

The storyteller

JUTA's Grade 12 Short Story Anthology

Suggested answers to the 'Test yourself' questions

The storyteller – JUTA's Grade 12 Short Story Anthology
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Published by Juta Gariep, PO Box 5197, Cape Town, 8000
First published in 2008

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ISBN: 978 0 7021 7459 9

Copies of the anthology can be obtained from On the Dot at 021 918 8810 or via e-mail at orders@onthedot.co.za

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Enemy

Lionel Abrahams

Suggested answers to the 'Test yourself' questions on page 25

1. Third person narrator. We see the story through the writer's eyes.
2. The boys are forced to share their living space and the lack of privacy means that any weaknesses or hang-ups become public knowledge. The absence of protective parents further increases their vulnerability.
3. Felix remembers being "unpopular" which he said "was the word used then".
 - a) 'uncool'.
 - b) Being perceived to be a 'goodie-goodie' on the side of the authorities; not willing to break rules and non-conforming to the code of the rebellious boys.
4. Explain how each of the following could have 'softened' Willem:
 - a) Women are traditionally seen to be the gentle peacemakers who would not tolerate bullying.
 - b) Bullies often depend on places out of the general public eye to perform their acts since they are not actually brave enough to challenge openly.
 - c) The passage of time heals or dampens unpleasant feelings and memories.
5. When grinning, the tip of his tongue would stick out against his lower lip.
6. Maturity has given Felix more self-confidence and he does not automatically interpret actions in a negative, self-persecuting way.
7. Physical strength. Good figure and looks.
8. Common tactics used by bullies:
 - playing on a victim's known fear or weakness
 - using insulting nicknames
 - assuming the role of an authority figure entitled to deal out punishment
 - threats, often made in crude language
 - displays of physical strength
 - relying on gang's or followers' support.
9. All are physically weak or handicapped in some way.
10. Willem enjoys inflicting pain and humiliation on others to give himself a sense of importance and power. This covers up his poor self-image. Felix is a compassionate boy who has a desire to see justice and fairness done. He upholds good against evil.
11. If he really was the culprit who stole Felix's purse he does deserve to be punished, but not in the way Willem administers justice.
12. Willem intended to use corporal (physical) punishment, i.e. lashes. A Master might have chosen to remove privileges, 'ground' Basil, urge him to apologise and make amends, and so on.
13. The boys followed him out of fear, not respect.
14. Felix is able to look at remembered incidents in a positive way, finding things to admire or enjoy in them instead of focusing on the negative aspects alone. Felix lost all his feelings of bitterness, which actually only served to 'hurt' him rather than Willem, giving him a sense of freedom and joy instead.

Unto dust

Herman Charles Bosman

Suggested answers to the 'Test yourself' questions on page 32

1. It is dealing with the belief that white and black are utterly different and have nothing in common. It also tackles the issue that white and black could not associate.
2. Stoffel believes that the above is absolutely true. It doesn't occur to him to question it, even though his own story proves it is a ridiculous theory.
Oom Schalk is very confused. His background makes him believe the theory, but his common sense – especially after hearing the story that Stoffel told – makes him doubt it.
Bosman, who had travelled extensively, knew that the theory was nonsense and that basically all human beings share a common humanity.
3. Stoffel has believed this for so long and it is part of the belief-structure of that community. He cannot even begin to think of any other possibility.
4. Match the four deaths:
 - a) The black man.
 - b) Andries Wessels.
 - c) The 20-year-old.
 - d) Hans Welman.
5. He focuses on the black man's action in war but also on the fact that he must have treated his dog extremely well for it to grieve so long.
6. The black man was shot by Stoffel – during the war.
Andries seems to have died of an illness.
The young girl's death was either accidental or suicide – something to do with the cattle-dip.
Hans Welman died in the war.
7. The yellow dog was first seen at the time when Hans was killed when it was with its master and sharing his excitement. Then it was seen when the Boers came to collect Hans's body for burial – it had obviously stayed near its master's body. Then it took up its post near the actual grave, proving that at least some – if not all – of the bones selected as belonging to Hans must actually have been those of the black man. The dog is amazingly faithful. It is also the one who proves beyond doubt that white and black are basically just people.
8. Humour is created through the unexpected, for example Andries's visions of angels; through Stoffel's utter belief in something illogical (e.g. that to muddle an Englishman with Hans would be fine, but not with a black man); through Oom Schalk's belief in Stoffel's wisdom.
9. These words suggest a funeral service where we say 'Dust unto dust'. This is based on the Bible teaching (and scientific knowledge) that a person's body crumbles to dust after burial. There is also the teaching from the Bible that man (Adam) was made from dust – all men of all races, therefore, begin and end as dust.

Willem Prinsloo's Peach Brandy

Herman Charles Bosman

Suggested answers to the 'Test yourself' questions on page 41

1. She is an attractive young woman, with a kind heart who doesn't want to hurt the feelings of Schalk Lourens. She is no fool as she is able very quietly to stop him discussing Fritz and from protesting his love for her. She seems to have a kindly sense of humour and is tolerant – it can't have been easy to have to cope with Schalk for so long a period when she probably wanted to dance.
2. The answer (diary entry) must not contradict any of the feelings or detail from the story, and should show gentle amusement at what happened.
3. No. They were not sophisticated enough, having no social graces. Neither were they educated enough to be suitable husbands.
4. This was supposed to be haunted because it was a place of tall trees which grew densely packed. This meant that it was darker than the rest of the route. The wind that blew through the gap in the hills would have made it seem colder and less friendly.
5. This would probably convey that he was a well-meaning young man but without much academic ability.
6. He seems to be a simple man who had a fairly good self-image, and who looked down on Fritz. He had a good imagination (e.g. the evil voice he imagined, the interest from Grieta he supposed was there). All he knew was life in the Marico – that was his sole conversation. The other men seemed to like him. In a muddled kind of way he did have insight, though he didn't always understand exactly what it was that gave him the clues.
7. It is sad in that Schalk is so obviously not going to win Grieta's heart and we wonder who would find him attractive as he was such a simple man. However, his actions are amusing and so are his attempts to explain away an embarrassing moments (e.g. the fear at Abjaterskop, the fact that the peach brandy had gone to his head). His contempt of Fritz is also amusing as he is following exactly the same path as Fritz – dressing up, trying to monopolise Grieta, trying to fill the gaps in his education and getting extremely drunk.
8. No. Bosman is looking at the whole scene so we get glimpses from everyone's point of view, not just Schalk's.

The pedestrian

Ray Bradbury

Suggested answers to the 'Test yourself' questions on page 48

1. He is a writer, living by himself in the suburban area of a large city in 2052 AD. He loves walking alone in the city at night and enjoys the fresh air and sense of freedom. He does not seem afraid of possible dangers (such as dogs) and revels in the sense of solitude that walking gives him. He is individualistic and does not want to participate in the lifestyle of the other inhabitants. As he walks around, he quietly mocks their lifestyle. He does not enjoy their sedentary, TV addictive habits. His house seems to be the only one that exudes warmth and light, and we get the impression that he likes it and enjoys living there.
2. The other people are passive and sedentary. They spend their free time watching television addictively. They never go for walks just for enjoyment and do not seem to participate in any physical exercise, preferring to go everywhere by car. They are described as living corpses and their houses are like tombs, indicative of this soul-destroying way of life.
3. The authorities do not like Leonard's attitude at all and see the differences between him and the others as 'regression' and a potential threat to society. This indicates that the society is authoritarian and totalitarian, and that individualism will be punished. Free thought is obviously discouraged and people are becoming like automations. They have lost all feeling for nature.
4. The broken pavements and empty streets indicate the sedentary lifestyle of the people. The houses are described as tomblike with hardly any sound coming from the people. The only noise is from the TV sets. This indicates a lack of any real communication between the inhabitants – everything is run by machines and the people are becoming like machines. The most chilling description is of the unmanned police car. The streets do not belong to the people, who have forgotten how to walk along them. This is why the pavements are so neglected – and yet, there is a sense of beauty and freedom in the night-time scene. Also note the references to plants, leaves and other natural objects; nature is undefeated and is, in fact, asserting itself in places.
5. The police car is obviously programmed to consider any behaviour that deviates from the norm of sedentary, docile life as dangerous and retrogressive. To walk around a city for no reason other than enjoyment seems incomprehensible to it and a potential threat to the status quo of what appears to be an authoritarian and oppressive regime.
6. Learner should give own opinion but answers must show a comprehension of the issues of individual freedom that is threatened by such a world.
7. Possible answer: We have more individual freedom, but are becoming increasingly passive and sedentary. Many people are almost as addicted to TV, the Internet, DVDs, and so on, and in many cities the streets are as empty at night as they are in this story. People prefer to drive or be driven than walk anywhere. There is also pressure to conform and loners are often ostracised.
8. The writer is trying to warn us of the dangers of modern life – if we are not careful, our society could end up like the one in the story!

The boy and Mr Katz

Jack Cope

Suggested answers to the 'Test yourself' questions on page 60

1. The boy is planning to fish, as he always does. He plans to sell the fish to support himself and his sister so that they can live. Mr Katz is there to end his life. He planned to throw himself into the water and to commit suicide.
2. The smell of the salt water, the fish, the wooden piers, the stale bait which he finds terrible at first but gets used to. These are all typical harbour smells.
3. All the sounds make us aware once again that this is a normal harbour setting – the water lapping against the piers, the sea birds calling to each other, some women laughing across the harbour, the 'plop' (onomatopoeia) of the bait hitting the water as they cast their lines.
4. Visual aspects that Mr Katz is aware of:
 - a) The sea and the moon.
 - b) The sea water is said to be "dark" and "black" and "sliding". Cope never refers to the moonlight or city lights reflecting on the water. For a long time Mr Katz could not bear to look at it, though towards the end he dares to do so. This was where Mr Katz had planned to end his life and it represented failure, sadness and pain.

The moon is not visible initially and only came up "reddish-yellow and huge" while they were fishing. Whenever Mr Katz thinks of the water, he glances at the moon to calm himself. The moonlight shines on the boy's face as he sleeps and on the fish as Mr Katz catches them. During the long night Mr Katz gazes at the moon and the evening star that followed it. In the morning the moon sets as the dawn comes. It seems as though the moon comes to represent hope and life throughout the darkness. In the morning he has chosen life and no longer needs the moon. He can look at the sea but is not afraid of it now. He can sweep the ashes of the fire over the edge without really noticing what he is doing.

Is it by chance that the fish, which turn his life around, come from the sea? Out of his despair comes another chance to be of value to someone.
5. This is probably a suicide note.
 - a) He wants to make sure that someone followed up on his death – perhaps to make sure his business could be settled. The boy does not like the police – probably because the informal traders could be harassed by them as the police would demand permits, etc.
 - b) By morning Mr Katz has put the thought of suicide behind him and the boy does not remember the note in the excitement of having so much fish to sell. The note is no longer important.
6. The boy influences Mr Katz by his acceptance of his hard life and his determination to turn things around for himself and his sister. Only much later do we suspect that Mr Katz will influence the boy's future. The boy is the key factor during the time of the short story.
7. Both have had trouble in their lives. Both have no one who cares for them. Both have to fend for themselves.

The follower

Frederick Carruthers Cornell

Suggested answers to the 'Test yourself' questions on page 70

1. Probably, they would lie awake wondering about the diamonds and about all the other tales they had heard. Possibly they wondered about whether Jason was totally sane.
2. They are in a desolate part of the country, staying in a ruin with only a campfire for cheer. The ruin suggests someone else for whom life had proved too hard and the barren countryside adds to a sense of loneliness and remoteness from a living world.
3. The country is described as harsh and unforgiving, like the dead man. It is also a mysterious land in which people can be lost forever. The shifting dunes add to a sense of strangeness and unreality.
4. The wind covered his tracks, and changed the shapes of the dunes. The sheer vastness of the desert also made finding his way difficult, as there were no landmarks to follow.
5. He was not sure whether the movement on the sand was of one or two men. He also had a strange feeling that they were being followed.
6. He felt that he was just overcome with the tension and exhaustion of being lost. Possibly he also considered sunstroke to be a cause of the deliriousness.
7. The two men who quarrelled probably fought because of the diamonds. The one killed the other with his sword. The third man, laughingly, killed the victor and seized the diamonds. However, one of the injured men felt that no one should get the diamonds and killed the onlooker. One could also argue that Jason was partly responsible for Carfax's death as he left him alone to go and stare into the desert, dreaming of similar finds of diamonds.
8. Veldtschoens (veldskoene); spoor.
9. He seems to repeat the question they had asked. He also replies using 'yes' and 'no'.
10. He is reminded of Carfax because the incidents with him happened on moonlit nights.

Taste

Roald Dahl

Suggested answers to the 'Test yourself' questions on page 87

1. At first we think of him as a sophisticated, urbane character (gourmet, "restrained" behaviour), but our opinion starts to change when we observe him speaking to Louise ("almost impinging") and his rude behaviour to the maid. We are horrified when he makes a bid for Louise. He becomes more and more repulsive and threatening during the "bet". His behaviour to Louise and his reaction to his 'victory' are very ominous. The dishonesty which is revealed at the end shows him to be a despicable and dangerous character.

2. Although he is a successful stockbroker, he is almost ashamed that he has made so much money so easily and realises that he does not really deserve this wealth. There is a hint that he is unscrupulous in business. He feels inferior when it comes to the finer things of life and would like to be considered a man of culture. This is why he is so keen to impress Richard.

He seems to be a very authoritarian husband and father and behaves in a superior, dismissive way to his wife and daughter. He becomes increasingly tense in the course of the story and shows raw aggression at the end.

Learners should express their own opinions of his actions provided they show a grasp of the issues involved – is it ever justified to make a person (especially your child) the object of a bet?

3. At first we expect a quiet, 'civilised' sophisticated dinner party. We are introduced to Richard Pratt, the gourmet and wine expert. We also meet the host, Mike, a stockbroker who want to become 'more cultured'. The tension increases when the "little game" gets out of hand and becomes an exercise in human bartering or trading. Learners must trace these stages:
 - Introduction – civilised pleasant setting and background to the dinner
 - Background of Mike's situation
 - Mention of the "little game"
 - Richard's behaviour at dinner before the bet
 - The progress of the bet and what this shows about the issues, character and personalities of those involved (the increasingly repulsive description of Pratt)
 - The outcome
 - The reactions of the characters
 - The revelation of the maid and what this means
4. The answer must trace the increasingly aggressive, threatening and repulsive descriptions. Some examples are:
 - Pratt: the increasingly disgusting details of his appearance and body language e.g. supercilious arching of the brows, "shadow of something evil between the eyes", "mouth like a wet keyhole" pink tongue, saliva, his reaction to Louise's smoking etc.
 - Mike: sitting and standing very still, "contained", skipping excitedly, smiling to placate Louise, sitting quietly but tensely while Richard tries to guess, face becoming puffy and pale when Richard guesses correctly, in the end overtly aggressive – "slowly drawing himself up from his chair", "the colour coming to his face, and the eyes opening wide, and the curl of the mouth, and the dangerous little patch of whiteness beginning to spread around the area of the nostrils."Accept any appropriate example

5. The wife does not seem to have any ability to assert herself in her relationship with Mike. She seems nervous and ineffectual and he ignores her objections. Even at the end, she does not seem to blame him, but tries to calm him down because she realises the danger.

Louise seems 'helpless' at the beginning, obviously not enjoying Pratt's advances, but not knowing how to cope with them. She objects to the bet but accepts her father's assurance that all will be well. She doesn't want the houses (at least initially) but gives in to her father. She seems 'helpless' here. However, she shows more spirit than her mother in the way she ignores Pratt's objections to her smoking – this is a declaration of independence and signals an important change in her.

6. We hardly notice the maid until the end when she proves herself to have more fighting spirit than the others. She is a small, elderly person but knows exactly how to handle the situation. She takes matters into her own hands at the end when she emerges from obscurity to take centre stage and solve the problem. She obviously cares for Louise and saves her when the girl's mother does not do so. Ultimately, she comes across as the strongest (and bravest) character of all.
7. Pratt has surreptitiously checked the label of the bottle. (This explains why he told Mike to put it in the study). The maid has noticed this and 'spills the beans' thus saving Louise.

This is unexpected because the maid has been unobtrusive throughout the meal. We are not expecting this revelation from her, and (like Mike) have probably accepted the reason why the bottle was in the study. This seems plausible because Pratt is a wine expert!

The homecoming

Achmat Dangor

Suggested answers to the 'Test yourself' questions on page 103

1. He is intelligent, but very restless. Instead of obtaining the expected qualification 'overseas', he has returned after years of third class travelling and wandering around Europe. He was a promising student but is not returning to a hero's welcome because it is felt that he has somehow not lived up to his promise. He comes from a relatively prosperous home, in the 'Coloured' township of Newclare, but feels alienated from his family, home and surroundings. There is a sense that he does not feel 'at home' anywhere (except maybe in a third class train compartment) and needs to be permanently travelling.
2. At first, one may be puzzled that someone as intelligent as Nicholas has 'wasted' his time travelling rather aimlessly around, instead of obtaining a qualification. However, the 'flashbacks' to what happened in his childhood help us to understand that he has been traumatised by these events, especially by the death of his friend and the displacement of others. This has made him feel alienated.
3. His father is a patriarch. He is domineering, but does care for his son (e.g. He goes to search for the missing boy at Nicholas's insistence). However, he does not seem to understand Nicholas or his feelings about the political situation. He has no idea why his son should want to lead the life he seems to have chosen (or drifted into). His 'solution' is to find Nicholas a job – a solution which his son rejects. Nicholas's resistance to his father is passive – for example, he sets off for the interview, but catches a train instead. When he meets his father again, he feels "revulsion" towards his father's emotional greeting (the "tear" in his eye) as he feels that this is merely showing off.

All we learn about Nick's mother is that she was once beautiful, but has now become old and worn. This gives Nick a shock when he sees her again.

4. Although "things are changing", Newclare remains a non-white township. In Nicholas's childhood, various races (excluding whites) lived together, and he had black as well as Coloured friends. The divisions were on grounds of wealth, not of race. These divisions were very obvious, though – Nicholas's parents lived a comfortable life on the hill, whereas the blacks lived in poorer houses in the valley below. His parents' lifestyle is affluent and contains elements of prosperous Western culture (note for example the parties and the servants).
The character of Newclare changed when the black population was removed to Soweto and Coloured residents were brought in. Nicholas sees these new residents as "minions"; he does not seem to like the change ("the valley had vanished").
5. Despite his relative wealth, as a child Nicholas has a good relationship with his friends from the valley. He goes to functions like the 'smelling out' ceremony with them, although his father would very likely not approve of this. He has a deep affection for them and is very upset by the death of one and the removal of the other. He seems upset that Aaron does not wave goodbye, although he realises that this is part of his friend's coping mechanism.
6. After these incidents, Nicholas became alienated from his surroundings. One friend was dead; the other had been forcibly moved. At this point, he chose to go to boarding school and then to Europe. The only other friend we hear about is a black travelling companion, whom he separates from when they both go different ways. Probably as a result of this feeling of alienation and rootlessness, he does not feel like settling anywhere or making connections with anyone.
7. A creative writing activity. Give credit for insight into the story and Nicholas's feelings.

The necklace

Guy de Maupassant

Suggested answers to the 'Test yourself' questions on page 114

1. Three contrasting situations
 - a) and b) Three columns
 - What she had: a home, a good and kind husband, a maid and so probably a fair standard of living but she was discontented and frustrated, a dreamer.
 - What she wanted: a luxury home, a rich husband, men-servants (much posher!) and all the opportunities to entertain and gossip and to lead a life of luxury as she imagined it.
 - What she got: a rented home in a poor part of town, a husband who worked alongside her and did not desert her, no servant, no leisure; a body which aged. But she learnt a patience, a pride in herself and what she had achieved, and seemed to lose the frustration which made her difficult and unsatisfied.
2. There are a number of ironies. The first being that the necklace for which they worked seemed so real and they assumed that it was because it belonged to a wealthy woman but the reality was that it was a fake as the wealthy woman had no problem wearing an imitation necklace. She was comfortable with her status. Also when Mdm Loisel got what she longed for, it turned out to bring unhappiness, not the happiness she thought it would.

There is also the thought that possessions bring happiness whereas it was the self worth which brought contentment, despite the loss of possessions.
3. A discussion question. We suspect the more correct answer would be: yes as he does not discuss their feelings after the disaster. We hear only of their work and of the ultimate sense of contentment at having paid their debts off.
4. Also debatable. There is cruel twist to the story. So much disaster follows from one small cause. De Maupassant shows neither sympathy nor irritation. He lets the scenes play out and leaves it to us to supply the emotion.
5. There is the pride which shows itself in her refusal to be looked down on by anybody – a useless pride. Then there is the pride of doing a job well – a worthwhile pride.
6. The long years are summarised very quickly. The real focus is on the week of the party and the couple of days after that when they try to find the necklace and resolve to do the right thing. The thread of the story is, however, that the necklace is the focus of everything over the ten years so it provides the core which holds the story together.

The silk scarf

Ahmed Essop

Suggested answers to the 'Test yourself' questions on page 122

1. She is a member of the new elite and is very conscious of her new wealth and status – to the exclusion of any idealism or principles (note the status symbols – the new Mercedes Benz, the companion, the bodyguards, the expensive new clothes, and the house in Houghton.). She is arrogant and self-seeking and will go to any lengths to get her own way (e.g. her treatment of Mr Sakur regarding the cheque). In her dealings with Mr Sakur, we see that she considers herself above the law and believes that those who go against her wishes have no place in the new South Africa. Her highhanded treatment of the Indian traders suggests that she is a racist as well as being arrogant and self-opinionated. She also does not seem very intelligent, as can be seen by the fact that she seems totally oblivious to the irony of the words (especially the last sentence).
2. Her husband is a member of the political party who fought for the freedom of the people. We should expect him and his wife to have the interests of the people at heart and not to let a sense of self-importance overshadow what they ought to be doing – that is, liberating the people from an oppressive regime and setting up a just and fair democracy. Mrs Nebo has no right to behave exactly as the members of the 'old' regime did! She also should not be a racist, as this is against the principles of the new party who fought against apartheid-style racism.
3. Learners should be encouraged to express their own opinions based on the text.
Some points:
Mr Sakur's 'good' characteristics:
 - A man of his word – will not deviate from his rules
 - Proud
 - Not prepared to make exceptions – the rule applies to everyone, irrespective of status and wealth
 - Not intimidated – quietly courageous
 Possible negative characteristics:
 - Maybe too stubborn
 - Very rigid in his interpretation of the law – no exceptions under *any* circumstances. (Learners can discuss – is this *always* a good policy? Is it possible to be a bit more flexible? If so, when?)
4. a)

Mrs Nebo's arguments	Mr Sakur's arguments
She is the wife of a future Cabinet Minister and deserves special treatment.	There is a law in his shop and he cannot change it.
There is enough money in her bank account.	If he accepts one cheque, he will have to accept all.
Her cheques have never bounced.	He has a right to decide on the rules of his own shop.
She feels deprived of 'an item of feminine beauty' that she thinks she deserves.	

Learners can add to this list if they wish.

- b) If you believe in democratic principles, Mr Sakur has the stronger argument – (see arguments above). He has a right to decide on the rules and procedures in his own business and these should be respected. If you agree with Mrs Nebo, you should also consider the consequences of allowing people in high places to do as they please, simply because of their positions. Is this good for a democracy?

- c) Mr Sakur would probably win in a fair and objective court because the law respects the right of the individual and would possibly agree that he is entitled to insist on business principles which suit him. He has good reasons to accept cheques or give credit because this will prevent fraud, bouncing cheques and bad debt. He is not obliged to change his rules to suit the wishes of individual customers.
5. Learners should come up with their own opinions and can do research if necessary. Some possible solutions could be:
- Mrs Nebo goes to a bank and withdraws cash
 - Mr Sakur agrees to keep the scarf until Mrs Nebo brings (or sends) money
 - One of the other shopkeepers cashes a cheque from Mrs Nebo in order to allow her to pay cash to Mr Sakur
 - Mrs Nebo telephones her husband to arrange for cash for Mr Sakur.
6. Mark according to a rubric for a friendly letter of the appropriate grade.
NB: This should be a humorous, satirical letter, so Mrs Nebo's advice should be 'over the top'. Give credit to learners who achieve this tone.
7. Mark according to a rubric for a letter to the press. The tone should be irate and the advice should include how to respect others and to avoid being as (or even more) arrogant as the previous members of parliament. Suggested total – 20 marks.

The soft voice of the serpent

Nadine Gordimer

Suggested answers to the 'Test yourself' questions on page 130

1. He is young and healthy. He has obviously been in some kind of tragic accident and has lost a leg. He is trying to be courageous and come to terms with this loss without complaining or upsetting others, especially his young wife whom he loves. Unfortunately, because he does not talk about what has happened, he is "bottling things up" and sometimes seems to be in denial. The situation seems very strange to him and there is something about it that he considers dangerous. Maybe he is frightened that the full realisation of what has happened will be too much for him ("...he never let the realisation quite reach him: he felt it pressing up, coming, dark, crushing, ready to burst – but he always turned away, just in time"). He hopes that, one day, he will feel that things "had always been like that" and then "the danger would be over, for ever".
He thinks these thoughts, but does not share them with anyone, not even (perhaps, especially not) his wife.
2. She seems to be pretty and quite delicate ("her thin pretty arms"). She loves her husband (pushes the wheelchair herself; stays with him in the garden all day). Like him, she is struggling to also try to cope with what has happened and avoids discussion. She also appears to be in denial and, like him, does not seem to know how to talk about her feelings – or ask him about his. She longs to help him but doesn't know how, as we can see when her true feelings are shown at the end. She seems feminine and fairly timid (note her initial reaction to the locust). She is a kind, soft-hearted person. Although she does not like locusts, she dislikes the idea that she could have hurt it and feels compassion for it. There is a mischievous, gently teasing side of her nature, which is seen in the final scene before the terrible disappointment of the locust's flying away. This gives us a glimpse of the light-hearted girl she may have been before the accident.
3. Learner's own answers, but ensure they explain it as being symbolic of the young man.
4. Initially, the young man laughs at his wife's reaction. Then he notices the locust's face – old-mannish, terrified. He has never looked closely at a locust before. He starts seeing it as an individual. Then he looks at its strange, non-human body, but again feels kinship when it seems to wipe its brow, just as a man would do. By this time, he is becoming "enormously interested" in the locust and leans over to examine it closely (trying not to frighten it, however!). This is when he notices that it has lost a leg. The creature's struggle to "move" its missing leg makes an enormous impact on him because he relates the locust's 'disability' to his own disability and feelings. He can share the locust's feelings! He excitedly calls his wife and shows her the locust. It is a moment of tremendous liberation for both of them because, at last, in discussing the locust, they can actually discuss what has happened. Unfortunately, the moment is spoiled when she gently prods the locust and it flies away. His sense of kinship with the locust is shattered.
5. The terrible sense of disappointment lies in the fact that they have "forgotten that locusts can fly". In other words, the sense of liberation and the kinship that he felt with the locust is false.

6. The setting of this story is a garden. In the beginning, mention is made of a “first time” and this is an early reference to the Garden of Eden. Like the Garden of Eden, danger and temptation lie in wait. The perceived ‘danger’ has been discussed, but it is not clear what the temptation is nor what the identity of the ‘serpent’ is. It could be the locust (who flies away in the end leading to the dreadful disappointment) or more likely the hope engendered in the characters by what is finally seen to be a deception (like the temptation of the serpent in the Garden of Eden). There is a certain loss of innocence in the two characters as they experience this cruel disappointment. The “soft voice” suggests the nature of temptation – not loud and obvious but soft and seductive, like the voice of the serpent in the Garden of Eden.
7. In the same way that noticing the locust’s disability builds the young man’s confidence, giving him (and later his wife) hope that he has ‘someone’ with whom to ‘share’ his experience, the ending shatters this by showing him that the locust is not like him – it can fly. One can argue that at the end, the young man is more unhappy than he is at the beginning.

1949

Ronnie Govender

Suggested answers to the 'Test yourself' questions on page 141

1. At first, Dumisane appears to be a very conscientious, meticulous and loyal employee. At home, he also believes that everything has "its place" and follows a well-planned, rigorous routine. He is friendly to all around him and treats his Zulu and Indian friends and neighbours as equals. He also wishes that everyone, including the wealthy whites at the New Year party, could be happy and at peace with one another. At the beginning, his innocent friendliness seems somewhat naïve as he seems to ignore the racist comments of the guests. Incidentally, he is an excellent singer, although very modest and this potential has not been exploited because of the situation at the time. He respects the boss at this stage and accepts the strict and fair treatment. He is, therefore, stunned by the blatant racism that surfaces later.

He gains in stature when he tries to persuade his friends not to take part in the riots, and we see him as a man of great humanity and strong Christian principles. He is one of the few not to be taken in by Osborne's spurious 'arguments' and shows tremendous courage at the end when he dies in a vain attempt to save the Indian family from his own people.

2. Osborne's good qualities:
 - Hardworking (is not afraid to work as hard as his employees)
 - Strict but fair
 - Does not shout and swear at his workers
 - A certain sense of charity – gives old clothes to his staff
 - Sense of independence

Bad qualities

- Becomes racist when Indians move in to 'his' areas – doesn't like the idea that other races could be his equals
 - Hypocritical [says one thing, but believes another]
 - Unscrupulous – prepared to manipulate people and incite bloodshed and murder
3. At first, we see the better side of Osborne – his diligence, the strict but fair treatment of his staff – but he becomes increasingly racist and in the end is making inflammatory statements and very ugly racist remarks. When we hear him inciting violence, our opinion of him changes. He becomes a force for evil, violence and racial bigotry. It seems that there are limits to his fairness and relatively good treatment of others and that his blatant racism surfaces as soon as he thinks his position is threatened.
 4. The whites living in the 'white' area of Cato Manor are trying to copy lower Middle Class English suburbia and do not accept the climate and vegetation of Durban. It is as if they want to create a small part of the England many of them probably came from. This implies that they think England is superior in some way and also that they are nostalgic [homesick].

The wealthy whites at the New Year party are shown as glamorous but rather foolish and frivolous – more than usual, perhaps, as it is New Year. They are friendly to Dumi, but in a clumsy, teasing and very patronising way. We are given mixed impressions of them – their praise of Dumi's singing is spoilt for us by their crude racist comments and stereotypes, for example. They lead affluent, rather decadent lives (large houses, swimming pools, live bands, "dazzling jewellery" etc.) and are not keen on sharing these comforts with other races (note the comment about the toilets). The description of the party is full of irony.

5. Dumi has a friendly relationship with the Indians e.g. Mr Naidoo, Poobal. He feels no bitterness that his children cannot attend the Indian school and does not allow this to affect his friendships. His relationship with the Manirams is also cordial, if more formal (he is their tenant and only enters their house at the end). He feels slighted at Mr Maniram's distant attitude but appreciates Mrs Maniram's kindness.

6. He tries to persuade his Zulu friends not to attack the Indians. In the end, he gives his life for the Manirams.

7.

Osborne's arguments	Dumi's arguments
This is Zulu country.	"We are Christians."
The Indians deserve what they are getting.	The Indians are friends.
The Indians make a lot of money out of the Zulus and have no respect for them.	Only a few are rich.
The Indians have only come to make money.	The rest are poor, like the Zulus.
The White people have come to help the Zulus to improve the country.	Naidoo and Petera are fighting the colour bar.
They have houses, and the Zulus do not.	Poobal does a similar job to Dumi's. He is trying to educate his children and has helped to build a school.

8. Learners may express their own opinions as to the plausibility of these arguments.
9. An Indian stallholder punished an African boy for stealing. The implied reason is that some whites did not want Indians moving into 'their' areas, and so incited the violence

The deep river

Bessie Head

Suggested answers to the 'Test yourself' questions on page 150

1. They are all like identical water molecules with the "same face" as the chief's, all flowing as the river flows with no ripples or changes of movement.
2. The chief holds all the authority and gives all directives concerning the ploughing and harvesting of land. These directives are given by a special messenger who shouts them out in the one, big town. The chieftaincy is handed down to the most senior son on the death of the chief.
3. Corn, used for the making of beer.
4. Women have an inferior, submissive position to men with no say in anything. ("women were of no account"). Any advice from a woman would be regarded as childlike. Their function in the harvest is to carry the corn baskets and later the beer to the chief for his approval. The men take more than one wife and they are ranked in their status.
5. With the knowledge that Sebembele was in love with his father's third wife, there might have been a suspicion that Sebembele had had a hand in the death of his father and that he had not died of natural causes.
6. If Makobi was indeed Sebembele's son and not their father's, Makobi would be next in line to the chieftaincy after Sebembele, thus displacing them.
7. They are driven by ambition to hold power and authority.
8. They approve of Rankwana, believing she will make a good wife of a chief, and they have an inner sense of distrust of the two brothers. Subconsciously, they dare to admire Sebembele for the stand he takes in the name of true love.
9. They see him as a weak apology for a man since he has allowed himself to be influenced by a woman and his emotions.
10. Open-ended. If yes, he makes a stand for love which should take priority over other desires and this choice challenges the people to look at their rights as individuals. If no, not only has he forfeited his chieftaincy but his decision has caused a complete split in the tribe.
11. Matters of the heart – in this case true love – mean more to him than power/status.
12. Rather than argue with words, he took action that showed he would stand his ground and follow his heart.
13. It set a precedent [case taken as example for future behaviour] for standing up as an individual, and this went against all custom. The fact that this was done because of his love for a woman challenged the tribe's traditional attitudes towards women. They were taught to see this as a weakness and yet they find themselves admiring him.
14. It was normal for a man to take three to four wives and this would be based more on convenience, suitability and need than on love. Arranged marriages were also commonplace. To put love above tribal politics was viewed as a weakness.
15. Open-ended, but probably not. She showed herself to be humble and bowed to tribal pressures, although her suicide threat could be seen to be manipulative and her removal to her father's place for the sake of an arranged wedding is described as "forceful". At the end of the day, it was Sebembele's choice.

The end of something

Ernest Hemmingway

Suggested answers to the 'Test yourself' questions on page 157

1. The description of the first three paragraphs:
 - a) It describes how a once thriving lumbering town has been reduced to ruins. In the same way, whatever intimacy was shared by Nick and Marjorie has dried up/faded.
 - b) An era that once provided the hub and activity of the town has ended.
2.
 - a) Marjorie has enthusiasm for life, is talkative and imaginative (compares the ruins to a castle). She is intuitive [knows something is troubling Nick] and passionate about fishing, being competent at this and at handling the boat.
 - b) Nick seems to be a quiet, introspective person who is more practically-minded. He comes across as quite sullen and moody here.
3. Disappointment or frustration that the trout are not striking.
4. His comment about having lost his appetite.
5. He needed to confront Marjorie about the fact that he no longer loved her.
6. He clearly harbours a deeper secret about his sexual identity and does not know how to be honest about this for fear of rejection as a person.
7. The hurt or pain his words were likely to cause her might have been unbearably evident in her eyes and made it more difficult and confusing for him.
8. Numbness, shock, confusion. (Any appropriate answer)
9. Bill knows just when to make his appearance and Nick is not surprised to see him.
10. Nick has ended his relationship with Marjorie because he is involved with another man.
11. The relationship between Nick and Marjorie has come to an end. On a deeper level, this marks a more significant end for Nick because he is moving from a heterosexual relationship to a homosexual one.

The gift of the Magi

O Henry

Suggested answers to the 'Test yourself' questions on page 165

1. This shows that she has had to become more forceful in her personality than is natural for her to bargain prices with the butcher and grocer.
2. She was hoping that she had been mistaken in her first count and that she would find she had more money.
3. With that amount of money, Della would never be able to afford a special Christmas gift for Jim so she feels hopeless.
4. Her hugs are a sign of her deep love for Jim.
5. She is deliberately looking at her hair since she has had an idea of how she might be able to make money from it. The reason she lets it down is that she needs to check its length and suitability for selling.
6. It is her prized possession and so the idea of cutting it to sell it is a huge sacrifice for her to make.
7. Increases its value. Mention is made of how envious King Solomon would be.
8. She is scared she might change her mind.
9. a) He attaches more importance to these objects.
b) It was gold. It had been handed down from his grandfather.
10. She fears he may stop loving her because her hair is cut. No, a person should not base true love on physical appearance alone.
11. Della has bought an expensive chain to attach Jim's watch to his fob but he has sold the watch to buy her gift. Jim has bought expensive hair combs for Della but she cannot use them now that her hair is so short.
12. Own opinion. Yes, because their sacrifices were based on genuine love. No, they have ended up with useless gifts as a result of their sacrifices.

The magic man

Diana Hofmeyr

Suggested answers to the 'Test yourself' questions on page 172

1. The dove represents truth/ peace and acceptance/ freedom.
2. She is able to observe him from above and can see the 'magic' for what it really was – tricks of illusion. The children are amazed by the 'magic'.
3. He caught sight of her watching him from the window.
4. Her initial response was uninviting: she neither took the flower nor spoke to him. However, she did look into his eyes.
5. This is not a true reflection since she was aware of his presence. She left her window open and she looked out for him whenever she left her flat.
6. They both seem to be lonely. The man is physically handicapped by being mute; the woman is emotionally handicapped by her past. They both have stored sentimental photographs and objects from their past. Neither can go back to the past.
7. She belonged to a Coloured family and lived with her mother on a white farm amongst the Cape mountains where her mother was the maid. She fell in love with the farmer's son and fell pregnant with his child. She went for a backstreet abortion and had to leave the farm to live alone in a city flat.
8. In the apartheid years, relationships across the colour bar were taboo (forbidden) and hence her pregnancy would have brought shame and banishment so she probably felt she had no choice.
9. Guilt, sadness, regret
10. She had been in denial about having aborted her baby and cared for an 'imaginary' baby she kept carefully wrapped in a blanket.
11. His gentle, silent understanding of her pain was communicated by his kind gestures. His sharing of his own past through his photographs and objects encouraged her to share her past, enabling her to confront the truth.
12. Her action of dropping the blanket with the 'baby' and the knitted clothes out of her window and closing the window behind her as if closing the past.
13. Each one's past with all the good and bad memories is captured in the photographs and the objects. By taking them out and sharing them, each is able to come to terms with past pain.
14. A circle symbolises wholeness. This suggests that by sharing her past with the magic man, the woman has managed to face the truth of her past choices and has now found healing and closure. It also suggests that he is willing to share her past and that he is with her in the circumstances of her life.
15. a) The costume with the red sparkles.
b) The blue baby jersey and bootees with ribbons that she had knitted.
16. On a literal level, he is a magician who performs magic tricks to entertain the children. On a figurative level, he performs an act of 'magical' healing in the woman through his compassion and sharing.

Learning to fly

Christopher Hope

Suggested answers to the 'Test yourself' questions on page 183

1. He had a reputation as head of interrogation of driving the prisoners to the edge, and they commonly jumped from the window in his thirteenth floor office. At the end, it is Colonel du Preez who jumps to his death from this window instead of the prisoner, Mphahlele.
2. It is a road that comes to an end at that point and does not lead anywhere. It is apt because many prisoners ended their lives there.
3. The description is inappropriately casual, matter-of-fact and lighthearted considering that the 'objects' are human beings.
4. a) Hanging
b) Slipping on the shower floor
c) Falling down stairs
d) Jumping from windows
5. No. He feels the Black people foolishly believe whatever nonsense is told them by the witchdoctor even when they have evidence to the contrary. The first version implies that he was foolish enough to jump from the window because the black man believed he could fly and, according to du Preez, anything a black man could do, a white could do better.
6. a) Large in stature; reddish hair, green eyes with a steady glint. Had a nervous habit of twisting a lock of hair round his finger. Belonged to the older generation and upheld their narrow values. Staunch supporter of the Apartheid system.
b) Tall, bald-headed with a prominent knife scar running from his right eye down to his neck. Dark brown eyes that held a confident, proud gleam. His nose was twisted, obviously from a previous break, suggesting, along with the scar, that he was an aggressive, quarrelsome man in the townships. His diction identified him as the product of missionary upbringing and he also belonged to the older generation. Showed incredible pain endurance. A confident supporter of the Black resistance movement.
7. A comrade, who had planted a bomb in a shopping centre, had given Mphahlele's name before he died from injuries he had sustained from the blast.
8. The difference was racial. Since the children involved were white, du Preez is outraged and calls it murder, but to Mphahlele they are merely unfortunate accidents of war, caught up innocently in the bigger cause. He reminds du Preez of the number of black children who have died. Yet, because they were black, these deaths were brushed off by the whites.
9. The electric shock treatment could just as easily be called barbaric.
10. The fact that he clearly sees himself as du Preez's equal and does not hate him.
11. Colonel du Preez is trying to belittle the black people by comparing them to children who are beyond hope and teaching. Mphahlele points out that Apartheid has transformed them into "real children" who have been forced into submission and who, therefore, are also the responsibility of the whites.
12. The second version is more probable. It is unlikely that the Colonel would have voluntarily jumped from the window.
13. The queen bee is the most important member of the hive and the bees would become frantic if she were killed since she is their life support; in the same way the death of the chief of interrogation has caused hysteria and chaos amongst the whole establishment.
14. The repetitive descriptive style highlights the fact that history goes in repetitive cycles. The new regime brought in Apartheid in reverse – black people ruling over whites.

Beggar my neighbour

Dan Jacobson

Suggested answers to the 'Test yourself' questions on page 198

1. a) Annie: 10-year-old black girl, orphan. Lives in Green Point Location. Thin, dirty with calloused skin. Clothed only in a dirty white dress that is too short. Imitates her brother on whom she is dependant. She has to beg for food.
b) Frans: 12-year-old black boy, orphan. He lives with his sister in Green Point Location. Thin, dirty and calloused. No clothes other than a torn khaki shirt and oversized grey shorts. Beggars for food. Does not attend school.
2. Taken unawares by their sudden appearance, he feels awkward or guilty when they silently watch him walk past and he is moved by compassion at their obvious hunger and unkempt state; moved by their dependence on each other.
3. Simile. All non-whites would have feared being searched by police in case of not having their passes and being found to be illegally in a white area during Apartheid.
4. He is flattered by their explanation that they have waited until dusk to dutifully thank him for the bread received earlier in the day and partly moved by compassion for their scant clothes in mid-winter. Also, his guilty conscience is put to rest by such acts of generosity that make him feel good about himself.
5. Michael is lonely and prone to living in a make-believe world. The two "piccanins" become a useful source of ideas for his fantasies.
6. The mother feared that if her son became friends with the "piccanins" he would pick up germs, bad language and "kaffir ways".
7. He wants to be able to boast about a prized possession; show it off and enjoy a real reaction.
 - a) The children naturally expect this to be another one of his gifts that he is offering them but he has no intention of giving it away.
 - b) Before, Michael takes the role of provider and heroic rescuer in his interaction with the children; after, he becomes a cruel, powerful, authority figure who tortures them.
 - c) This marks a complete change in the way he treats and responds to the children: from positive to negative.
8. They are so accustomed to being victims of Apartheid that the more they are abused, the more 'comfortable' they feel with the treatment they receive and they sadly return for more. It could also stem from their own resentment of Michael, making them all the more determined to 'torment' him.
9. (Any four)
 - Compassion – moved by their obvious hunger and deprived state to offer them bread.
 - Virtuous – glorifies in the role of hero in the lives of the children.
 - Anger – annoyed at their response to the pen and pencil set which causes Michael to feel guilty.
 - Hatred – resents the persistence with which the children return following his teasing and abuse of them.
 - Dread/ fear – realises that their feelings for him must be filled with the same negative thoughts and hate. Disturbed by feverish dreams.
10. He realises that, contrary to his belief that they hero-worship him, they feel the same resentment and hatred towards him that he feels towards them.
11. It is an attempt to recognise that under the different skin colour are human beings who share the same needs, emotions and desires – the strongest being the need for acceptance and love, symbolised by physical contact. In the time of Apartheid, it would have been unthinkable – even scandalous and criminal – to show any respect or emotional tie across the colour bar.
12. His visionary dream at the end would have scored points off the inhumanity of Apartheid policy. Possibly, the two children beat the system by managing to have such an impact on Michael as to dominate his feverish dreams.

Sunrise on the veld

Doris Lessing

Suggested answers to the 'Test yourself' questions on page 209

1. The boy's qualities:
 - Strong
 - Young and healthy
 - Rejoices in his strength
 - Feels that he is invincible and in control
 - Enthusiastic about life
 - Feels stronger than and superior to his parents
 - Loves the veld and outdoor life
 - Adventurous(accept any other plausible answer)
2. There are various stages that indicate the changes in the boy:
 - When he wakes up – Here he experiences the unadulterated exuberance of youth and a feeling of strength and invincibility (“I can control every part of myself”).
 - When he leaves the house – Here we are shown his feelings of superiority to his parents – as if they are lesser beings who would not approve of what he is doing, probably because they are dull (“stuffy”) and do not understand that he is so strong and invincible! (“Alert as an animal he crept past the dangerous window, standing poised with his hand on the sill for one proudly fastidious minute, looking in at the stuffy blackness of the room where his parents lay; Then he turned his back on [the house] and on the frowsting sleepers and forgot them”.)
 - The first part of the hunt (before he encounters the buck) – Here, he again experiences exuberance, and the sense of invincibility and strength. He looks forward to his future. He rejoices in the veld, the beautiful morning and experiences a wonderful exaltation. He shouts and sings and waits for (expects) some response from the world around him.
 - When he finds the buck and watches it die – This is the turning point of the story and the moment that he realises the cruel reality of death. This is the brutal scene which changes him from boy to man. Instead of thinking “there is nothing I can’t become, nothing I can’t do”, he says, “there is nothing I can do” (about the buck). His shock turns to anger (“...he began to swear, as if the shortness of time was in itself unbearable, using the words he had heard his father say”). He realises that death is a reality and that no creature is invincible. The buck had once been like him!

He experiences a further shock when it occurs to him that he could have been responsible for its death – or for similar deaths of other animals. This makes him revert for a moment to a sulky child, but then he becomes suddenly calm, with no more anger.
 - When he returns home – He returns home in a deeply thoughtful mood, a different person from the boy who left the house earlier. He walks “heavily” and the death of the buck lies “uncomfortably” on his mind. He decides that he needs time to think about this very seriously. These are mature, adult thoughts and show that he has grown up in the course of this experience.(Accept any appropriate comments and quotations.)
3. Probably a bit of both – he has lost his innocent exuberance and sense of invincibility, but has gained some wisdom and maturity
4. Like the boy, the buck had once been strong and proud. It was also exhilarated by the fresh, beautiful morning. It had been “stepping like kings and conquerors” as the boy had been.
5. The climax occurs when he witnesses the death of the buck. This is a turning point because it changes his attitude to life and death and makes him realise that he is not invincible.

6. Give credit for a description of the boy's changing feelings and for the conclusion that he has no choice but to accept the reality of death, even though this can be cruel. He must show compassion for the buck, however, and an awareness of his responsibility to prevent suffering.
7. Give credit for any well considered opinion. It is possible that the boy will not hunt again, but probably more likely that he will return to hunting – but with a much more mature, responsible attitude
8. The learner can express his/her own opinion here. The boy feels that this is a natural law that cannot be changed. He regrets it, but accepts that death is a part of the natural cycle and, in this sense 'right'.

The fly

Katherine Mansfield

Suggested answers to the 'Test yourself' questions on page 217

- Position: The boss is an important person, the owner of a large business. This business is very important to him and he enjoys the authority and status it confers. He needs to be in control at all times. (Note the setting – new carpet, leather office chair, electrical heating. Also note details such as cigars and whiskey from Windsor Castle – all these show wealth and a certain amount of snobbishness.)
 - Appearance: He is older and wealthier than Woodifield and is described as rolling “in his office chair, stout, rosy, five years older than [Woodifield], and still going strong, still at the helm” [in control].
 - Family life: The photograph of the son indicates that he has a family. Later, we learn that this was his only son who was killed in WW1. He is struggling to come to terms with his son’s death, especially since he had hopes of leaving the business to his son. In fact, it was this hope that had given meaning to his life.
 - Attitude to others: The boss likes to be in control of his relationships with others. Even when he is friendly, as he is to Woodifield, he is definitely the dominant person. He considers Macey a loyal functionary and the relationship seems to consist of his giving orders and Macey simply obeying these. He does not treat others as equals and would never show vulnerability in front of them. He loved and was very proud of his son, but we are left unsure if he showed him love in a demonstrative way. We only hear that he had taken the son to the office “to show him the ropes” and that he was very gratified when the staff liked and praised him.
2. The story gives an indication that the son was a warm-hearted, intelligent boy whom everyone liked. He was “popular with the staff”, was always “his bright, natural self, with the right word for everybody”. Although we must realise that the father is biased and that the staff would obviously compliment and praise the son in order to ingratiate themselves with the father, the picture still emerges of a cheerful, friendly young man. The photograph is not typical of him, according to his father – why is he looking so uncharacteristically stern and thoughtful? Is he thinking of the ordeal which was to come? Has he in fact already seen some of the horrors of war? If so, these would have changed him.
3. The father’s life and hopes revolved around his son. He obviously loved him (This is indicated in his descriptions of the son’s “bright, natural self” etc.), but it is unclear what kind of a relationship he had with him outside of the office, and of how the son related to his father. Apart from the office relationship, all we are told is that “every morning they had started off together; they had come back by the same train”. It sounds as though the boss was in control of this relationship, as he was in all others. Nothing is shown of the son’s feelings or of any other life he may have led outside of (or before he started at) the office.
4. The father is devastated by his son’s death and is almost melodramatic in his declaration that he will never get over it (probably to prove his superiority here as well?). The main motive for his grief is that his life has lost its meaning because the son can no longer inherit the business (“How on earth could he have slaved, denied himself, kept going all those years without the promise for ever before him of the boy’s stepping into his shoes?”) He is taken aback that his grief is changing and that he can no longer burst into anguished tears at the thought of his son.
5. Woodifield is a foil to the boss. He is five years younger, but in bad health. He obviously has had a stroke and needs to be cared for by his wife and daughters. He is not nearly as wealthy and successful as the boss and is very impressed by the trappings of prosperity and success displayed in the office. He is a rather pathetic, shuffling character, but our sympathy is kindled when we find out that he, too, has lost a son in WW1.
6. This metaphor implies blind loyalty and devotion and this is what Macey displays in his relationship with the boss.

7. Accept any well- motivated answer.

We relate to the fly because of the way it is described in its brave struggles to survive. From the beginning, we feel for it when it tries to get out of the inkpot (“Help! Help! Said those struggling legs”). Then the description of its battle to stand and the joy of recovery is poignant (“...it began, like a minute cat, to clean its face”; “Now one could imagine that the little front legs rubbed against each other lightly, joyfully. The horrible danger was over; it had escaped; it was ready for life again.”)

This description makes the following paragraphs, which describe the fly’s valiant attempts to survive one “attack” after the other, increasingly upsetting. We relate to the fly’s brave, but weakening, attempts to drag itself forward over and over again. These evoke our compassion and give a sense of tragedy to the account. It is as though a person is being described. (“But then, as if painfully, it dragged itself forward. The front legs waved, caught hold, and, more slowly this time, the task began from the beginning”; “there was something timid and weak about its efforts now”.)

8. It is difficult to explain why the boss tortures the fly in this cruel way, but this has something to do with his grief for his son. Perhaps he is thinking about the death of the boy and hoping against hope that the fly can overcome death. He could also be thinking of his own capacity to cope with adversity. Although he torments the fly, he feels admiration for its bravery. It’s as though he wants it to survive. He almost helps it at one stage! An online essay makes these comments:

“...the question remains: How much is enough? At what point is a person tired of fighting? When will a person give up hope for survival? ... The boss is an intelligent and determined individual who has overcome many obstacles in his life. However, he is now confronted with an insurmountable barrier that he is frightened of facing – the death of his only son. The boss in this story, although resilient, has come to realise that people have limits.”

(From *The boss*, a critical analysis of Katherine Mansfield’s *The Fly*
<http://www.cheathouse.com>)

The luncheon

William Somerset Maugham

Suggested answers to the 'Test yourself' questions on page 224

1. She is older but mainly because of the amount of weight she has picked up.
2. Sarcasm/ scornful / disbelief. The luncheon had such far-reaching consequences for him and was so embarrassing that he would never have forgotten.
3. He felt flattered and he was not assertive enough to refuse a woman.
4. He was hoping she was young and attractive – possibly someone he could date.
5. He does not know her and feels pressurised to create an impressive image of which wealth and social status would have been a part.
6. He chose the least expensive items on the menu since he was concerned about being able to foot the bill. By this stage of the meal his budget was so overspent that he is past caring.
7. This is the furthest from the truth – in fact, it would only be true of his meal.
8. To save face for the embarrassment of having to admit that the restaurant was too expensive for him.
9. The tip was well below the minimum expected and he had certainly gone to lengths to keep the guests satisfied.
10. The woman has put on an immense amount of weight so, in a way, the tables have been turned on her. Her criticism of his eating habits has proved invalid and it is her health that has been compromised.

The toilet

Gcina Mhlope

Suggested answers to the 'Test yourself' questions on page 234

1. She has recently matriculated and went to Johannesburg for the holidays but stayed on, "hoping to find something to do". She seems unsure of herself and of her future, but does not simply want to conform to what society expects her to do. She goes to stay with her sister, a domestic worker, and finds herself a virtual prisoner in her sister's room as she is not supposed to stay there.
2. Black people were not allowed to stay in 'white' areas without permission. Domestic workers were usually forbidden to have guests sleeping on the premises.
3. The sister seems less intelligent and more conventional than the narrator. She is not fond of reading and cannot share the love of stories and words. She seems to admire her younger sister's intelligence and "learning" (This implies that she herself did not matriculate.) but cannot understand her younger sister's more unconventional attitude.
4. Although they are different, they care for each other. They are described as singing softly together and playing cards. The sister is often cross with the narrator and bosses her around, but this is because she is worried about her – and about losing her job!
5. She is bored and lonely. Even when she finds a job at a factory, she is still restricted because she has to make sure that she is not seen coming and going. She becomes increasingly frustrated and miserable. This is not what she wants her life to be like.
6. She was "like a doll" with dyed orange hair, heavy makeup, thin red lips and nails of the same colour, high-heeled shoes. The whole impression seems overdone and artificial. She seems to spend a lot of time laughing or smiling – also falsely? We are not sure why she smiles at the narrator – is she trying to be friendly or does she suspect that she is actually staying in the room. If so, why does she not report this? She is always chewing gum – a sign of tension? The only time she seems genuine is when she speaks "nicely" to the dogs. Does this show a softer side of her nature?
7. The narrator is physically trapped in the room when the Madam is at home and restricted in her movements as a result of the situation. She is also psychologically trapped because she cannot enjoy the kind of life she wants to lead. The sister is trapped by her unrewarding job and hemmed in by restrictive rules and regulations. The Madam seems free because she is not subject to the same oppressive regulations. However, the fact that she seldom goes out, "looks like a doll", is heavily made up, always chews gum and is "forever" laughing gives the impression of nervousness and a fear of "being herself". Her hair is coloured, her face and lips are made-up, her nails are painted, and her shoes are high and uncomfortable-looking. We have no idea of what she really looks like as she seems to be conforming to the fashion of her social class. We wonder if her lifestyle has trapped her, despite her wealth and her 'friends'. We ask ourselves if she is also lonely and unfulfilled. The description gives the impression of artificiality and discomfort, except for the way she speaks to her dogs.
8. The toilet becomes the only place the young woman can call her own. It is here that she starts to write. Sitting there, she feels a sense of freedom from the restrictions that hem her in. Even when she is locked out at the end, she continues to write, as she now has the confidence to write in the open. The sense of safety and privacy which the toilet gave her have now empowered her to "write (her) story anyway".

The coffee-cart girl

Es'kia Mphahlele

Suggested answers to the 'Test yourself' questions on page 243

1. They met as a result of the strike. The crowd was pushing and shoving. Some men were pushed out of the crowd, knocking over and destroying one of the coffee-carts. China rescued Pinkie, moving her and her coffee-cart to the other side of the road. In return, she gave him a pancake and some coffee.
2. He liked the fact that she seemed vulnerable or defenceless and seemed to need protection.
3. No. She was quite a strong person, despite the fact that she looked small and "tender".
4. Apart from the fact that the name is slang for 'friend', he had slanting, slit eyes which made him look rather like a Chinese person.
5. He calls her this because a 'pinkie' is an informal name for a little finger, and she seemed as vulnerable as one's little finger.
6. He could not kill her because she was not weak. She did not resist him but made it quite clear that she was not going to crumble before him and beg or fight for her life. China had killed before, but on that occasion he had known that the men were afraid of him. Her reaction confused him so much he could not act.
7. No, it does not seem as though he does. Even at the end of the story he is still convincing himself that she is afraid of him and that he is the stronger character. It seems as though he has fought so much that he cannot work in a peaceful setting at all. Even at the strike, although he supported it, he was rude to the other strikers. This relationship might have been the one thing which helped him to come to terms with himself and his past, but he had spoiled it. He doesn't seem able to see the situation from her point of view either.
8. Perhaps. She was actually aware that there was another side to China, and this meant that she was safe as he could not track her down.
9. He was angry about his situation, aware of the fact that he and she were black and so were not looked after by the state. He does not like to be vulnerable, preferring to be the strong person in any situation.
10. Naidoo found her attractive physically and seems to have enjoyed her company, being able to share funny stories with her.
11. She likes Naidoo as a friend. There is no hint that the ring was anything other than she said. She could have allowed herself to fall in love with China, but she was aware that he was a dangerous man and was strong enough to keep herself independent.
12. The political situation did have an impact. The sudden decision to remove the right of the coffee-cart people to continue to run their businesses caused China to lose Pinkie.
13. China seems like the police because he is used to using bully tactics to get his way.
14. The environment is depressing and gives us a clue about what China's background must have been like. It also reflects the sad circumstances in which Black people lived so it adds an extra layer of sadness to the story. In fact, the story is an example of what this kind of environment does to people.
15. a) Metaphor. She compares a vague memory to a torn photograph. As one would put a picture together to keep it whole, so she puts the pieces of memory together also.
b) Simile. He was interesting to look at but she felt he was not quite what he seemed, just as the wax models in a gallery would be.
c) Simile. She seemed to China to be as scared as a mouse is when a cat is about to catch it.
d) Metaphor. His mind was confused, just as a bundle of barbed wire gets all muddled up and is difficult to untangle. He found it difficult to sort out his emotions and his thoughts.

The suitcase

Es'kia Mphahlele

Suggested answers to the 'Test yourself' questions on page 252

1. He had been out of work for two months and so his savings were being used up. His wife was also expecting another child and they would need to be able to support that child, as well as his other two.
2. We sense that he is a decent man who is a good husband to his wife. The fact that he feels guilty after stealing the case confirms that he would not normally do something like this.
3. It seems that she is also a decent woman who accepts that her husband is doing his best. She does not seem to blame him, but makes the best of the situation.
4. Two women come onto the bus and sit next to him, putting the case next to his legs. When they got off, they left the case on the bus. Clearly, they were wanting to get rid of the corpse of the baby and had decided to do it this way.
5. At first, he is pleased with himself for doing something to help his family. He is deep in thought and nearly walks up to a police-check. If he had done so, they would have opened the case and, therefore, he has to dive into a backyard and hide. As he is hiding, he begins to feel that every action taking place has to do with him. This is ridiculous for he had only just got off the bus, and they would not have had time to set up a police check yet. This is a sign of his guilty conscience. He debates with himself about keeping the case as his "soul" is heavy with guilt. However, he feels he has come so far and decides he must carry through with it.
6. It seems that the man in the bus reported him to the police. This is strange as most black people had as little to do with the police as possible. It could be the man was an informer (one who reported on his own people) or that he was genuinely upset at the theft.
7. The police examined the case and knew what was in it. Timi was concerned as they cross-examined him, for he felt that they were setting a trap for him, but could not work out how things were going wrong. As they unpacked the case, he was angry that he had stolen a case with such old items in it. He was horrified when they revealed the corpse. He eventually told the truth and knew he was likely to receive an 18-month sentence of hard labour.
8. Instead of helping his wife, he had made things worse for the family.
9. It is ironic that Timi uses the term "naked" twice in the story, not realising that a 'naked' baby will put him in prison. It is ironic that he was determined not to do "anything that would get him into jail", but that is what happened. There is the irony that he thought he "had won" as the bus passengers decided he could have the case, yet he had just lost everything.
10. Traditionally, New Year's Eve was a time of celebration, but for Timi and his family it would be a time of deep regret. The greeting we use is 'Happy New Year' but his new year would not be happy. This, therefore, surrounds the story with a further layer of irony.
11. The inability to get a job was probably a result of his being black and poorly educated, perhaps. The attitude of the white people where he applied made him despair and resort to this theft. They also made him feel inferior by calling him by names they had decided upon, and he needed to prove himself by providing for his family like a man and not a 'boy'. The fact that the last white man could offer such a ridiculously low wage was also a result of the white domination. No black man could complain about unfair labour practice. The police-checks would have been far more thorough than in a white area. Moreover, the case would be opened at a police-check, whereas in a white area his privacy would be respected.

The gentler treatment by the police made him suspicious as they were usually far more brutal. It is probable that a white baby would have been the result of an illegal relationship between a white man and a black woman – possibly even the result of rape. Sex between white and black was prohibited by the Immorality Act and a white baby would have raised too many questions. The women obviously decided that they could not allow the child to live and Timi stepped into their drama then.

12. The “worm” symbolises Timi who is a victim of his colour. He was preyed upon by the society which caused him to be in such a difficult situation financially. In the end he was, like the worm, imprisoned by the wasp. African storytellers often use stories from nature to clarify their point, and Mphahlele is using that custom.

Dube train revisited

Mbulelo Mzamane

Suggested answers to the 'Test yourself' questions on page 260

1. He was able to mount the train while it was in moving, jumping off the first coach, running alongside and then jumping aboard the last coach.
2. The members of the gang themselves because boarding the train in this way was risky.
3. He was wearing a greasy Dobbs style hat.
4. Single earring, a hat, khaki pants and dustcoats, P.F. tennis shoes.
5. Without being asked, every passenger received a packet of sweets for which they were then expected to pay.
6. Yes. They carried knives and "three stars" and were skilled in their handling of these weapons.
7. a) She had got off the station four stops after her desired destination and now had no money left to pay the difference.
b) Gangi and the narrator had to walk to their destination to meet their girlfriends for movies. By the time they got there, the girls were gone. They also had no money left for movies.
8. This was a sign of contempt that such men should have allowed the gang to get away with their 'robbery', without confronting them.
a) This suggests he was large, muscular and strong and, therefore, should have been able to offer protection to the women.
b) Simile.
9. The police pulled up at Park Station to search for illegal loiterers, i.e. black people without passes.
10. It is meant as a threat as to what might happen to the narrator if he gives the alarm.
11. Yes. The narrator is too scared to alert the old man or any of the passengers on the train.
12. At least Greasy Dobbs has the courage to carry out his desires, even though these are evil. The narrator is a coward.
13. Without his pass, he could be arrested by the police and worse things could happen in detention. This would be worse than suffering from loss of money.
14. A disappointing impression is created. He clearly was too much of a coward to do the right thing – hence his feelings of shame.

The magistrate's daughter

Alan Paton

Suggested answers to the 'Test yourself' questions on page 270

1. The Garland family is a middle-class family, who have "one of the nicest houses in the village". The parents seem to have good standards and teach their children how to treat others well. We are not surprised that their son is head boy of the local school. The father is a blacksmith, which means he works with his hands.
The Parkers are upper-class people who live in the house set aside for the magistrate in the village. It has a tennis court and seems better than the other houses. The children go to a more expensive school in town, possibly a private school. The father is the magistrate. The children do not seem to be exceptional in any way.
2. She was fascinating because she was out of reach for him. Pale and withdrawn, she seems to be different from everyone else. Because he does not have a chance to get to know her, Archie begins to idolise her.
3. He did not tell anyone about his love but Mary could read the signs. He walked up and down and could not think of anything else, except how he would love to win her love by rescuing her from danger. He wanted to be near her, but did not try to speak to her. He became embarrassed about his father's job and his school. Previously, he had not felt like this.
4. Mary saw that Hermione was not marvellous, just very arrogant. She did not like her and was angered by the way they were treated by the whole family.
5. Elaine does not seem to have the same attitude to class. She obviously like Archie and has asked David about him. She also makes him feel special as she admires his gifts.
6. David does not seem to be arrogant. He just seems lonely in the holidays. He enjoyed mixing with Archie and seems to have learnt from him. He is also polite to the Garfields and seems very interested in the work Mr Garfield does.
7. The climax is the reply to the letter inviting the Parkers to the party. The reply is very cold and aloof, but pretends to be friendly. The Parkers seem to prevent David from coming to the party and from seeing Archie; they do not approve of the friendship with someone from a lower social group. When this happens Archie gradually begins to lose respect for Hermione and is embarrassed that he had fallen in love with her.
8. The Garland parents accept their situation. It does not bother them and they just get on with their lives, proving that they are the better people.
9. Paton shows how prejudice eats away at relationships. The children could have been friends quite easily, but the parents seem to have prevented it. Prejudice makes one arrogant and remote. The most prejudiced people are not necessarily the best people. They are generally just the lucky ones who get to where they are by chance or accident of birth. Prejudice spoils the one who is prejudiced, but it can hurt others terribly.
10. The irony is the fact that the Garlands are the nicer people with better values but they are regarded as inferior just because of their class. The interesting thing is that, if Archie becomes a doctor, he will be of a higher class and so will be accepted then!

The waste land

Alan Paton

Suggested answers to the 'Test yourself' questions on page 275

1. He had been paid and the gang wanted to steal his money. Probably they would kill him to avoid being recognised.
2. They are young men and there are a number of them, including Freddie, the son of the victim who knew that they were going to attack his father. They seem hardened and, from the victim's initial reaction seem to have been terrorising the people there.
3. He calls himself "hard-working" and "law-abiding" and we have no reason to doubt that. He has a wife and children and a steady job as he has "wages" in his pocket. He is older than the young men, obviously, but still powerful.
4. He worries about his children, but his child is one of those who could cause his death.
5. This is probably a social comment on the circumstances under which this boy was growing up. The lack of opportunities available to young men of colour left them poor and idle, thus creating both motive and opportunity for violence. The long hours the father has to work also comment on a system which creates an absent father who doesn't realise what friends his son is making.
6. The church should be a shelter for people, physically and spiritually, but only the 'dead' will be admitted. Ironically, this means the son will be sheltered in the door which should have been open to prevent the tragedy. Perhaps this is a metaphor, commenting on the role of the church in South Africa.
7. In saving his own life for the sake of his family, the man killed his son, thus destroying both the father and the family unity.
8. Literally it is an open piece of land, strewn with junk. Spiritually, it is the deep sadness which makes him feel that there is no reason to live now that he has done this deed.
9. The injustice in society which causes such criminal behaviour; the injustice that a good father could produce such a child who would turn against his father; the injustice that, of all the 'young men', his son should be the one whom he happened to kill; the injustice that, although he escaped, his life is in ruins.

A mother in Mannville

Majorie Kinnan Rawlings

Suggested answers to the 'Test yourself' questions on page 286

1. The fact that she needs peace and "isolation"; the fact that she could not be interrupted; her need to be immersed in her work.
2. He chops an enormous amount of wood in a very short space of time and does the job expertly.
3. He goes beyond what he is asked by mending the paving stone. He stacks firewood indoors, according to size, so that she will always have dry wood to start the fire. He looks after the dog, even sharing his own breakfast when she is delayed. He is prepared to pay for the axe when he considers it was his fault that it broke.
4. She is angry that she could have abandoned such a child. She finds this incomprehensible.
5. She becomes so involved in her life that she does not get round to doing what she had vowed to do i.e. visit his mother. She then is doing exactly what the mother has done as she abandons him to his fate and shows only superficial interest.
6. This is ironic as she has built up a picture of a totally honest boy whose key characteristic is integrity.
7. It could be to ensure that he does not become too attached to this person who will leave. It could be a fantasy which helps him cope in his loneliness. It is not a 'lie' to deceive anyone else. It is to allow him to be steady in life.

The visits

Richard Rive

Suggested answers to the 'Test yourself' questions on page 296

- No. A 'visit' is when a friend or acquaintance calls and is entertained.
 - She simply comes to the door, but The Teacher is so lonely that even a beggar seems like a visitor.
- This is his whole world after school. He eventually manages to go out "frequently" but he only has "fairly intimate" friends which is a contradiction. He also goes out alone each time.
- He is meant to represent a non-Black world and is probably a white man. Compared with The Woman, he is well-off and able to help her. This suggests he represents all such people in South Africa. However, he is unfulfilled and leads an empty life and giving him a name would disguise this fact.
- The Student is also not a real person and seems to represent a typical student. He is more interested in partying than studying – at the slightest excuse he goes out. He is loud and has many friends, including girl friends. He is 'physical' and deals with things without thinking too deeply. He seems just to act rather than think. He deals with the woman without considering her situation and, obviously, has no conscience about it.
- She is a black woman, with a surname this non-Black would not know and does not bother to try to learn. She is needy and discovers that he will help her regularly. She does seem to have a companion, and they seem to find the man's charity and his helplessness amusing – or perhaps he imagines that they are laughing at him. She still has the manners of her people, thanking him with a bow. Edith would be the name she has adopted probably as she knows her black name will be foreign to this man and others. She does not understand the non-Black culture, but expects to be helped each time, not realising that she may be regarded as being a nuisance.
- The Teacher knows that he should be helping her – he is wealthy enough to buy her food each week – but he does not like being a slave to her wishes. He longs to ignore her because he has given her enough, but her need is so great. Every time we meet him he is involved in something to do with his English lessons. The story starts and ends that way. He is more sensitive than the student and spends more time preparing and marking than the student does studying.
- He is discussing the problem facing the wealthy in South Africa and how it was a bigger problem when black people were suppressed and unable to find work under the apartheid government. The impact of these policies, however, means that we face the same dilemmas today as many black people do not have the education to get work easily. One should do one's duty, but one is reluctant to get involved in all the hardness of the person's life.
- The story begins and ends in the same situation with marking and preparation. The difference is that The Teacher has changed.
- This is the irony in the story: He had got rid of the woman – as he wanted – but she had given him a sense of purpose which he could not find elsewhere in his life, and he felt empty without her needing him.

The open window

Saki (Hector Munro)

Suggested answers to the 'Test yourself' questions on page 302

1. He is needing time off in the relaxing environment of the countryside to recover from his nerves. His sister told him he must visit people.
2. He accepts Vera's story at face value which leads him to be convinced that he has seen ghosts when the party does return from hunting. This would clearly worsen his nervous condition.
3. He has no prior knowledge of Mrs Sappleton to help him assess the truth about what Vera is saying.
4. This adds dramatic tension and an expectation of the events that occur.
5. She says that Mrs Sappleton refuses to accept that her husband and brothers died on their hunting-expedition and insists that the window be left open for their return.
6. The fact that she comes up with an identical reason for leaving the window open suggests that what Vera had told him was true.
7. Their return is expected at twilight, the boggy conditions and the fact that the bodies were never found.
8. It disturbed him to think that she could talk so cheerfully about her anticipation of her husband's return in the light of the tragedy that supposedly happened.
9. She felt he was very obsessed with his illness.
10. It was accurate in all details – to the type and colour of the dog and the words uttered by the brother.
11. It serves to prove the accuracy of Vera's story.
12. Because Framton has believed the story, he believes he has indeed seen real ghosts when the party returns. Mrs Sappleton is unaware of what Vera had told him and uses this remark casually to explain his strange reaction. She is also unaware that he deliberately chattered on to save her from concentrating on her sadness.
13. She suggests the sight of the spaniel terrified him causing him to dash out and bases this on his sharing of a story of when he had been attacked by dogs along the Ganges.
14. She has a wild imagination and fabricates [makes up] stories on the spur of the moment.
15. We realise that the tragedy she spoke of never happened and that there is nothing wrong with the aunt's mental stability which makes Framton's gullibility [willingness to believe] amusing and ironic.

The story teller

Agnes Sam

Suggested answers to the 'Test yourself' questions on page 308

1. It tells how Indians were forcefully taken from their homeland and about her culture which is so close to her heart.
2. Their natural curiosity and desire for adventure; their gullibility [ability to be fooled easily].
3. They felt that they had persuaded this ship and its sailors to come to them, and yet it is this very ship that is going to cause their separation from their homeland and family. They also welcomed the ship which took them away.
4. She was older and felt responsible for the group. The younger children were still naïve and trusting.
5. They imply that the children who do not go with them are cowards. They also acted out scenes which made the children feel that being on a ship took one to adventures and to exciting places.
6. Because she and her sister were girls, the boys felt ashamed at their lack of courage and did not want to be thought of as cowards.
7. They wanted to lull the children into a false sense of confidence by seeming to keep their promise. They waited until the children were distracted.
8. Everything the children knew – their homeland, families and culture.
9. It was the words of adults above that of children.
10. To be used as cheap slave labour.

The sisters

Pauline Smith

Suggested answers to the 'Test yourself' questions on page 315

1. Her father wants wealth so that he give his wife status and material possessions. Her mother desires peace and love in the home above materialism.
2. This emphasises the amount of pressure on the family.
3. He knew from the previous legal dealings that Jan was a hard-hearted, difficult and uncompromising person.
4. She trusts God to work everything to her ultimate good.
5. She is brave, strong and loves her sister deeply.
6. She seems to view God as merciless and uncaring initially, but later realises that all people need forgiveness.
7. The legal feud had already cost the life of her mother and was now destroying her sister's life
8. She has learnt that it is not our place to judge people and that nothing constructive comes from a bitter heart. She regains her faith. Instead of blaming her father at the end, she forgives.
10. Any 3: Greed / money is the root of all evil; It is not our place to judge others; It is not our place to bargain with God; Bitterness is destructive; Forgiveness gives restoration, hope and healing.

The Dube train

Can Themba

Suggested answers to the 'Test yourself' questions on page 323

1. The fact of having to start the dull routine of work again after the freedom of the weekend.
2. Blue Monday
3. Can Themba (writer and narrator) is African and during Apartheid, all non-whites travelled subclass.
4. His huge build and wary, yet relaxed, manner suggests physical strength and the confidence to dominate and intimidate.
5. It is rough and coarse. Youngsters only survive by becoming streetwise and 'older' than their years.
6. It is fitting to the 'gangster' image and gets the attention he seeks. It makes a statement that he is a daredevil and should not be 'messed' with.
7. This adds to the anti-social image we have of the boy. He uses gangster slang and he wants to show off his reckless confidence and bravado.
8. One becomes desensitised by overexposure to suffering – i.e. one becomes so used to it that the appropriate negative responses no longer arise. It is an indication of just how frequently these people were witness to such acts.
9. It suggests the roughness and uncivilised manner of his approach.
10. Open-ended. Yes – they are cowardly in their response of condoning such acts of hooliganism in the youth. No – the men have been disempowered by the Apartheid system.
11. The bold disrespect he shows an older woman by so crudely swearing at her – she is old enough to be his mother.
12. Yes, since the sudden jerk of the train deflected the blade so that the jugular vein was not slashed. This would have caused him to bleed to death.
13. They showed no distress or sympathy but rather enjoyed being able to discuss the excitement of the event that had broken the boring routine of the train ride. Such a response should be seen as inappropriate as a reaction to human tragedy and suffering.

The secret life of Walter Mitty

James Thurber

Suggested answers to the 'Test yourself' questions on page 331

1. He is the hero who comes bravely to the rescue of others. He is famous for his skills.
2. Dull, unchallenging and humiliating. He is treated like a little boy needing to be protected and disciplined. He has to accompany his wife, run errands for her and wait for her to complete her activities. Yes, he is understandably frustrated with his meaningless life and so escapes into a world of drama and danger where he can be someone heroic. This restores his self-esteem.
3. Fantasy 1
 - Probably the noise of the car engine or the sleet on the car window
 - A Naval Commander in charge of a hydroplane battling through a hurricane-like storm.
 - The noise of the hydroplane – “pocketa – pocketa”; the dials.Fantasy 2
 - He drove past a hospital; Dr Renshaw’s name; pulling on gloves
 - Dr Mitty who, along with two world-class surgeons, saves a prominent patient’s life and fixes a machine brilliantly.
 - The noise of the machine; the dials.Fantasy 3
 - The Waterbury trial announced by the newsboy; “memory”
 - The greatest pistol shot in the world on trial for the murder of a man.
 - Wearing his right arm in a sling; calling the man a “cur”.Fantasy 4
 - The newspaper headline about the Germans in World War 2.
 - Captain Mitty piloting a bomber plane in France against the Germans.
 - A Webley-Vickers automatic gun; the “pocketa” sound; the doctor also drank; the idea of going through “hell”.
4. a) Having an unnecessary, over-abundance of expertise or resources.
b) An excellent marksman / pistol shot
c) You wretched, useless person
5. “pocketa – pocketa” and “rat-tat-tatting”
6. a) Attendant takes him for an incompetent fool since he has gone down an exit-only lane and is then incapable of reversing his car out.
b) The woman thinks he is crazy for muttering the word “puppy biscuit” to himself.
c) The clerk would be amused at the way he remembers the brand of biscuits he wants.
d) His wife treats him as though he is mentally ill – she suggests the need for a visit to Dr Renshaw and wants to take his temperature when he suggests he has been thinking.
7. She is self-absorbed, nagging, overprotective and demanding. She is also forgetful and ignores his needs, while criticising these traits in Walter.
8. He is well aware of how people laugh at him and humiliate him.
9. Positive because he still describes himself in heroic terms, e.g. “Undefeated” and stands with pride, even having the courage to not be blindfolded.
10. Open-ended. No – throughout the story there is evidence of logical links and associations between his real existence and fantasy identity.
Yes – in the real world he does seem to be hopelessly distracted, incompetent and a bit of a misfit.

Relatives

Chris van Wyk

Suggested answers to the 'Test yourself' questions on page 340

1. "I had got it into my head"
2. Returning to his home town offered no inspiration since the stories were so boring and yet his chance meeting with distant relatives on the train unexpectedly gives just the inspiration he was looking for.
3. Their lives are as empty, uneventful and boring as the dry desert landscape.
4. Yes it does. One of the three men was both bearded and chubby.
5. His potential for 'scoring' on this date was ruined by his beer breath, and this would have knocked his confidence for even trying his luck with other girls.
6. The friendly cheerfulness of the trio contrasts with the silent sulkiness of the two boys.
7. At twenty-one he exaggerated for dramatic effect, using large words to impress. As a mature writer he is far more casual, conversational and sincere.
8. After all the bravado of how he supposedly chopped up a potential thief on the train, he gets shamefully and publicly slapped by his wife for his neglect of his family duties in his absence.
9. Their talk reveals their murderous intentions to avenge the death of their brother, confirming the writer's impression of them as up-and-coming juvenile criminals. He is concerned about them stealing from his luggage should he leave the compartment. His loss of appetite shows his worry.
10. He no longer felt vulnerable [threatened] being an outsider who would want to turn them in. Being related seemed to knit them together in the conspiracy by virtue of the idea of blood being thicker than water.
11. The fact that three years had passed since the encounter. The article mentions their being buried in the same graveyard as their brother "killed three years ago". Also the fact that the two brothers had spoken about their plans for revenge.
12. It suggests a certain nostalgia and sadness that their young lives had been abruptly ended by brutal death.

Manhood

John Wain

Suggested answers to the 'Test yourself' questions on page 354

1. Rob is clearly not fond of physical exertion. He complains about the distance they have covered on the bike ride, is obviously exhausted and hopes for a lift home or a short-cut.
2. He is described as not intending to be rebellious at all, so this stems from his exhaustion from the uphill bike ride.
3. He is using this as an incentive to get his son back on his bike.
 - a) A punch-ball.
 - b) Uninterested and probably disappointed. It amounted to more pressure from his dad to perform physically. He went immediately up to his room, without trying it and only gave it one punch to please his dad before lunch.
4. As a youngster, he felt pressurised to perform academically to please his parents and, as a result, never developed his physical body and talents. His resentments and regrets from his own past now make him determined not to have his own son share the same 'weaknesses'. Ironically, he is at risk of making the same mistake his own father made with him if he forces his son to perform against his natural abilities and desires.
5.
 - a) He is excited that, already, Rob is taller than he is. This holds promise for the goals he has for his son.
 - b) He wants his son to follow a diet that will build muscle and weight.
6. He would like to see him make the rugby team as a forward. This is not Rob's goal. Clearly, Rob is aware that his natural abilities are not in physical sport and, despite his efforts, he has not made the trials.
7. He feels guilty about disappointing his dad, and is so in need of his father's approval for his own self-esteem, that he resorts to lies to win favour.
8. Mr Willison sees it as excellent for turning a young boy into a man, with the necessary toughness and strength of character. Mrs Willison is deeply concerned about the physical harm that he could sustain, especially to his brain, and sees such beatings as senseless.
9. Rob deliberately fakes appendicitis as a way of getting out of the non-existent boxing tournament. He is described as being "crafty" here.
10. Mr Willison is concerned to make a man out of his 'boy'. He equates this with toughness, physical strength and endurance. Mrs Willison shows typical motherly concern for her son, protecting him from injury or hurt.
11. His surprise and laughter suggest that he would view Rob as the most unlikely candidate for such a sport.
12. Disappointment and, perhaps, guilt that he has pushed his son into a corner, making him resort to lies about the boxing.
 - a) Rob is probably anxious about how his father will react to the lies and to his inability to live up to his father's expectations.
 - b) Open-ended. Mr Willison has the pain of realising that he has held unrealistic expectations and has made the mistake of trying to relive his own youth through his son, ignoring his son's individuality. Rob has the anguish and stress of having to live up to the unrealistic expectations of his father, whose approval and acceptance are so vital for his positive self-esteem. His need to avoid disappointing his father is so strong that it leads him to lie.