

Text BITES

South African poems, plays, stories and non-fiction

Suggested answers

These suggested answers are given in point form. Alternative answers are separated by a forward slash (/). New points of information are separated by a semi-colon (;). The tick (✓) shows how many marks are awarded for the point of information. No suggested answers to "Write it!" activities have been provided.

POETRY

***sunrise over edendale* (pages 2–3)**

- both are round, with a bright yellow-orange colour✓ / a broken egg yolk, mixed with the egg white, might look like streaks of sunlight and clouds above the horizon✓
- learners can suggest their own answers (for example: a basketball, a cherry, a car's headlight)✓

***A Newly-Born Calf* (pages 4–5)**

- 3✓
 - "A newly-born calf is like oven-baked bread"✓; "the cow cuts the shiny coat as a child would lick a toffee"✓; "a tongue as pink as the sole of a foot"✓
- the cow licks the cover with its rough tongue to break through✓
- no✓
 - the comparison helps the reader to create a mental picture of a calf with wobbly legs✓
- learners' own answers✓

from "Silence" (pages 6–7)

- a hawk flying down towards the ground✓
 - the friends are enjoying the "taste" of their good memories✓
- being scared, cold, lonely, helpless or lost✓; sharks are associated with fear because they are so powerful and their attacks can be deadly✓
 - being scared, cold, lonely, helpless or lost✓
 - learners' own answers✓
- learners' own answers✓
 - learners' own answers✓

I feel a poem ... (pages 8–9)

1. that a poem comes from “inside” a poet / that it has a life of its own / that writing poetry is difficult or painful, like giving birth / that creating is poem is a kind of miracle (any one✓)
2. learners’ own answers✓

Going Up Going Down (pages 10–11)

1. a. the lift / the speaker of the poem inside the lift / the speaker’s stomach (any one✓)
b. up and down✓
2. moving so quickly makes the speaker feel a bit queasy (sick)✓

The Sound of the Stars and what the stars say (pages 12–13)

1.

<i>The Sound of the Stars</i>	<i>what the stars say</i>
is written in full sentences – with capital letters at the start of certain lines/sentences, and full stops	has almost no punctuation and is in lower case
sets the poem as a memory of the past – “When I slept at my grandfather’s”	speaks of the stars being “not a little hungry for you” and that “you will never be hungry again”
summer is mentioned at the end of the first stanza	summer is mentioned in the final line of the poem
speaks about “later” when he was “full-grown”	speaks about how he “grew up listening to the stars”
“cursing the springbok’s eyes”	“cursing the eyes of the springbok”
(any five comparisons✓✓✓✓✓)	

2. learners’ own answers✓✓

Days (pages 14–15)

1. “dullday tiredday”✓
2. learners’ own answers✓✓
3. speaking poetry out loud gives you a clearer sense of the rhythm and rhyme of a poem✓; reading poetry silently gives you the chance to study the words more carefully or look at the poem more than once✓/ or learners’ own answers✓✓

Prologue (pages 16–17)

1. a. you can control the sounds that you make using your tongue and other parts of your mouth/voice organs, just as a pilot can control the movement of an aeroplane using a joy stick, switches and other instruments✓✓
b. learners’ own answers✓✓
2. “Take the tongue-tip” / or other example✓
3. a. i✓ (The plane is ready to take off.)
b. it is a phrase/idiom that is used when everything is working and ready but something has not started yet✓

Cruel, Crazy, Beautiful World (pages 18–19)

1. happiness / opportunity / optimism / confidence✓
2. he is strong compared to his tiny baby✓, but he there are many things he cannot control and this makes him feel powerless or weak✓
3. learners’ own answers✓✓
4. learners’ own answers✓✓

Twin (pages 20–21)

1. one child survived but one child died during childbirth✓✓
2. her identity has been defined by the “other half” she never had✓ / she perhaps feels envious of her dead twin’s “calm” death inside the “quiet” womb✓
3. learners’ own answers✓
4. learners’ own answers✓

Dear Lovely (pages 22–23)

1. it shows that you do not have to be eloquent (speak a language well) to express your love for someone or to describe your dreams✓✓

2. a.

“My heart coughs a little bit
The minute that I touch you;
This (part) here and that (part) there
Oh, my most beautiful (one).

How I was born
And you were born (how we came together)
Only the devil knows
Oh, my number one thing!

But listen here:
There is one thing I will never ask for / allow:
Apologising for being poor.
So now
I’ll buy you
A first-class train ticket
With a head-rest
And cushions
And everything

We’ll go from Cape Town to Cairo
On a lovers’ walk
Just you and me
Oh, my sweetest dear, my lovely (one)

How does that make you feel?”

2. b. learners’ own answers✓
- c. learners’ own answers✓

One Day (page 24)

1. a. comma, semi-colon, full stop, brackets, hyphen, colon, question mark, inverted commas, apostrophe, exclamation mark ✓✓✓✓✓✓✓✓✓✓
- b. teacher to answer
- c. learners’ own answers✓✓✓✓✓✓✓✓✓✓
2. learners’ own answers✓✓
3. the lack of capital letters is like a comic protest against correct grammar/language use✓

Ignorance (page 25)

1. a. "It's a thought which is put into words and written down in verses and lines and it sometimes rhymes and it sometimes doesn't"✓
 b. it's a joking way of giving a "one-word" definition of a poem✓ / it gives a sense of rushing through the sentence by saying it very fast✓
 c. it's an accurate definition but too simplistic (it gives no sense of the experience of writing/reading poetry)✓
2. a. learners' own answers✓
 b. learners' own answers✓
3. learners' own answers✓✓

A Trendy Young Dude Called Mabona and The Route From (Pretoria) Tshwane (pages 26–27)

1. a. nine✓
 b. five✓
2. a. iii✓ (lazy)
 b. he looks at the gym equipment but decides he doesn't want to use it✓
3. a. iii✓ (shows the funny side of the confusion that comes with the name changes)
 b. it doesn't pass judgement, but instead shows that there is a comical side to the name changes✓

Homeland Haiku (pages 28–29)

1. "thin" / "lowing"✓
2. paying lobola is the practice of paying a bride-price (often with cattle)✓
3. it is an unkind way of describing silly conversation or gossip✓
4. the natural beauty / ecosystems of the region have been destroyed✓
5. she is old, hungry and/or hardworking (her fingers are "withered")✓
6. the light is fading, so red becomes darker – ie. brown✓
7. a. he wanted to try and imagine what life is like for people living in homelands✓ / he wanted to tell other people living in cities about how difficult life is in the homelands✓
 b. learners' own answers✓✓

from "Clairvoyants" (page 30)

1. a. iii✓ (cannot actually see the future)
 b. the poet suggests that, if clairvoyants could tell the future, they would try to use their gift to make money✓
2. a. learners' own answers✓
 b. learners' own answers✓
3. learners' own answers✓✓

from "Not Him" (page 31)

1. he seems to be very serious and respectable, and does not seem to approve of people having fun✓; but he does have a "fun" side – he enjoys listening to music✓
2. he has important roles in the community✓ / he thinks that fathers should be stern with their children✓
3. a. he feels like dancing when he hears a song he likes✓
 b. he is not as serious as he pretends to be✓

One Small Boy Longs For Summer (pages 32–34)

1. the kitchen is cramped and filled with the steam that is coming from the kettle✓
2. it's cold and raining outside (he'll get dirty and wet)✓
3. "tired"✓, "tied up"✓, "boring"✓
4. "purrs"✓
5. learners' own answers✓✓

from "Kambiri Becomes a Man" (pages 35–37)

1. "kraal", "muchis", "motekwane", "ditaola" (any three ✓✓✓)
2. a. learners' own answers✓
b. learners' own answers✓
c. learners' own answers✓

Dancing on the Line (pages 38–39)

1. a. nervous, afraid, being very careful✓
b. the girl is at an age where she is finding it difficult, or even scary, to "balance" childhood and young adulthood✓
2. high-heeled shoes, work shoes, gumboots, etc.✓
3. a. and b. any of these answers could be appropriate as long as the learner can justify their decision✓✓

Cicada (pages 40–41)

1. learners' own answers✓✓
2. "hot"✓, "quivering"✓
3. he likens the sound of a cicada to the songs sung by humans (lovers, a child, a beggar, a priest)✓
4. it makes the cicada seem human – as if the poet and the cicada speak the same language and can understand each other✓
5. he is reminding the reader that humans share some of their genes with animals or insects like cicadas✓
6. learners' own answers✓✓

Poets and Painters (pages 42–43)

1. the pace of the poem is slowed (there is a pause after each short stanza)✓
2. a. learners' own answers✓
b. learners' own answers✓

Poem (page 44)

1. a. a metaphor is a way of explaining or describing something (a person, object, feeling, idea or experience) by indirectly comparing it to something else✓
b. a simile is a direct comparison using the words "like" or "as"✓
2. learners' own answers✓✓

SHORT STORIES

***Love Child* (pages 46–55)**

1. The first setting is Bhakubha, a small village in a valley between two forests – we are told that the story took place there “a long time ago”✓; the second setting is the countryside around the village, in particular an underwater cave (beyond the forests and hills) in which there are five old women playing a big drum✓; the third setting is the neutral ground on the battlefield, where the men from the two villages make peace – we are told that this takes place at night✓
2. Nomlambo’s smile “is like a rising sun that dawns again and again”✓
3.
 - a. the narrator is opposed to war because it causes much suffering✓
 - b. the narrator does not approve of (does not like) the way that the young girls in the village treat Nomlambo – they are unkind because they are jealous of her✓
4. “phici phici phici”, “Qumbu!”, “grumbled”, “chigers”, “pounding”, “ululation” (any three✓✓✓)

***Forget About Jackson* (pages 56–63)**

1. Modisa✓
2.
 - a. first-person✓
 - b. it communicates a personal experience in a direct way✓
3. it has only a few characters and a fairly simple storyline✓; it shares ideas about people and society through fiction✓; it can be read in one sitting✓; it is written in prose, divided into paragraphs✓
4. the narrator and his family are landowners who use “Mosarwa” people like Jackson for cheap labour, paying them with cigarettes and alcohol✓

***Obed, Secret Agent* (pages 64–74)**

1.
 - a. and b. any of these answers could be appropriate as long as the learner can justify his/her decision – it is entertaining because it is funny, it is informing because the reader can learn about Cape Town, it is persuasive because it changes people’s ideas about the tokoloshe myth✓✓
2.
 - a. learners’ own answers✓
 - b. learners’ own answers✓
 - c. Obed likes Marie biscuits✓, he does not steal children✓ and he is not evil but a “secret agent of the spirit world” who fights magical criminals✓
3.
 - a. the story is set in Cape Town – the train station, the underground sewers and the city buildings are all described✓✓
 - b. Cape Town central train station✓, Simonstown✓, Devil’s Peak✓, Groote Schuur hospital✓, Greenmarket Square✓, St George’s Mall✓, Strand Street✓

***The Prophetess* (pages 75–85)**

1.
 - a. the prophetess can make lightning strike people✓; she can bless water and make it holy✓; she can make people who try to steal grapes get stuck to the grapevine✓
 - b. she smells of camphor✓; she is not healthy✓; she makes the boy happy with her laughter✓; her voice sounds the same as the voice of the boy’s mother✓
2.
 - a. the mask on the wall✓
 - b. a long bamboo cross✓; a picture of Jesus on the wall✓
3. learners’ own answers✓

***The Great Escape* (pages 86–90)**

1. a. learners' own answers✓
b. learners' own answers✓
2. a. learners' own answers✓
b. learners' own answers✓
3. a. it is at the coast (the seaside)✓
b. a new beginning✓; a place to relax and be happy✓
4. in the opening paragraph, we are told that the man imagines that the cars driving past him on the highway sound similar to "what people in coastal towns hear when the waves travel over the sea in the distance"✓
5. "swooshing" (or "swooshes"), "whistling", "thud", "giggling" (or "giggles"), "jingling" (any three✓✓✓)

DRAMA

***Bang! Bang!* (pages 93–103)**

1. Robert✓, Tristan✓, Sarah✓, Refilwe✓, Rebecca✓, Thandeka✓
2. a. learners' own answers✓
b. learners' own answers✓
c. learners' own answers✓
3. Tristan on pages 98–99✓; Refilwe on page 99✓; Thandeka on page 101✓
4. a. pressures faced by adolescents / revenge and cycles of violence / crime and punishment / domestic abuse (any two✓✓)
b. violence is not a solution any problem✓
5. a. ii✓
b. the subject matter it deals with is especially relevant to teenagers✓

from *The Chilli Boy* (pages 104–109)

1. three (or four, if you consider Troy and Urmila as separate characters)✓
2. one✓
3. costumes and props / tone of voice or accent / gestures and body language (any two✓✓)
4. a. "okes", "lekker", "boetie", "schmaak", "mal" (any three✓✓✓)
b. "agarbathi", "sari", "gulabjum", "dal roti", "jalebi", "Arah ram" (any three✓✓✓)
5. prices were different (one cost increases from ten cents to four rand)✓; apartheid was in place (separate toilets for white people and Indian people)✓
6. she had an arranged marriage at a young age✓; her husband died before her✓; she had a son✓

from *Four, Four – Straight Town* (pages 110–120)

1. a. "buzz at the (taxi) rank"✓; "a radio is turned on but the reception is bad"✓; "the car starts coughing and the passengers mumble"✓; "water boiling on the stove"✓ (or any other four examples)
b. "Nigerian accent", "quietly", "irritably", "sarcastic" (any two, or two other examples✓✓)
2. Queen is from a younger generation and has different beliefs and opinions to her mother✓;

- Dorah loves her daughter but can be quite harsh on her✓
 3. learners' own answers✓✓

from *Soul Buddyz* (pages 121–130)

1. a. i✓ (soccer)
 b. all the action revolves around the soccer field, training for soccer and Sipho's soccer playing✓✓
2. a. i✓ (love)
 b. the most important relationship in the story is the romance between Sipho and Sindi✓
3. a. from reality to daydream in Scene 1✓
 b. we are being shown that Sipho only imagines walking hand in hand with Sindi✓
4. the sound of Sipho's heartbeat✓ – shows us that he is nervous/excited✓; the jackpot sound✓ – shows us that Sipho has struck it lucky and won a date with Sindi✓
5. soccer balls, kit bags, a sandwich, a letter, a taxi (any two✓✓)
6. learners' own answers (they should remember from the plot summary at the beginning of the script that Sipho "almost ruins their relationship" through his irresponsible actions)✓✓

EXTRACTS FROM NOVELS

from *The Hidden Star* (pages 132–143)

1. a. Nolitye is a hard-working learner who does well at school✓, even though she comes from a poor home✓ (her father died when she was young); she is brave and positive, but she is bullied by Rotten Nellie✓
 b. Bheki is a good friend to Nolitye but is too scared to stand up for her (protect or defend her) when Rotten Nellie attacks✓; Bheki's family has more money than Nolitye's✓; he also gets good marks at school✓
 c. Rotten Nellie is a bully and the leader of the Spoilers gang✓; she is cruel and laughs at other people's sadness✓; but she is actually easily scared herself, as we see when she talks to the headmistress of the school✓
2. learners' own answers✓
3. learners' own answers✓
4. we are told that Four Eyes "looks out of place with the others. He doesn't seem tough enough" ✓; later in the chapter, when Bheki laughs at Rotten Nellie, Four Eyes laughs "so much that his spectacles almost shake off his face"✓

from *Jikeleza Labyrinth* (pages 144–149)

1. Kabelo✓, Rebecca✓ and Sameer✓
2. the Olympic Games are a great spectacle, showing athletes' strength and speed; the clouds being blown across the sky by the wind, minutes before the storm, are like runners competing with one another in a race✓✓
3. learners' own answers✓
4. Sameer probably took photographs of Kabelo and the skull✓
5. learners' own answers✓

from *The Mending Season* (pages 150–154)

1. learners' own answers (it was a racist incident in which a white girl insulted a black girl) ✓✓

2. Tshidi and her father seem to have been distant✓ but she wants to know more about him and his background✓
3. Tshidi comes from the townships and knows what it's like to be a black South African, but she also went to a mostly-white school during the country's transition to democracy and so has grown up in the world of "white" South Africa too✓✓

NON-FICTION

***Teen Takes a Bus* (pages 156–157)**

1. he is not old enough to drive and doesn't have a licence✓; the bus is private property and he had no right to take it✓
2. learners' own answers✓✓
3. a. learners' own answers✓
b. learners' own answers✓

***Cicadas* (pages 159–160)**

1. the sound that cicadas make is a single long note✓ produced by the vibrations of the abdomen✓; cicadas draw their energy from the sap of plants✓; they become silent when you approach them✓; they spend most of their lives underground as larvae✓ (some species spend up to seventeen years underground✓); adult cicadas lay eggs✓; they make tracks on coastal sand dunes✓; they shed their skins as they grow✓; cicadas prove that Africa, South America and Australia were once part of the same continent✓; they do not fly far✓ (any ten)
2. information on the Internet is often more up-to-date✓, but information that is printed in books has usually been checked and edited by lots of people to make sure that it is accurate✓

***The Life of Sol Plaatje* (pages 161–167)**

1. It narrates the story in more detail, providing extra information about people, places, events and so on✓. It is not presenting news but history✓.
2. Plaatje was determined, ambitious, intelligent, caring, patient, peace-loving, patriotic, honest (any two✓✓)
3. learners' own answers✓✓
4. the Internet, libraries, biographies, autobiographies, bookshops, encyclopaedias, newspapers, magazines, interviews (any five ✓✓✓✓✓)

***from Penny Heyns: An Autobiography* (pages 168–171)**

1. "focused", "heart sank", "relief", "enjoy", "shed a tear", "strange", "nervous", "excited", "stunned" (any four✓✓✓✓)
2. Penny Heyns was well-prepared for the race✓; she made one or two mistakes during the race but she still won✓; after the race, there was so much activity that she couldn't really appreciate what had happened✓; she saw some members of her family as she walked out to the medal ceremony but wasn't sure how to act✓; there was a big press conference to celebrate her victory at the South African Olympic Pavilion and even Nelson Mandela sent her a message of congratulation✓.
3. learners' own answers✓✓