "sticks"

**anfen** finally

**ankò** still, yet; again

**pa . . . ankò** no longer

**anmè** bitter

**ann, annou** let us, let's (*first  
person plural command*)

**anpil** much, many; very

**ansanm** together

**nan tèt ansanm** as one, in  
union

**antann** (+ *pronoun*) to agree

**antèman** funeral, burial

**antre** to enter, come in

**antye** entire, whole

**anvan** before

**anvi** to want, desire

**anyen** nothing

**ap** "-ing" (*present progressive  
indicator*); *see* **boule**

**apa** look how . . . !

**apral, pral(e)** to be going (to)

**aprann** to learn

**apre** after, afterwards

**arenyen** spider

**ase** only; enough

**asepte** to accept

**aswè** in the evenings

**aswè a** this evening, tonight

**aswè sa a** that evening

**ata** even

**atè** on the ground

**avantaj** advantage

**avè, ak, avèk** with; and; by

**avèg** blind

**avèk, ak, avè** with; and; by

**avyon** airplane

**ay!** oh!

**Ayisyen** Haitian

**Ayiti** Haiti

### B

**ba** bar; *see* **bay**

**bag** ring

**bagay** thing

**balenn** candle

**bamann** bartender

**ban** bench, pew; *see* **bay**

**bann** band, flock, group  
**bare** to block, obstruct, stop  
**basen** tub  
     **twou basen** drain  
**bat** to beat  
**batay** battle, fight  
**bati** to build  
**batiman** boat, ship  
**bay, ba, ban** to give, produce;  
     for; *see chita, lanmen*  
**bay manti** to lie, tell lies  
**bè** butter  
**bèf** steer, ox  
     **manman bèf** cow  
**bèl** handsome; beautiful  
**benediksyon** blessing  
**benwa** bathtub  
**benyen** to bathe, be bathed  
**bèt** animal  
**bezwen** need; to need  
**Bib** Bible  
**bidon** gas can  
**bip!** plop! (*sound of a sudden fall*)  
**bis** bus  
**bisiklèt** bicycle  
**blag** joke  
**blan** white; White person;  
     foreigner (*of whatever color*)  
**bling** ping (*sound of metal*  
     *hitting pavement*)  
**bliye** to forget  
**blòk** (cinder, cement) block  
**bo** to kiss, embrace  
**bò** near; side  
     **bò kote** near  
**bokit** bucket  
**bon** good

**bon mache** cheap  
**Bondye** God  
**bonè** early  
**bonjou!** good morning!  
**bòs** *term of respect for an*  
     *artisan*  
**bouch** mouth  
**boujwa** bourgeois (*member of*  
     *well-to-do class*)  
**bouk** village  
**bouke** tired, exhausted  
**boul** ball  
**boule** to burn  
     **ap boule** to be getting along  
     fine  
**bourèt** cart, wheelbarrow  
**bourik** donkey  
**boutèy** bottle  
**boutik** shop  
**bouton** button  
**bra** arm  
**braslè** bracelet  
**bri** noise  
**bwa** wood  
     **bwa chèch!** *to indicate*  
     *willingness to listen to a*  
     *riddle (cf. tim? tim?)*  
**bwè** to drink  
**bwès** brush  
**byen** well, good, fine;  
     possessions, goods, benefits

**CH**

**chabon** charcoal  
**chache** to look, look for, seek  
**chadèk** shaddock (*small sweet*  
     *grapefruit*)



**chagren** sad

**chaje** burdened, troubled, upset

**chak** each, every

**chalè** heat

**chanje** to change

**chanm** room; bedroom

**chanm twalèt** bathroom

**chans** chance; luck

**chante** to sing; song

**chape** to escape

**chape poul** (+ *pronoun*) to  
clear out, take to one's heels

**chapit** chapter

**chapo** hat

**chat** cat

**chè** expensive; dearly, at a high  
price

**chèch** dry; *see bwa chèch*

**chèlbè** “dude”; vain,  
pretentious

**chemiz** shirt

**chen** dog

**cheri** dear, darling

**cheve** hair

**chèz** chair

**chiklèt** chewing gum

**chire** to tear, rip

**chita** to sit down, be seated;  
sitting

**chita pa bay** sitting around  
won't get you anywhere  
(*proverb*)

**cho** hot

**chosèt** sock

**chòt deben** bathing suit (*man's*  
*or woman's*)

**chwal** horse

## D

**dabò** first, first of all

**dakò** agreed, in agreement

**dans** dance

**dapre** according to

**Dayiti** (of) Haiti

**de** two

**debat** to struggle, endeavor

**deben** *see chòt deben*

**deblozay** uproar, ruckus

**degouden** one-half of a gourde  
(formerly 10 cents U.S.)

**deja** already

**dejnen** breakfast

**dekwa** something

**delivre** to deliver, save

**denmen** tomorrow

**denmon** demon

**dènye** last

**depi** since

**desann** to descend, get off; to  
lower

**devan** in front (of)

**dèyè** behind

**dezabiye** to undress

**dezè** two o'clock

**dezyèm** second

**di** to say

**vle di** to mean

**dife** fire

**diferan** different

**difisil** difficult, hard

**diksyonè** dictionary

**dimanch** Sunday

**dine** luncheon, noonday meal

**diri** rice

**dis** ten

**disip** disciple  
**diskite** to discuss  
**ditou** (not) at all  
**dizan** ten years  
**dizè** ten o'clock  
**diznèf** nineteen  
**dizwit** eighteen  
**dlo** water  
**lòtbò dlo** (from) overseas,  
 abroad  
**do** back  
**vire do** to turn one's back on  
 (someone)  
**dodin** rocking chair  
**dòktè** doctor, physician  
**dola** dollar  
**Dominikani** Dominican  
 Republic  
**domino** dominos (*game*)  
**donte** to tame, master  
**dou** gentle; peaceful  
**douch** shower  
**dousman** gently, quietly;  
 slowly  
**dout** doubt  
**dwa** right, privilege  
**dwe** must (*auxiliary verb*)  
**dwèt** finger

## E

**e** and  
**ede** to help  
**edmi** half (an hour), thirty  
 (minutes)  
**egalego** evenly, equally  
**egzamen** exam, test  
**egzanp** example

**eka** quarter past (the hour)  
**ekri** to write  
**elèv** pupil, student  
**en?** eh? huh?  
**enben!** well!  
**Ench** Hinche  
**enpòtan** important  
**entelijan** intelligent  
**epi** and  
**epitou** and also  
**èpòt** airport  
**erezman** fortunately  
**èske** is it that (*yes-no question  
 indicator*)  
**eskize** to excuse  
**esplike** to explain  
**estòp** stop; to stop

## F

**fanm** woman  
**fanmi** family  
**fatra** trash, rubbish  
**fè** to do, make; iron; *see mache,*  
**Mache Fè**  
**fè tèt** to cut hair  
**fè + verb** to have someone (do  
 something)  
**fèb** weak, feeble  
**fèk** to have just (done  
 something)  
**fen** end  
**fennèt** window  
**fènwa** darkness  
**fèt** to be born; done, completed,  
 made  
**fèy** leaf  
**fi** woman

**ti fi** girl  
**fidèl** faithful; parishioner  
**fig (mi)** banana  
**figi** face  
**fil** thread  
**Filip** Philip  
**fimen** to smoke  
**fini, fin** to finish; to finally (do something)  
**flè** flower  
**fò** strong; *see fòk*  
**fòk, fò** it is necessary that  
**fon** bottom, back  
**Fonwouj** Fond-Rouge  
**fopa** false step  
**fè yon fopa** to stumble  
**fòs** force, strength  
**fòt** fault, mistake, error  
**fotèy** armchair  
**fouchèt** fork  
**foul** crowd  
**fout** damn!  
**fouye** to dig  
**franse** French  
**frape** to hit, strike  
**fraz** sentence  
**fre** cool  
**frè** brother  
**fwa** time (instance)  
**fwomaj** cheese

## G

**gade** to look, look at; to concern  
**gagè** cockfight (arena)  
**galri** porch  
**gason** boy, man; waiter  
**ti gason** boy

**gaye** to spread, spread out  
**gen, genyen** to have; ago; there is, there are  
**gen pou** to have to  
**gen rezon** to be right  
**genlè** to seem, appear  
**gentan** already  
**genyen** *see gen*  
**gèp** wasp, yellow jacket  
**glas** mirror; ice  
**gòm** eraser  
**goud** gourde (*Haitian monetary unit, formerly equivalent to 20 cents U.S.*)  
**goumen** to fight  
**gout** drop, drip  
**gouvènman** government  
**gran** big, great; main  
**grangou** hunger; hungry  
**Granmèt** Lord, God  
**granmoun** adult; old person  
**grann** grandmother  
**grannèg** “big shot,” person of importance  
**gwo** big  
**gwo pous** thumb

## I

**ijenik** hygienic  
**papye ijènik** toilet paper  
**isit** here  
**isit la** right here  
**istwa** story  
**itil** useful

## J

**ja** (earthenware) jar

**jaden** field; garden  
**Jak** James  
**Jakmèl** Jacmel  
**jan** way, manner; how  
**Jan** John  
**Jàn** Jane, Joan, Jeanne  
**janbe** to cross  
**Jan Klod** Jean-Claude  
**janm** leg  
**janm, janmè** never  
**je** eye  
     **voye je** to glance  
**jedi** Thursday  
**jeneral** general  
**jenn** young  
**jennen** to disturb, annoy, get in  
     the way of  
**jenou** knee  
**jete** to throw, throw away  
**Jezi** Jesus  
**jilèt** razor blade  
**jòdi a** today  
**jou** day  
     **jou swa** evening  
**jouk** to, up to, until  
**joure** to insult, swear at  
**Jozèf** Joseph  
**jwe** to play  
**fwenn** to find, get, receive

## K

**k** contraction **ki**  
**ka** quarter (fourth), fifteen  
     minutes; *see* **kapab**  
**kabann** bed  
**kabrit** goat  
**kafe** coffee

**kafetyè** coffeepot  
**kafou** crossroads  
**kajou** mahogany  
**kalite** kind, sort  
**kalkil** arithmetic  
**kalmanson** snail  
**Kami** Camille  
**kamyon** truck; bus  
**kann** sugar cane  
**kannal** canal, ditch  
**kannari** earthenware jar (for  
     water)  
**kannòt** small boat  
**kanpe** to stand up, standing; to  
     place, insert  
**kanson** pants, trousers  
**kantite** quantity  
**kap** kite; *see* **kapab**  
**kapab, ka, kap** to be able; can,  
     can be  
**karannsenk** forty-five  
**karanteyen** forty-one  
**kase** to break  
**kat** four; map; playing card  
**katòz** fourteen  
**katreven** eighty  
**katrevenkenz** ninety-five  
**katreven-onz** ninety-one  
**kawòtchou** tire  
**kay** house  
**ke** tail  
**kè** heart  
     **kè kontan** happy, satisfied  
**kèk** several  
**kenbe** to hold  
**kenz** fifteen  
**kenzan** fifteen years

**kèsyon** question  
**keyi** to pick, gather  
**ki, k** who, which, what  
**ki kote** where?  
**Kiba** Cuba  
**kibò** where?  
**kichòy** something  
**kifè** how come?  
**kijan** how?  
**kilè** when?  
**kilès** which? which one?  
**kisa, sa** what?  
**kite** to leave; to let; to stop  
 (doing something)  
**kivèt** basin  
**kiyè** spoon  
**klas** class  
**kle** key  
**klè** clear  
**kleren** raw rum  
**kò** body  
**kò moun** human body  
**kòb** Haitian cent; money  
*(familiar for money in  
 general)*  
**kochon** pig  
**kòk** cock, rooster  
**kokoye** coconut  
**pye kokoye** coconut tree  
**kòl** necktie  
**kòlèt chemiz** collar  
**kolye** necklace  
**kòmande** to command  
**konben** how much, how many  
**konbit** agricultural work team  
 (or session)  
**konfese** to confess

**konfesyonal** confessional  
**konfyans** confidence  
**konmanse** to begin  
**konnn** to know how; to be in the  
 habit of  
**konnen** to know, be acquainted  
 with, be familiar with  
**konpè** friend, buddy  
**konplèt** complete  
**konpliman** compliment,  
 praise  
**konprann** to understand  
**konsa** approximately, about;  
 like that, thus  
**konsekan** important, of  
 consequence  
**konsole** to console  
**kont** against; riddle  
**pou kont** (+ *pronoun*) alone  
**kontan** happy  
**kè kontan** happy, satisfied  
**kontinye** to continue  
**kontre** to meet, encounter  
**kote** side; where; place  
**bò kote** near  
**ki kote** where?  
**kou** neck; hit, blow; when, as  
**kouche** to lie down; lying  
 down; to get into bed  
**koule** to flow  
**koulèv** snake  
**kounyeya** now  
**koupe** to cut  
**kouraj** courage, strength  
**kouri** to run  
**koute** to listen to; to cost  
**kouto** knife

**kouzen** cousin (male)  
**koze** conversation, talk, chat; to chat  
**krache** to spit  
**kras** dirt  
     **(yon) ti kras** (a) little bit  
**krèm** ice-cream  
**kretyen** Christian  
     **kretyen vivan** human being  
**kreyòl** Haitian Creole  
**kreyon** pencil  
**krich** pitcher  
**kriye** to cry, weep  
**kwafè** barber  
**kwè** to believe  
**kwochèt** latch

## L

**l** *contraction li*  
**la** the; there  
     **la a** right there  
**lafyè** fever  
**lage** to let go, drop; to pour  
**lajan** money  
**lajounen** daytime  
**lakay** home  
**lakou** yard, enclosure  
**lalwa** law, authority  
**lamenm** immediately  
**lamizè** misery, poverty, suffering  
**lan, a, an, la** the  
**lanbi** conch; conch shell  
**lang** language  
**lanmè** sea  
**lanmen** handshake  
     **bay lanmen** to join hands,

work together  
**lanmò** death  
**lanne** year  
**lannwit** night  
**lanp** lamp  
     **lanp vè** oil lamp (with glass)  
**lantiray** fence  
**lapenn** effort, trouble; sorrow; suffering  
**lapli** rain  
**lapolis** police  
**lapriyè** prayer; to pray  
**lari** street  
**larivyè** river  
**lasante** health  
**lasèt** shoelace  
**latè** land, earth  
**lavabo** washbasin  
**lavi** life, existence  
**lavil** town  
**lavwa** voice  
**lawouze** dew; *symbolic for water*  
**lè** when; time (hour); air; appearance  
     **lè sa a** then  
**lèd** ugly  
**legliz** church  
**lekòl** school  
**lemò** the dead  
**lemonn** world  
**lendi** Monday  
**lènmi** enemy  
**lespri** intelligence  
**lespwa** hope  
**lestonmak** chest  
**lèt** milk; letter

**leve** to get up  
**levit** coat, jacket  
**lèzòm** men, mankind  
**lezòt** others  
**li** to read  
**li, l** he, she, it; his, her, its; (to) him, (to) her, (to) it; *reflexive pronoun*  
**lide** mind; idea  
**linèt** (eye)glasses  
**liv** book  
**lonbrit** navel  
**lontan** (for) a long time  
**lòt** other, another  
**lòtbò** abroad; foreign  
     **lòtbò dlo** (from) overseas, abroad  
**lou** heavy  
**lwa** Voodoo spirit  
**lwanj** praise  
**lwen** far, far from

## M

**m** contraction **mwen**  
**M.** abbreviation **msye**  
**machann** merchant; market woman  
**mache** to walk; to travel; market  
     **bon mache** cheap  
     **fè yon ti mache** to walk a bit  
     **Mache Fè** Iron Market (in Port-au-Prince)  
**machin** machine; car  
**madanm** madam; wife; lady  
**majik** magic  
**mak** mark, scar

**make** to mark, be marked  
**makout** large straw bag  
**mal** bad, badly; evil  
**malè** misfortune  
**malere** poor person, poor man  
**malèt** suitcase  
**maltèt** headache  
**man** *title of address for woman with one or more children*  
**manch** sleeve; handle  
     **manch pòt** doorknob  
**manchèt** machete  
**mande** to ask, ask for  
**mango** mango  
**manje** to eat; food  
**manke** to lack, be missing  
**manman** mother  
     **manman bèf** cow  
**manti** lie, falsehood  
     **bay manti** to lie, tell lies  
**marasa** twin  
     **marasa twa** triplet(s)  
**mare** to tie, tie up  
**marengwen** large mosquito  
**marye** to marry, get married  
**maten** morning  
**Matye** Matthew  
**mawon** untamed; *see Nèg*  
     **Mawon**  
**mayi** corn  
**mèb** (piece of) furniture; furniture  
**medam** women, ladies  
**mèkredi** Wednesday  
**men** hand; but; here is, here are; game  
     **men wi** yes indeed, certainly

**menm** same; self; even; at all  
(*with negative*)  
**menm menm** *for emphasis*  
**mennaj** boyfriend; girlfriend  
**mennen** to lead, take, bring  
**merite** to merit, deserve  
**mesaj** message  
**mèsi** thank you, thanks  
**mèt** master; owner; teacher;  
 may (*permission*)  
**mete** to put, place  
**mezanmi!** wow!; well! well!  
**mi** ripe  
**fig (mi)** banana  
**Mibalè** Mirebalais  
**milat** Mulatto  
**mirak** miracle  
**Miyami** Miami  
**mizè** misery, poverty, suffering  
**mo** word  
**mò** dead person  
**moman** moment  
**mòn** mountain, mount, hill  
**monchè** friend (*when  
 addressing a male*)  
**monpè** priest  
**mont** watch (*timepiece*)  
**montre** to show  
**Mòris** Maurice, Morris  
**moso** piece  
**motè** motor  
**mouche** man (*often pejorative*)  
**mouchwa** bandanna, kerchief;  
 handkerchief  
**moulen** to chew, grind  
**moun** person, people; character  
**kò moun** human body

**pyès moun** no one  
**mouri** to die  
**moute** to mount, climb, go up;  
 to fly (a kite)  
**mouye** wet  
**move** bad; angry, annoyed  
**mozayik** tile floor  
**msye** sir, man, gentleman,  
 mister  
**mwa** month  
**mwèn** I, my, me; *reflexive  
 pronoun*; minus, less

## N

**n** *contraction* **nou**  
**nan** in, on; from, from within  
**nanpwen** (there is/are) no  
**natif natal** native  
**natirèlman** naturally  
**ne** knot  
**nèf** nine  
**nèg** man; Black man  
**Nèg Mawon** Escaped Slave  
 (*Haiti's Unknown Soldier*)  
**nègès** woman; Black woman  
**nen** nose  
**nèt** completely, thoroughly  
**neve** nephew  
**ni** (*with pa*) nor  
**ni . . . ni** (*with pa*) neither . . .  
 nor  
**nich** nest  
**non** no; name  
**nonm** man  
**nou, n** we, our, us; you  
 (*plural*), your (*plural*);  
*reflexive pronoun*



**nouvèl** news

**nyaj** cloud

## O

**o** oh!

**ò** gold

**santim ò** U.S. cent, penny

**ofri** to offer

**ogmante** to increase, augment

**Okap** Cape Haitian

**Okay** (Les) Cayes, (Aux) Cayes

**oke** OK

**okipe** to take care of; busy

**okontrè** on the contrary

**onè** honor (*traditional request to enter home* - cf. **respè**)

**onzè** eleven o'clock

**osinon** if not, otherwise

**otorite** authority, power

**ou** you, your (*singular*);  
*reflexive pronoun*

**oubyen** or

## P

**p** contraction **pa**

**pa, p** not; *possessive indicator*

**pa . . . ankò** no longer

**padon** forgiveness

**padonnen** to forgive

**paj** page

**pale** to speak, talk

**palmis, pye palmis** (royal)  
palm tree

**pàn** (mechanical) breakdown;  
problem

**pandan** while, during, for

**panyen** basket

**papa** father; man! (*exclamation*)

**papiyon** butterfly

**papye** paper

**papye ijenik** toilet paper

**parapli** umbrella

**parasòl** parasol, umbrella

**pase** to pass, spend (time); to  
go; to happen, take place; last,  
past; than

**paske** because

**pat** foot (*of animal*)

**pati** to leave; game

**pawòl** (spoken) word

**pay** hay, straw

**pè** fear; priest; pair; to be afraid

**pèdi** to lose; lost

**pèl** shovel

**pèlen** trap

**pen** (loaf of) bread

**pentad** guinea fowl

**pèsekisyon** persecution

**pèsekite** to persecute

**pèsonn** no one

**petèt** perhaps, maybe

**Petyonvil** Pétion-Ville

**peye** to pay, pay for

**peyi** country

**pi** more, most

**pile** to crush, grind

**pip** pipe

**pise** urine

**pita** later

**piti** little, small

**piti piti** slowly, gradually

**pitimi** millet

**pitit** child; off-spring, cub

**pito** to prefer

**plafon** ceiling  
**plaj** beach  
**plamen** palm (of hand)  
**planche** floor  
**plant** plant  
**plante** to plant  
**plenn** plain (*open country*)  
**plent** report, complaint  
**plis** more; plus  
     **plis . . . plis** the more . . . the more  
**po** pot; skin  
**pòch** pocket  
**ponyen** handful, group  
**posib** possible  
**pòt** door  
     **manch pòt** doorknob  
**pote** to carry, bring, bear  
**pòtè** porter  
**Pòtoprens** Port-au-Prince  
**pou** for; in order to; *to express necessity or obligation; to express possession; see gen*  
     **pou, kont, se pou**  
**poubèl** trash basket  
**poukisa** why  
**poul** chicken; *see chape poul,*  
     **pran poul**  
**pous, gwo pous** thumb  
**pouvwa** power  
**pòv** poor  
**pozisyon** position, spot, place  
**pral, prale, apral** to be going (to)  
**pran** to take, get; to eat  
**pran poul (sou)** to copy, cheat (*on test*)  
**premye** first

**prese** in a hurry, rushed  
**prete** to lend; to borrow  
**prizon** prison  
**pwa** bean; pea  
**pwason** fish  
**pwoblèm** problem  
**pwoche** to approach, draw near  
**pwofesè** professor, teacher  
**pwòp** clean, pure  
**pwovèb** proverb  
**pyas** (*familiar expression for*)  
     Haitian gourde (*formerly equivalent to 20 cents U.S.*)  
**pye** foot; plant  
     **pye kokoye** coconut tree  
     **pye palmis** (royal) palm tree  
**pyebwa** tree  
**pyès moun** no one

## R

**rach** ax  
**rad** clothes  
**radyo** radio  
**raje** undergrowth, underbrush  
**rakbwa** thicket  
**rakonte** to tell, relate  
**rale** to pull; to crawl  
**ranfòse** to reinforce  
**rantre** to enter; to return  
**rasanble** to be gathered, be assembled  
**rayi** to hate  
**rayisman** hate, hatred  
**rèd** hard, tough  
**regle** to regulate, guide, direct  
**regrèt** to regret, be sorry for  
**rekonmanse** to begin again

**rekonnèt** to recognize  
**rele** to call, call out; to be named  
**renmen** to love, like  
**renmèt** to give back, return  
**reponn** to answer  
**repons** answer  
**resevwa** to receive, get  
**resi** to succeed  
**respè** respect (*traditional invitation to enter home - cf. onè*)  
**respekte** to respect  
**restoran** restaurant  
**rete, ret** to stop; to live, dwell; to stay, remain; to retain, keep, still have  
**revèy** clock (*of any type*)  
**reyini** to meet, get together  
**rezon** reason  
**gen rezon** to be right  
**ri** to laugh  
**rich** rich  
**richès** fortune, wealth  
**rido** curtain  
**rive** to arrive, arrive at; to succeed; to happen

## S

**sa** that; what, whatever; *see*  
**kisa**  
**lè sa a** then  
**sa a** this, that  
**sa yo** these, those  
**sab** sand  
**sak** bag, sack  
**sakrifis** sacrifice  
**samdi** Saturday

**san** without; hundred; blood  
**sansib** sensitive, tender  
**santi** to smell; to feel (*reflexive*)  
**santim** ò U.S. cent, penny  
**sanven** one hundred twenty  
**sanvennsenk** one hundred twenty-five  
**sanzatann** suddenly, unexpectedly  
**sanzave** good-for-nothing, bum  
**sapat** sandal  
**Satan** Satan  
**satisfaksyon** contentment, happiness, satisfaction  
**se** to be  
**se pou** it is necessary that  
**sèk** dry  
**sèkèy** coffin  
**sekle** to weed, clear off ground  
**sèl** only, single; alone  
**sèlman** only; really  
**sèmante** to swear, pledge  
**sen** saint  
**senk** five  
**senkant** fifty  
**senkè** five o'clock  
**senmenn** week  
**senti** (*woman's*) belt  
**sentiwon** (*man's*) belt  
**separe** to divide (up)  
**sere** to reserve, save  
**seremoni** ceremony  
**serye** serious  
**sèt** seven  
**sèten** certain  
**sèvi** to serve  
**sèvi (ak)** to use

**sèvis** service, ceremony  
**sèvis lwa** Voodoo ceremony  
**sèvyèt** towel  
**sèz** sixteen  
**sezi** surprised  
**si** if  
**sigarèt** cigarette  
**silans** silence  
**siman** surely, certainly  
**sinema** movie theater, cinema  
**Sitadèl** Citadelle La Ferrière  
*(huge fortress above Milot, near Cap Haitian, built c. 1806-1820 by Haitian King Henry Christophe - Haiti's most imposing monument)*  
**sizo** scissors  
**sòl** ground, floor  
**solèy** sun  
**sonje** to remember  
**sòt** stupid, dumb  
**sòti, sot** to go out, leave  
**sou** on, upon; out of  
**soud** deaf  
**souke** to shake  
**soulye** shoe  
**soupe** supper  
**souple** please; *see tanpri*  
**sous** spring *(of water)*  
**sove** to save, be saved  
**swa, jou swa** evening  
**swaf** thirst; to be thirsty  
**swasanndis** seventy  
**swasannkenz** seventy-five  
**swasannsenk** sixty-five  
**swasanntwa** sixty-three  
**swasant** sixty

**swè** evening  
**swivan** following, next  
**syèl** sky; heaven

## T

**t** contraction **te**  
**ta** would *(conditional indicator)*  
**tab** table  
**tabli** to establish, set up  
**tablo** painting  
**taksi** taxi  
**tan** time  
**tanbou** drum  
**tande** to hear  
**tankou** as, like  
**tanmen** to begin to  
**tann** to wait, wait for  
**tanpri** please  
**tanpri souple** (“pretty”) please  
**tantasyon** temptation  
**taptap** small passenger truck  
**tas** cup  
**tchik** *sound made when spitting*  
**te, t** *past tense indicator*  
**tè** land, earth; earthen  
**tè, latè** land, earth  
**tèks** text  
**teledyòl** word-of-mouth, “coconut grapevine”  
**telefòn** telephone  
**telefonnen** to telephone  
**tenyen** to put out, extinguish  
**tèt** head; *reflexive indicator*  
**fè tèt** to cut hair  
**nan tèt ansanm** as one, in union

**tete** to nurse, breast-feed; breast  
**ti** small, little; *see tonton*  
**(yon) ti kras** (a) little bit  
**tibebe** baby  
**tig** tiger  
**Tijak** Jim  
**Tijo** Joey  
**tim? tim?** *offer to tell a riddle*  
*(cf. bwa chèch!)*  
**timoun** child  
**tire kont** to tell stories or  
 riddles  
**tit** title  
**tiwa** drawer  
**tiyo** pipe; fountain; spigot  
**tonbe** to fall; to begin to  
**tonnè** thunder  
**tonton** uncle; old man  
**ti tonton** small carved  
 wooden figure  
**tou** too, also; quite  
**an tou** in all  
**toude** both  
**toujou** always; still  
**tounen** to return  
**toupatou** everywhere, all  
 around  
**touris** tourist  
**touswit** right away,  
 immediately  
**tout** all, every  
**touye** to kill  
**trannde** thirty-two  
**trannkat** thirty-four  
**trannsenk** thirty-five  
**trant** thirty  
**travay** work; to work

**travayè** worker  
**trèz** thirteen  
**tris** sad  
**twa** three  
**marasa twa** triplet(s)  
**twal** cloth, material  
**twalèt** toilet  
**chanm twalèt** bathroom  
**twazè** three o'clock  
**twazyèm** third  
**twò, twòp** too much, too many  
**twonpe** to be mistaken, be wrong  
*(reflexive)*; to deceive, fool  
**twòp, twò** too much, too many  
**twou** hole  
**twou basen** drain

## V

**va, a** *future tense indicator*  
**vakabon** good-for-nothing,  
 bum, scoundrel  
**vale** to swallow  
**vandredi** Friday  
**vann** to sell  
**vant** stomach  
**vanyan** robust; hard-working  
**vè** towards, around; glass  
**lanp vè** oil lamp (with glass)  
**ven** twenty  
**vennkak** twenty-four  
**veye** funeral wake  
**vi** life, existence  
**vid** empty  
**vide** to empty; to pour  
**vil** town  
**vini, vin** to come; to become  
**vire** to turn

**vire do** to turn one's back on  
(someone)  
**vit** fast, quickly  
**viv** to live, exist  
**vivan** alive, living  
**kretyen vivan** human being  
**vle** to wish, want  
**vle di** to mean  
**vo** to be worth  
**vodou** Voodoo  
**vole** to fly  
**vòlè** to steal; thief  
**volonte** will, wish  
**voye** to send  
**voye je** to glance  
**vre** true; truly; really  
**vwa** voice  
**vye** old; disgusting; hateful

## W

**wa** king  
**watè** toilet  
**wè** to see  
**wi** yes  
**men wi** yes indeed, certainly  
**wit** eight  
**witè** eight o'clock  
**wo** tall, high  
**wòb** dress  
**wobinèt** faucet  
**wonm** rum  
**wou** hoe  
**wouj** red  
**wout** road, way  
**wouze** to water, irrigate

## Y

**y contraction yo**  
**ye** to be  
**yo, y** they, their, them; *plural indicator; reflexive pronoun*  
**sa yo** these, those  
**yon** a, an  
**youn** one (*pronoun*)

## Z

**zaboka** avocado  
**zafè** business, affair  
**zandolit** small lizard  
**zanj** angel  
**zanmi** friend  
**zanno** earring  
**zepòl** shoulder  
**zo** bone; dice  
**zoranj** orange  
**zòrèy** ear  
**zòreye** pillow  
**zòtèy** toe  
**zwazo** bird