

ACTIVITIES

These activities are meant as guidance for teachers and learners to study *This Book Betrays my Brother* by Kagiso Lesego Molope. They have been written taking the 2012 CAPS documents into account. Enjoy the book and thinking about some of the issues that this story brings to our attention.

Thought starters

Pre-reading activities

Unless indicated otherwise, the following activities can be carried out as group discussions, discussions with a partner or informal class debates.

- 1 How does the title make you feel? What do you think the story will be about?
- 2 Examine the cover of the novel. What ideas are conveyed by the finger pointing to a figure? Is this an effective graphic?
- 3 Would you lie to keep the secret of a beloved sibling or parent? (Personal written response)

Post-reading activities

Unless indicated otherwise, the following activities can be carried out as group discussions, discussions with a partner or informal class debates.

- 1 *Family loyalties*: Is blood thicker than water? Do you believe in remaining loyal to family members regardless of their actions? What are some of the tensions that exist when a family member you love does something unforgivable?

- 2 Think about Naledi's relationship with her brother. How would you describe their childhood relationship? Now look at the scene in the epilogue when the adult Naledi speaks to Basi while he is washing his car. In terms of their relationship, what has changed and what has stayed the same?
- 3
 - a) *Boys will be boys*: How prevalent is this notion in South African society? What does it imply? Do we as a society excuse men's behaviour?
 - b) *Coming of age*: As thirteen-year-old girls, Naledi and her school friends are obsessed with diets, boys and clothes, but Naledi's feelings about the opposite sex become more complicated towards the end of the novel. Discuss the changes in her perceptions of boys and men.
 - c) *Secrets*: Do you think that it is fair to expect someone to keep your secrets at all costs?
- 4 Reconsider the title. Having read the novel, what do you think is Naledi's betrayal? Would *you* call it betrayal? What would you have done in the same situation?
(Personal written response)
- 5
 - a) "I was ... not this stuck-up girl who lived in *diEx* and went to school in town and spoke English in Kasi." (p. 130) Does Naledi see herself as being different from the girls from Kasi? What are some of the unspoken signs or behaviours that identify her as being from *diEx*? Is she comfortable with her family's social standing?
 - b) Discuss the social divisions Naledi sees around her.
- 6 When do we first suspect that Ole is a lesbian? Is her portrayal in the novel credible? What are your feelings about her character?
- 7 Is it true that "Nothing holds a man together like a childhood friendship" (p. 70)? Is there such a thing as "a secret men's language" (p. 71)? Can groups of boys seem like "lion packs hunting" (p. 18)?
- 8 "The thing is ... when boys are ready, there's nothing you can do." (p. 110) What does this statement say

about Limakatso's feelings of personal power? Is this an opinion that could be shared by the other young women in the novel? Why, or why not?

- 9 Consider the climax of the novel. Do you think date rape is common in South Africa? Were you shocked when it happened? Were you shocked that it was Basi who raped Moipone? Were there hints in the story to suggest this would happen?

Multiple-choice quiz

Choose the correct answer from the choices (A–D) given below:

- 1 *Ditori* means:
A secrets. C experiences.
B lies. D rumours. (1)
- 2 Basi's best friend is:
A Moipone. C Kgosi.
B Ole. D Kitsano. (1)
- 3 Naledi's closest friend outside of school is:
A Moipone. C Kgosi.
B Ole. D Kitsano. (1)
- 4 In the novel, the first big event Naledi attends is a:
A wedding. C school social.
B funeral. D family gathering. (1)
- 5 Naledi is attracted to:
A Ole. C Kgosi.
B Moipone. D Kitsano. (1)
- 6 Naledi's family owns a:
A local Spar. C hair salon.
B local supermarket. D soccer stadium. (1)

- 7 Five Bop is named for:
 A being fat.
 B being penniless.
 C always asking for money.
 D Both B and C. (1)
- 8 The current domestic worker who is employed by Naledi's family is:
 A Mme Maria. C Aus' Johanna.
 B Aus' Tselane. D Aus' Dolly. (1)
- 9 Naledi's mother idolises:
 A Basi. C her husband.
 B Naledi. D herself. (1)
- 10 The only thing Basi and his mother argue about is:
 A Naledi's behaviour.
 B Basi's love of rugby.
 C Basi's relationship with Moipone.
 D Basi's best friend. (1)
- 11 Naledi spends time at school with:
 A Ole and Moipone.
 B Limakatso and Ole.
 C Limakatso and Kelelo.
 D Basi and Kitsano. (1)
- 12 Ole is portrayed as being rather:
 A feminine. C sexist.
 B masculine. D chauvinist. (1)
- 13 What is it about the embrace that Moipone's mom gives her daughter that upsets Naledi?
 A It is too personal for public display.
 B It reminds her of how close she is to her own mom.
 C She is jealous.
 D Her own mother never hugs her like that. (1)

- 14 Kgosi's mother is in jail for:
 A theft. C murder.
 B fraud. D attempted murder. (1)
- 15 Ole is attracted to:
 A Moipone. C Kitsano.
 B Naledi. D Basi. (1)
- 16 Basi is often described as being:
 A stressed. C easy-going.
 B studious. D unfriendly. (1)
- 17 The "hideous incident" (p. 117) is the:
 A rugby match. C kiss.
 B date rape. D matric dance. (1)
- 18 Which music was playing in the background during the incident?
 A Boyz II Men C Tracy Chapman
 B Luther Vandross D Teddy Pendergrass (1)
- 19 The way that Naledi feels around Basi *before* the incident is best described as:
 A distant. C unsafe.
 B amicable. D safe. (1)
- 20 The way that Naledi feels around Basi *immediately after* the incident is best described as:
 A distant. C unsafe.
 B amicable. D safe. (1)

[20]

Unpacking the story

Placing in sequence

Number the following incidents in the order that they occur in the story. Some have been done for you.

Order	Incidents in the plot
3	<i>Naledi meets Kitsano at the school social.</i>
	The fated rugby match takes place.
	Basi brings Moipone home for the first time.
19	<i>Aus' Johanna tells Naledi the whole story about the dead woman in the woods.</i>
	Naledi discusses love with Ole, who reveals that she is lesbian.
	Basi and Naledi see Ole on the street with her arm around Moipone.
	Five Bop announces that Moipone has gone to the police.
	Naledi admits the truth to Ole about what Basi did.
	The "hideous incident" (p. 117): Basi rapes Moipone.
	Basi's parents rush him away by car and Naledi's mom tells her: "You shame us".
20	<i>Naledi talks to Basi about the past while he washes his car.</i>
1	<i>Basi and Kgosi play together with their friends in the woods.</i>
	Kitsano asks Naledi to the matric dance.
	The welcome-home party is held for Aus' Nono.
	Basi has a tantrum after seeing Ole and Moipone sitting close together.
18	<i>Basi leaves home to finish his matric at a private school in Cape Town.</i>
	Basi reassures Naledi: "It's OK, Nedi!"
	Naledi gets dressed for the matric dance.
2	<i>The decomposed body is found in the woods.</i>
	Basi and Naledi's mom takes them clothes shopping for the matric dance.

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Matching columns

Match the quotes to the themes they convey.

Quote	Theme
1 “Support your brother.” (p. 172)	A Secrets
2 “She was a snob ...” (p. 60)	B Gender stereotypes
3 “... it would be rude to go and sit among adults.” (p. 126)	C Racial stereotypes
4 “But she’s not telling the truth.” (p. 172)	D Sexism
5 “My hair ... my blouse ... my shoes ...” (p. 37)	E Classism
6 “I don’t tell Ole what you tell me.” (p. 119)	F Teenage girls’ preoccupations
7 “Men and boys were to be adored, as a rule.” (p. 102)	G Teenage boys’ preoccupations
8 “People said the man had to work very hard for a woman’s attention ...” (p. 101)	H Family loyalty
9 “... cars ... women ...” (p. 40)	I Customs
10 “Five white people asked me to get them their size.” (p. 98)	J Lies

[10]

How well do you know the characters?

From the choices in the character box below, write down the character that best fits the description.

Naledi	Basimane	Dineo	Moipone	Ole
Kelelo	Bra Speed	Aus' Tselane	Limakatso	Kgosi
Kitsano	Five Bop	Aus' Nono	The father	Aus' Dolly

Description	Character
1 "She's stunning ..." (p. 56)	
2 "... in jail with two sons ..." (p. 54)	
3 "... may as well have been my brother's twin." (p. 21)	
4 "... new boy from Botswana ..." (p. 47)	
5 "... his wife had killed him." (p. 52)	
6 "... that easy smile ..." (p. 90), "... pillar of loyalty ..." (p. 11)	
7 "... snob ..." (p. 60)	
8 "... always really bossy about what to do with boys ..." (p. 78)	
9 "... I am nothing special." (p. 10)	
10 "... boys bore me." (p. 26)	

[10]

Close analysis of a passage

Read the following passage from pages 17–18. Identify the stylistic devices or figures of speech by choosing the correct one from the options given below.

Girls kick off their shoes and tuck their skirts or dresses into the elastic of their panties, playing *khati*, *legusha* and any other game you can play without leaving the street. Boys, on the other hand, are allowed to go. [1: short sentence/long sentence/command] They kick off their shoes [2: irony/metaphor/repetition], roll up their pants and run away. They move through Kasi in groups, like lion packs hunting. [3: simile/metaphor/personification] What they do together stays secret

for the most part – unless you're like me and you're lucky enough to have a brother who trusts you and lets one or two secrets slip. [4: **innuendo/irony/euphemism**] Marapong is on unusually fertile land for a location.

This kind of land is rare because the point of most *loc'shins* was to build them where nothing much can grow. [5: **joyful tone/matter-of-fact tone/angry tone**] In those days the hill was like a jungle, with overgrown and surprisingly lush ground that turned green in summer and yellow in winter. [6: **factual/conversational/descriptive**] We used to call that part *nageng* or “the woods”, although I should say that a more fitting translation would be “the wild”. [7: **exciting connotation/dangerous connotation/fun connotation**]

[1 × 7 = 7]

Extension exercise

Comment on the effect of each device or figure of speech identified in the above passage. One is done for you:

The [**irony/metaphor/repetition**] highlights the contrast between the girls' and boys' playtime activities. [6]

Let's talk about it

Oral topics

- 1 Naledi says that her parents “make apartheid years seem like an adventure” (p. 97). Have your parents or extended family told you their apartheid stories? How do the stories make you feel? Can you relate to them?
- 2 “Come on, Nedi. We're going to walk out and someone else will clutch their purse or lock their car door just at the sight of me. You can't get upset about it every time.” (p. 98) What experience is Basi relating to Naledi here? What does Basi's reaction to this experience say about his character and his way of coping?
- 3 “... you're a perfect gentleman ...” (p. 28) What does this statement mean today? Does such behaviour still exist?
- 4 Discuss homophobia in South Africa today.
- 5 Are sons still more prized than daughters?

- 6 “Isn’t it funny how these guys act like they relate to some American ghetto reality?” (p. 128) Discuss the prevalence of American culture amongst South African youth today.
- 7 “Nothing goes unseen or unheard.” (p. 138) Discuss the nature of gossip.

Debates

Argue the following topics:

This house believes that ...

- 1 the “rule” that “Men and boys were to be adored” (p. 102) still applies today.
- 2 you stay loyal to your family no matter what.
- 3 Naledi is a bad sister.
- 4 Basi should be in jail.
- 5 Basi’s mother is a bad parent.
- 6 women’s crimes are more frowned upon than men’s crimes.
- 7 it is the length of a women’s skirt that determines whether she is raped or not.
- 8 there is no such thing as date rape.
- 9 life is tough for a black man.
- 10 women are still disempowered today.

Let’s write about it

Creative essay topics

- 1 “... my deepest, darkest secret.” (p. 159) Write this story.
- 2 *Dirty looks*: Write this story.
- 3 “Why do you make yourself look like you’re hoping to find a man?” (p. 119–120) Write an essay in which you explore the extent to which this statement is true about young women’s clothing choices today.
- 4 Basi describes black and white race relations in the following terms: “It’s that feeling ... that they’re in the wild. That Africa is the wild and they’re hunters. We’re the lions. Be afraid ...” (p. 98) Write an argumentative essay in which you agree or disagree with Basi’s description of race relations in South Africa today.

- 5 Write Ole's story from one of the following perspectives:
 - a) Ole's
 - b) Her mother's
 - c) Basi's
- 6 "But it's all men – Black, White, Indian, Coloured – who hurt women and then the women have to defend themselves." (p. 122) Discuss this statement.
- 7 "My mother would never let me wear a skirt that short ..." (p. 130)
 "... it seemed the memory of her bare legs under a tiny skirt would linger in people's minds." (p. 138)
 Discuss the ways in which clothing says something about the wearer. How does clothing influence the way people are judged?
- 8 "You live in cars ... You go from your parents' car to your parents' house with its high walls and security gates. You don't know anything." (p. 162)
 - a) Write this story: You live in cars.

OR

- b) Argue to what extent you agree that when one lives such a guarded life, one knows nothing.
- 9 Write Vera-the-Ghost's story. (Avoid sensational, gory details – rather aim for a poignant, meaningful essay.)

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Shorter transactional texts

- 1 "Eish, this one just needs to be raped. That will fix her." (p. 161) Write a **newspaper editorial** about homophobia in South Africa today.
- 2 Write the **letter** Basi's mother might have written to the principal regarding the school's poor handling of the rugby incident.
- 3 Write a **diary entry** for the following characters on the night after the rape:
 - a) Naledi
 - b) Moipone
 - c) Basi

- 4 Create a **Facebook profile** for Basimane in which his character, attitude, pursuits and interests are made clear.
- 5 Write the **letter** Naledi might have written to one of the following characters after the “hideous incident” (p. 117):
 - a) Basi
 - b) Moipone
 - c) Her mom
 - d) Ole
- 6 Write the police **report** that might have been written about the rape charge. Base it on what the witnesses have to say – including Ole, the people at the party and Moipone. You may not use Naledi as a witness. You can write it in a point-form summary or a paragraph.
- 7 Write the **letter** that Naledi might have written to Kitsano explaining why she stood him up on the night of his matric dance. (Remember that at the time she would not betray Basi.)
- 8 Write the **dialogue** that might have taken place had Naledi confronted her mother about sending Basi to a school in Cape Town.
- 9 Write the **speech** that a much older Moipone might have given had she been invited back to her old school to give a talk to a senior Life Orientation class entitled “The do’s and don’ts of dating”.

[25 (Home Language); 20 (First Additional Language)]

Contextual questions

Read the passages and answer the questions that follow.

Passage 1 (pp. 135-137)

She doesn’t say a word. The lion moves up, down, up, down, up, down.

It could roar, I think. It looks alive.

Baby, can I hold you tonight ... Maybe if I told you the right words, ooh, at the right time, you’d be mine ...

I promise you, I tried to move. But my legs may as well have been immersed in cement. I just couldn’t do anything.

Did I stay because I wanted to see? With all my heart, no ...

I don't think I wanted to see. At first, maybe. But I think in the end I couldn't do anything *but* see.

I couldn't move. I really couldn't.

Then the gaze in Moipone's eyes rises, detaching, and moves up around the room, looking somewhere past me, then slowly, absently, coming back and settling on me. She seems to actually look at me, but then she turns her face again and her cheek, being close to the rose, is pierced by a thorn. My brother,

seemingly unaware, pushes her face further down onto the thorn, creating a long, deep cut as she shifts. She shuts her eyes tightly, and this is when I finally move.

I tiptoe away, my hand on my mouth to keep from screaming or crying or yelling.

I walk back into the house, careful not to make a sound.



I ran into the bathroom and filled the basin with water. I steadily held onto the edges of the basin and leaned forward, immersing my face in the ice-cold water. I let it completely cover my face and didn't care about my hair, so that my lips and nose were touching the bottom of the basin.

I turned my face, let the water sting my open eyes. I stared, watched the water float around me, felt it go into my ears and heard only the soothing sound of bubbles while one ear was pressed against the cold ceramic. I turned the tap with one hand while the other held onto the edge of the basin for balance. I wanted to curl my whole body into a small ball and submerge it in that basin, disappear into the world of water, with no sound of screams or grunts of pain.

Sometimes in the night, when I start seeing them in the back room again, I wake up and I turn on the water and immerse my whole body – nightdress on or naked – into the solitary world of cold, comforting water. It's even more soothing than music and I feel alone, which helps. I can stay in there for a very long time, or until I stop thinking. I have spent entire evenings and the better part of many pre-dawn hours in cold baths with no sound, willing away my thoughts. I even missed a class or two at varsity – in those first few months

when I was getting used to being away from home and living once again close to Basi.

That day, when I finally thought I could walk steadily again, I slowly came up for air. Without drying my head with a towel, I ran into my room and shut the door, locking it behind me. I climbed onto the bed and covered my head with a pillow, too shocked to cry.

- 1 What is happening to Moipone in this extract? (1)
- 2 What is Naledi doing at the beginning of this extract? (1)
- 3 Explain the reference to the lion in this passage on a literal and figurative level. (3)
- 4 Read the lion imagery taken from the rest of the novel:
 - “Boys ... move through Kasi in groups, like lion packs hunting.” (p. 18)
 - “... you don’t fight Basi over Kgosi. Two male lions in the wild? You don’t go near them if you know what’s good for you.” (p. 82)
 - “... Africa is the wild and they’re hunters. We’re the lions. Be afraid ...” (p. 98)
 - “... T-shirt with the white face of a lion on the back.” (p. 133)
 - “We move like impalas among hunting lions.” (p. 184)
- a) Name four qualities usually associated with lions. (4 × ½ = 2)
- b) Why does the author describe the boys as lions? (2)
- c) Lions are generally both feared and respected. The author appeals to both these emotions in the reader, but one is dominant. Which emotion is dominant and why? (2)
- d) Is the lion image effectively used in the novel? Explain your answer. (3)
- 5 After witnessing the scene, what causes Naledi to finally move? (1)
- 6 Identify and explain the effect of the style choices used in the following phrases:
 - a) “to actually look at me” (2)

- b) “screaming or crying or yelling” (2)
- 7 Look at the paragraph in which Naledi’s head is submerged in water (“I turned my face ...”).
- a) Identify and quote an example of a sound device that is used often in this paragraph. (2)
- b) What is the effect of this sound device in this passage? (2)
- 8 Is Naledi’s response to the rape realistic or does she overreact? Defend your view. There is no correct answer – only a well-expressed, sensitive one. (2)

[25]

Passage 2 (pp. 177-180)

“Angry?” I heard my voice say.

“Yes,” he said without moving, his eyes squarely on mine. “I know it was never your fault. I know ...” he said and started moving towards me. “I know what kind of person – what kind of *sister* – you are.”

I was confused, my heart softening, my body relaxing as he put his hands firmly on my shoulders. There was something in my throat, my eyes spilling over.

My brother held me and said, “You wouldn’t have done that. You wouldn’t have done something so despicable. Something that was such a lie. *Such* a lie.” His arms held me tightly, as if protecting me from my own misunderstanding.

What could I do or say? Here was my opportunity to say no, that I had understood very well what had happened, that he had committed a crime. But hadn’t I always wanted him to tell me that I was wrong? Hadn’t I always wanted him to tell me that my limited understanding of sex had confused me? What would you have said?

I said nothing.

Basi started walking away from me, bucket in his hand.

I don’t know what it was. Maybe the rage I felt when he turned around and winked. Maybe the easy, carefree way he swung the bucket. Maybe it was the relaxed Basi swagger. Or maybe – and I suspect this is it – maybe it was the crunch-crunch-crunch of his feet in his own pebbled walkway. I’ll

never understand how that sound doesn't squeeze at his heart.

I tried to control my voice, but it came out sounding as enraged as I felt.

"It happened to me too, you know," I started my lie.

Basi swung around, sending water flying.

"What?" he said, his face contorted with confusion.

"A guy did that to me. It was at varsity ... " I was shaking from fury and my lie. I put both hands on my cheeks and willed myself to stand still, my eyes focussing on the stones on the ground. "This guy ... We were going out and he – well, we went to his room all the time, but this time, I guess ... I don't know ... "

I went to sit down on a chair near the car, kept my hands on my cheeks and my eyes on the ground.

Basi rushed to me and crouched in front of me.

I took a deep breath. "Anyway ... long story short –"

"No! No long story short! I can't believe this happened to you! What? When? Why didn't you tell? Nedi, don't cut the story short. They force women to tell the whole story in court. You'd better tell me ... I'm your brother."

"Basi, stop. He was my boyfriend and he was sure I had misunderstood. That I had wanted the same thing."

My brother raised my chin so that we were locking eyes.

"Nedi," he said, and I could feel the rage in his voice. I could imagine it rising from the pit of his stomach, and I could see him fighting to stay calm. After a breath or two, his well-practised lawyer voice was so calm that what he said next sounded perfectly reasonable. "I'll kill him! Who was it? I'll find out and –"

"Basi ... " I tried to sound like an understanding counsellor. Once, at varsity, I had gone to see a counsellor, but only once. She had spoken to me like she was a mother and I a child, and I'd resented her for her forced, unfamiliar sweetness. I never went back, but now I tried her voice on Basi. "I think that's what Moipone thought. I think she was, maybe, I don't know, but I think she thought it was ... forced."

Basi stood up abruptly. "It's not the same thing!"

"Maybe ... But it could be, couldn't it?"

“Nedi, it was so long ago! I was young ... You don’t understand.”

“Tell me what I don’t understand.”

Basi stared at the ground for a very long time. When he finally looked up he said: “It just ... It got out of hand. It wasn’t ...” He bit his lip and blinked a few times. “You’re not taught to read women’s minds. You’re taught that they want whatever you want.”

Would you call that an admission of guilt?

We were both still for a while. We listened to the breeze brushing against the leaves and the faint sound of music coming from inside the car.

“Basi –” I started after a while.

“It was a long time ago,” he said sternly. With finality. “I would never, *never* ... even as a young man ... She was my girlfriend and ... She knew ... she exp–” He pressed his palm against his forehead and wiped off the beads of sweat that had accumulated around his hairline.

“Basi –”

“Enough, Naledi.” He shut his eyes as if willing away a thought, or a memory. “I don’t want to bring it up again.” He slowly walked away from me.

I wanted to say: *It doesn’t feel like a long time ago to her.*

But he was gone. And so was another piece of what my brother and I used to have.

- 1 What does Basi mean when he says “I know what kind of person – what kind of *sister* – you are”? (2)
- 2 “I was confused, my heart softening, my body relaxing ... my eyes spilling over.” Why does Naledi respond to her brother in this manner? (2)
- 3 Explain the irony in Basi saying, “You wouldn’t have done something so despicable.” (2)
- 4 “What could I do or say? ... Hadn’t I always wanted him to tell me that my limited understanding of sex had confused me? What would you have said? I said nothing.”
 - a) What stylistic device is used to convey Naledi’s confusion? (1)

- b) Is “I said nothing” a climactic statement? Explain your answer. (3)
- c) It is easy to consider Naledi weak at this point. What redeems her? (3)
- 5 “I don’t know what it was. Maybe the rage I felt when he turned around and winked. Maybe the easy, carefree way he swung the bucket. Maybe it was the relaxed Basi swagger. Or maybe – and I suspect this is it – maybe it was the crunch–crunch–crunch of his feet in his own pebbled walkway.”
- a) Why would Basi’s wink, the “easy, carefree” swinging of the bucket and his “relaxed” swagger upset Naledi so much? (2)
- b) Why does the sound of the pebbles under his feet upset her most? (1)
- c) Identify the sound device that is used here. (1)
- 6 “‘It happened to me too, you know,’ I started my lie.”
- a) What does Naledi mean here? (1)
- b) Why does she lie? (2)
- c) Explain whether her lie works or not. (2)
- 7 “She was my girlfriend and ... She knew ... she exp–” What was Basi going to say? Complete his word: exp... (1)
- 8 “But he was gone. And so was another piece of what my brother and I used to have.” What does Naledi mean here? What have they lost? (2)

[25]

Literature essay topics

Choose one of the following topics and write an essay. Your essay will be assessed using a marking rubric. For Home Language, the total is 25 marks (15 marks for content and 10 marks for language). For First Additional Language the total is 35 marks (25 marks for content and 10 marks for language).

- 1 Basimane is guilty as charged! Give both sides of the argument and then your verdict.

- 2 As Naledi narrates her story, she reveals ambivalent or mixed feelings towards her brother. Describe her feelings towards Basi and explain how they change over the course of the novel.
- 3 Naledi is accused of being a tattletale. Do you agree with this accusation?
- 4 *This Book Betrays my Brother* introduces us to victims of classism, racism, sexism and gender-based violence. Identify and discuss the victims in this novel. Describe each of their situations and then look at the similarities and differences that exist between these victims.
- 5 “*A sister’s guilt*” (p. 10): Discuss.
- 6 To what extent can one blame Basi’s parents for what happened to Moipone? Discuss.

More advanced essay topics

- 7 “Let’s call them *ditori*, a popular way of saying ‘lies’ where I’m from.” (p. 8) Discuss lying and keeping secrets (the appearance versus reality theme) in the novel.
- 8 Naledi says, “When I was in primary school, when we still lived *ko motseng*, I remember boys twisting my wrist until it was dry and red. It was all part of the games boys and girls played, I was told. I got used to it, and the more a boy twisted my wrist the more I thought he liked me.” (p. 101) Discuss relationships between men and women, boys and girls, as revealed in the novel, with particular reference to Basi, Naledi, Moipone and Ole as well as Kgosi’s parents. Comment on the use of the word “game” to describe these dynamics, as well as the notion of pain and the use of force in Naledi’s example.
- 9 Basimane is a tragic hero. Do you agree or disagree with this statement? Substantiate your answer.
- 10 Discuss the relationship between what happened to Basi on the rugby field and the “hideous incident”. Look specifically at notions of humiliation, aggression and personal power, and place this in the context of Basi’s life experiences. Do Basi’s experiences justify his actions?

- 11 Sometimes a first-person narrator has limited perspective and therefore their story may be one-sided. Bearing this in mind, is Basi really his mother's favourite or is it Naledi's imagination? Discuss Naledi's credibility as narrator.
- 12 "Easy" is the word most used to describe Basi. Discuss to what extent it is an accurate description of his character, his life experience as a male and his attitude to women.

[25 (Home Language); 35 (First Additional Language)]