

Grade

12

# MIND THE GAP!

English First Additional Language

Cry, the Beloved Country

- Alan Paton

## Study Guide



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Curriculum and Assessment Policy Statement (CAPS) Grade 12 English First Additional Language Mind the Gap study guide for the Novel: Cry the beloved country by Alan Paton.

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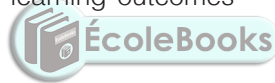
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# Ministerial Foreword

The Department of Basic Education remains steadfastly committed to innovative strategies aimed at enhancing learner attainment. Consistent with the government's commitment in promoting the indigenous languages that form the tapestry of our democratic landscape, this Mind the Gap Self study guide is a concrete demonstration of this commitment.

The release of this self-study guide incorporates all the official African Home Languages focusing on the novel genre at this stage. Not only does the study guide incorporate the African languages, but it also incorporates South African Sign Language Home Language, Afrikaans Home Language and English First Additional Language.

The Mind the Gap Literature Self Study Guide is responding to the broader sectoral reading challenges that the country is experiencing. It seeks to strengthen the following strands of the National Reading Sector Plan: Teacher Development and Support; Direct Learner Support; and Provisioning and Utilisation of the Learning and Teaching Support Materials. Its interactive nature will make it easier for both teachers and learners to read, to learn or study. It is hoped that through this Study Guide, the reading and learning outcomes will be achieved.



Key terminologies are explained or illustrated in a simplified manner and examples of the types of questions as a learner you may expect to be asked in an examination, are included in this study guide. In order to build your understanding, specific questions and possible responses forms part of the study guide package.

The study guide is designed to appeal to any learner offering Grade 12, whether as a part-time or a full-time candidate. Educators in the field will also find it an invaluable resource in their practice.

Every learner is a national asset, all you need now is to put in the hours required to prepare for the examinations and excel!  
We wish each and every one of you good luck and success.

**MRS AM MOTSHEKGA, MP**

**MINISTER**

**DATE: 14 NOVEMBER 2019**



Matsie Angelina Motshekga, MP  
Minister of Basic Education

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# Dear Grade 12 learner

This Mind the Gap study guide helps you to prepare for the end-of-year Grade 12 English First Additional Language (EFAL) Literature exam.

There are three exams for EFAL: Paper 1: Language in Context; Paper 2: Literature; and Paper 3: Writing.

There are nine great EFAL Mind the Gap study guides which cover Papers 1, 2 and 3.

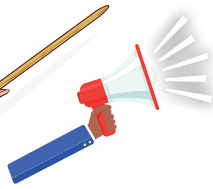



Paper 2: Literature includes the study of novels, drama, short stories and poetry. A Mind the Gap study guide is available for each of the prescribed literature titles. Choose the study guide for the set works you studied in your EFAL class at school.

This study guide focuses on Alan Paton's novel, Cry, the Beloved Country, one of the set works in Paper 2: Literature.

## How to use this study guide

- In the introduction to the guide (pages 1 to 36), you find out about the author and the current events that influenced him. There is also an overview of how the story is told.
- From page 27 to 104, you can work through each chapter in the novel understanding:
  - o The characters;
  - o The themes;
  - o symbols; and
  - o Diction and figurative language used to tell the story
  - o You can test your understanding of each chapter by completing the activities, and using the answers to mark your own work. The activities are based on exam extracts.



	Pay special attention		Worked examples
	Hints to help you remember a concept or guide you in solving problems		Activities with questions for you to answer

## Top 7 study tips

Try these Study tips to make learning easier.

1. Break your learning up into manageable sections. This will help your brain to focus. Take short breaks between studying one section and going onto the next.
2. Have all your materials ready before you begin studying a section – pencils, pens, highlighters, paper, glass of water, etc.
3. Be positive. It helps your brain hold on to the information.
4. Your brain learns well with colours and pictures. Try to use them whenever you can.
5. Repetition is the key to remembering information you have to learn. Keep going over the work until you can recall it with ease.
6. Teach what you are learning to anyone who will listen. It is definitely worth reading your revision notes aloud.
7. Sleeping for at least eight hours every night, eating healthy food and drinking plenty of water are all important things you need to do for your brain. Studying for exams is like exercise, so you must be prepared physically as well as mentally.

Use this study guide as a workbook. Make notes, draw pictures, and highlight important ideas.



## On the exam day

- i. Make sure you bring pens that work, sharp pencils, a rubber and a sharpener. Make sure you bring your ID document and examination admission letter. Arrive at the exam venue at least an hour before the start of the exam.
- ii. Go to the toilet before entering the exam room. You don't want to waste valuable time going to the toilet during the exam.
- iii. You must know at the start of the exam which two out of the four sections of the Paper 2 Literature exam you will be answering. Use the 10 minutes' reading time to read the instructions carefully.
- iv. Break each question down to make sure you understand what is being asked. If you don't answer the question properly you won't get any marks for it. Look for the key words in the question to know how to answer it. You will find a list of question words on page xii of this study guide.
- v. Manage your time carefully. Start with the question you think is the easiest. Check how many marks are allocated to each question so you give the right amount of information in your answer.
- vi. Remain calm, even if the question seems difficult at first. It will be linked with something you have covered. If you feel stuck, move on and come back if time allows. Do try and answer as many questions as possible.
- vii. Take care to write neatly so the examiners can read your answers easily.



# Overview of the English First Additional Language Paper 2: Literature Exam

In the Paper 2 Literature exam, you need to answer questions from two sections. Choose the two sections that you know best:

- Section A: Novel
- Section B: Drama
- Section C: Short stories
- Section D: Poetry

A total of 70 marks is allocated for Paper 2, which means 35 marks for each section you choose. You will have two hours for this exam.

Here is a summary of the Paper 2 Literature exam paper:

Question number	Title of novel	Type of question	Number of marks
Section A: Novel If you choose Section A, answer ONE question. Choose the question for the book you have learnt.			
1	Cry the Beloved Country	Contextual	35
2	The Strange of Dr Jekyll and Mr Hyde		35
Section B: Drama If you choose Section B, answer ONE question. Choose the question for the play you have learnt.			
3	Macbeth	Contextual	35
4	My Children My Africa!	Contextual	35
Section C: Short stories If you choose Section C, answer BOTH questions. You will not know exactly which short stories are included until the exam. TWO stories will be set. Answer the questions set on BOTH short stories.			
5.1	Short story	Contextual	17 or 18
5.2	Short story	Contextual	17 or 18
Section D: Poetry If you choose Section D, answer BOTH questions. You will not know exactly which poems are included until the exam. TWO poems will be set. Answer the questions set on BOTH poems.			
6.1	Poem 1	Contextual	17 or 18
6.2	Poem 2	Contextual	17 or 18

## NB

- \* You don't have to answer all the sections in Paper 2.
- \* Before the Exam starts you must know which two sections you are to answer.
- \* When the Exam starts, find your two chosen sections.
- \* Make sure to number answers correctly-according to the numbering system used in the exam paper- for the two sections you've chosen.
- \* Start each section on a new page.



# What is a contextual question?

In a contextual question, you are given an extract (about 200-225 words) from the novel. The extract serves as a scaffold to guide your response. Some answers will be linked to the extract, other questions will test your understanding of other parts of the novel: its story, characters, symbols and themes. Some questions will request you to express your own opinion about the novel.

# What are the examiners looking for?

Examiners will assess your answers to the contextual questions based on:

- o Your understanding of the **literal** meaning of the novel. You need to identify information that is clearly given in the novel.
- o Your ability to **reorganise** information in the novel. For example, you may be asked to summarise key points, or state the similarities or differences between two characters.
- o Your ability to provide information that may not be clearly stated in the text, using what you already know about the novel. This process is called **inference**. This may include explaining how a figure of speech affects your understanding of the novel, explaining themes or comparing the actions of different characters.
- o Your ability to make judgements about aspects of the novel, and make your own opinions based on information given in the novel. This process is called **evaluation**. For example, you may be asked if you agree with a statement, or to discuss a character's motive for doing something.
- o Your ability to respond to the characters in the novel and how it is written on an emotional level. This is called **appreciation**. For example, you may be asked how you think a certain character feels, or what you would have done if you were in their situation. You may be asked to discuss how the writer's style helps to describe what a character is feeling.

# Question words

Here are examples of question types found in the exam.

Question type	What you need to do
Literal: Questions about information that is clearly given in the text or extract from the text	
Name characters/places/things ...	Write the specific names of characters, places, etc.
State the facts/reasons/ideas ...	Write down the information without any discussion or comments.
Give two reasons for/why ...	Write two reasons (this means the same as 'state').
Identify the character/reasons/theme ...	Write down the character's name, state the reasons.
Describe the place/character/what happens when ...	Write the main characteristics of something, for example: What does a place look/feel/smell like? Is a particular character kind/rude/aggressive ...
What does character x do when ...	Write what happened – what the character did.
Why did character x do ...	Given reasons for the character's action according to your knowledge of the plot.
Who is/did ...	Write the name of the character.
To whom does xx refer ...	Write the name of the relevant character/person.
Reorganisation: Questions that need you to bring together different pieces of information in an organised way.	
Summarise the main points/ideas ...	Write the main points, without a lot of detail.
Group the common elements ...	Join the same things together.
Give an outline of ....	Write the main points, without a lot of detail.
Inference Questions that need you to interpret (make meaning of) the text using information that may not be clearly stated. This process involves thinking about what happened in different parts of the text; looking for clues that tell you more about a character, theme or symbol; and using your own knowledge to help you understand the text.	
Explain how this idea links with the theme x ...	Identify the links to the theme.
Compare the attitudes/actions of character x with character y ...	Point out the similarities and differences.
What do the words ... suggest/reveal about /what does this situation tell you about ...	State what you think the meaning is, based on your understanding of the text.
How does character x react when .... Describe how something affected ... State how you know that character x is ...	Write down the character's reaction/what the character did/felt.
What did character x mean by the expression ...	Explain why the character used those particular words.
Is the following statement true or false?	Write 'true' or 'false' next to the question number. You must give a reason for your answer.
Choose the correct answer to complete the following sentence (multiple choice question).	A list of answers is given, labelled A–D. Write only the letter (A, B, C or D) next to the question number.
Complete the following sentence by filling in the missing words ...	Write the missing word next to the question number.
Quote a line from the extract to prove your answer.	Write the relevant line of text using the same words and punctuation you see in the extract. Put quotation marks (" " inverted commas) around the quote.

Evaluation Questions that require you to make a judgement based on your knowledge and understanding of the text and your own experience.	
Discuss your view/a character's feelings/a theme ...	Consider all the information and reach a conclusion.
Do you think that ...	There is no 'right' or 'wrong' answer to these questions, but you must give a reason for your opinion based on information given in the text. Refer back to the text and give examples to prove your statement.
Do you agree with ...	
In your opinion, what ...	
Give your views on ...	
Appreciation Questions that ask about your emotional response to what happens, the characters and how it is written.	
How would you feel if you were character x when ...	There is no 'right' or 'wrong' answer to these questions, but you must give a reason for your opinion based on information given in the text.
Discuss your response to ...	
Do you feel sorry for ...	
Discuss the use of the writer's style, diction and figurative language, dialogue ...	To answer this type of question, ask yourself: Does the style help me to feel/imagine what is happening/what a character is feeling? Why/why not? Give a reason for your answer.

### PEEL –method

When answering Evaluation or Appreciation questions, make use of the PEEL –method to structure you answer.

P = Make a point or statement.

E = Explain the statement. Refer back to the text to ensure your answer is based in the text.

E = Examples. Give examples from the text to prove what you have been saying.

L = Link. Link your answer back to the original statement that was made.

# Introduction

*Cry the Beloved Country* tells a story about two men from Natal (now KwaZulu-Natal), a white farmer (James Jarvis) and a black priest (Reverend Stephen Kumalo), who became linked by a tragedy when the son of the black man (Absalom) shoots and kills the son of a white man (Arthur Jarvis).

The two fathers each travel from their homes in KwaZulu-Natal to the city of Johannesburg. This journey affects both of them in a number of ways.

This novel may be classified as a historical novel, as is set (setting) in a past era, and deals with political and social aspects of that time, however, it is still relevant today.

In the book the author explores the following issues among others:

- the laws that were passed during this period
- the effect of colonialism
- the issues of land ownership and rural poverty (that led to migration)
- migrant labour policies.

## 1. The author

Alan Paton was born in 1903 in Pietermaritzburg, Natal. At the age of 22 he became a teacher and in 1935 he was the Principal of Diepkloof Reformatory for African boys (boys who had been in prison). As a liberalist, he tried to lift some of the imposed restrictions on the students and prepare them for life outside of the reformatory walls. In his extensive travels he visited the prisons and reformatory schools in Europe, the United States and Canada. Shortly after World War II, during one of his trips he started writing *Cry, the Beloved Country*, which was published in 1948. He was awarded the Freedom Award for his role in promoting racial equality. At the time of his death in 1988, over 15 million copies of the book has been sold. *Cry, the Beloved Country* is noted for its ability to make others aware of South Africa and the ills of apartheid.

## 2. Background

This section provides background information about three aspects of life in South Africa from 1946 when the novel takes place: colonisation, the Pass laws, the implementation of Apartheid.

### 2.1 Colonisation

Before the first Europeans arrived in South Africa in the 1600s, the country was populated by different African tribal groups (the San, the Khoikhoi and Bantu speaking people). In 1652 the Dutch East India Company established the Dutch Cape Colony. It was initially meant to be a small port town for ships travelling to India, but eventually became a full settlement. The British, however, wanted to control South Africa because it was one of the trade routes to India. Between 1795 and 1814 during numerous battles, the reign of the colony varied between the Dutch and the British. In 1814, the Dutch formally agreed that the colony was part of the British Empire. In the meantime, the British Settlers who arrived in 1820 settled in the frontier area of what is now the Eastern Cape while another group continued on to Natal which is now Kwa Zulu Natal. Conflict broke out between the different groups and in 1833 the Great Trek by the Dutch settlers (called the Boers) began as they moved inland and formed their own Boer republics: the Orange Free State and Transvaal. However, when diamonds and gold were discovered in the 1860s-1880s their interest in the region increased and the first Anglo-Boer war took place in 1880. With the discovery of gold in 1886, the Witwatersrand Gold Rush occurred resulting in the establishment of what is now the city of Johannesburg.

Cecil John Rhodes became the premier of the Cape Colony in 1890 and he believed that if the Transvaal was left to grow financially it would eventually grow in size and topple Britain from its position of power in South Africa. The tensions led to the second Anglo Boer war which took place from 1899 to 1902. In this war the British was victorious.

The British Government, however, was interested in creating a unified country within its Empire; one which could support and defend itself. It was necessary to have Boers (Afrikaner) and English working together, especially following the acrimonious end to the Anglo-Boer War, and the satisfactory compromise took eight years to reach. A union, rather than a federalised country, was more agreeable to the Afrikaner electorate since it would give the country a greater freedom from Britain and the Union of South Africa, a self-governing member of the British Empire, was established in 1910.

## 2.2 The Pass laws

After the Union of South Africa was established the white people were advantaged in many ways. Thus, by the time the Land Act of 1913 was enacted, South Africa was already moving in the direction of segregating people through land dispossession. This act prevented blacks from owning land in white areas. The Natives (Urban Areas) Act of 1923 regarded urban areas in South Africa as white and required all black African men in cities and towns to carry a pass at all times and no black was allowed in a white area without special permission. Anyone found without a pass would be arrested immediately and sent to a rural area.

### Did you know?

The passbook contained the fingerprints and photograph of the bearer, the name of his/her employer, his/her address, and how long the bearer had been employed



## 2.3 The implementation of Apartheid

The Land Act of 1913, gave black people only 7% of the total land of South Africa to be used and ruled by the traditional chiefs. The 7% was increased to 13% of the land "to reserves" for black people with the implementation of the Land Act of 1936, after it was found the land was already overgrazed and overpopulated.

Black people were not allowed to own land outside the reserves, which lead to many people migrating to Johannesburg to find work in the mines. The black people were used as cheap labour and as cities were reserved for whites only, black people were forced to live in hostels or shantytown on the outskirts of the cities. The living conditions were very poor.

The effects of the migration to the cities were far-reaching:

- The men went to the cities to work on the mines and left their wives and children in the rural areas.
- The workers would send money home to their families every month.
- The workers in the city were lonely, and this lead to drinking, gambling and prostitution.
- Not all migrant workers were employed and so criminal activities increased.

In the Novel John Khumalo, has a business in Sophiatown, a poor black urban area.



### 3. Title

Every word in the title *Cry, the Beloved Country* is important. The word “cry” can refer to the cry of the titihoya (chapter 1) or it can mean that the people cry for the tribe, the law and the custom that is gone, now that they have moved away from their roots to the lawless cities. It can also mean the people cry for the unborn child that will inherit their fear. The cry therefore refers to the emotions the people are experiencing as they are going through hardships.

South Africa is the **Beloved country**. Even though people are experiencing so many hardships, they will always love their country.

**Country** refers to the setting, South Africa.

The way the title has been constructed can influence the meaning:

- The country itself cries, because it is disintegrating.
- The people / you cry for the country, which is disintegrating.

### 4. How the story is told

This section outlines the different elements in the novel that the writer uses to tell the story.



#### 4.1 Setting

The setting of a novel refers to where and when the story takes place.

- o **Time:** The time is 1946.
- o **Place :** The two main settings is Ndotsheni and Johannesburg. These places are symbolic. In Ndotsheni, life is simple and the focus is on tradition. People are poor and their lives are hard, but they care about one another. Johannesburg is a symbol of corruption, crime, drunkenness and immorality. People are afraid of each other and money is the root of all evil.

#### 4.2 Characters

- o The central character in a story is called the **protagonist**. In *Cry the Beloved Country* the two protagonists are Stephen Kumalo and James Jarvis.
- o The **antagonist** is a character who opposes, or is in conflict with, the protagonist. In *Cry the Beloved Country* the main antagonist is not a person, but a place; Johannesburg and the apartheid system, specifically injustice.

#### NOTES

Characterisation is the way in which the author reveals characters' personalities. This is done by describing their thoughts, feelings, expressions and actions. As you read the novel, look for evidence that shows the characters' personalities and emotions, and how they change during the story.

### Vocab

**Titihoya:** An African plover, with a distinctive plaintive cry.





I've got a picture of South Africa in my head, it helps me to remember the journey of Stephen Kumalo



use this section of the Guide to remind yourself who's who in the Novel.



## Main characters

The main characters are the most important for the development of the story. This section only gives an outline of the main characters in *Cry, the Beloved Country*. More information is given in the chapter by chapter section of the guide.



### Stephen Kumalo

- Umfundisi Kumalo is one of the novel's two protagonists. Kumalo is an elderly Zulu priest who has spent all of his life in the village of Ndotsheni.
- He is a quiet, humble, and gentle man with a strong moral sense and an abiding faith in God. He is not perfect, however, and occasionally gives in to the temptation to hurt others with harsh words or lies.
- The dignity and grace with which he accepts his suffering, however, along with his determination to help his people in spite of his limitations, make him the moral centre of the novel.





### James Jarvis

- Jarvis is the other protagonist in the novel, a white landowner whose farm overlooks Ndotsheni.
- When he first appears in the novel, Jarvis is a relatively conservative farmer and a man of few words. James Jarvis undergoes a journey parallel to that of Kumalo, although he is never granted the chance to be reunited with his son, Arthur.
- When the novel begins, Jarvis is ignorant of or indifferent to the injustices of South Africa. He cares for his farm and his family, and he more or less takes for granted the political system in which he lives.
- Jarvis's complacency is shattered when he learns that his son has been killed. He goes to stay with his son's in-laws, the Harrisons, in Johannesburg. He learns that Arthur had become a community leader, valued by people from all racial groups for his speeches on social justice. Jarvis realises that his son had become a stranger to him.
- As a result of learning about his son's views he begins to rethink his opinions and his relationship to the inhabitants of Ndotsheni.



### Absalom Kumalo

Absalom is Stephen Kumalo's only child. He leaves home to look for his aunt Gertrude in Johannesburg. He also wants to be free from the rural life of Ndotsheni but is naïve and falls into a life of crime.

- Out fear he shoots Arthur Jarvis and is convicted of murder.
- In the end before his execution, he seems to have reconciled himself with his fate and shows a new maturity when facing death.



### Theophilus Msimanga



Stephen Kumalo's host and guide in Johannesburg. A tall, young minister at the Mission House in Sophiatown, Msimangu has an acute understanding of the problems that face South Africa.

- He helps Kumalo understand the people and places that they encounter, and is unfailingly sympathetic to Kumalo, making Kumalo's quest (search for/ mission) his top priority.
- He sometimes speaks unkindly, but he quickly repents. His name means 'one who loves God'.
- His eventual decision to enter a monastery is a final testament to the depth of his faith and generosity.

*[Illustrations sourced from: [crythebelovedcountry.weebly.com](http://crythebelovedcountry.weebly.com/)]*

## Vocab

**Renconcile:** Bring together

# Minor characters

- o Father Vincent: The English Priest who is living with Msimangu at Mission House.
- o John Khumalo: The brother of Stephen Khumalo. A businessman in Johannesburg with a passion for politics.
- o Gertrude Khumalo: Stephen Kumalo's sister and the original reason for his trip to Johannesburg after being informed that she is sick. Gertrude, twenty-five years younger than Kumalo and living in Johannesburg, is easily influenced and prostitutes herself.
- o Mrs Khumalo: Stephen Kumalo's strong-minded, supportive, and loving wife.
- o Arthur Jarvis: Arthur Jarvis's name first appears in the novel after he has been murdered. He believes in justice for all and is a liberal activist demanding equality for all races.
- o Mary Jarvis: Arthur Jarvis's wife. Mary takes her husband's murder hard, but she remains strong for her children. She shares her husband's commitment to justice.
- o Arthur's son: Although only a child, Arthur's son is very much like his father. He is curious, intelligent, and generous. He treats black people with unusual courtesy. Kumalo is pleased when he visits him and even tries to speak Zulu (IsiZulu).
- o Margaret Jarvis: James Jarvis's wife. Margaret takes the death of her son very hard. She is a physically fragile and loving woman who sympathizes with and supports her husband through their grief.
- o John Harrison: The brother of Mary Jarvis, Arthur Jarvis's wife. John is young and quick-witted, and shares Arthur's opinions about the rights of the black population in South Africa.
- o Mr Harrison: Mary Jarvis's father. Mr Harrison has conservative political views and blames black South Africans for the country's problems.
- o The young man from the Reformatory: He works at the reformatory and helps and supports Rev. Kumalo as much as possible.
- o Absalom's girlfriend: The kind-hearted and quiet sixteen-year-old girl whom Absalom has impregnated.
- o Johannes Pafuri: The third young man present at the attempted robbery of Arthur Jarvis's house.
- o Matthew Khumalo: A cousin to Absalom, and as friends, they drift into a life of crime. One of the accomplices who plan to go to rob and kill Jarvis.
- o The Judge: The judge who presides over Absalom's case seems to be a fair-minded man, but he is constrained by unjust laws and applies them strictly.
- o Mr Carmichael: An acquaintance of Father Vincent's who becomes Absalom's lawyer. Mr. Carmichael is a tall and serious man who carries himself with an almost royal bearing. He takes Absalom's case pro deo ( "for God").
  - Barbara Smith: She is the niece of Margaret Jarvis. Since she lives in Johannesburg near the courthouse, Mary and James Jarvis spend the breaks in the trial during the day at her house.
  - Napoleon Letsitsi: The agricultural expert hired by James Jarvis to teach better farming techniques to the black people.
  - Mrs Lethibi: The woman with whom Kumalo stays in Johannesburg. Mrs. Lithebe is an Msutu woman who lives in Sophiatown.

## Make your own character charts

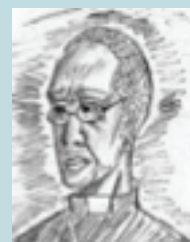
A character chart can help you to keep track of the evidence about a character as you revise the story. In your character chart:

- o Write the characteristics (features or qualities) of the character in the first column.
- o Write the evidence for these characteristics in the second column. Include the chapter number for the evidence so it is easier to find again.

We have filled in Reverend Stephen Kumalo's character chart for you – so you can see how to do it in the other character charts.



### Character chart:



**Reverend Stephen Kumalo is a protagonist in the novel.**

Characteristics	Evidence
1. He has moral values.	1. As a priest he is not tempted to fall for the temptations of the city. 2. He finds it difficult to understand his brother John, who has been corrupted by power.
2. He is humble.	1. He doesn't seek the power that his brother wants.
3. He is naïve.	1. At the train station a young man offers to buy a ticket for him and disappears with his money.
4. He focuses on forgiveness.	1. He forgives Gertrude for the fact that she is a prostitute and a liquor seller. 2. He forgives his own son for the murder of another person.
5. He sometimes feels the need to hurt, but apologises.	1. When he meets Gertrude he tells her that he is ashamed of her. This causes her to break down and cry and he realizes he has done her wrong. 2. He interrogates Absalom's girlfriend about her past, but when she admits that she would be willing to sleep with him, he breaks down and apologises.

## CHARACTERISATION/CHARACTER ANALYSIS

**NOTE: When asked to respond to a question on characterisation, it is important to note that you should not list physical attributes**

**BUT**

**refer** to actions



or

**thoughts**



**and words**



**of a character**

A character can be analysed by looking at an action or incident and how it affected him/her or how he/she reacted to it.

- What action did the character take when confronted with a certain situation?
- Is there an incident in the character's past that has shaped him/her as a character and affected the way he/she looks at their life? The action or incident determines the way the character develops as the story goes on.
- When analysing the reactions of others you are looking closely at how other characters in the story react to or treat the character that you are characterizing.
- Reactions include verbal responses and physical or emotional treatment.
- The reactions of other characters can tell you if the character you are analysing is liked or disliked, popular, honest, trust-worthy amongst others.
- Dialogue is the way in which a character talks and includes the choice of words and syntax of characters. It also includes the tone and diction of the character when he/she speaks.
- Is the character serious? Sarcastic? Shy? Obnoxious? Ignorant? All these qualities can be conveyed through the interaction amongst characters.

## CHARACTER TRAIT VOCABULARY LIST

nice	mean	sad	confident	nervous
bright	annoyed	cheerless	assertive	anxious
cheerful	argumentative	depressed	brave	concerned
caring	cold-hearted	desolate	certain	fearful
charming	dangerous	dejected	courageous	hesitant
considerable	disrespectful	gloomy	fearless	uncertain
delightful	evil	heartbroken	independent	uneasy
encouraging	greedy	isolated	sure	unsure
fair	harsh	lonely		
kind	impatient	miserable	irresponsible	responsible
likable	impolite	unhappy	lazy	prudent
loving	insensitive		careless	careful
peaceful	jealous	shy	sloppy	persistent
pleasant	pessimistic	timid	messy	studious
polite	rude	meek	disorganized	organized
respectful	selfish	humble		
sensitive	stubborn	nervous	brave	intelligent
sweet	thoughtless		courageous	clever
thoughtful	uncaring	imaginative	noble	smart
trustworthy	unpleasant	creative	bold	quick-witted
wise	vulgar	inventive	daring	devious
		practical		

## 4.3 Structure and plot development

This section gives an overview of the main plot of *Cry, the Beloved Country*. The novel is divided into three books and the plot is developed over the three books. There are other events that happen, such as the stories of John Kumalo, Gertrude Kumalo and Arthur Jarvis (through his writings). These are called sub-plots.

### Exposition – Book One

- The novel begins with Reverend Kumalo receiving a letter asking him to travel to Johannesburg, as his sister, Gertrude is ill.
- He decides to undertake the journey as it will give him the chance to look for his son Absalom, who has also gone to Johannesburg.
- Some of the main characters in the novel are introduced.

### Rising action – Book One

- Kumalo travels per train to Johannesburg and is taken to the Mission House where he meets Father Vincent and Reverend Msimangu. Stephen Kumalo finds out that his sister is running a shebeen and is a prostitute. John, his brother is involved in politics.
- Kumalo visits Gertrude and is able to convince her to return to Ndotsheni with her young son.
- The search for Absalom takes Kumalo through the streets of Johannesburg and he finds out that he was sent to a reformatory for theft, where he did well and was released because his girlfriend is pregnant.
- Kumalo reads about the murder of the white activist Arthur Jarvis and is afraid that Absalom is involved.
- Msimangu and Kumalo follow the police as they also try to find Absalom.

### Climax – Book One

- Absalom, along with Matthew and his friend Johannes, are arrested for murder. The climax is reached when Absalom confesses to the murder.
- Kumalo and John visits Absalom in prison and an attorney is arranged for Absalom.
- The girlfriend of Absalom is visited by Kumalo and informed of the upcoming trial of Absalom. Kumalo suggests the girl marries Absalom and returns to Ndotsheni.

### Rising Action – Book Two

- The Jarvis family leave for Johannesburg, after receiving the news of the death of their son.
- James Jarvis reads the half-finished article on social injustice and realizes he did not know his son.
- Tension is created when Kumalo and Jarvis meet each other by accident and realise that they both come from Ndotsheni. Both attend the trial of Absalom.

### Climax – Book Two

- The judge finds Absalom guilty and he is sentenced to die by hanging. This is the main climax of the novel.
- Father Vincent, marries Absalom and his girlfriend in prison.
- Kumalo prepares to go home, but finds Gertrude has disappeared.

### Falling Action – Book Three

- Kumalo returns to Ndotsheni with Absalom's bride and Gertrude's little son.
- Kumalo tries to get someone to teach farming techniques so that more people will stay in the village and work the land.
- Kumalo makes friends with Arthur, Jarvis' son.
- A letter arrives for Kumalo informing him that Absalom will be hanged on the 15th of the month.
- James Jarvis decides to be more involved in the community of Ndotsheni.

### Denouement / Resolution – Book Three

- Kumalo goes into the mountain to pray for Absalom.
- The book ends with the dawn breaking and prayer for the country



## 4.4 Themes

This section provides a summary of the themes in *Cry, the Beloved Country*. More examples are given in the “Chapter by chapter” section of the guide.

### Reconciliation between fathers and sons.

The theme of reconciliation between fathers and sons, are represented by the two fathers: Stephen Kumalo and James Jarvis.

- The novel chronicles the searches of two fathers for their sons. For Kumalo, the search begins as a physical one, and he spends a number of days searching for Absalom in Johannesburg.
- Kumalo hears of his son's change from factory worker to burglar, then from promising reformatory pupil to killer. Kumalo and Absalom are finally reunited after Absalom's imprisonment, but they are strangers to each other. The trial brings them closer together, but it is only during his last visit to his son, that he seems to understand him.
- The journey of Jarvis is not a physical search for his son. He learns from the articles found in his son's study that he was an advocate for the black population of South Africa. The articles give him insight into his son and he experiences a sense of pride.

### Vocab

**Reconciliation** = the action of making one view or belief compatible with another.

### Christian values, kindness and faith

The importance of acting with kindness is developed throughout the novel.

- Stephen Kumalo, Father Vincent and Theophilus Msimangu are the characters that represent the Christian values and faith.
- It is kindness that leads to Jarvis and Kumalo to develop a bond.
- Kumalo's kindness to the small white boy leads to Jarvis to start working on behalf of South Africa by donating milk and arranging new farming methods in Ndotsheni.
- Christianity brings stability and tranquility to the lives of its followers: when Stephen hears his son has killed and will probably be executed – Father Vincent commands him to pray.
- Atheism, on the other hand, is connected to power and corruption: John Kumalo rejects Christianity.

### VOCAB

**Atheism** = disbelief or lack of belief in the existence of God or gods

### The tension between urban and rural society

- The conflict between the urban and rural society is one of the major themes in the novel. Stephen Kumalo is an example of rural life: represented by family, religion, morality and stability.
- John Kumalo, who is living in the chaotic Johannesburg, represents corruption, the breaking apart of families and death.
- People are drawn to Johannesburg, but they never return from it. Arthur Jarvis leaves his father and dies in Johannesburg, before he can return home. Absalom Kumalo is sentenced to die in the city. Gertrude Kumalo loses her husband and gets drawn into the liquor trade and prostitution. John Kumalo becomes a corrupt and powerful man, never to return to his home town.



### Power and passivity

- Power can be evil, it is it used incorrectly. Money is able to corrupt even the best people as respect is gained by fear and money. Corrupt black characters such as John Kumalo sometimes use their money and influence to bully other characters in their community.
- Both Msimangu and John Kumalo show their power through their speaking voices, which they use to inspire the people who listen to them. Arthur Jarvis also plays on people's emotions, but he uses articles and pamphlets to do so. The use of the spoken and written word show the difference between the black and white communities.
- The majority of white people remained passive even though injustices were taking place. They accept their situations and conditions, without trying to change as they benefitted from the unfair political system.

### Freedom and entrapment

- Few of the novel's characters are truly free. A good example is Msimangu who seeks nor wealth nor power but to serve God. All the others are trapped to a certain extent, either by their colour or their wealth/poverty or their views.
- Although Absalom is only literally confined in prison after accidentally shooting Arthur Jarvis, he is also symbolically confined by his lack of education and opportunity before then, which drives him to become a thief.
- Fear is an emotion that paralyses and entraps a person. White men like Mr. Harrison and even Mr. Jarvis (before he starts reading his son's manuscripts) are trapped in fearful ways of thinking about black South Africans. They may have all of the legal freedoms that the black people of the book do not have, but these white characters are still trapped by their prejudiced ways of thinking.

### Journeying and stagnation

- Stephen Kumalo and James Jarvis go on a physical and spiritual journey and as a result they grow emotionally.
- Though Kumalo's journey ends in tragedy, his son being found guilty and being hanged, he becomes aware of the injustices of the system that has trapped his son makes more determined to offer a home to the remainder of the family and thus recreate a moral base for the next generation.
- Jarvis on the other hand searches for some understanding of his son's political beliefs and character and learns to change his point of view about South Africa.

### Racial oppression vs Reconciliation

- The theme of inequality is presented throughout the novel. This is seen through the unfavourable conditions that Black South Africans lived in. The impact of Apartheid is evident in the anti-social behaviour experienced in the townships such as Soweto and Alexandra. This includes poverty, alcoholism, crime, prostitution and other social ills.
- The story advocates for reconciliation amongst black and the white South Africans. More than that, Alan Paton speaks to transformation as well. He does this through the characters of the Jarvis family. James Jarvis is first presented as a white racist who cared very little for the hardships suffered by the blacks "Indeed there it was a problem almost beyond solution. Some...more congeal occupation."
- His exposure to his son's writings and his experience during his son's funeral, his racial ideas begin to change, and towards the end of the novel he is a totally transformed individual. He is responsible for economic development of Ndotsheni.

## VOCAB

**Prejudiced** = having or showing a dislike or distrust





## 4.5 Symbols

### **Johannesburg:**

The city is a symbol of a force that draws people in, corrupts them and then ultimately destroys them. The devout Christians are able to avoid these effects, but the other characters fall prey to its power.

### **Money:**

Is the symbol of power. Those who have money are in the powerful position to control those who don't have. The lack of money leads to poverty, disease, suffering and death.

### **The earth/land:**

Is the stabilizing force for the inhabitants. When she is respected and loved, she acts like a mother: nourishing, healthy and able to support her people. Where she is destroyed – through urbanization (Johannesburg) and through mining (the search for gold) – there is corruption, decay, starvation amongst others.

## 5. Style

This section explains some of the features of the way of writing used in the novel.

### 5.1 The narrator

The narrator in *Cry, the Beloved Country* is written from a third person perspective.

- The narrator often focuses on Stephen Kumalo, but it also moves in and out of the thoughts of other characters.
- Sometimes the narrator focusses on conversations between people, without giving the reader the speakers' names or context (chapters 9, 12 and 23).

### 5.2 Diction and figurative language

Alan Paton's writing style in *Cry, the Beloved Country* is often described as lyrical or poetic.

- He uses simple language, except for the words in Zulu and Afrikaans to establish the scene. The Zulu word like "umfundisi" (priest) is used throughout the novel.
- Stephen Kumalo is a simple man that uses plain words and has uncomplicated ideas. It also helps to show his religiousness, for the language, is that of the King James version of the Bible.
- He uses several rhetorical devices to achieve this lyrical quality. Paton uses similes, alliteration, dramatic irony, allusions, and repetition in his novel. Examples of rhetorical devices used:
  - o **Simile:**  
'He had grown fat, and sat with his hands on his knees like a chief.' (Chapter 7).  
John acted as if he was as powerful as a chief.
  - o **Dramatic irony:**  
During the trial, Absalom defends himself and says: "...I was frightened when the white man came. So I shot him. I did not mean to kill him" (Chapter 5).

What Absalom does not realize when he sees the white man is that Arthur Jarvis is an advocate for black citizens. If anyone would have understood why Absalom and his accomplices would steal from him, it would be Arthur Jarvis. There was no reason for Absalom to be afraid. Most likely, Jarvis would have helped him if he could.

- o **Personification:** "... the soil is sick..." (Chapter 3)  
Throughout the novel reference is made to the soil or the earth that is compared to a human being sick or bleeding.  
You will find examples of diction and figurative language in the next section of this guide (*Cry, the Beloved Country* – chapter by chapter).

## 5.2 Dialogue

- Alan Paton uses language in the dialogue that suggests how people from South Africa in 1946 would really speak. For example:
  - *Umunzana*.  
You are in fear of me, but I do not know what it is. You need not be in fear of me.
  - It is true, umnumzana, You do not know what it is.
  - I do not know but I desire to know.
  - I doubt if I could tell it, umnumzana.
  - You must tell it, umfundisi. Is it heavy?
- It is important to note that Paton uses dashes instead of quotation marks to introduce dialogue.

## 5.3 Tone and mood

- The tone of the book is compassionate, but also tragic.
- The last paragraph of the novel is optimistic and hopeful:  
“For it is the dawn that has come, as it has come for a thousand centuries, never failing.”

Mood is the feeling a reader has when reading the novel, such as happiness, sadness, anger or indifference. How did *Cry, the Beloved Country* make you feel?



**Tone is the speaker's attitude. Use the following table when answering questions on tone.**

POSITIVE TONE WORDS		NEUTRAL		
admiring	hilarious	(+, -, or neutral)	abhorring	hostile
adoring	hopeful	commanding	acerbic	impatient
affectionate	humorous	direct	ambiguous	incredulous
appreciative	interested	impartial	ambivalent	indifferent
approving	introspective	indirect	angry	indignant
bemused	jovial	meditative	annoyed	inflammatory
benevolent	joyful	objective	antagonistic	insecure
blithe	laudatory	questioning	anxious	insolent
calm	light	speculative	apathetic	irreverent
casual	lively	unambiguous	apprehensive	lethargic
celebratory	mirthful	unconcerned	belligerent	melancholy
cheerful	modest	understated	bewildered	mischievous
comforting	nostalgic		biting	miserable
comic	optimistic		bitter	mocking
compassionate	passionate		blunt	mournful
complimentary	placid		bossy	nervous
conciliatory	playful		cold	ominous
confident	poignant		conceited	outraged
contented	proud		condescending	paranoid
delightful	reassuring		confused	pathetic
earnest	reflective		contemptuous	patronizing
ebullient	relaxed		curt	pedantic
ecstatic	respectful		cynical	pensive
effusive	reverent		demanding	pessimistic
elated	romantic		depressed	pretentious
empathetic	sanguine		derisive	psychotic
encouraging	scholarly		derogatory	resigned
euphoric	self-assured sentimental		desolate	reticent
excited	serene		despairing	sarcastic
exhilarated	silly		desperate	sardonic
expectant	sprightly		detached	scornful
facetious	straightforward		diabolic	self-deprecating
fervent	sympathetic		disappointed	selfish
flippant	tender		disliking	serious
forthright	tranquil		disrespectful	severe
friendly	whimsical		doubtful	sinister
funny	wistful		embarrassed	skeptical
gleeful	worshipful		enraged	sly
gushy	zealous		evasive	solemn
happy			fatalistic	somber
			fearful	stern
			forceful	stolid
			foreboding	stressful
			frantic	strident
			frightened	suspicious
			frustrated	tense
			furious	threatening
			gloomy	tragic
			grave	uncertain
			greedy	uneasy
			grim	unfriendly
			harsh	unsympathetic
			haughty	upset
			holier-than-thou	violent
			hopeless	wry



## Cry, the Beloved Country

# Chapter by chapter

## Introduction

This part of the study guide is divided into sections. Each section covers a group of chapters.

This section of the study guide contains:

- A summary of what happens and who is involved – the main events and characters in the chapter
- The main themes and symbols, and some examples of language use in the chapter
- Activities with exam-type questions for you to test yourself, and answers to these activities

## Chapter summaries

The table below gives a brief summary of what happens in each chapter in the novel, with a timeline so you can see what happens when.

Use this table to find out which section of the study guide to turn to when revising particular parts of the story.

Chapter	Setting	What happens
<b>Book One</b>		
Chapters 1 to 2 A description of Ndotsheni and Reverend Kumalo		
1	The Carisbrooke area in Natal	The opening of the chapter gives a vivid description of the beautiful land scenery of Carisbrook, 11 km outside Ixopo. This is where the Reverend Kumalo lives and has his roots.
2	Ndotsheni	Rev. Kumalo receives a letter from Rev. Msimangu who informs him his sister Getrude is sick and requests him to come to Johannesburg. Kumalo also wants to undertake this journey to look for his son who went to Johannesburg looking for his aunt, but never contacted them.
<b>Test yourself: Chapters 1 and 2</b>		
<b>Chapters 3 to 5 The journey to Johannesburg.</b>		
3	On the train to Carisbrooke	Kumalo boards a train to Johannesburg at Carisbrook. A church member asks him to look for Sibeko's daughter who went away to Johannesburg with the white family she was working for. Sibeko never heard from her again.
4	Train journey from Pietermaritzburg to JHB; Sophiatown	Kumalo sees the gold mines for the first time and wonders how gold is mined. In Johannesburg, Kumalo is robbed by a young man, who pretends to help him. Kumalo is finally helped by Mr Mafolo, who takes him to meet Reverend Msimangu, at the Mission House in Sophiatown.
5	The Mission House, Sophiatown	Rev. Kumalo gets accommodation at Mrs. Lithebe's. Msimangu tells Kumalo that Gertrude has been living an immoral life and that she has a son. Kumalo proceeds to explain his quest to find Absalom. Kumalo learns that his brother John is regarded as a politician. He is taken to Mrs Lithebe's who has agreed to provide him lodgings.
<b>Test yourself: Chapters 3, 4 and 5.</b>		
<b>Chapters 6-7 Gertrude and John Kumalo</b>		
6	Claremont – a slum	In a confrontation between Kumalo and Gertrude, she starts crying and agrees to come with him to Mrs Lithebe's house. She thinks that Matthew (John's son) will know where Absalom is. Transport is arranged for Gertrude, her son and their belongings to Mrs Lithebe's house.
7	Sophiatown – John's shop	Kumalo buys Gertrude and her son new clothes. He meets John again after not seeing him for a long time. John tries to explain that life in Johannesburg is different. John says Absalom is working in a factory in Doornfontein.
	Factory in Doornfontein	Absalom is no longer working at the factory and has left to stay in End Street.
	Mrs Ndlela's house in End Street	Mrs Ndlela tells Khumalo that Absalom has moved to Alexandra Township.
<b>Test yourself: Chapters 6-7</b>		

Chapters 8 to 11 The search for Absalom continues		
Chapter	Setting	What happens
8	The streets of Johannesburg	On the way to Alexandra, in search of Absalom, they are prevented by an activist, Dudula, to board the bus as there is a bus boycott. They travel on foot until they get a lift in a white man's car who drops them at the entrance to Alexandra.
	Alexandra Township – Mrs Mkize's house	Msimangu and Kumalo visit Mrs Mkize, but Absalom has left. She admits to Msimangu that Absalom is in the wrong crowd, and that Hlabeni, the taxi-driver, may know where he is.
	Shanty Town, Orlando	Msimangu and Kumalo are on their way to Orlando. Kumalo feels positive when he sees the kindness of the white people, giving the black people lifts after the boycott.
9	Shanty Town Orlando	The opening of the chapter captures the general life in Soweto at that time. The poor conditions under which black people live in Soweto are highlighted.
10	The reformatory	They learn that Absalom was sent away to a reformatory school by the magistrate because he was involved in petty crime. He did well at the school but was released because he wanted to marry his pregnant girlfriend who stays in Pimville.
	Pimville	The white man from the reformatory drives them to Pimville and they meet the girl who is pregnant. Once again Absalom is not there.
11	Sophiatown, The Mission House	The newspaper, the 'Evening Star', carries the news of the murder of Arthur Jarvis. The murdered man is well-known for his interests in the affairs of non-Europeans and their social welfare.
Test yourself: Chapters 8-11		
Chapters 12: The police hunt for Absalom		
12	Different places; Johannesburg	The first part of the chapter is the reaction of the white people to the murder, developing the theme of fear. The second part is the continuation of the search for Absalom.
Test yourself: Chapter 12		
13	Ezenzeleni	Kumalo goes to Ezenzeleni with Msimangu, where he witnesses that not all white people are racists. He is touched by the sermon of Msimangu.
Test yourself: Chapter 13		
Chapters 14-17: Absalom's arrest and confession		
14	Sophiatown, Mrs Lithebe's home	Msimangu and the young white man informs Kumalo that Absalom has been arrested with his accomplices one of whom is John's son and that Absalom has confessed to the killing.
	Johannesburg – the prison	Kumalo and John visit their children in prison. Absalom confesses to the murder and agrees to marry his pregnant girlfriend in prison. John Kumalo is adamant to find a lawyer to protect only his son.
15	Mrs Lithebe's home and the Mission House in Sophiatown	The young white man apologises and tells Kumalo that Absalom will need a lawyer of his own. Father Vincent promises to marry Absalom and the girl and says he knows a lawyer that might help. Father Vincent encourages Kumalo to pray.
16	Primville – the house of Absalom's girlfriend.	He visits his would-be daughter-in law to inform her about Absalom's circumstances and to arrange their marriage, to which she consents. The girl reveals the truth about her dysfunctional family in Alexandra and agrees to move to Ndotsheni.

Chapter	Place	What happens
17	Mrs Lithebe's home	Mrs Lithebe has opened her home for Gertrude and her son and is willing to accommodate the pregnant girl as well.
	The prison	Kumalo visits Absalom again and comforts him.
	The Mission House	Mr Carmichael is the lawyer that will defend Absalom, pro deo (without payment).
<b>Test yourself: Chapters 14-17</b>		
Book Two		
<b>Chapters 1 to 4 The start of the journey of James Jarvis</b>		
1	James Jarvis's farm, High Place, above Ndotsheni	James Jarvis is informed by the police of the murder of his son, Arthur in Johannesburg; and arrangements are made for him to travel to Johannesburg.
2	Johannesburg – the home of the Harrisons	John Harrison meets the Jarvis family at the airport. Mr. and Mrs Jarvis stay with his daughter-in-law in Johannesburg while attending to his murdered son's affairs. Jarvis learns about his son's liberal ideas especially when it came to the issues of black people.
3	Johannesburg – Arthur's home and the Harrison home.	Jarvis visits his son's house and finds interesting information about his son that he did not know. He reads the papers his son had written.
4	The Harrison home	The funeral is held and Harrison and Jarvis talk about the natives. He reads the article Arthur was busy writing, when he was shot.
<b>Test yourself: Chapters 1–4</b>		
<b>Chapter 5: The trial of Absalom begins.</b>		
5	Johannesburg – the court	The court case for the murder of Arthur Jarvis is about to take place. The three accused boys plead not guilty. Through cross-examination in court, Absalom eventually testifies that he was the one who pulled the trigger of the gun that killed Arthur Jarvis. When the court adjourns, Rev. Kumalo recognizes Jarvis, his next-door farmer at Ndotsheni and realises Absalom killed Jarvis's son. He is afraid even to look at him.
<b>Test yourself: Chapter 5</b>		
<b>Chapters 6-7: The new discovery of gold and the views of Arthur Jarvis.</b>		
6	Johannesburg – Stock Exchange	The people are pre-occupied and excited about the discovery of gold and the shares at the Johannesburg Stock Exchange are rising.
7	Arthur Jarvis's home	Jarvis returns and reads an article written by his son in which he explains how he has come to realise that there are inequalities in South Africa between the different races and that he wants to make a difference. Jarvis experiences conflicting emotions after reading the article.
<b>Test yourself: Chapter 6-7</b>		
<b>Chapter 8: Kumalo and James Jarvis meet</b>		
8	Springs – the home of Barbara Smith	James and Margaret Jarvis visits Barbara Smith. Kumalo is looking for Sibeko's daughter and meets Jarvis. The Reverend reveals that it was his son who killed Mr. Arthur Jarvis. Mrs Smith explains that she dismissed Sibeko's daughter for brewing liquor and that she was arrested.
<b>Test yourself: Chapter 8</b>		
<b>Chapter 9-10: John Kumalo and Gertrude</b>		
9	Johannesburg – a public square	John Kumalo is inspiring a large crowd, by talking about the unfair distribution of wealth of the new gold mines. He chooses his words carefully to avoid provoking the crowd and inciting revolt.
10	Sophiatown – Mrs Lithebe's home	Mrs. Lithebe warns Gertrude about the company of people she should avoid. The newspaper reports on another murder of a European by a native. Misimangu and Mrs Lethebe do not share this information with Kumalo. Gertrude expresses her wish to become a nun.
<b>Test yourself: Chapters 9-10</b>		

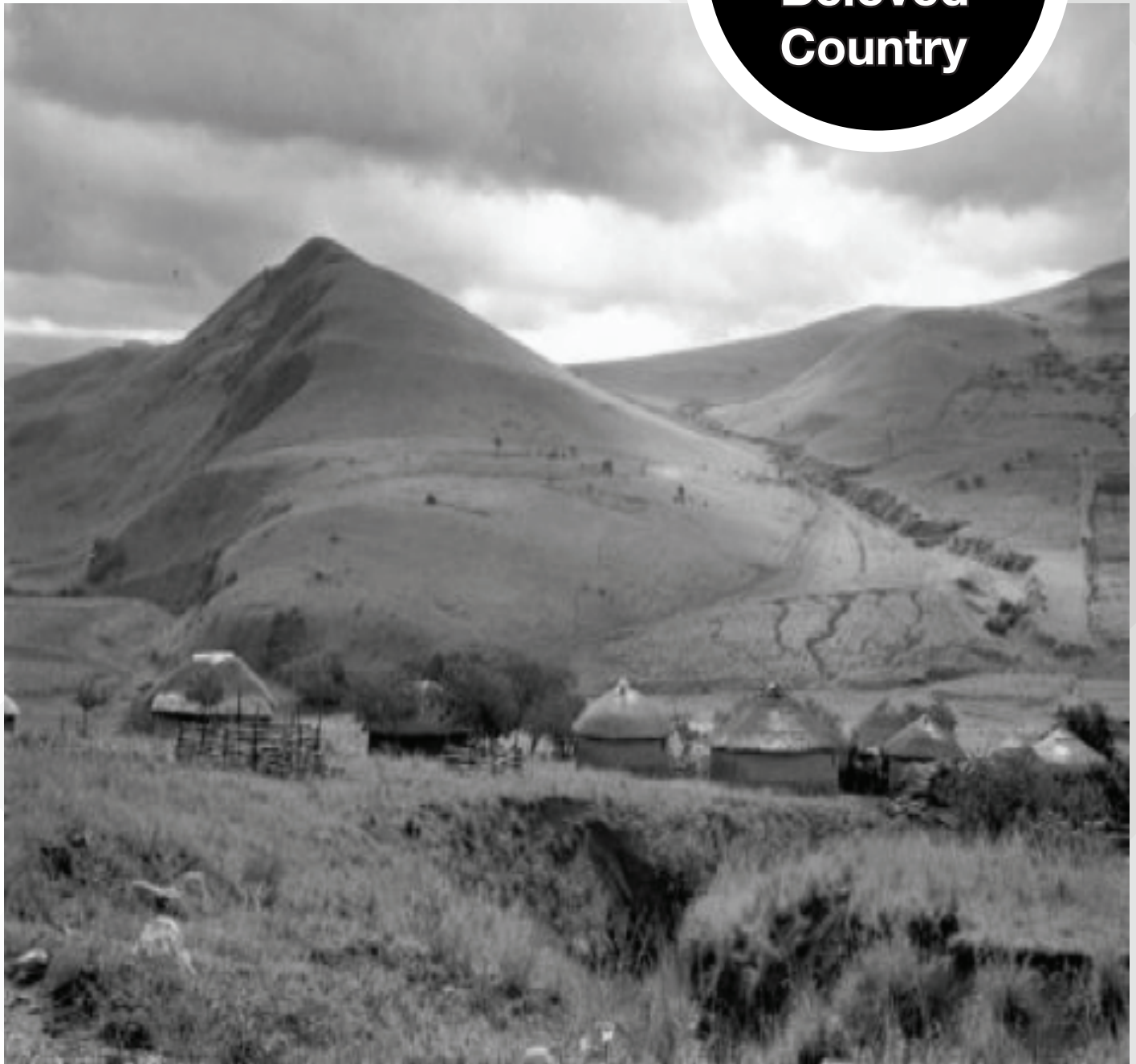


Chapter	Place	What happens
<b>Chapters 11 to 12 The end of the trial; Absalom's marriage; James Jarvis leaves; Kumalo prepares to go back home.</b>		
11	Johannesburg – the court	Judgment day for Absalom has come. Absalom is found guilty and Mathew Kumalo and Johannes Pafuri are discharged. Absalom is given a hanging sentence.
12	Johannesburg – the prison	Father Vincent comes to unite Absalom and the girl in marriage in the prison. Absalom gives money for his unborn baby. With great difficulty and grief, Reverend Kumalo leaves Absalom behind. Absalom tries to hold on and cling to his father.
	Sophiatown – John Kumalo's shop	Reverend Kumalo also warns John about his political activism. John throws him out of his shop.
	The Harrison Home	James Jarvis gives Jon Harrison a generous cheque for the club, requesting it to be named the "Arthur Jarvis Club."
	Sophiatown – Mrs Lithebe's home	Msimangu announces at the farewell dinner that he is forsaking the world and gives all his money to Kumalo, as he is going to a religious retreat. The next morning as they prepare to leave, they find Gertrude is missing.
<b>Test yourself: Chapters 11-12</b>		
<b>Book Three</b>		
Chapters 1-2: The journey to Ndotsheni and the visits to the chief and headmaster; the meeting of Jarvis's son.		
1	Train journey to Ndotsheni	Rev. Kumalo, Absalom's wife and Gertrude's son are in a train on their way back to Ndotsheni. Prayers are conducted at the thanksgiving service. After the villagers have left Rev. Kumalo tells his wife of Absalom's imminent hanging.
2	Ndotsheni	Kumalo goes to see the chief and the headmaster to help with the restoring of the land. Both visits are unsatisfactory. Arthur's son visits Kumalo and their conversation leads to Jarvis sending milk for the preschool children in Ndotsheni. We learn that there is a serious drought.
<b>Test yourself: Chapters 1-2</b>		
<b>Chapter 3: No mercy for Absalom</b>		
3	Ndotsheni	Letters from Johannesburg come and one of the letters is from Absalom in Pretoria, telling his parents that the court has ruled that there would be no mercy for him, he must hang.
	Ndotsheni – St Mark's Church	When the storm comes Jarvis and Kumalo take shelter in the church. They talk about the outcome of the plea of mercy for Absalom. The drought is broken.
<b>Test yourself: Chapter 3</b>		
<b>Chapters 4-6: Jarvis works to restore the land; the visit of the Bishop and the rebuilding of the church.</b>		
4	Ndotsheni	Jarvis leaves for Pretoria. Jarvis's son comes to Kumalo to teach him isiZulu. Letsisi, the new agricultural demonstrator, arrives in Ndotsheni, to teach the people better farming techniques.
5	Ndotsheni	Mr. James Jarvis' wife dies. Rev. Kumalo sends a message of sympathy to Mr. Jarvis.
	Ndotsheni – St Mark's Church	The Bishop tells Kumalo that he should be moved to Pietermaritzburg on account of the recent event. He expresses concern that Kumalo would not be strong enough to see through the restoration of the church. A letter from Jarvis arrives informing Kumalo that Mary Jarvis bequeathed money for a new church to be built in Ndotsheni. Kumalo sees this as divine intervention because the Bishop realizes that Kumalo should stay with his community.
6	Ndotsheni	Infrastructural development goes on in Ndotsheni. Kumalo talks of his gratitude to Jarvis.
<b>Test yourself: Chapter 4-6</b>		
Chapter 7: Kumalo's vigil for Absalom		
7	In the mountains (14th)	Kumalo goes to pray for Absalom in the mountain. Jarvis informs him that he is going to live in Johannesburg.
	In the mountains (15th)	Kumalo finds his place of meditation where he prays and sleeps. The new dawn breaks. The book ends with a prayer for South Africa.

# Book 1 Chapters 1-2

- The Reverend Stephen Kumalo
- Ixopo Carisbrooke
- The letter

**Cry,  
the  
Beloved  
Country**



# 1. Structure and plot development

## Exposition

The main characters and setting for the novel are introduced:

- The Kumalo family (its history)
- Some of the main characters in the story, for example, Stephen Kumalo, Gertrude,

### John and Absalom.

- The village of Ndotsheni and the people who live in it and in the district surrounding it.
- The plot develops as Reverend Kumalo receives a letter from Reverend Msimangu asking him to come to Johannesburg as his sister, Gertrude is sick.
- The reverend is worried about his son Absalom who went to Johannesburg to look for his aunt but had never returned and his brother John.

# 2. Themes

## Inequality

- A stark contrast is drawn between Natal's lush hills and its barren valley. This contrast in the landscape affects the inhabitants' lives. The different qualities of these two areas reflect the differing abilities of these areas to sustain its people. On the one hand the grass of the hills is pleasing to bare feet, it traps moisture and ensures that the soil will remain rich while on the opposite side, the coarse, ravaged land of the valley settlements is not only ugly, but cannot support human life.
- The sharp differences in the landscape emphasise the unfairness of an unequal society. White farms are located at the tops of the hills, where the land is green and fruitful. Black South Africans, however, are forced to tend their settlements at the bottom of the hills, in the infertile land of the valley. Overcrowding leads to overgrazing and over-farming which results in the earth becoming barren and unproductive.

### 3. Tone

The description of the contrast/difference of Carisbrooke and Ndotsheni helps the reader to imagine the setting of the novel. The tone is sad and critical: Reverend Kumalo complains about the migration of his family to Johannesburg and the destruction of family values. These changes are sad and unfortunate. “The men are away, the young men and the girls are away. The soil cannot keep them anymore”

### 4. Chapter by chapter

#### 4.1 What happens in Chapter and who is involved

- The novel begins with a description of the valley of Ixopo where Ndotsheni and Carisbrooke lie.
- The soil is valuable and has great importance, which is seen as symbolic to the power elements of white and black people.
- Geographically, the whites live above the blacks on the best land which is fertile; the blacks live below on the barren and dry land.
- This misty vantage point looks out over one of the fairest valleys of Africa, where the native birds like the titihoya sing and the grass is dense and green.
- The green grass of the hills is rich and full of moisture. Although cattle graze here, their feeding has not affected the land, and the few fires that burn have not destroyed the soil.
- However, down below in Ndotsheni the hills are drying out from overgrazing and overpopulation. The elderly and mothers scrape at the dirt for food and nourishment.
- The men and the young people have left this valley behind to find food and a better life in the city.

# Activity 1

## 1. Read the extract and then answer the questions below.

Where you stand the grass is rich and matted, you cannot see the soil. But the rich green hills break down. They fall to the valley below, and falling, change their nature. For they grow red and bare; they cannot hold the rain and mist, and the streams are dry in the kloofs. Too many cattle feed upon the grass, and too many fires have burned it. Stand shod upon it, for it is coarse and sharp, and the stones cut under the feet. It is not kept, or guarded, or cared for, it no longer keeps men, guards men, cares for men. The titihoya does not cry here any more.

The great red hills stand desolate, and the earth has torn away like flesh. The lightning flashes over them, the clouds pour down upon them, the dead streams come to life, full of the red blood of the earth. Down in the valleys women scratch the soil that is left, and the maize hardly reaches the height of a man. They are valleys of old men and old women, of mothers and children. The men are away, the young men and the girls are away. The soil cannot keep them anymore.

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20

1. Choose a description of a place from COLUMN B that matches the name in COLUMN A. Write only the letter (A–E) next to the question numbers (1.1.1(a) to 1.1.1(d)) in the ANSWER BOOK.

COLUMN A	COLUMN B
(a) Parkwold	A. Mrs. Lithebe's home and the Mission House.
(b) Ndotsheni	B. Arthur and Harrison's homes.
(c) Sophiatown	C. The Kumalo's homestead
(d) The mountain	D. Kumalo prayed for Absalom.
	E. Absalom is executed

- Refer to line 1–2 “Where you stand... hills break down.”  
Describe how the character of the landscape changes in this extract. (4)
- Explain how the theme of inequality is explored in this extract. (3)

[9]

## Answers to Activity 1

1. (a) B ✓  
(b) C ✓  
(c) A ✓  
(d) D ✓ (4)
2. The top land is rich and fertile ✓ but as you go downhill the character of the soil is barren and unable to produce food for the community. ✓ (2)
3. Write a text-based response which shows an understanding of the theme of inequality as explored in this extract.
  - The white people are placed where they can enjoy abundance while black people's land is infertile.
  - The drought and poor farming methods in the rural areas make life difficult. As a result younger members of the community are pushed into the city in search of a better life.
  - Family life of black people is fragmented/ destroyed and mothers and old people tend the land for sustenance. (3)

**NOTE:** For full marks, the response must be well-substantiated.

A candidate can score 1 or 2 marks for a response which is not well-substantiated.

[9]

## 4.2 What happens in Chapter 2 and who is involved

- The Reverend Stephen Kumalo sits in his house writing.
- A young girl brings a letter, Kumalo sends the girl to the kitchen for some food.
- Kumalo wonders who may have sent the letter. He is reluctant to open the letter. It is from Johannesburg, where three of his close relatives have gone, never to be heard from again.
- Kumalo's brother, John, lives in Johannesburg, as does their sister Gertrude, who is twenty-five years younger than Kumalo, and Kumalo's son, Absalom, who went to the city in search of Gertrude and has never returned.
- Kumalo is hesitant to open the letter, he calls to his wife, who confirms that the letter is not from their son. Kumalo's wife encourages him to open the letter, and she herself finally does so.
- The letter is from Reverend Theophilus Msimangu in Johannesburg, who reports that Gertrude is ill and who asks that Kumalo come to the Sophiatown section of Johannesburg.
- Kumalo's wife asks what Kumalo wants to do, and he unwillingly tells her to bring him the money they have saved for Absalom's education at St. Chad's, the local school.
- Kumalo's determination weakens when he holds the money in his hand. Mrs Kumalo tells her husband that it is pointless to keep or save the money - Absalom has gone to Johannesburg, and those who go there do not return.
- Kumalo gets angry that his wife thinks that their son will never come back.
- He realizes that he has hurt his wife's feelings and decides to face the truth about the possibility that Absalom may not come back home.
- They decide to use their other savings and the college money to travel to Johannesburg.
- Kumalo apologizes to his wife for his unkindness, then goes off to his church to pray for guidance and forgiveness.
- His wife watches him through the window with a tiredness born from years of suffering.



# Activity 2

Read the extract below and answer the questions.

How can you say that? He said sharply. How can you say such a thing?  
 – He is in Johannesburg, she said wearily. When people go Johannesburg, they do not come back.  
 – You have said it, he said. It is said now. This money which was saved for that purpose will never be used for it. You have opened a door, and because you have opened it, we must go through. And \*Tixo alone knows where we shall go.  
 – It was not I who opened it, she said, hurt by his accusation. It has a long time been open, but you would not see.  
 – We had a son, he said harshly. Zulus have many children, but we had only one son. He went to Johannesburg, and as you said – when people go to Johannesburg, they do not come back. They do not even write any more. They do not go to St. Chad's, to learn that knowledge without which no black man can live. They go to Johannesburg, and there they are lost, and no one hears of them at all. And this money ...  
 – But she had no words for it, so he said. It is here in my hand.

Book 1 Chapter 2

1. Explain how Absalom disappointed the Kumalos in this extract. (2)
2. Refer to lines 1-2 (“How can you ... such a thing?”)
  - (a) Write down ONE word which best describes Mr Kumalo’s tone of voice in these lines. (1)
  - (b) Explain why Mr. Kumalo’s tone is appropriate in these lines? (1)
3. Refer to lines 9-10. What does the way in which Mrs. Kumalo responds to Mr. Kumalo suggest about her character? (2)

## Answers to Activity 2

1. The Kumalo’s wanted Absalom to further his education/attend high school ✓ but he went to look for his aunt in Johannesburg and never came back. ✓ (2)

**NOTE:** State what Absalom did wrong and the reason to get the marks.

2. (a) Anger/disappointment/ hurt ✓ (1)

**NOTE:** Write only ONE word. If more than one word is written, only the first word will be marked.

- (b) He is extremely sad because he still has hope that his son/family members will someday return/He expresses his anger and disappointment that his wife has given up hope that his son/family members who have gone to Johannesburg will return. ✓✓ (2)

3. Mrs Kumalo is realistic. ✓ (1)

**NOTE:** Refer to the character trait list.

[6]



# Book 1 Chapters 3-5

**Cry,  
the  
Beloved  
Country**



**Source:** <https://sites.google.com/site/soulorailway/home/system-7-1/system-7-part-2-johannesburg-between-the-home-signals-2-by-les-pivnic>

# 1. Structure and plot development

## Rising Action

Stephen Kumalo travels to Johannesburg to see his ill sister. He is afraid of the big city and all its traffic and the many buses that can take him to get lost. Kumalo travels to Johannesburg. He goes to the Mission House in Sophiatown where he meets Msimangu and Father Vincent. Reverend Msimangu called Kumalo to come help Gertrude who is not physical ill. She is a prostitute and also runs a shebeen. Msimangu has arranged accommodation for him at Mrs. Lithebe's home.



Source: <https://www.gauteng.net/attractions/sophiatown>

## 2. Themes

### Urbanization and the Destruction of Traditional Culture AND Racial Oppression

- The government has forced black people into areas that are too small to support them. A lot of people moved to urban areas.
- John, Gertrude and Absalom have all left Ndotsheni and moved to Johannesburg.
- Kumalo and his wife are feeling the pain of urbanisation.
- Johannesburg is revealed through Kumalo's eyes when he arrives. Kumalo is overwhelmed by the mines and the city.
- Urban culture is different to rural culture, it takes time for people from the rural areas to adjust to this new culture.

### Journey –two fold (literal and figurative)

#### Literal Journey – Physical

- Kumalo's journey starts when he decides to observe Reverend Msimangu's call for him to come to Johannesburg.
- He is exposed for the first time to the big city and to the mine
- He is robbed within minutes of arriving in the city.

#### Figurative Journey –Spiritual

- Kumalo gets to experience, learn and understand new things about life and about himself.
- He sees that there are many different ways to live.

#### The Role of the Church

- Msimangu writes to Kumalo, asking him to come to Johannesburg, even though he doesn't know him.
- Msimangu cares about Gertrude and wants Kumalo to help her.
- He is doing this in his role as a priest. He is looking after people in his community in Sophiatown.
- Msimangu is selfless when he helps Stephen Kumalo e.g. he offers Stephen a room to stay in.

## 3. Tone

Stephen Kumalo is anxious to find Gertrude, John and Absalom. He is fearful, as it is his first time in Johannesburg. He is scared and overwhelmed by the big buildings and the number of people.

## 2. Chapter by chapter

### 2.1 What happens in Chapter 3 and who is involved?

- The author describes the valley and Carisbrooke. The rich area is again compared to the poverty of the people and the state of the land.
- Kumalo is afraid of what is awaiting him in Johannesburg. He is afraid that he will get lost. The reader realizes that Kumalo is afraid of change. He is used to the simple life in the rural area of Ndotsheni.
- Alan Paton shows us the problem of urbanization is not troubling the Kumalos. This is emphasized when a friend asks Kumalo to help find Sibeko's daughter in Springs. She left Ndotsheni to find work, but hasn't returned. Family structures have eroded.
- Kumalo tries to hide his fear to go to Johannesburg by acting as if he is a regular visitor there. His fellow passengers in the train believe him.
- He finds strength and comfort in his Bible.
- He is thrown into the deep end to experience Johannesburg's way of life. Nothing prepares him for what he is about to experience.
- There is a fear factor that symbolizes his journey.

## Activity 1



### 2. Read the extract and then answer the questions below

The train whistled and jerked. Kumalo was thrown nearly off his feet. It would be safer, more dignified to take his seat.

— Stay well, my friend. — Go well, umfundisi.

He went to his seat, and people looked at him with interest and respect, as the man who went so often to Johannesburg.

The train gathered way, to creep along the ridges of the hills, to hang over steep valleys, to pass the bracken and the flowers, to enter the darkness of the wattle plantations, past Stainton, down into Ixopo.

The journey had begun. And now the fear back again, the fear of the unknown, the fear of the great city where boys were killed crossing the street, the fear of Gertrude's sickness.

Deep down the fear for his son. Deep down the fear of a man who lives in a world not made for him, whose own world is slipping away, dying, being destroyed, beyond any recall.

Already the knees are weak of the man who a moment since had shown his little vanity, told his little lie, before these respectful people.

The humble man reached in his pocket for his sacred book, and began to read. It was this world alone that was certain.



1. Explain who the person referred to as 'my friend' in line 3. (2)
2. Refer to line 4-5 'He went to.... often to Johannesburg.'  
 (a) Explain the reason for people thinking that Kumalo often goes to Johannesburg. (2)  
 (b) Quote THREE consecutive words that shows that Kumalo enjoys the respect that the fellow commuters give him. (1)
3. Refer to the line: "The journey had begun.'  
 Identify and explain Kumalo's state of mind in these lines. (2)
4. Using your OWN words, explain what is meant by 'It was this world alone that was certain' (line 20). (2)

[9]

## Answers to Activity 1

1. A friend who goes to church with Kumalo ✓ came to ask that the reverend should look for Sibeko's daughter in Johannesburg. ✓ (2)
2. (a) He created the impression that he knows Johannesburg well. ✓✓  
 "his little vanity" ✓ (1)
3. He was afraid of the big city. ✓ Kumalo was also worried about the well-being of his son and sister. ✓ (1)
4. The Bible and Stephen Kumalo's faith in God are the only things that provide him with certainty. ✓ Kumalo relies on his faith to pull him through in difficult times. ✓ (2)

[8]



### What happens in Chapter 4 and who is involved

- The train to Johannesburg travels a full day and night.
- Kumalo is filled with wonder at the scenic greenery of rural Natal.
- The train arrives in Johannesburg at dawn. There is a definite change in scenery.
- Kumalo passes through unfamiliar places, with foreign landscapes and signs written in Afrikaans, which he does not speak.
- The great mines of South Africa come into view, and Kumalo's fellow travelers, many of whom are miners, explain how the gold is mined.
- They point out the great pulley that hoists the broken rocks, and Kumalo is overwhelmed by the modern surroundings.

His fellow passengers laugh and tell him of buildings in Johannesburg that are so tall they can barely describe them.

- The train arrives in Johannesburg, where Kumalo moves carefully through the crowds in the station. Outside the station, the rush of traffic terrifies Kumalo, unable to read the traffic lights. Speaking in a language Kumalo does not understand, a young man appears and offers to help Kumalo find his way to Sophiatown.

The young man leads Kumalo to the bus station, where he tells Kumalo to wait in line for the buses while the young man buys him a ticket. Kumalo gives the young man a pound from his precious savings.

- He begins to suspect that something is wrong, however, as soon as the young man turns the corner. An elderly man, Mr Mafalo, helps the stranded Kumalo safely to Msimangu's Mission House in Sophiatown. There the young Reverend Msimangu opens the door. Mr. Mafalo takes his leave as Kumalo, safe at last, enjoys a cigarette and reflects on the days to come.

## VOCAB

**consecutive** = following each other continuously



## Activity 4

Test yourself by answering the questions below.

(2)

1. Explain how Reverend Kumalo was welcomed in Johannesburg.

(2)

How had Kumalo got to trust Mr Mafolo soon after his ordeal with the young man?

[4]

## Answers to Activity 4

1. Reverend Kumalo was tricked of his pounds ✓ by a young man who pretended to help him. ✓

(2)

2. Mr Mafolo seemed to be a decent man, as he explained that the ticket is bought on the bus and not at the ticket office. ✓

(2)

Mr Mafolo says he is Anglican, which suggests that he is a man of the church. ✓

[4]

## 4.3 What happens in Chapter 5 and who is involved?



- Msimangu finds accommodation for Reverend Kumalo at the house of one of his churchgoers, Mrs. Lithebe.
- A group of Anglican priests welcome Kumalo and have a meal together.
- Msimangu tells Kumalo that Gertrude is not physically sick.
- Gertrude is spiritually sick. She is both a prostitute and a shebeen queen.
- Gertrude's shebeen was not safe as someone got killed there one night and she was arrested on numerous occasions.
- Gertrude is staying with her little son in a place that is not good for a child.
- Kumalo asks for Msimangu's help in finding his own son, Absalom.
- Msimangu tells Kumalo that his brother John is no longer religious but a big politician.
- Kumalo is feeling depressed at all of this terrible news.
- Kumalo meets Mrs. Lithebe, his new landlord.

## Activity 5

Test yourself by answering the questions below.

1. Describe the kind of help that Kumalo can offer to his sister Gertrude. (3)
  2. Explain why Gertrude is not ready to go back to Ndotsheni. (3)
  3. Say whether you agree with the statement below. Give reasons for your answer. Msimangu maintains the problem with their society is money. (2)
- [8]**

## Answers to Activity 5

1. Reverend Kumalo must take her sister back home. ✓ If Gertrude does not agree then he must take his nephew. ✓ Kumalo must clean up his sister. ✓ (3)
  2. Gertrude feels she is too much of a sinner ✓ and has let her family down. ✓ She is too ashamed of herself. ✓ (3)
  3. No, according to Msimangu, the big problem behind all of this is that white culture has destroyed traditional African customs and family structures. ✓✓ (2)
- [8]**







# Book 1 Chapters 6-7

Siblings reunion- Gertrude and John Kumalo

## 1. Structure and plot development

A very important new part of the story is introduced in these chapters. The Kumalo's siblings meet again for a long time. Stephen confronts Gertrude about her prostitution and the selling of liquor. She repents and agrees to move away from her sinful life. Reverend Kumalo finds her accommodation at Mrs. Lithebe's home. John is a powerful politician. He lives with a woman that he is not married to. He tells Stephen that both their sons, Matthew and Absalom are staying in Alexander and are working at a factory in Doornfontein.

## 2. Themes

### The destruction of the Tribe

When the land is sick and barren, its people are left without food and hope. Gertrude and Absalom Kumalo and other young people are forced to leave their villages for Johannesburg. The city brings suffering, death and corruption. People die from reckless driving, shot during crimes or die slowly of disease and poverty. Men like John use power and money to bring harm to others. John has turned away from his family, the place he was born, and his faith.

## 3. Tone

The tone of **anger** and **desperation**. There is a lot of anger and frustration amongst the city dwellers which results in crime.

## 4. Chapter by chapter

Chapters 6 to 7 give readers a lot of information about the Gertrude and John Kumalo. It is difficult to get hold of Absalom.

### What happens in Chapter 6 and who is involved

- Msimangu and Kumalo visit Gertrude's place in Claremont.
- Crime in this area is very high.
- Gertrude is shocked to see her bother, Stephen Kumalo.
- Kumalo scolds Gertrude for being a prostitute and selling alcohol.
- Gertrude asks for forgiveness by throwing herself on the floor and crying loudly.
- Kumalo tell Gertrude that he is there to take her and her child away.
- Kumalo wants to know if Gertrude knows the where Absalom is.
- Gertrude thinks their nephew, Matthew will know where Absalom is.
- Gertrude and her son join Kumalo at Mrs. Lithebe's house.

**What happens in Chapter 7 and who is involved?**

- Kumalo buys clean clothes for Gertrude and her child.
- Msimangu takes Kumalo to his brother John.
- John welcomes Stephen with a big smile, but he does not answer Kumalo's questions truthfully.
- His first wife, Esther, left John ten years before. He now lives with a new woman, even though they are not officially married.
- John lives happily in Johannesburg without the moral judgement of the people back home in Ndotsheni.
- Kumalo asks John if he knows where Absalom is.
- John gives Kumalo the address of a fabric factory where he thinks that Absalom and John's own son, Matthew are both working.
- Kumalo and Msimangu could not find Absalom, he hasn't worked there in a year.
- Kumalo and Msimangu plan to visit Mrs. Mkize's house the next day.

## Vocab

**Scold** = to criticise someone angrily.



# Activity 6

Read the extract and then answer the below.

There was a change in his voice, it became louder like the voice of a bull or a lion. Go to our hospital, he said, and see our people lying on the floors. They lie so close you cannot step over them. But it is they who dig the gold. For three shillings a day. We come from the Transkei, and from Basutoland, and from Bechuanaland, and from Swaziland, and from Zululand. And from Ndotsheni also. We live in the compounds, we must leave our wives and families behind. And when the new gold is found, it is not we who will get more for our labour. It is the white man's shares that will rise, you will read it in all the papers. They go mad when new gold is found. They bring more of us to live in the compounds, to dig under the ground for three shillings a day. They do not think, here is a chance to pay more for our labour. They think only, here is a chance to build a bigger house and buy a bigger car. It is important to find gold, they say, for all South Africa is built on the mines.

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1. Refer to lines 1-2 "There was a... or a lion"
  - (a) Identify the speaker in this extract. (1)
  - (b) Identify the figure of speech used in the above lines. (1)
  - (c) Explain why this figure of speech is suitable. (2)
2. One of the themes in the novel, Cry, the Beloved Country, is Christianity versus Injustice. Discuss this theme. (3)
3. Refer to the extract as a whole.
  - (a) What tone of voice does Kumalo use in these lines? (1)
  - (b) Explain why this tone is appropriate. (1)
4. John Kumalo and Stephen Kumalo have different views on family values. How are their views different? (4)

**[13]**

## ANSWERS TO ACTIVITY 6

1.
  - (a) John Kumalo ✓ (1)
  - (b) Simile ✓ (1)
  - (c) He wants to be more persuasive and commanding and fierce like a charging /angry bull or a lion. ✓ This shows how emotional he is. ✓ (2)
  
2.
  - John Kumalo reminds his brother that black priests are paid less than white ones, and argues that the church works against social change by making its members believe that to be poor is a good thing/ suffering is Christ-like.
  - He gives an example of a bishop who condemns injustice while living in the luxury that such injustice provides.
  - At the same time he calls the policies of the mines un-Christian. Blacks work in the mines to get gold and riches for the white mine owners, yet they live a life of poverty.
 (3)
  
3.
  - (a) Angry/bitter ✓ (1)
  - (b) John shows emotion /He is deeply affected by the injustices. He wants to justify why he didn't go back to Ndotsheni. ✓ (1)
  
4.
 

John Kumalo is no longer with his wife. He stays with someone he is not married to. ✓

He abandoned his family and embraced Johannesburg as his new home. ✓ While on the other hand Stephen Kumalo is devoted to family. ✓ He immediately travels to Johannesburg when he is called that Gertrude is ill. He also takes time to look for John and Absalom. He helps Gertrude and her child from a place of poverty. ✓



(4)

[13]

# Book 1 Chapters 8 -11

- Johannesburg –The search for Absalom continues

**Cry,  
the  
Beloved  
Country**



**Source:** <https://za.pinterest.com/jdefroe/cry-the-beloved-country/>

# 1. Structure and plot development

The search for Absalom continues to Alexandra at Mrs. Mkize's, with whom Absalom used to stay. Mrs. Mkize tells them that Absalom has left and she tells them to talk to Hlabeni, the taxi-driver. Hlabeni informs them that Absalom moved to Shanty Town in Orlando and they hire him to take them there. The search leads them to the reformatory where they learn that he was released so that he could care for his pregnant girlfriend and future child. They visit the girlfriend in Pimville, and learn that he left three days before. She does not know if he will return. Msimangu is angry and mean to her, and tells Kumalo they should abandon the search. Later he apologises to Kumalo for losing his temper.

Msimangu and Kumalo go back to the Mission House and learn that Arthur Jarvis has been shot dead by burglars. Kumalo realises that Arthur is the son of James Jarvis, who lives in Carisbrooke. He is afraid that Absalom had something to do with the murder.

# 2. Themes

## The Role of the Church

- Msimangu, a priest, is Kumalo's guide in Johannesburg. He shows him kindness.
- John hates the Church. He feels that it is hypocritical because it agrees with racial oppression.

## Journey

- Kumalo searches for Absalom. He travels to Shanty Town, the reformatory and Pimville.
- He learns more about how difficult life is for people living here.
- He comes face to face with the harsh effects of urbanization.
- He is seriously worried about Absalom.



# 3. Tone

The tone is anxious and tense in these chapters. Kumalo is anxious about the well-being and safety of Absalom.

## 4. Chapter by chapter

### 4.1 What happens in Chapter 8 and who is involved?

- Msimangu and Kumalo are on their way to Alexander. They find out that there is a bus boycott against the high bus fares..
- The two men agree to walk in solidarity with the boycotters.
- A white man stops and gives them a lift to where they are going.
- Msimangu is surprised at how kind this white man is. Msimangu and Kumalo arrive at Mrs. Mkize's home. A visibly shaken Mrs. Mkize swears that it's been a year since she has seen either Matthew or Absalom. Mrs. Mkize tells Msimangu about Matthew or Absalom's criminal activities.
- Ms. Mkize leads them to the taxi driver, Hlabeni.
- Hlabeni tells Msimangu that Absalom has been staying in a nearby shanty town.
- Hlabeni takes Msimangu and Kumalo to Shanty Town.

### 4.2 What happens in Chapter 9 and who is involved

- A lot of people in the city are forced to rent out rooms to strangers because they need the extra money.
- These rooms cannot meet the demand, since there is a huge number of people coming into the city from rural areas looking for work.
- A lot of people build illegal structures to live in. These structures are mainly built with corrugated iron /tin houses. The place is called a shantytown. People live in very poor conditions.
- A child dies, as a doctor is brought in too late.

### 4.3 What happens in Chapter 10 and who is involved?

- Kumalo enjoys spending time with his little nephew, Gertrude's child.
- Msimangu and Kumalo searches Shanty Town, to find Absalom.
- Absalom used to live there, but he got into criminal activities and was sentenced to a reformatory.
- Absalom Kumalo, was released earlier from the reformatory because of his good behavior and because his girlfriend was pregnant.
- The young man at the reformatory takes them to Absalom's girlfriend.
- The girlfriend tells them that Absalom went to Springs on Sunday and hasn't been back in three days.
- The girl doesn't expect him to return.
- Absalom hasn't shown up at work in a week.

### 4.4 What happens in Chapter 11 and who is involved?

- Msimangu has to hold a service to the blind at a nearby Mission House.
- That night at the Mission House, Kumalo hears the news that a well-known and respected white engineer, Arthur Jarvis, has been shot in his home.
- Three black men broke into Jarvis's house and attacked and injured the servant.
- The police are hoping that when the servant regains consciousness, he may be able to give evidence about the identity of the murderers.
- Jarvis surprised the burglars when he came to investigate the noise that was made by them.
- Jarvis was working on a manuscript called "The Truth about Native Crime," the night he was killed.
- Kumalo is worried that Absalom could be involved in the murder of Arthur Jarvis.



# Activity 7

Read the extract and then answer the questions below.

Yet even this pleasure was not to be entire, for one of the white priests came in from the city with the Evening Star, and showed them the bold black lines. MURDER IN PARKWOLD. WELL KNOWN CITY ENGINEER SHOT DEAD.

ASSAILANTS

THOUGHT TO BE NATIVES. — This is a terrible loss for South Africa, said the white priest. For this Arthur Jarvis was a courageous young man, and a great fighter for justice. And it is a terrible loss for the Church too. He was one of the finest of all our young laymen.

— Jarvis? It is indeed a terrible thing, said Msimangu.

He was the President of the African Boys' Club, here in Claremont, in Gladiolus Street.

— Perhaps you might have known him, said Father Vincent to Kumalo.

It says that he was the only child of Mr. James Jarvis, of High Place, Carisbrooke.

— I know the father, said Kumalo sorrowfully. I mean I know him well by sight and name, but we have never spoken. His farm is in the hills above Ndotsheni, and he sometimes rode past our church. But I did not know the son.

He was silent, then he said, yet I remember, there was a small bright boy, and he too sometimes rode on his horse past the church. A small bright boy, I remember, though I do not remember it well.

And he was silent again, for who is not silent when someone is dead, who was a small bright boy? — Shall I read this? said Father Vincent:

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- Choose the correct answer to complete the following sentence.  
Write only the letter (A–D) next to the question number (1.) in the ANSWER BOOK.

The Evening Star is a name of a ...

- radio station
- newspaper
- railway station
- magazine

(1)

- Identify the weapon that killed Arthur Jarvis. (1)

- Using your OWN words, explain “ASSAILANTS THOUGHT TO BE NATIVES.” (lines 4-5). (1)

- Refer to lines 10 (‘— Jarvis? ... thing, said Msimangu ‘).

(a) What tone of voice would Msimangu use in this line? (1)

(b) Why would Msimangu's tone be appropriate in these lines? (1)

- What was ironic about Arthur Jarvis murder? (2)

- Comment on the repetition of the word ‘silent ‘ in line 21. (2)

[9]

## ANSWERS TO ACTIVITY 7

- 1 B / newspaper ✓ (1)
- 2 Gun ✓ (1)
- 3 The killers/murderers were black. ✓ (1)
- 4 (a) shock ✓ (1)  
(b) He was one of them/ He was a laymen in the church. ✓ (1)
5. The irony is that he fought for justice but was murdered by the very people he was fighting for. ✓✓

### OR

It is also ironic that the two fathers have known each other for long but never spoke. (2)  
They are going to have to speak because of this tragic event. ✓✓

**NOTE:** When answering a question on irony, show what was expected, BUT also what happened.  
Make sure to use the word BUT.

- 6 The repetition shows that he is physically silent but there is a lot going on in his mind. ✓ (2)  
He is worried that his son, Absalom could be involved. ✓

**[9]**



# Book 1 Chapter 12

- Johannesburg-the police hunt for Absalom

**Cry,  
the  
Beloved  
Country**



**Source:** <https://www.bbc.com/news/magazine-31379211>

# 1. Structure and plot development

## Rising Action

Different speakers are talking about how afraid they are of crime. It is noted with concern that the beauty of South Africa is destroyed by the scourge of violence. What is certain is crime affects both blacks and whites. While the debate is going on Msimangu discovers that the police are searching for Absalom.

# 2. Themes

## Racial Oppression and Fear

Chapter 12 is about the deep rooted racism in South Africa in the 1940s. Not all white people had the same views. Some were deeply racist, some were afraid and ignorant and some were not racist. We know that in 1948 the racist sections of white society won by voting in the National Party and starting Apartheid.

# 3. Tone

The tone is that of fear and anger. The white people cry about the brutal killing of their own, Jarvis. They are angry at the black people. They are fearful that they are not safe. The black people that are close to Absalom are worried and concerned for him.

# 4. Chapter by chapter

## 4.1 What happens in Chapter 12 and who is involved?

- Everyone has a different idea on how to fix what is wrong with South Africa.
- The following is suggested as solution to crime:
  - ✓ The need for more police.
  - ✓ The need for better education for black South Africans.
  - ✓ Stricter enforcement of the “pass laws”.
  - ✓ The need for separate places for the black South Africans to go.
- White South African’s power is under threat.
- Absalom’s former landlady Mrs. Ndlela comes to find Msimangu.
- The police are looking for Absalom at Mrs. Mkize’s house.
- Msimangu tells Kumalo that the police are looking for his son, Absalom.
- The pregnant girl hasn’t seen Absalom since Saturday.
- Msimangu leaves his address in case she has any news of Kumalo’s son.

# Activity 8

## Answer the question below.

1. There is a meeting of the community at Parkwold to discuss crime and the recent brutal killing of Arthur Jarvis.

Several resolutions and suggestions were tabled at the meeting. Identify ONE resolution and discuss.

## ANSWERS TO ACTIVITY 8

**Resolution:** South Africa should be cut into separate areas where white can live without black, and black without white, where black can farm their own land and mine their own minerals and administer their own laws.

### Possible example of discussion:

- This suggestion fails to deal with the root of the problem.
- Segregating the population only deepens the hatred and increases the crime.



# Book 1 Chapter 13

The interlude at Ezenzeleni

**Cry,  
the  
Beloved  
Country**



**Source:** <https://www.vukuzenzele.gov.za/kzn-society-blind-changing-lives>

# 1. Structure and plot development

## Rising Action

Stephen wonders about a number of issues that are bothering him. He realizes that Johannesburg has a very destructive power.

# 2. Themes

## Christian Faith

Kumalo as a Reverend experiences despair and conflict. Msimangu manages to restore Kumalo's faith through the sermon he delivers. Through their faith they are able to face the unsolvable, unfixable problems they go through.

# 3. Tone

At the beginning of the chapter the tone of despair / hopelessness is noted. Reverend Kumalo is at the crossroads of his life. He questions his role as a parent. His faith and hope is rejuvenated by Msimangu's sermon as well as the blind people's positive attitude to life.

# 4. Chapter by chapter



## 4.1 What happens in Chapter 13 and who is involved?

- Kumalo and Msimangu go over to the house for the blind at Ezenzeleni.
- Kumalo sits under a tree and thinks about Absalom and his future grandchild.
- He decides that it can't be possible that his son actually killed this white man, Arthur Jarvis, even though it's definitely starting to look that way.
- Kumalo thinks he and his wife can still rebuild their family back in Ndotsheni.
- Msimangu takes Kumalo to see the facility at Ezenzeleni.
- Blind people work there making baskets, which Kumalo finds impressive and empowering.
- Kumalo feels more positive after Msimangu delivers his message of hope and faith in God.



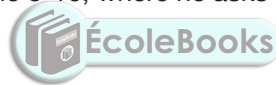
# Activity 9

His thoughts turned to the girl, and the unborn baby that would be his grandchild. Pity that he a priest should have a grandchild born in such a fashion. Yet that could be repaired. If they were married, then he could try to rebuild what has been broken. Perhaps his son and the girl would go back with him to Ndotsheni, perhaps he and his wife could give to the child what they have failed to give to their own. Yet where had he failed? What had they done, or left undone, that their son had become a thief, moving like vagabond from place to place, living with a girl who was herself no more than a child, father of a child who would have had no name? Yet, he comforted himself, that was Johannesburg.

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1. Who is the girl referred to in line 1? (1)
2. Why is the girl never given a name in the novel? (2)
3. Refer to line 3: "born in such a fashion."  
Write the meaning of the phrase in your own words. (1)
4. To what is Kumalo referring when he says "that could be repaired" (line 3-4)? (1)
5. Refer to the phrase "had become a thief ..." (line 9)  
Identify and explain the figure of speech in the phrase. (3)
6. Do you sympathise with Kumalo in line 8-10, where he asks "Yet where had ... or left undone."?  
Give a reason or your answer. (2)



[10]

## Answers to Activity 9

1. The girlfriend of Absalom. ✓ (1)
2. Christianity did not allow couples to have children out of wedlock ✓ and therefore she is not recognised as a daughter-in-law. ✓ (2)
3. To be born out of wedlock. ✓ (1)
4. Absalom and his girlfriend can still be married even if he is in prison. ✓ / To legitimize their union. (1)
5. Metaphor ✓  
Absalom is compared to a vagabond (a person without a home that wonders around). ✓  
When Kumalo was looking for him, he found that Absalom has been staying at many different places. ✓ (3)
6. **Open-ended**  
  
**Yes.**  
Kumalo feels responsible for his son, as he brought him up and taught him about the world. ✓✓  
  
**OR**  
  
**No.**  
Children make their own choices and the parents cannot be hold responsible for the actions of the children. ✓✓ (2)

(2)  
[10]

Cry,  
the  
Beloved  
Country

# Book 1

## Chapters 14-17

- Absalom's arrest
- Absalom's confession

## 1. Structure and plot development

### Climax – Book One

These chapters form the climax of book one. Absalom Kumalo and two co-accused have been arrested for the murder of the activist, Arthur Jarvis. One of the co-accused is the son of John Kumalo. The other accused is Absalom's cousin, Matthew. Stephen Kumalo is able to see Absalom for the first time in prison. He also meets Absalom's girlfriend who is pregnant with Absalom's child. The young man of the reformatory finds a pro-bono lawyer who is willing to represent Absalom at the trial.

## 2. Themes

### Reconciliation between fathers and sons

- Kumalo and Absalom are finally reunited when Absalom is arrested for the murder of Jarvis and is imprisoned. The meeting between them is awkward as if they are strangers to each other.

### Christian values, kindness and faith

- Kumalo prays to God that he should never be forsaken. God is the only one Kumalo can rely on as, even his own brother has betrayed him.
- Father Vincent is willing to help Kumalo with whatever he needs. In chapter 17 he finds a lawyer, Mr Carmichael, that will represent Absalom at the trial, without payment.

### Freedom and entrapment

Absalom is physically locked up in the prison and it looks like he will ever be free again.

### 3. Tone

The tone is serious and depressing. There is a lot of tension in these chapters. It begins when Absalom is arrested and Stephen Kumalo has to inform his brother that his own son is also involved in the murder. The meeting between father and son is not joyful, but tense. There are moments where the tone changes from despair to hope, for example when a lawyer is found for Absalom.

### 4. Chapter by chapter

Chapters 14 to 17 give readers a lot of information about the relationship between Absalom and Kumalo: about their relationship and how the murder will bring them together.

#### 4.1 What happens in chapter 14 and who is involved?

- Msimangu and the young white man confirm what Kumalo was afraid of: that Absalom murdered the white engineer Arthur Jarvis.
- According to him, there were three guys there—Absalom, Kumalo's brother John's son, and a third person. But it was definitely Absalom who fired the shot.
- On their way to the prison, Kumalo and Msimangu, pass by John's shop, where Kumalo breaks the news to John that his son has been involved in a burglary gone wrong.
- John goes with them to go to the prison. Each father meets with their sons separately.
- Kumalo has found Absalom as last.
- Absalom confesses to the murder.
- The young white man from the reform school asks why Absalom ditched his job and his pregnant girlfriend, and the only explanation Absalom can give is that it was the devil who made him do it.
- After visiting his son, John seems glad to hear that Absalom has taken all responsibility for the murder.
- Even so, John plans to hire a lawyer to try and prove that his son was not at the house at all. Kumalo decides to go to Father Vincent at the Mission House for spiritual help.

#### 4.2 What happens in chapter 15 and who is involved?

- Back at Mrs. Lithebe's house, the young white man from the reform school comes to talk to Kumalo. He offers to find a lawyer for Absalom.
- He tells Kumalo that John intends to place the blame on Absalom.
- Father Vincent says that he will try to find a lawyer and marry the couple (Absalom and his girlfriend).
- Father Vincent tells Kumalo not to lose hope, but to pray and keep the faith.

#### 4.3 What happens in chapter 16 and who is involved?

- Kumalo meets with Absalom's girl and realises that she hasn't had an easy life.
- He tests her and asks if she would sleep with him.
- She starts to cry and Kumalo feels guilty.
- Kumalo asks if she wants to marry Absalom and come to Ndotsheni to stay with his family.
- She agrees and promises Kumalo that if she ever regrets her decision to move to Ndotsheni, she will tell him straight out.

## 4.4 What happens in chapter 17 and who is involved?

- Mrs. Lithebe is willing to take Absalom's girl and give her a place to stay.
- Kumalo realises that his money is running out.
- At the prison, Absalom tells Kumalo that the two men who were with him during the burglary are swearing that they weren't there.
- Absalom is thankful that Kumalo is arranging for a lawyer and that he will be able to marry his girl friend in jail.
- Back at the Mission House, Kumalo meets Mr. Carmichael, who agrees to take Absalom's case for free.

## Activity 10

Read the following extract and answer the questions below:

And now the prodigal, have you found him?  
 - He is found, my brother. But not as he was found in the early teaching. He is in prison, arrested for the murder of a white man.  
 -Murder? The man does not jest now. One does not jest about murder. Still less about the murder of a white man.  
 -Yes, murder. He broke into a house in a place that they call Parkwold, and killed the white man who would have prevented him.  
 -What? I remember! Only a day or two since? On Tuesday?  
 -Yes.  
 -Yes, I remember.  
 Yes he remembers. He remembers too that his own son and his brother's son are companions. The veins stand out on the bull neck and the sweat forms on his brows.

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1. John refers to Absalom as "the prodigal" (line 1).  
Why does he call Absalom the prodigal son? (2)
  2. Who did Absalom murder? (1)
  3. Why is it ironical that he would shoot this white man? (2)
  4. Refer to line 17 : "The veins ... on the bull neck."  
 a) Name the figure of speech used in this line. (1)  
 b) Why is this figure of speech appropriate? (2)
- [8]

## Answers to Activity 10

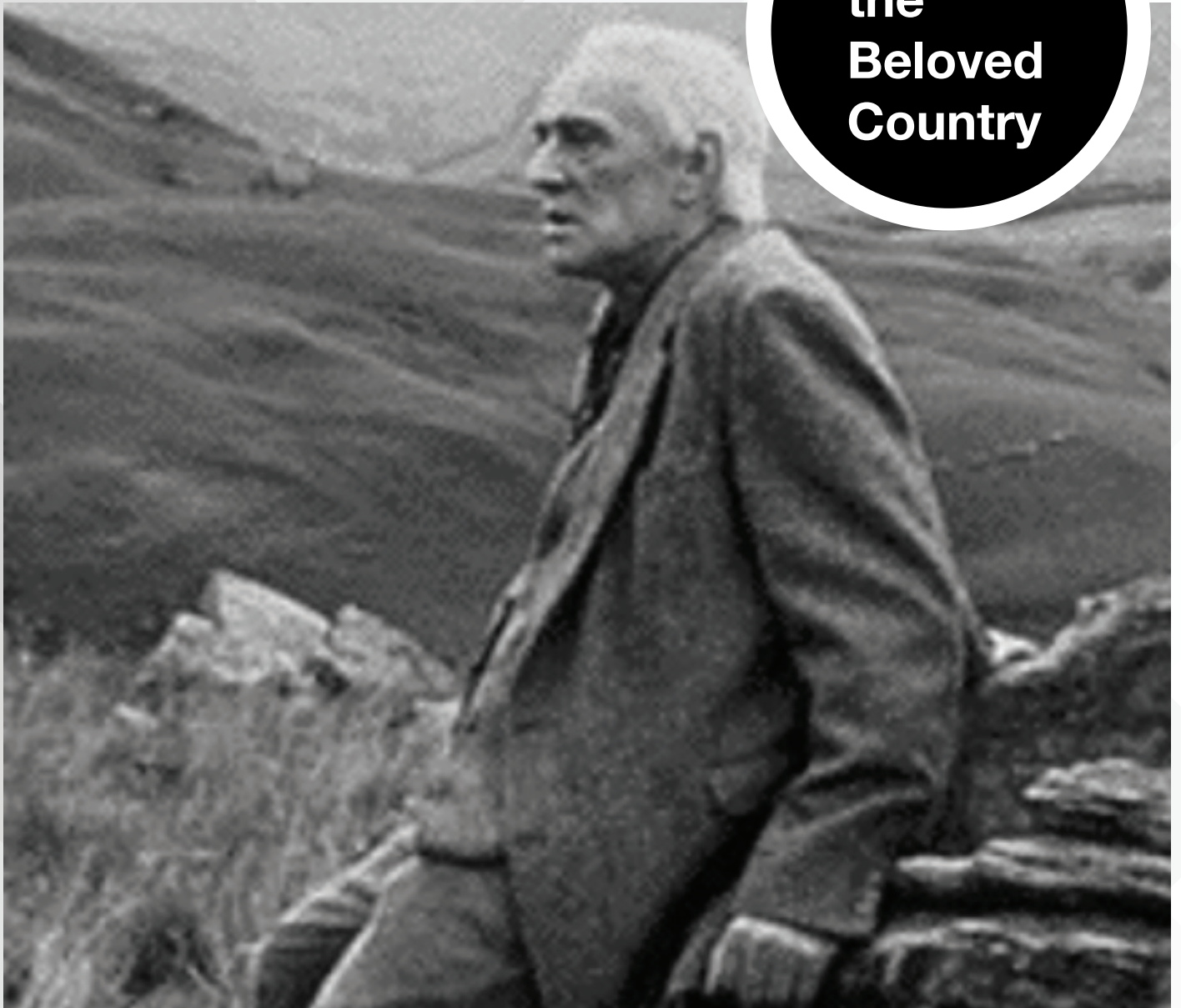
1. The prodigal son means the lost son ✓ and Stephen Kumalo was looking for his son. ✓ (2)
2. Arthur Jarvis ✓ (1)
3. Arthur Jarvis is a white man that supports black people ✓. He is the one person who would have been able to help Absalom, but now he gets shot by him. ✓ (2)
4. a) Metaphor ✓ (1)  
 b) John's appearance is compared to a bull. ✓ Just like a bull, he is a big person, with a big voice. ✓ (2)

[8]

# Book 2 Chapters 1-4

The start of the journey for James Jarvis

**Cry,  
the  
Beloved  
Country**



**Source:** <http://geecologist.org/2009/06/cry-the-beloved-country-2/>



# 1. Structure and plot development

## Rising Action

Book 2 is written from the perspective of James Jarvis, the father of the murdered Arthur Jarvis. The story of James Jarvis runs parallel to the story of Stephen Kumalo. Jarvis also has to journey to Johannesburg to 'find' his son.

# 2. Themes

## Racial Oppression and Fear

Harrison, Arthur's father-in-law, is deeply racist. He and Arthur disagree on many topics. He tries to get Arthur to tone down his activism lest it affects his ability to earn a good income. Harrison uses his fear of crime as an excuse for his racism. He refers to adult domestic workers as 'girls' and 'boys'.

## Journey and Taking Responsibility for Your Own Actions

James and Margaret Jarvis travel to Johannesburg. Like in Kumalo's case, this is the beginning of a figurative journey for James Jarvis. Jarvis becomes less ignorant and less racist. Arthur's writing him teaches him that the white community is guilty of exploiting the black community, and of deliberately keeping black people uneducated and poverty-stricken. He learns that Arthur wanted white South Africans to stand up for what was right and to take responsibility for their society's actions. James sits for the first time in a church and shakes hands with black people, at Arthur's funeral.

# 3. Tone

These chapters start with a tone of pain and sadness of losing a son. Jarvis feels awe and pride, when he realizes that his son was loved and respected across the colour lines. That eases the pain of his death to a certain respect.

# 4. Chapter by chapter

## 4.1 What happens in chapter 1 and who is involved

- The journey starts at a rich farm near Kumalo's village of Ndotsheni,
- James Jarvis receives the news that his son Arthur has been shot by a black burglar in Johannesburg.
- The family is shocked and heartbroken.
- The captain of the local police, van Jaarsveld, offers to help Jarvis arrange for a flight to Johannesburg.
- Jarvis breaks the news of Arthur's death to his wife.

## 4.2 What happens in Chapter 2 and who is involved

- At the airport, Mary's brother, John Harrison, is waiting for Jarvis and his wife, Margaret.
- The Jarvises go to the Harrisons' house to see Mary and their grandchildren.
- After they all visit the mortuary, Margaret goes off with Mary so that the two women can grieve together.
- The family receives lots of condolence messages coming in from public officials and charities.
- Harrison mentions that Arthur's fight for native rights got him into trouble at his job, since his bosses were worried that he would damage their profits.
- Arthur was determined to keep working for better social conditions in South Africa.

## 4.3 What happens in Chapter 3 and who is involved

- Jarvis is going through the things in Arthur's study. Arthur's bookshelves are filled with biographies of Abraham Lincoln and books on South Africa and South African race problems, and books in Afrikaans, books on religion, sociology, crime, poetry, Shakespeare and many others.
- His desk is covered with pages of Arthur's writing on South African politics.
- Arthur believed that the white people who live in South Africa have a responsibility to invest in education and social institutions for black South Africans.
- The white people have been responsible in destroying the traditional black tribal cultures that used to function there.
- Jarvis thinks of what his son looked like as a small boy.

## 4.4 What happens in Chapter 4 and who is involved

- A lot of people across all races attended the funeral that the church can't fit them all.
- Mr. Harrison tells Jarvis that Arthur's death makes him worry even more about black crime.
- Mr. Harrison has prejudiced ideas about the place of black people in the South African society.
- The next morning, Mr. Harrison tells Jarvis that Arthur's servant has identified one of the three men who robbed the house that night.
- The robber used to work in Mary Jarvis's garden before he got a job at a fabric factory.
- Jarvis picks up his son's manuscript again to try and understand what he was working on just before he was murdered.
- Jarvis is touched by his son's passion for social reform.
- He is also sad to see that Arthur stopped writing in the middle of a sentence.
- Jarvis imagines that his son was interrupted by a sound from the kitchen, a sound he went to investigate—only to be murdered by the burglars he surprised in his own home.



# Activity 11

Read the extract below and answer the questions.

He picked up the page again, but for his son, not for the words or the ideas.  
He looked at the words.  
Allow me a minute . . . And nothing more.  
Those fingers would not write any more. Allow me a minute, I hear a sound in the kitchen. Allow me a minute, while I go to my death.  
Allow me a thousand minutes, I am not coming back any more.  
Jarvis shook it off, and put another match to his pipe, and after he had read the paper through, sat in a reverie, smoking.  
— James. He started. Yes, my dear, he said.  
— You shouldn't sit by yourself, she said.  
He smiled at her. It's not my nature to brood, he said.  
— Then what have you been doing?  
— Thinking. Not brooding, thinking. And reading.  
This is what I have been reading.  
She took it, looked at it, and held it against her breast.  
— Read it, he said quietly, it's worth reading.  
So she sat down to read it, and he watching her, knew what she would do. She turned to the last page, to the last words. Allow me a minute, and sat looking at them. She looked at him, she was going to speak, he accepted that.  
Pain does not go away so quickly.

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Book 2 Chapter 4



1. Refer to line 1-9 ("He picked up... a reverie, smoking.")
    - (a) Quote the words that left James Jarvis in deep thought. (1)
    - (b) Comment on the significance of those words (2)
  2. Briefly outline the events that led to Arthur Jarvis death. (3)
  3. State ONE character trait which makes Arthur's death even more tragic. Give a reason for your answer. (2)
- [8]**

## Answers to Activity 1 1

1. (a) "Allow me a minute . . ." ✓ (1)
 

(b) Arthur was busy writing his article and was interrupted by the commotion in his home. ✓  
That death is untimely. ✓ James was trying to figure out his son's last moments before he was killed. ✓ (2)
  2. The intruders got in the house. ✓  
They were surprised to find his servant in the kitchen. ✓  
Arthur heard the noise and he went to the kitchen to check. ✓  
The burglars were further surprised and killed him on impulse. ✓ (3)
  3. He was a caring man ✓ who advocated for the rights of the black people. ✓ (2)
- [8]**



## Cry, the Beloved Country

# Chapter 5

## Johannesburg – the trail begins

### 1. Structure and plot development

#### Rising Action

The murder trial of Absalom Kumalo begins. The charges of murder are laid before the court and the accused. Absalom pleads guilty to culpable homicide, but not murder. That is, he committed the act, but did not intend to murder. The other two men, Matthew and Johannes plead not guilty.

### Vocab

**Repentant**= Feel or express sincere regret or remorse about ones wrongdoing or sin

### 2. Themes

#### Taking responsibility for your actions

Absalom realizes that he was wrong to go along with his co-accused to Jarvis's house. He takes full responsibility for killing Arthur. He is also repentant why he did not confess earlier. Absalom finally decides to take responsibility for his actions. He tells the truth at his trial.

### Vocab

**Unintentionally**= not done on purpose

### 3. Tone

The tone is that of fear, guilt and remorse. Absalom is regrets killing Arthur.

## 4. Chapter by chapter

### 4.1 What happens in chapter 5 and who is involved

- The role of judges is explained – they have to carry out the law, even if those laws aren't fair.
- The three burglars (Absalom, his cousin, Matthew Kumalo, and a third guy named Johannes Pafuri) appear in court.
- Absalom pleads not guilty to murder. He shot Arthur unintentionally.
- Then the prosecutor asks Absalom questions about how they came to rob the house on that particular night.
- Absalom tells the court that the burglary was Johannes Pafuri's idea.
- He does admit that he was the one who was carrying the gun, to scare the servant.
- He also says that he, Matthew, and Johannes all went to Mrs. Mkize's house after the killing to plan their next move.

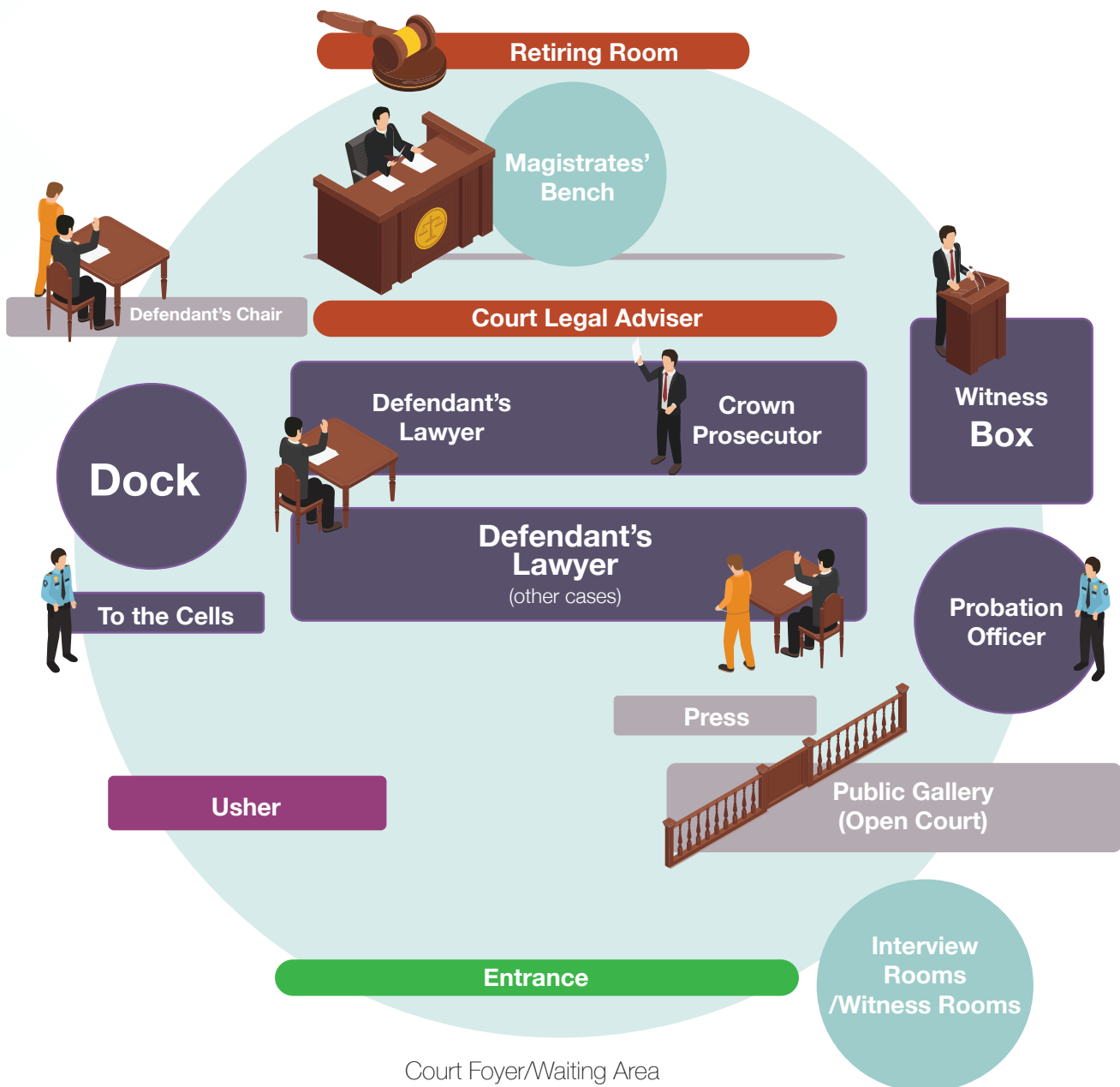
- The prosecutor tells Absalom that his two co-accused swear that they were nowhere near Absalom during the night of the burglary.
- Absalom is honest and remorseful.

### What is the floorplan of a court?

At the head of the court is a high seat where the Judge sits. Down below is a table of the Court, and to the left and to the right of the table are other seats.

## Vocab

**Procecutor**= nother lawyer who conducts the case against a defendant in a criminal court



# Activity 12

Read the extract below and answer the questions.

The judge does not make the Law. It is the People that makes the Law. Therefore if the law is unjust, and if the Judge judges according to the Law, that is justice even if it is not just.

It is the duty of the Judge to do justice, but it is only the People that can be just. Therefore if justice be not just, that is not to be laid at the door of the Judge, but at the door of the people, which means at the door of the White People, for it is the White People that make the Law.

In South Africa men are proud of their Judges, because they believe they are incorruptible. Even the black men have faith in them, though they do not always have faith in the Law. In a land of fear this incorruptibility is like a lamp set upon a stand, giving light to all that are in the house.

They call for silence in the court, and the people stand. Even if there were one greater than the Judge he would stand, for behind the Judge are things greater than any man. And the Judge enters with his two assessors, and they sit, and the people sit also. The court is begun.

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1. What is the setting of the extract? (1)
2. Explain who the 'People' are who is referred to in line 1? (2)
3. Refer to line 5 ('Therefore if justice is not just...').  
Explain the difference between 'justice' and 'just'. (2)
4. Using your own words, explain what is meant by '... not to be laid at the door of the Judge, but at the door of the people,...' (2)

**[7]**

# Answers to Activity 12

1. The court ✓ (1)
2. The white people ✓ who created the laws used in court. ✓ (2)
3. To be just is based on what is morally right and fair ✓.  
While justice is a set of rules by which people are judged and punished by the courts. ✓ (2)
4. A judge is expected to use the Law to judge a case and not check whether that rule/law is morally correct. ✓✓ (2)

**[7]**

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# Book 2 Chapter 6-7

- New discovery of gold
- Arthur Jarvis's views

## 1. Structure and plot development

### **Rising Action**

There is a discovery of gold at Odendaalsrust. Many people are excited about the wealth this could create. James reads more of Arthur's writing. He is hurt to discover that Arthur thought his parents taught him nothing about South Africa. However, he is very proud to read that Arthur committed his life to doing what was right.

## 2. Themes

### **Greed, racial oppression and exploitation and fear**

South Africans are greedy for gold and wealth. People should be more compassionate towards the black miners as they don't get rich from working in the mines. South Africa has a system of racial oppression and exploitation.

### **Taking responsibility for your actions and your journey**

Absalom takes responsibility for his actions. He tells the truth at his trial and says that he will no longer do anything 'evil'. James reads Arthur's writing and learns that he committed his life to doing what was right, and to taking responsibility for the actions of his society. James continues on his figurative journey away from racism, ignorance and fear. He takes responsibility for his society's ill-treatment of black people.

## 3. Tone

Sarcastic tone to mock the people in South Africa who love gold more than justice.

## 4. Chapter by chapter

### 4.1 What happens in chapter 6 and who is involved

- A new gold mine has been discovered in Johannesburg.
- Everyone is so excited about all the money they are going to make.
- The murder of Arthur Jarvis and the murderer trial is no longer important.
- The gold money should fund social centers and hospitals or more pay for the miners.

### 4.2 What happens in chapter 7 and who is involved?

- Jarvis revisits his son's home. He walks in through the back door, past the blood stain on the kitchen floor.
- He finds an article called, "Private Essay on the Evolution of a South African."
- Arthur points out in his article that, because he was brought up by good, kind people on a decent farm, he was raised not to know anything about the real (unfair, cruel) South Africa.
- In his essay, Arthur promises to devote his life to helping his suffering nation.

## Activity 13



Shocked and hurt, Jarvis put down the papers. For a moment he felt something almost like anger, but he wiped his eyes with his fingers and shook it from him. But he was trembling and could read no further. He stood up and put on his hat, and went down the stairs, and as far as the stain on the floor. The policeman was ready to salute him, but he turned again, and went up the stairs, and sat down again at the table. He took up the papers and read them through to the end. Perhaps he was some judge of words after all, for the closing paragraphs moved him. Perhaps he was some judge of ideas after all.

Therefore I shall devote myself, my time, my energy, my talents, to the service of South Africa. I shall no longer ask myself if this or that is expedient, but only if it is right. I shall do this, not because I am noble or unselfish, but because life slips away, and because I need for the rest of my journey a star that will not play false to me, a compass that will not lie. I shall do this, not because I am a negrophile and a hater of my own, but because I cannot find it in me to do anything else.

[Book Two, Chapter 7]

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1. Who is the writer of the papers that Jarvis was reading? (1)
  2. Refer to lines 1–3 ('Shocked and hurt...read no further.')
    - (a) Give ONE word that best describes Jarvis' mood in these lines. (1)
    - (b) Explain why you think Jarvis is feeling this way. (2)
    - (c) Explain why there is a 'stain on the floor'. (2)  3. Discuss the irony in lines 9–10 ('Therefore I shall ... of South Africa'). (2)
  4. Refer to lines 12–13 ('I need for ... false to me').
    - (a) Identify a figure of speech in these lines. (1)
    - (b) Explain how this figure of speech is relevant to Arthur Jarvis. (2)
- [11]**

## Answers to Activity 13

1. Arthur Jarvis/ James Jarvis' late son ✓ (1)
  2. (a) Sad/hurt/shocked ✓ (1)
  - (b) James Jarvis is shocked by the suffering of black South Africans ✓ made by Arthur who knew so much about South Africa. ✓
- OR**
- He is hurt because he realises that he (Jarvis) has failed his son ✓ because he did not teach him anything about South Africa. ✓
- OR**
- Jarvis is hurt because his son was murdered ✓ by the very people whom he was trying to uplift. ✓ (2)

**NOTE:** Your answer should have TWO ideas for you to get TWO marks

- (c) It is the mark of the blood left on the carpet ✓ after Arthur Jarvis is shot/killed (by Absalom Kumalo). ✓ (2)
3. It is ironic that Arthur Jarvis, who made it his mission in life to uplift the South African black people, is killed by a black South African (Absalom Kumalo). ✓✓ (2)

**NOTE:** BOTH parts should be included to earn the marks

4. (a) Metaphor/Personification ✓ (1)
  - (b) In the same way that a star is a guiding light, ✓ Arthur wants authenticity and not a misguided version of what is really happening in South Africa. He wants to work towards change (and not for personal glory). ✓
- OR**
- The star is given the human quality of guiding him ✓ towards uncovering the truth ✓ (about life of the black people in South Africa). (2)

**[11]**

### Vocab

**Expedient**= A means of attaining an end especially one that is convenient but possibly improper or immoral.

### Vocab

**Negrophile**= One who is especially friendly to black people and their interests.



# Book 2 Chapter 8

- **Kumalo and James Jarvis meet**

## 1. Structure and plot development

### **Rising Action**

Kumalo goes to Springs to find Sibeko's daughter as promised. Sibeko is a man in Ndotsheni whose daughter came to Springs to work for a family there. Kumalo is shocked to meet Jarvis there. He is full of sorrow and shame. Jarvis tells him that he is not angry with him.

## 2. Themes

### **Fathers Sons and Families**

The encounter between the two fathers is difficult. The fathers are brought together when tragedy befall them. Arthur (the son of Jarvis) is shot dead in a house burglary, and Absalom (the son of Kumalo) is his killer.

## 3. Tone

The tone is that of embarrassment, guilt and remorse when Stephen Kumalo meets Jarvis. Jarvis is overwhelmed with emotion when he learns about his son's belief. The tone of understanding and transformation is portrayed in this chapter.

## 4. Chapter by chapter

### 4.1 What happens in chapter 8 and who is involved?

- One of Margaret Jarvis's nieces, Barbara Smith, lives pretty close to the courthouse.
- James and Margaret spent time there when court is not in session.
- An elderly black priest knocks at the door and he looks visibly frightened when he sees Jarvis.
- The elderly priest has come to this address to ask after the daughter of a man named Sibeko, from Ndotsheni
- The daughter used to work for Barbara Smith, but Sibeko hasn't heard from her (the daughter) in twelve months and has asked Reverend Kumalo to look for her when he is in Johannesburg.
- Jarvis notice that the elderly priest seems terrified of him.
- The elderly priest tells Jarvis that his son Absalom killed Arthur, James Jarvis son
- The elderly priest tells Jarvis that he feels terribly sad for Jarvis and his family.
- Jarvis brings out Barbara Smith so that Kumalo can finish his errand for Sibeko.
- Barbara Smith tells Kumalo that the girl was arrested for brewing and selling beer sent to jail for a month.
- She doesn't know what became of her after that.

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# Book 2

## Chapters 9-10

- John Kumalo
- Gertrude Kumalo

## 1. Structure and plot development

### Rising Action

These chapters create suspense as the trial is still taking place. Suspense is sustained as the focus is now on gold that has been found in Odendaalsrust and Gertrude's decisions. The reader is anxious to know what will happen with Absalom.

## 2. Themes

### Power and Passivity

- John does not truly give himself to the mission he speaks about in his speech. His goal is to be rich and powerful, not to actually create a change in Africa. The status quo, of people suffering because they are oppressed, suits him just fine as he has the opportunity to be a powerful oppositional figure
- The idea of a strike causes uproar – everyone is reminded that if the blacks go on strike, there might be a number of problems as there are more blacks than whites in South Africa. The strike causes a bit of blood shed, but not a lot of disruption.

### Christian Faith

- Stephen Kumalo is able to resist the temptation of corruption, because he has support in form of faith.
- Gertrude realizes that the only way that she will be able to withstand the temptations of Johannesburg is to remove herself and become a nun.  
Her idea is not for the correct reason – to serve God – and therefore it might be challenging for her.

### 3. Tone

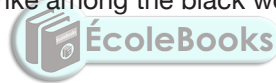
The tone is exciting and powerful in chapter 9. Johan Kumalo is one of the greatest orators and is able to move his audience: “There are those who can be moved by the sound of the voice alone.” The audience (specifically the policemen and Stephen Kumalo) realises that his words are dangerous, as he has the power to incite the listeners and draw them back just before they get violent. This is only possible by using tone of voice. His tone of voice is compared to **lightening and the roar of a lion**.

### 4. Chapter by chapter

Chapters 9 to 10 give readers the insight in the power of Johan Kumalo as an orator. The focus is also turned to Gertrude who have plans for her future and the future of her son.

#### 4.1 What happens in chapter 9 and who is involved

- John Kumalo speaks out, demanding a bigger share of gold for black South Africans.
- But what John doesn’t demand is fair treatment or the right to vote for these black citizens.
- All he wants—all he cares about—is getting more money.
- Kumalo and Msimangu agree that John is a fantastic speaker, but that he is also weak and corrupt.
- John Harrison and James Jarvis also attend John Kumalo’s speech—and Jarvis isn’t impressed.
- The police captain watching the speech tells his boss that John Kumalo is someone they should watch out for: he’s got a lot of power.
- Meanwhile, there’s a small labour strike among the black workers at the mines, but it doesn’t change anything.



#### 4.2 What happens in chapter 10 and who is involved

- Mrs. Lithebe scolds Gertrude for hanging out with the wrong kind of people.
- Gertrude is sick of Johannesburg and wants to move away.
- A neighbour comes by with bad news: another white person has been murdered by a black burglar.
- Msimangu arrives at the house and is of the opinion that this latest murder might influence the judge against Absalom.
- That evening, they hear a speech from a black woman about her decision to become a nun.
- Gertrude considers the idea of becoming a nun.
- She decides that she will leave her son with Absalom’s girlfriend if anything happens in the future.

## Activity 14

Read the following extract and answer the questions below:

- How did it go, captain?

-No trouble sir. But this man Kumalo is dangerous. He works the crowd up to a point and then he pulls back. But I could imagine what he would be like if we weren't there.

- Well, we shall have to be there, that's all. It's strange, the report always say that; he goes so far and no further. What do you mean, he's dangerous?

-It's the voice, sir. I've never heard anything like it. It's like the grand stop of an organ. You can see the whole crowd swaying. I felt it myself. It's almost as though he sees what's happening, and he pulls himself in.

1. Who is the Kumalo the officer is referring to? (1)
2. Where did Kumalo deliver his speech? (1)
3. What was the speech all about? (2)
4. Refer to the phrase: "...he goes so far and no further" (line 7-8). Explain why he goes no further. (2)
5. Refer to line 11: "It's like the grand stop of an organ."  
a) Identify the figure of speech. (1)  
b) Explain why this figure of speech is appropriate. (2)



## Answers to Activity 14

1. John Kumalo ✓ (1)
2. On the square ✓ (1)
3. Kumalo said that blacks should have a bigger share of gold ✓  
Blacks should strike, because mines will be powerless without the labour of the blacks. ✓ (2)
4. He knows if he incites the crowd to violence the police will shoot him or send him to jail. ✓  
If he was to go to jail, he would lose all of his possessions, which he loves. ✓ (2)
5. a) Simile ✓ (1)  
b) A organ makes a loud sound. ✓ The voice of Kumalo is also loud. ✓ (2)

[9]

# Book 2 Chapter 11

- **The end of the trial**
- **James Jarvis leaves**
- **Kumalo prepares to go home**

## 1. Structure and plot development

### **Climax**

This chapter forms the climax of Book Two and the novel as a whole, as the fate of Absalom is sealed. This has a number of consequences for the rest of the characters in the novel.

## 2. Themes

### **The tension between urban and rural society**

Absalom is a victim of the corruption and temptation of Johannesburg. Due to the lack of education and opportunities, Absalom is forced to become a thief, which then ultimately leads to his death. One can only wonder how his life would have looked like if he stayed in the rural area of Ndotsheni.

## 3. Tone

The tone is disbelief and sadness. Disbelief because his accomplices are acquitted from any wrong doing. The sadness is directly related to the verdict that Absalom is found guilty. Another young life has been cut short.

## 4. Chapter by chapter

Chapter 11 is the highlight of the novel and it causes some kind of emotion from the reader. Whether you agree or disagree with the verdict of the trial, it will leave a lasting impression on the reader

## 4.1 What happens in chapter 11 and who is involved

- The end of the trial is at hand.
- But first, the judge summarizes the case from the perspectives of both the defence and the prosecution.
- The judge decides that, even though the other two defendants—Johannes Pafuri and Matthew Kumalo seem pretty suspicious, there still isn't enough evidence to convict them of wilful murder.
- The judge also decides that, even though Absalom claims he did not plan to kill Arthur Jarvis that night, he has still confessed to shooting him in his own home.
- The defence has tried to prove the Absalom is just a simple country kid led astray by the temptations of the big city. And they've also tried to show that he has suffered from the larger loss of social and moral support as a result of the destruction of traditional black tribal society by white colonization of South Africa.
- But the judge points out that, even if Absalom is a tragic victim of broader social problems, he can't go around carrying guns and shooting people.
- Absalom is then sentenced to death by hanging.

## Activity 15

Read the extract and answer the following questions:

He goes to a house with two companions, and they take with them two dangerous weapons, either of which can encompass the death of a man. These two weapons are used, one with serious, the other with fatal results. This Court has a solemn duty to protect society against the murderous attacks of dangerous men, whether they be old or young, and to show clearly that it will punish fitly such offenders.

Therefore I can make no recommendation to mercy.

The Judge speaks to the boy.

– Have you anything to say, he asks, before I pronounce sentence?

– I have only this to say, that I killed this man, but I did not mean to kill him, only I was afraid.

They were silent in the Court, but for all that a white man calls out in a loud voice for silence. Kumalo puts his face in his hands, he has heard what it means. Jarvis sits stern and erect.

The young white man looks before him and frowns fiercely.

The girl sits like the child she is, her eyes are fixed on the Judge, not on her lover.

I sentence you, Absalom Kumalo, to be returned to custody, and to be hanged by the neck until you are dead. And may the Lord have mercy upon your soul.

[Book 2, Chapter 11]

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Complete the following table. Write down what the extract reveals about the mentioned character. Give character traits and substantiate your answer in the correct column			
Character	Actions, Interactions, and Descriptions	Traits	SUBSTANTIATION
Absalom, Johannes and Matthew	He goes to a house with two companions, and they take with them two dangerous weapons, either of which can encompass the death of a man.	dishonest dangerous violent	The trio plan to rob a house. Johannes struck Richard over the head with the iron bar. Absalom shot Arthur Jarvis
Absalom	I have only this to say, that I killed this man, but I did not mean to kill him, only I was afraid.		
Kumalo	Kumalo puts his face in his hands, he has heard what it means.		
The girl	The girl sits like the child she is, her eyes are fixed on the Judge, not on her lover.		

Answers to Activity 15			
Character	Actions, Interactions, and Descriptions	Traits	SUBSTANTIATION
Absalom, Johannes and Matthew	He goes to a house with two companions, and they take with them two dangerous weapons, either of which can encompass the death of a man.	dishonest	
dangerous			
Violent	The trio plan to rob a house.		
Johannes struck Richard over the head with the iron bar.			
Absalom shot Arthur Jarvis			
Absalom	I have only this to say, that I killed this man, but I did not mean to kill him, only I was afraid.	Remorseful	
guilty	He killed Arthur by mistake. He pulled the trigger because he was afraid		
Kumalo	Kumalo puts his face in his hands, he has heard what it means.	Caring	
Sensitive	He is at the court to support his son.		
He puts his face in his hands showing pain and hopelessness			
The girl	The girl sits like the child she is, her eyes are fixed on the Judge, not on her lover.		Innocent naïve
Young			
worried	She is there to support Absalom. She is awaiting the judge's verdict		



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# Book 2 Chapter 12

- **The end of the trail**
- **Absalom's marriage**
- **James Jarvis leaves**
- **Kumalo prepares to go home**

## 1. Structure and plot development

### **Climax**

This chapter shows the outcome of the trial of Absalom. There are still a number of important events that will take place. The reader is still shocked by the events in the previous chapter, but tension is still build.

## 2. Themes

### **Reconciliation between fathers and sons.**

Kumalo and his son has been reunited and the trial has brought them closer together. In the last visit to the prison, it is clear that the wall between father and son has been broken down.

### **Christian values, kindness and faith**

In the last chapter of Book Two, Msimangu gives all his money to Kumalo. He says that he will not need it anymore as he is going to a religious retreat.

James Jarvis gives a cheque of one thousand pounds to John Harrison, in memory of his son.

## 3. Tone

The tone in this chapter differs from event to event. The marriage of Absalom and his girlfriend is done in a tone of hopefulness and optimism for the future. But when Absalom is dragged away from his father in prison, the tone is tragic, sad and bleak. John experiences annoyance when Kumalo visits him and warns him not to be corrupted by power. The books ends on a careful optimistic tone, when Msimangu gives Kumalo all his money.

## 4. Chapter by chapter

**Chapter 12 forms the last chapter of Book Two and it feels as if all the loose ends are being tied up here.**

### 4.1 What happens in chapter 12 and who is involved

- Father Vincent, Kumalo, Gertrude, Msimangu, and Absalom's girlfriend all go to the jail to visit Absalom.
- Father Vincent marries Absalom to his girlfriend, and Kumalo promises that he will look after Absalom's child as if it were his own.
- Kumalo tries to comfort his son, when he admits that he is afraid, but he has to leave the prison. Absalom is pulled away weeping.
- Afterwards, Kumalo goes to his brother John's shop, where he tells John that he's going home with Gertrude, her son, and Absalom's new wife.
- Kumalo warns John to be careful—his big talk about strikes is starting to attract attention from the cops.
- Meanwhile, James Jarvis leaves John Harrison with a present of a thousand pounds for Arthur's causes before leaving for home.
- Msimangu tells Kumalo that he plans to become a monk.
- He gives Kumalo all of his possessions.
- When Kumalo wakes up to travel to Ndotsheni, he discovers that Gertrude left during the night, leaving behind her son and the clothing Kumalo had bought her.

## Activity 16



**Read the extract and answer the questions that follow.**

But Khumalo said to him gently, we are come for the marriage, and the hope died out.

- My son, here is your wife that is to be.

The boy and girl greeted each other like strangers, each giving hands without life, not to be shaken, but to be held loosely, so that the hands fell apart easily. They did not kiss after the European fashion, but stood looking at each other without words, bound in great constraint. But at last she asked, are you in health?

And he answered, I am greatly. And he asked, are you in health? And he answered, I am greatly also. But beyond that there was nothing spoken between them.

Father Vincent left them, and they all stood in the same constraint. Msimangu saw that Gertrude would soon break out in wailing and moaning, and he turned his back on the others and said to her gravely and privately, Heavy things have happened, but this is a marriage, and it were better to go at once than to wail or moan this place. When she did not answer he said sternly and coldly, do you understand me?

And she said resentfully, I understand you. He left her and went to a window in the great grim wall, and she stood sullenly silent, but he knew she would not do what was in her mind to have done.

[Book Two, Chapter 12]

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1. Name the place where Absalom is being visited. (1)
2. Name TWO people who visit Absalom. (2)
3. Discuss the irony in lines Refer to lines 1-2 ('But Khumalo said ...hope died out.'). (2)
4. Refer to lines 4-5 ('The boy and ... hands without life').
  - (a) Identify the figure of speech in this line. (1)
  - (b) Discuss the suitability of this figure of speech. (2)
5. What does this extract reveal about Gertrude's character? (2)
6. One of the themes of the novel is 'forgiveness'.  
Discuss this theme of forgiveness as portrayed in the novel. (3)

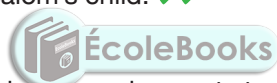
## Answers to Activity 16

1. Prison/jail ✓ (1)
2. Kumalo ✓ / Gertrude ✓ / Msimangu ✓ / Father Vincent ✓ / Absalom's girlfriend. (2)
3. Absalom is about to marry the young girl, which is associated with happiness but Absalom is behind bars, facing a death sentence. ✓✓ (2)
4. (a) Simile ✓  
(b) Absalom and his girlfriend are compared to strangers. They have been separated for a while.  
/ There is no passion or love between Absalom and the girl. / Their 'hearts' are not in it.  
/ They are getting married for the sake of Absalom's child. ✓✓ (1)
5. Gertrude is soft-hearted / sensitive, emotional because she wants to start crying during the visit to Absalom.  
Tendency to be loud outward displays of emotions. ✓✓ (2)
6. Write or give a relevant response which shows knowledge of the theme of forgiveness.  
The discussion should include the following points, among others:
  - Stephen Kumalo forgives Gertrude for her wayward life.
  - Absalom hopes for forgiveness from his father and mercy from the judge
  - James Jarvis forgives Kumalo, given the fact that Kumalo's son has murdered his son.

**NOTE:** For full marks, the response must be well-substantiated.

You can score 1 — 2 marks for a response which is not well-substantiated

(3)



# Book 3 Chapter 1

- **Kumalo's return**

## 1. Structure and plot development

### **Falling action**

Kumalo returns with Absalom's wife and Gertrude's son. People of Ndotsheni warmly welcome him (Kumalo). While Kumalo has been away, Ndotsheni has been suffering from drought; therefore, Kumalo prays with the community for rain and for his son and his sister.

The final section of the novel moves away from concerns over Absalom Kumalo's fate to the fate of the entire village of Ndotsheni. The drought at Ndotsheni is the significant event of the third book.

## 2. Themes

### **Suffering**

The people of Ndotsheni are suffering from drought, the land is dry and the maize hardly grows. The women must go to the river (that is on Jarvis's farm) for water. (p.190)

### **Thanksgiving/Christian values**

Despite their suffering; the people of Ndotsheni still have faith that God will have mercy towards them. They believe that He will protect them against starvation (hunger) and bring them rain.

They also give thanks to God for the safe return of Kumalo to Ndotsheni. (p.191)

### **Redemption**

Kumalo is healed by the welcome of his village, and by praying in his own church. He is especially comforted by admitting the sins of his family, which shame him, in front of his entire congregation. Once he has done it, these sins do not seem so horrible anymore, and it seems that a new life can begin. (p. 192)

### **Compassionate/Kindness**

Rev Theophilus Msimangu displays selflessness when he gives Kumalo money. Kumalo refers to him as a 'the best man of my days'. (p.195)

## 3. Tone

- The tone used in this chapter is pleading, sad and optimistic. The community of Ndotsheni is pleading to God to have mercy on them, they are also optimistic that God will not let them starve. It is sad when Kumalo questions his position as pastor. He questions his role in the fate of his son and his sister, wondering whether he can be an honourable man with a dishonourable family. This causes Kumalo to begin to doubt his ability to be a good pastor.

## 4. Chapter summary

### What happens in Chapter 1 and who is involved

- Ndotsheni is dry as it experiences severe drought and the community is worried about hunger due to lack of corn.
- The drought in Ndotsheni could be symbolic of the larger drought in South Africa; causing a lack of nourishment among the people and beyond the control of 'her' victims, the drought can be combated only through widespread improvements within South Africa and a communal effort uniting all segments of South African society.
- The community relies on James Jarvis' water that passes through the river because they have none of their own.
- The people of Ndotsheni warmly welcome Kumalo back in Ndotsheni. While Kumalo has been away, Ndotsheni has been suffering from drought. Therefore, Kumalo prays with the people of Ndotsheni for rain.
- Kumalo and the congregation give thanks to 'Tixo' (God) for His everlasting benevolence. They make a passionate plea to God to bring them rain.
- Stephen Kumalo prays for his family:
  - o Gertrude's son – he prays for his protection and long life span.
  - o Gertrude – to be forgiven for her trespasses.
  - o Absalom's wife – to deliver her baby safely.
  - o Absalom – to be forgiven for his trespasses.
- Kumalo informs his friend that Gertrude is missing and his son is to be hanged.
- Sibeko's daughter disappears and no one knows where she is.
- Reverend Theophilus Msimangu presents Kumalo with a gift of money.



## Activity 17

Read the extract and then answer the questions below

And his mother – forgive her her trespasses.  
 A woman moans, and Kumalo knows her, she is one of the gossips  
 in this place. So he adds quickly...  
 Forgive us all, for we all have trespasses. And Tixo, let this girl be welcome  
 in Ndotsheni, and deliver her child safely in this place.  
 ...  
 - What, said Kumalo bitterly, with a sister who has left her child, and a  
 son who has killed a man? Who am I to stay here?  
 - Umfundisi, it must be what you desire. But I tell you that there is not  
 One man or woman that would desire it. There is not one man or woman here  
 That has not grieved for you, that is not satisfied that you are returned.

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1.1 Choose a description from COLUMN B that matches the word in COLUMN A. Write only the letter (A–E) next to the question number (1.1.1(a)–1.1.1(d))

COLUMN A	COLUMN B
(a) Mrs. Lithebe	A. a carpenter in Johannesburg
(b) Rev. Msimangu	B. an agricultural demonstrator
(c) Napoleon Letsitsi	C. offers Stephen Kumalo lodging
(d) John Kumalo	D. a priest in Johannesburg
	E. a farmer in Ndotsheni

- 1.2 Refer to line 1. (4)  
To whom does 'her' refer? (1)
- 1.3 Give a reason why this person referred to as 'her' in 1.1 has to be forgiven? (1)  
State TWO points. (2)
- 1.4 Refer to line 4. (1)  
What is the relationship between the 'girl' and Kumalo? (1)
- 1.5 What does the word 'Tixo' means (line 4) (1)
- 1.6 Why is the following statement FALSE. (1)  
'Umfundisi' (line 8) means teacher. (1)
- 1.7 The theme of Redemption is explored in the extract. Discuss this theme with reference to Kumalo. (3)
- 1.8 Urbanisation has led to the decline of moral values. Discuss your view by referring to the novel as a whole. (3)

## Answers to Activity 17

- 1.1 (a) C - offers Stephen Kumalo lodging. ✓ (1)  
(b) D - a priest in Johannesburg. ✓ (1)  
(c) B - an agricultural demonstrator. ✓ (1)  
(d) A - a carpenter in Johannesburg. ✓ (1)
- 1.2 Her refers to Gertrude. ✓ (1)
- 1.3 Gertrude since went to Johannesburg and never returned nor written a letter to her family. ✓ (1)  
When Kumalo went to search for her, he promised to go back to Ndotsheni with him, only to disappear the following morning. ✓ (1)
- 1.4 The girl is Absalom's (Kumalo's son) wife. ✓ / Kumalo's daughter in law. ✓ (2)
- 1.5 'Tixo' means God. ✓ (1)
- 1.6 'Umfundisi' means reverend / priest / minister / parson. ✓ (1)
- 1.7 Kumalo is healed by the welcome of his village, and by praying in his own church. He is especially comforted by admitting the sins of his family, which shame him, in front of his entire congregation. Once he has done it, these sins do not seem so horrible anymore, and it seems that a new life can begin. ✓✓✓ (3)
- 1.8 **Open-ended.**  
Provide a relevant response which shows an understanding of the following viewpoints among others:
- Yes.**
- Gertrude Kumalo moves to Johannesburg and becomes involved in illegal selling of liquor and prostitution.
  - John Kumalo also leaves for Johannesburg where his wife leaves him and he lives with another woman although they are not married.
  - Absalom becomes involved in criminal activities. The murder of Arthur Jarvis underlines the moral decay that results in the destruction of life. ✓✓✓

OR

**No.**

- Despite living in Johannesburg, Reverend Msimangu maintains his integrity and helps Stephen Kumalo.
- Mrs Lithebe offers accommodation to Gertrude and her son and shows compassion.
- The young white man who works at the reformatory helps Stephen Kumalo look for Absalom. ✓✓✓

**NOTE:** No marks will be awarded for YES/NO. Credit will be given to responses where a combination is given. For full marks, your response must be well-substantiated. You can score 1 to 2 marks for a response which is not well-substantiated. Your interpretation must be grounded in the novel.

(3)  
[17]



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# Book 3 Chapter 2

- **Kumalo prays (for the restoration of Ndotsheni)**

## 1. Structure and plot development

Kumalo meets the chief and the headmaster and ask them to assist in the alleviation of poverty in Ndotsheni. Sadly, both the chief and the headmaster are powerless because the government has implemented a system of racial oppression and exploitation.

Kumalo meets Arthur Jarvis' son, a polite young boy who can be regarded as a symbol of hope because he is the one who reported the matter of poverty in Ndotsheni to his grandfather. James Jarvis sends milk to Kumalo that should be given to the pre-school children.

## 2. Themes

### **Reconciliation and Hope**

James Jarvis, who had never shown any interest in helping Ndotsheni, even though his farm overlooks the impoverished valley, undergoes a change of heart; and assist the community of Ndotsheni. He gives hope by providing milk for the small (pre-school) children. This suggests that societal change will only come when there is a change within men's hearts, but it holds out the hope that such change can and will happen if people reconcile.

### **Compassion**

James is ready to declare that he harbours no anger over his son's death. He does not give in to hatred or have a desire for revenge, rather; he contributes life-saving milk to black children in Ndotsheni.

### **Racial Oppression**

The racist white government had stripped away (taken) all the real power of the chiefs. The chiefs are given positions without any real power. Many chiefs took advantage of this situation to simply enjoy the status that their positions gave them, without any real responsibility, like the arrogant chief of Ndotsheni who would tell a man to wait for no reason- simply because he was a chief (p.196).

When Kumalo visits the chief and the headmaster, he realises that although these are the leaders of his community, they are powerless. This is because the government has implemented a system of racial oppression and exploitation. The government has no desire to uplift black communities, and so these men cannot do anything except talking to the magistrate and the inspector (p.198).

### **Journey**

Kumalo comes back to Ndotsheni and takes responsibility to assist his community to alleviate poverty. James Jarvis also returns to Ndotsheni, and his figurative journey also continues. Now that his son's writing has opened his mind, he realises that he must take responsibility for the community, because he is privileged at their expense. He sends milk for the small children of Ndotsheni and this will be done until the drought ends and milk is available (p. 203).

### 3. Chapter summary

#### What happens in Chapter 2 and who is involved

- Kumalo prays for the restoration of Ndotsheni. He decides to consult the chief and the headmaster of the school.
- He realises that they have nothing practical to offer and they have no power over the system of racial oppression.
- He proposes that the children should be taught in school how to care for the land.
- There is no milk, children are dying – Malusi's child is dead and Kuluse's child is dying; the cattle are also dying as there is no grass or water.
- Kumalo meets Arthur's son, a respectful, polite and friendly boy who uses the chance to practice using Zulu words, since he is learning the language.
- The boy shows no racial prejudice to Kumalo even though Kumalo is black.
- Kumalo tells the boy about the suffering in the valley.
- That night, a friend, working for Jarvis, arrives at the Kumalo's house bringing milk in a cart for the small children.
- The milk has been sent by Jarvis, who has heard from his grandson about the dire situation in the village.

## Activity 18

Read the extract and then answer the questions below.

#### 1.1 [A worker brings a message from James Jarvis]

While they were having their meal, Kumalo and his wife, the girl and the small boy, there was a sound of wheels, and a knock at the door, and there was the friend who had carried the bags.

- Umfundisi. Mother.

- My friend. Will you eat?

- No indeed. I am on my way home. I have a message for you.

- For me?

- Yes, from uJarvis. Was the small white boy here today?

Kumalo had a dull sense of fear, realizing for the first time what had been done.

- He was here, he said.

- We were working in the trees, said the man, when this small boy came riding up. I do not understand English, umfundisi, but they were talking about Kuluse's child. And come and look what I have brought you.

There outside the door was the milk, in the shining cans in the cart.

- This milk is for small children, only for those who are not yet at school,

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said the man importantly.

...

- You would surely have a message for uJarvis, umfundisi? And Kumalo stuttered and stammered, and at last pointed his hand up at the sky. And the man said, Tixo will bless him, and Kumalo nodded.

The man said, I have worked only a week there, but the day he says to me, die, I shall die.

[Book 3, Chapter 2]

20

1.1 Choose the correct answer to complete the following sentence.  
Write only the letter (A–D) next to the question number (1.2.1) in the ANSWER BOOK.

The small, boy who is having his meal with Kumalo and his wife in lines 1 – 2, is the son of ...

- A. Stephen
  - B. Absalom
  - C. Gertrude
  - D. Arthur
- (1)

- 1.2 Refer to lines 13 – 14 ('I do not understand ... about Kuluse's child').
- (a) Why is the following statement FALSE?  
The milk that was sent by James Jarvis to Kumalo was for the community of Ndotsheni. (1)
  - (b) Explain why 'the man' refers to Kuluse's child. (2)

- 1.3 Refer to line 15 ('There outside the ... in the cart').  
Discuss the irony in James Jarvis providing milk for the small children of Ndotsheni. (2)

- 1.4 What does the word 'Tixo' (line 20) mean?  (1)

- 1.5 State TWO other ways in which James Jarvis contributes to the restoration of Ndotsheni. (2)

- 1.6 What does this extract reveal about the character of the small boy?  
Substantiate your answer. (2)

- 1.7 One of the themes in Cry, the Beloved Country is 'Journey'. Discuss this theme by referring to Stephen Kumalo. (3)

- 1.8 Urbanisation has led to the decline of moral values.  
Discuss your view by referring to the novel as a whole. (3)
- [17]**

## Answers to Activity 18

- 1.1 C / Gertrude ✓ (1)
- 1.2 (a) The milk is only for the small children/pre-schoolers. ✓ (1)
- (b) Stephen Kumalo tells the boy about the children not having milk because of poverty and that Kuluse's child is dying of malnutrition. ✓ (2)

**OR**

The boy tells his grandfather about Kuluse's child who is dying of malnutrition ✓ and the grandfather (James Jarvis) sends milk. ✓

**NOTE:** BOTH parts should be included to earn the marks. (2)

- 1.3 James Jarvis's son is killed by Absalom Kumalo, the reverend of Ndotsheni's son, but he does not hold a grudge and is willing to help the children of Ndotsheni by giving them milk. ✓✓ (2)
- 1.4 'Tixo' means God. ✓ (1)
- 1.5 He builds a dam. ✓  
He brings the agricultural demonstrator to teach the people of Ndotsheni on how to farm using modern agricultural methods / how to restore the soil. ✓  
He rebuilds the church. ✓

**NOTE:** Any TWO of the above responses are acceptable. No credit will be given for 'he gives the milk' (2)

- 1.6 The small boy is kind / compassionate / caring. ✓  
He realises the plight of the children of Ndotsheni which causes his grandfather (James Jarvis) to give milk to them. ✓ (2)

1.7

**Open-ended.**

Accept a relevant response which shows an understanding of the following viewpoints among others:

- Stephen Kumalo goes on a journey to Johannesburg to help Gertrude and find Absalom.
- During the search for Gertrude who has become a prostitute, he finds Absalom in jail and comes to the realisation of the decay of the moral values of his family.
- In his search he encounters several acts of kindness from various racial groups towards him, such as the lawyer defending Absalom Kumalo.
- He has grown in belief and faith by witnessing what Father Msimangu has done.

**NOTE:** For full marks, the response must be well-substantiated. Accept literal and/ figurative responses. A candidate can score 1 or 2 marks for a response which is not well-substantiated. The candidate's interpretation must be grounded in the novel. (2)

1.8 **Open-ended.**

A relevant response which shows an understanding of the following viewpoints among others, will be credited:

**Yes.**

- Gertrude Kumalo moves to Johannesburg and becomes involved in illegal selling of liquor and prostitution.
- John Kumalo also leaves for Johannesburg where his wife leaves him and he lives with another woman although they are not married.
- Absalom becomes involved in criminal activities.
- The murder of Arthur Jarvis underlines the moral decay that results in the destruction of life.

**OR**

**No.**

- Despite living in Johannesburg, Reverend Msimangu maintains his integrity and helps Stephen Kumalo.
- Mrs Lithebe offers accommodation to Gertrude and her son and shows compassion.
- The young white man who works at the reformatory helps Stephen Kumalo look for Absalom.

**NOTE:** No mark will be awarded for YES or NO only. Credit will be given to a response where a combination is given. For full marks, your response must be well-substantiated. You can score 1 to 2 marks for a response which is not well-substantiated. Your interpretation must be grounded in the novel.

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# Book 3 Chapter 3

- **Kumalo receives confirmation that there would be no mercy for Absalom.**

## 1. Structure and plot development

### **Falling action**

Rev. Kumalo receives four letters from Johannesburg. He quickly opens the one from the lawyer, Mr. Carmichael who took his son's case. Unfortunately, he learns that there would be no mercy for his son; and that he was going to hang on the fifteenth day of the following month.

The second part of this chapter deals with the installation of the sticks on the ground for the demarcation of the land for development at Ndotsheni. Already the community has seen a new teacher that they were promised. Even the rain represents some of the blessings that Ndotsheni is about to see.

## 2. Themes

### **Land reform and development**

Despite the hurt that Jarvis suffered when his son was killed, he is determined to bring a better and improved life in Ndotsheni. The sticks for demarcation and rezoning of the area is an indication that much progress lies in store for the people of Ndotsheni. The people of Ndotsheni are suffering from draught, the land is dry and the maize hardly grows. The women must go to the river (that comes from the place of u Jarvis) for water.

### **"Comfort in desolation" - Rainfall showering blessings**

The people of Ndotsheni have been living under severe conditions of drought and starvation. The signs of rain and thunderstorm bring hope that their drought nightmare days would come to an end, they would now be able to plough and have reap corn and have food.

### **Change of heart and 'mind-shifting' for the better**

One would have expected Jarvis to come bitter and worse after the cruel murder of his son; for that matter killed by the 'umfundisi' son. The opposite happens here, for Jarvis becomes resolute to change his personality and outlook in life. He becomes kind and helpful towards the needy; and is prepared to share his farm privileges with the poor community around him.

## 3. Tone

### **Three significant tones are shown in this chapter – mournful, and pessimistic.**

After Kumalo has read the letter for his wife, she has no comment but too say in a bitter and mournful way, 'Stephen, shall we go to work now' (page 206).

## 4. Chapter summary

### What happens in Chapter 3 and who is involved?

- Rev. Kumalo had been waiting for reply letters from the Central Prison in Pretoria regarding his son who is on the death row.
- When the expected letters eventually arrive; and one of them coming from the lawyer who had taken Absalom's case, the Kumalo family receives the news very calmly.
- Meanwhile, Jarvis, whose son was brutally murdered, is displaying a positive attitude by making positive changes for his community which makes him appear more understanding and dealing with his loss in an admirable manner.
- The Kumalo family goes on with their daily chores irrespective of the sad news they have received.
- The magistrate and the local chief, arrive to post some sticks on the land.
- The naughty boys who try to remove the sticks posted on the ground are scolded; and the already removed sticks are patched back where they had been.

## Activity 19

Read the extract and then answer the questions below.

He took the letter and read it, it was short and simple, and except for the first line, it was in Zulu, as is often the custom:

My dear Father and Mother: I am hoping you are all in health as I am. They told me this morning there will be no mercy for the thing that I have done. So I shall not see you or Ndotsheni again. This is a good place. I am locked in, and no one may come and talk to me.

There is a priest who comes to see me, a black priest from Pretoria. He is preparing me, and speaks well to me.

There is no more news here, so I close my letter. I think of you all at Ndotsheni, and if I were back there I should not leave it again. Your son, Absalom

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- 1.1 Refer to line 3.  
Write the full names represented by 'Father' and 'Mother' in line 3. (1)
- 1.2 Refer to line 4 ( ' ...the thing that I have done').  
In your own words, what is it that the writer of this letter has done. (1)
- 1.3 Refer to line 5.  
'So I shall not see you or Ndotsheni again.'  
(a) What tone would Absalom use when saying this line? (1)  
(b) Explain why this tone is appropriate in this context? (2)
- 1.4 Why is the statement, 'This is a good place' (line 5), ironical, given the circumstances the writer finds himself in. (2)
- 1.5 The theme of responsibility for one's action is explored in this chapter. Discuss. (4)
- 1.6 The rain that falls on Ndotsheni towards the end of this chapter, symbolises hope.  
Do you agree with this statement? Give reasons for your answer. (2)
- 1.7 Why is the following statement FALSE?  
Jarvis' eventual action in developing and improving life in Ndotsheni is merely hiding his evil. (2)
- 1.8 Do you think there is any value for the Priest to visit Absalom in prison? Motivate. (2)
- [17]**

## Answers to Activity 19

- 1.1 Reverend Stephen Kumalo and his wife Mrs. Kumalo ✓ (1)
- 1.2 The writer has killed Arthur Jarvis during a robbery. ✓ (1)
- 1.3 (a) Bitter and sorrowful tone. ✓ (1)  
(b) Because he realises the gravity of his crime now that he is going to hang and die. ✓✓ (2)
- 1.4 A prison has never been a nice place, let alone when waiting to hang. Absalom uses the phrase in order to divert the real impact of his feelings. ✓✓ (2)
- 1.5 **Absalom**, in this chapter, is seen accepting the hideous nature of his act of killing Arthur Jarvis. His acknowledgement of this crime reveals how positively he takes responsibility of his own actions.  
  
On the other hand, Jarvis is also taking full responsibility to mend his life with the developmental community projects in Ndotsheni to fill the guilt of having learnt very late in his life how his late son would have loved to live in harmony with others in the same community. ✓✓✓✓ (4)
- 1.6 **Agree:**  
The Ndotsheni people had lived in drought and poverty for a long time now. So the rain that eventually falls, brings the hope of a renewed life, which will bring ploughing and food again. The cattle will graze on green fields again and milk will be in abundance. ✓✓
- Disagree:**  
The rain is falling by chance and it's timing does not guarantee that the drought and the poverty that the people of Ndotsheni have suffered so far would be gone within a reasonable time expected. (2)
- 1.7 The statement is False, because Jarvis, after losing his son Arthur and after learning the kind of man and beliefs he held about the oppressed people in his country, undergoes a spiritual change to show how regretful he is for his past greed; and also to live the ideal life that his late son had cherished in his heart but never had the opportunity to practice it. ✓✓ (2)

- 1.8 Yes, the Priest wants to make sure that Absalom confesses his sins to God and possibly prays with him for forgiveness; and also the possibility of receiving salvation before his death. No, the Priest is merely perusing his daily routine of praying for the prisoners on death row; and Absalom has no control on who visits or does not visit him in this situation. ✓✓ (2)
- TOTAL 17



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# Book 3 Chapter 4

- **Jarvis works to restore the land**

## 1. Structure and plot development

### **Falling action**

Napoleon Letsitsi, introduces himself to Kumalo. He is an agricultural expert hired by Jarvis to teach better farming techniques. Napoleon will stay with the Kumalos. His aim is to help farmers to teach them about the cattle that are damaging the land, if there are too many on an area. He confirms that a dam is being built. Arthur's son returns to say good-bye to Kumalo. He promises to continue his Zulu lessons during his holidays.

## 2. Themes

### **The power of nature**

The arrival of the agricultural expert, Letsitsi, brings a new hope to the people. He will be able to teach the people to use the land correctly, therefore ensuring that the land becomes fertile and rich.

## 3. Tone

The tone used in this chapter is hopeful. 'Kumalo's face lighted up, and he sat there with his eyes shining. You are an angel of God, he said.' (p. 215)

The tone of Letsitsi is honest / direct/ straightforward – he realises that the people of Ndotsheni are set in their ways and that change might be difficult to accept, with regard to a change in their view of having cattle.

## 4. Chapter summary

### What happens in Chapter 4 and who is involved

- Arthur's son visits Kumalo and is taught more Zulu words. His command of the Zulu language surprises Kumalo's wife.
- The boy tells Kumalo that he is going back to Johannesburg when his grandfather comes back.
- The agricultural demonstrator, Napoleon Letsitsi, introduces himself to Kumalo. He informs Kumalo that he has been hired by Jarvis to teach the people correct farming techniques.
- Kumalo invites Letsitsi to stay with them at the parish.
- They talk about new techniques that must be taught to the people, e.g. where to plough, the custom of lobola that needs to change.
- Arthur's son comes back to inform Kumalo that he is leaving tomorrow, but promises that he will be back in the holidays to come and learn Zulu.

## Activity 20

Read the extract and then answer the questions below.

The young demonstrator laughed. I must look at it first, he said.

-But what would you have done in that other valley?

So the young men told them all he would have done in the other valley, how the people must stop burning the dung and must put it back into the land, how they must gather the weeds together and treat them and not leave them to wither away in the sun, how they must stop ploughing up and down the hills, how they must plant trees for fuel, trees that grow quickly like wattles, in some place where they could not plough at all, on the steep sides of streams so that the water did not rush away in the storms. But these were hard things to do, because the people must learn that it is harmful for each man to wrest a living from his own little piece of ground. Some must give up their ground for trees, and some for pastures. And hardest of all would be the custom of lobola, by which a man pays for his wife in cattle, for people kept too many cattle for this purpose, and counted all their wealth in cattle, so that the grass had no chance to recover.

[Book 3, Chapter 4]

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Activities with regard to ...	The farmers of Ndotsheni	Suggestions of the agricultural demonstrator
1. Dung		
2. Weeds		
3. Ploughing		
4. Ground		
5. Lobola		

Activities with regard to ...	The farmers of Ndotsheni	Suggestions of the agricultural demonstrator
1. Dung Put it back in the land.	Burn the dung	Don't burn the dung.
2. Weeds	Leave the weeds to wither.	Gather the weeds and treat them.
3. Ploughing	Plough up and down hills.	Plant trees on the places that they can't plough.
4. Piece of ground	Every person tries to extract a living from his own little piece of ground.	Some must give up their ground for trees and some for pastures.
5. Lobola	People get paid in cattle and keep a lot of cattle and counted their wealth in cattle.	People have to keep less cattle, so that the grass can recover.

Use the table below and contrast the activities of the farmers of Ndotsheni with the suggestions of the agricultural demonstrator. Where possible make use of pictures to visualise the activities.

## Activity 21

Read the extract and then answer the questions below.

- Something bright will go out of Ndotsheni, said Kumalo in Zulu.  
 -Something about Ndotsheni. But it's so hard for me. Say it in English, umfindisi.  
 -Something bright will go out of Ndotsheni, said Kumalo in English.  
 -Yes I see. When I go, something bright will go out of Ndotsheni.  
 The small boy laughed with pleasure.  
 I hear you, he said in Zulu.  
 And Kumalo clapped his hands in astonishment, and said Au! Au! You speak Zulu, so that the small boy laughed with still greater pleasure, and Kumalo clapped his hands again and made many exclamations.  
 The door opened and his wife came in, and he said to the small boy, This is my wife and he said to his wife in Zulu, This is the son of the man. The small boy stood up and made a bow to Kumalo's wife, and she stood and looked at him with fear and sorrow. But he said to her, You have a nice house here, and he laughed. She said to her husband in Zulu I'm overcome, I do not know what to say. And the small boy said in Zulu, I hear you, so that she took backwards in fear.

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## Answers to Activity 20

2.1 Refer to lines 2-3 ('Something about Ndotsheni ... in English, umfundisi').

Choose the correct answer to complete the following sentence. Write only the letter (A-D) next to the question number (2.1) in your answerbook.

'Umfundisi' is the isiZulu word for ...

- A mister.
- B priest.
- C lawyer.
- D father.

(1)

- 2.2 Refer to line 4 ('Something bright will ... Kumalo in English').  
a) Identify the figure of speech in this line.  
b) Explain how this figure of speech is relevant in this extract. (2)
- 2.3 Refer to lines 7-8 ('You speak Zulu').  
a) What tone would Stephen Kumalo use in these lines? (1)  
b) Why would Stephen Kumalo use this tone in these lines? (1)
- 2.4 In line 11 Stephen Kumalo says, 'This is the son of the man'.  
Why does Stephen Kumalo not call the man by his name? (2)
- 2.5 State TWO actions from the extract to show that the small boy is polite. (2)
- 2.6 Describe the atmosphere between Stephen Kumalo and the small boy in the extract.  
Substantiate your answer. (2)
- 2.7 Why is the following statement FALSE?  
  
In this extract Mrs Kumalo has a long conversation with the small boy. (1)
- 2.8 Refer to the novel as a whole.  
  
Explain the irony in the killing of Arthur Jarvis. (2)
- 2.9 Refer to the novel as a whole.  
  
Stephen Kumalo's journey to Johannesburg increases his awareness of the good qualities of human beings.  
  
Discuss your views. (3)



## Answers to Activity 21

- 2.1 B / priest ✓ (1)
- 2.2 a) Metaphor ✓ (1)  
b) The small boy is a source of light/joy (in Stephen Kumalo's life). ✓ When the boy leaves Ndotsheni this light will go out. ✓ (2)
- 2.3 a) surprise / pleasure / admiration/ excitement ✓ (1)  
b) Stephen Kumalo is pleased/ surprised that the white boy can speak some isiZulu. ✓ (1)
- 2.4 He is ashamed ✓ because this is the son of Arthur Jarvis / the man his son murdered. ✓ (2)
- 2.5 He bows to Mrs Kumalo. ✓  
He compliments her on her lovely home. ✓  
He stands up when Mrs Kumalo enters the room. ✓ (2)
- 2.6 The atmosphere is relaxed/pleasant/congenial. ✓  
The boy laughs at Stephen Kumalo's exclamations while Kumalo applauds the boy's attempts at speaking isiZulu. ✓ (2)
- 2.7 She does not speak to the small boy. /She speaks to her husband. ✓ (1)
- 2.8 Arthur Jarvis fought for the rights of the Black people, ✓ yet he was shot and killed by a Black man. ✓ (2)

**2.9 Open-ended**

Accept any relevant response which shows an understanding of the following viewpoints, among others:

**Yes**

- On his journey, Stephen Kumalo encounters several acts of kindness, e.g. Mr Mafolo takes him to the Mission House in Sophiatown.
- Msimangu is selfless when he helps Stephen Kumalo, e.g. he offers him a room to stay.
- The young white man from the reformatory assists Stephen Kumalo, e.g. in trying to find Absalom. ✓✓✓

**OR****No**

- Many of the people Stephen Kumalo encounters have bad qualities, e.g. he is robbed when he arrives in Johannesburg.
- He discovers that Gertrude and John Kumalo lead sinful lives, e.g. Gertrude is a prostitute and John a corrupt politician.
- His own son, Absalom, leads a life of crime and ultimately commits a murder. ✓✓✓

(3)





# Book 3 Chapter 5-6

- **The visit of the Bishop and the rebuilding of the church**

## 1. Structure and plot development

### Falling action

In these chapters a few important events take place that will tie up loose ends and give a glimpse of what the future holds. The drought is eventually broken and the first steps are taken in the building of the dam. The farmers are being taught new skills and even though there are still many obstacles, there is hope for the future. Some events are tragic: as we learn of the death of Jarvis' wife.

## 2. Themes

### The importance of the land

The people of the rural areas are dependent on the land to give them what they need to survive. But the land falls victim to exploitation and overuse and becomes a victim in itself. When James Jarvis and Kumalo return to their homes, they start to heal the land. The new farming techniques will bring relief not only to the people of Ndotsheni, but also the land itself and its ability to support the people.

### Racism and Apartheid

The inequality between races, leads to economical problems, which leads to resentment and mistrust. Letsitsi comments that it was the 'white man who gave us so little land, it was the white man who took us away from the land to go to work.' (Chapter 6 page 229). Ironically it is the white man, Jarvis who is giving Letsetsi the opportunity to work and to restore the land for the people of Ndotsheni.

## 3. Tone

The tone used in this chapter is **sad**. The reader is confronted with the shocking news that the wife of James Jarvis has passed away. Kumalo feels empathy with Jarvis and writes a letter of condolence to him.

When Kumalo receives the letter from Jarvis, telling him that a new church will be built in Ndotsheni, as was the last wish of his wife, he can barely contain his **excitement**.

The conversation between Kumalo and Letsetsi is at times quite **constrained** and **tense**.

## 4. Chapter summary

### What happens in Chapter 5 and who is involved

Kumalo receives the tragic news that Margaret Jarvis is dead.

A condolence letter is written by Kumalo to Jarvis on behalf of his church.

The local Bishop suggests that Kumalo should leave Ndotsheni.

A message from Jarvis arrives, telling that it was his wife's plan to help rebuild the church at Ndotsheni.

A wreath of flowers is made by the people of the church for Mr Jarvis.

## Chapter summary

### What happens in Chapter 6 and who is involved

There is new hope in the village for the future, as the farmers are slowly changing to Mr Letsitsi's ideas to improve the land.

In their conversation Mr. Letsitsi makes it clear that it will take a long time for the land to improve.

When Kumalo scolds Mr. Letsitsi, by saying he is ungrateful for what Mr Jarvis has done, Mr Letsitsi replies that he is working for the land and for South Africa, not for Jarvis alone.

## Activity 22

Read the extract and then answer the questions below.



It was dark in the church for the confirmation, so that they had to light the lamps. The great heavy clouds swept over the valley, and the lightning flashed over the red desolate hills, where the earth had torn away like flesh. The thunder roared over the valleys of old men and old women, of mothers and children.

1. Refer to the phrases below.

- Identify the figure of speech in the lines.
- Explain how the figure of speech is relevant in this extract.

- |  |     |
|--|-----|
| 1.1 'The great heavy clouds swept over the valley ...' | (3) |
| 1.2 '... over the red desolate hills.'                 | (3) |
| 1.3 '...where the earth had torn away like flesh.'     | (3) |
| 1.4 'The thunder roared over the valleys ...'          | (3) |

# Answers to Activity 22

- 1.1. 'The great heavy clouds swept over the valley ...'
- a) Personification ✓
- b) The clouds are compared to a person sweeping/ moving over an area. ✓ This emphasises the action of the clouds rolling in over the valley. It is a welcome sight to the people as the drought will finally end. ✓ (3)
- 1.2 '... over the red desolate hills.'
- a) Metaphor ✓
- b) The hills of the valleys are compared to a something/someone that is isolated/ abandoned/ deserted. ✓ The people of Ndothseni has been isolated from the rest of the world and abandoned by the men, young women and girls that have left the area to go to Johannesburg. ✓ (3)
- 1.3 '...where the earth had torn away like flesh.'
- a) Simile ✓
- b) The earth / ground is compared to a wound that open/ where the flesh is clearly visible. ✓ The earth has been hurt (exploited) by the farmers and is bleeding. The rain and the new farming techniques will ensure the wound is closed and healing can begin. ✓ (3)
- 1.4 'The thunder roared over the valleys ...'
- a) Personification ✓
- b) The sound of the thunder is compared to an animal (lion) roaring. ✓ The sound is the first announcement that the rain is on the way. The rain that the people so desperately needs. ✓ (3)



# Book 3 Chapter 7

- Kumalo's vigil for Absalom

**Cry,  
the  
Beloved  
Country**



**Source:** <https://za.pinterest.com/jdefroe/cry-the-beloved-country/>

# 1. Structure and plot development

## **Denouement / Resolution**

The last chapter forms the resolution to the novel. Stephen Kumalo journeys to the mountain to pray for his son and his thoughts form a beacon of hope for the end of the novel. The novel ends with the dawn rising and a prayer for South Africa.

# 2. Themes

## **Reuniting the Family and Nation**

The families in Ndotseheni are reunited and there is the promise of a new addition of the family: the wife of Absalom is due to give birth soon. The birth will connect Stephen and his wife to their son, Absalom that is due to be executed.

## **Christian values of kindness**

Jarvis has shown kindness to the people of Ndotsheni in different ways. The kindness between Jarvis and Kumalo causes the bond between them to develop. Stephen reflects on the kindness of the people he has met on his journey. It is clear that small acts of kindness can make a huge difference in the lives of people.

# 3. Tone

The tone used in this chapter is hopeful. The novel ends with the dawn breaking, which is a symbol of hope.

# 4. Chapter summary

## **What happens in Chapter 7 and who is involved**

- Stephen decides to go to the mountain to pray for his son, that will be executed the next day.
- Stephen meet Jarvis on his way to the mountain.
- Jarvis enquires if Stephen desires a new church. Then he tells Kumalo that he will be leaving soon to stay with his daughter in law in Johannesburg.
- Stephen climbs the mountain and prays and sleeps throughout the night.
- He reflects on the thought of his son that is going to be executed.
- The dawn breaks and Stephen prays for South Africa.



# Activity 23

Read the extract and then answer the questions below.

He thought of all those that were suffering, of Gertrude the weak and foolish one, of the people of Shanty Town and Alexandra, of his wife now at this moment. But above all of his son, Absalom. Would he be awake, would he be able to sleep, this night before the morning? He cried out, My son, my son, my son. With his crying he was now fully awake, and he looked at his watch and saw that it was one o'clock. The sun would rise soon after five, and it was then it was done, they said. If the boy was asleep, then let him sleep, it was better. But if he was awake, then O Christ of the abundant mercy, be with him. Over this he prayed long and earnestly. Would his wife be awake, and thinking of it? She would have come with him, were it not for the girl. And the girl, why he had forgotten her. But she was no doubt asleep; she was loving enough, but this husband had given her so little, no more than her others had done. And there was Jarvis, bereaved of his wife and son, and his daughter-in-law bereaved of her husband, and her children bereaved of their father, especially the small boy, the bright laughing boy.

5

10

15

- 1.1 Explain why Stephen Kumalo makes this journey into the mountain. (2)
- 1.2 On which other occasion does Stephen Kumalo go to the mountain? (1)
- 1.3 Explain how 'the girl' becomes part of the Kumalo family. (2)
- 1.4 Discuss what this extract reveals about Stephen Kumalo's character. (2)
- 1.5 Refer to line 17 ('the bright laughing boy').
  - (a) Identify the figure of speech. (1)
  - (b) Explain how this figure of speech adds to the description of the boy. (2)
- 1.6 Explain how Gertrude and Mrs Lithebe differ in character. (2)
- 1.7 Considering the novel as a whole, discuss the theme of forgiveness. (3)
- 1.8 Discuss the suitability of Absalom's punishment. (3)

## Answers to Activity 23

- 1.1 He goes into the mountains to pray/think/reflect/to be alone ✓ during this time of extreme suffering when Absalom is about to be executed. ✓ (2)
- 1.2 When Absalom was a young boy and became very ill. ✓  
When he contemplated leaving the ministry to open a business. ✓  
When his wife was away and, in a moment of weakness and loneliness, he considered committing adultery with a schoolteacher. ✓ (1)
- 1.3 Absalom had impregnated the girl prior to him being arrested. ✓ While he is in prison, he marries her so that his child will be raised legitimately. ✓ (2)



- 1.4 Steven Kumalo is a religious person. ✓  
 He loves Absalom unconditionally. ✓  
 He is considerate/caring. ✓  
 He is compassionate. ✓  
 He feels accountable/responsible for his son's actions. ✓  
 He is God-fearing. ✓

**NOTE:** Accept any TWO of the above.

(2)

- 1.5 a) Metaphor ✓  
 b) The comparison between the boy (Arthur Jarvis's son) and a bright, shiny light means he is striking/stands out. ✓

(1)

- The boy is intelligent. ✓  
 The boy brings back joy into their lives. ✓  
 The boy has an/a infectious/ attractive/caring personality. ✓  
 The boy's brightness of spirit stands out. ✓

**NOTE:** Accept any TWO of the above.

(2)

- 1.6 Gertrude is promiscuous/immoral/erratic in her behaviour.  
 Mrs Lithebe is morally upright/pious/strict. ✓✓

(2)

- 1.7 The discussion of the theme of the impact of forgiveness on the community of Ndotsheni, should include the following points, among others:  
 \*Despite Absalom Kumalo killing their son, James Jarvis bears no hatred/is not vengeful towards the Kumalo family;  
 \*Through his actions (e.g. uplifting the community), James Jarvis proves that he is forgiving;  
 \*Mrs Jarvis shares his sentiments and desires that the church be completed;  
 \*Stephen Kumalo does not bear any resentment towards his son;  
 \*Stephen Kumalo forgives his son immediately;  
 \*Stephen Kumalo tries to manage the consequences of Absalom's Actions;  
 \*Stephen Kumalo does not show any hatred towards his siblings (John and Gertrude).

**NOTE:** For full marks, the response must be well-substantiated. A candidate can score 1 or 2 marks for a response which is not well-substantiated. The candidate's interpretation must be grounded in the novel.

(3)

- 1.8 Accept a relevant response which shows an understanding of Absalom's actions and the consequences thereof.  
 \*Absalom deserves to be executed since he pulls the trigger and is responsible for the death of Arthur Jarvis;  
 \*he has succumbed to a life of crime;  
 \*Absalom was fully aware of his potential to kill and so must be held responsible for his actions.

**OR**

- \*The murder of Arthur Jarvis was not pre-meditated, the intention was to rob;  
 \*Absalom Kumalo may have pulled the trigger resulting in the death of Arthur Jarvis but he did not act alone;  
 Johannes Pafuri and Matthew Kumalo were his accomplices and so are complicit in the murder;  
 \*the fact that Absalom confessed to having pulled the trigger should have resulted in the court showing leniency by not pronouncing the death penalty.

**NOTE:** For full marks, the response must be well-substantiated. A candidate can score 1 or 2 marks for a response which is not well-substantiated. The candidate's interpretation must be grounded in the novel.

(3)



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