

# THE MAGNIFICENT BULL

A traditional poem of the Dinka Tribe

1. My bull is white like the silver fish in the river  
White like the shimmering crane bird on the river bank  
White like fresh milk!
2. His roar is like the thunder to the Turkish cannon on the steep shore.  
My bull is dark like the raincloud in the storm.
3. He is like summer and winter  
Half of him is dark like the storm cloud, Half of him is light like sunshine.  
His back shines like the morning star.
4. His brow is red like the beak of the hornbill.  
His forehead is like a flag, calling the people from a distance,  
He resembles the rainbow.
5. I will water him at the river,  
With my spear I shall drive my enemies.  
Let them water their herds at the well;  
The river belongs to me and my bull.  
Drink, my bull, from the river; I am here  
To guard you with my spear.

Questions – please write answers in your home learning book:

1. According to the poem, how are the bull, the silver fish, the crane bird and fresh milk all alike?  
**They are all white.**
2. Based on this description, what impression do you get of the bull's roar?  
**The speaker compares the roar to the sound of a cannon, suggesting it is strong and forceful.**
3. How does the speaker say that the bull is like summer and winter?  
**Part of the bull is described as being, 'light like sunshine' and the other part as being 'dark like the storm cloud'.**
4. *'His brow is red like the beak of the hornbill'*  
This kind of description is called a 'simile'. Can you find another example of a simile in the poem? Copy it down.
5. Read the second verse. Explain in your own words how the speaker feels about the bull? **The speaker loves and respects the bull. He wants to look after it and protect it from enemies.**