MEMORANDUM

Note to the teacher: The following are only suggested answers. The learners may come up with many other ideas. It is most important that they are able to give reasons for their answers.

Answering short questions

Chapter 1: Opening

1 Miracle, ✓ Kagiso, ✓ Thato, ✓ Luzuko, ✓ Professor Grasso ✓ and Auntie Mavis. ✓ (6)

2 Miracle is in costume ✓ and made up ✓ to look like Mimi, the character she is playing in the opera. (2)

3 The character Mimi dies ✓ from a fatal illness at the end of the opera, so she is supposed to look ill. ✓ (2)

4 Puccini ✓ (1)

5 She feels that they are not good enough ✓ and won't be in tune. ✓ OR Luzuko and Thato have worked very hard for this production. ✓✓ (2)

6 The role of Musetta ✓ (1)

7 He is convinced that a jealous cast member had cursed him. ✓ OR It seems as if he had been drinking. ✓ (1) [15]

Chapter 2: Before

1 This chapter explains what happens before Chapter 1, ✓ for example, how Thato comes to study at opera college. ✓ (2)

2 Malome had to leave school to work in the mines and he feels his little brother is not contributing to the household after passing his Matric. ✓✓ (2)

3 Fear ✓ (1)

4 C ✓ (1)

5 He wanted to become a professional soccer player. ✓ (1)

6 He could work in the mines ✓ or he could work in the butchery. ✓ (2)

7 He goes to his sister's school and hears a beautiful singing voice, ✓ which reminds him of the joy he experienced while singing in the choir in primary school. ✓ The singer gives him a brochure ✓ for the Good Hope Opera College and tells him to make his dream happen by working hard. ✓ (3) [12]

Chapter 3: Shining star

1 The Shining Star Gospel Choir ✓ (1)

2 She knows that she won't be singing at either because she is leaving for Cape Town, ✓ but her family and the bishop do not know this yet. ✓ (2)

3 The riots in the 1970s ✓ (1)

4 He means that Miracle's mother is the important one, the one who makes the decisions, not him. ✓✓ OR He implies that Miracle's mother is the one they would have to convince, not him. ✓✓ (2)

5 She will probably be upset ✓ because she is counting on Miracle to sing at the regional finals. ✓ (2) [8]

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Chapter 4: Farewell to life

1 A Thato's mother – uncertain ✓
B Gogo – supportive ✓
C Malome – angry ✓
D Lerato – full of good ideas ✓ (4)

2 He doesn't know anyone in Cape Town, ✓ he doesn't have a place to stay, ✓ he has no money, ✓ he hasn't been accepted at the college yet ✓ and Cape Town is very far away. ✓ (Any three) (3)

3 He sings opera for them. ✓ (1)

4 His grandmother gives him R1 000 ✓ and Malome sponsors his train ticket. ✓ (2) [10]

Chapter 5: Sunday lunch

1 He knows that she has not yet told her mother about her plans. ✓✓ (2)

2 Nervousness ✓ (1)

3 No. ✓ He is trying to prepare Miracle's mother for the news. ✓✓
OR He is trying to give Miracle a way to bring up the subject with her mother. ✓✓ (3)

4 TRUE ✓: "I haven't heard a prayer like that from you before, said Luzuko, piling his plate with pieces of bread." ✓ (2)

5 B ✓ (1)

6 Learners' own opinions based on the novel so far. Accept a YES or a NO answer with suitable substantiation. ✓✓✓ (3)

7 Miracle's father is supportive, but her mother is angry. ✓Although they react differently, it is clear that Miracle's parents care what happens to her. ✓ Luzuko's uncle, on the other hand, says that Luzuko leaving is one fewer mouth to feed. ✓ This reveals that he doesn't care much about what happens to Luzuko. ✓ (4) [16]

Chapter 6: In-between time

1 At the Leeu-Gamka station in the Karoo. ✓ (1)

2 At this point in the story, Thato is also in between things: he has not arrived at his destination yet and he has not started his new adventure yet, but he is away from home and he has ended the previous part of his life. ✓✓ (2)

3 He climbs onto the roof of the train and sings opera loudly. ✓ (1)

4 Thato has woken some passengers, including Kagiso, with his loud singing. ✓✓ (2)

5 She comments on the way he sings the C note ✓and says that his breathing is wrong, ✓ he is too young to sing that aria ✓ and his Italian pronunciation is very bad. ✓ (4) [10]

Chapter 7: Pregnant letter

1 Accept a YES or NO answer with suitable discussion. Learners can comment on the literal and/or figurative meaning of "pregnant", but must relate it to the text. For example: Miracle's letter is "pregnant" with meaning as she is trying to reconcile with her mother whom she hasn't spoken to since leaving home. Her mother's first question when she sees that Miracle wants to tell her something is whether Miracle is pregnant. Miracle wonders whether her mother would have been just as angry if she had been pregnant. ✓✓✓ (3)

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2 She goes to visit her sister and doesn't say goodbye to Miracle. ✓
She is already planning to turn Miracle's room into a wardrobe for the choir. ✓ (2)

3 C ✓ (1) [6]

Chapter 8: Corridors

1 He misunderstands the letter and does not apply in writing to schedule an audition before the required date. ✓✓ (2)

2 She tells him to sing for Professor Grasso. ✓✓ (2)

3 Thato has interrupted his rehearsal. ✓ (1)

4 He waits until Professor Grasso is ready to leave and then he gets onto the bonnet of the professor's car and sings for him. ✓✓ (2)

5 Thato stands on the professor's car. ✓ (1) [8]

Chapter 9: College daze

1 Miracle has a bursary, so her fees, accommodation and books are paid for ✓ whereas Luzuko has no one to support him – he lives in a shack and will have to use library books. ✓ (2)

2 He is proud. ✓ (1)

3 She is afraid that she might not fit in with the other cool and artistic students. ✓✓ (2)

4 Thato comes charging down the steps shouting that he got into the college and then spontaneously kisses Miracle. ✓✓ (2)

5 The Italian words that they have to study. ✓ (1)

6 She is a heavy smoker, but she forbids Miracle to smoke. ✓✓ (2)

7 She thinks about Thato's kiss on the steps. ✓ (1) [11]

Chapter 10: Bouncers and marimbas

1 Luzuko is confident ✓ and Thato is shy. ✓ (2)

2 A baritone – Luzuko ✓
B mezzo soprano – Kagiso ✓
C soprano – Miracle ✓
D tenor – Thato ✓ (4)

3 He is Tswana and most of the other students are Xhosa. ✓✓ (2)

4 He acts as a bouncer collecting unpaid debts ✓ and he sings at a restaurant. ✓ (2)

5 They are going to perform Bizet's famous friendship duet. ✓ (1) [11]

Chapter 11: Diary year

1 Miracle's diary entries ✓ (1)

2 The Metropolitan Opera in New York ✓ (1)

3 Miracle gets a better review than he does. ✓ (1)

4 She asks Miracle to sing again with the Shining Star Gospel singers in the holidays. ✓ (1)

5 The chapter gives an overview of the whole second year at college from February to December. ✓✓ (2)

6 Highs: Thato sings in his first real concert – Handel's Messiah; ✓ Miracle learns how to sing from her belly and not her throat; ✓ Thato and Luzuko do well at their gig; ✓ Miracle gets a good review for her performance; ✓ Thato

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sees *Carmen* at Artscape; ✓ *Cosi fan Tutte* at the Baxter is a success; ✓ December holidays; ✓ Miracle's mother asks her to sing with the Gospel group. ✓
Lows: Miracle never has time alone with Thato; ✓ the Platinum Stars lose their match; ✓ examinations; ✓ Thato doesn't get such a good review; ✓ Luzuko is ill. ✓ (4) [10]

Chapter 12: Third year

1 They have feelings for each other in real life too. ✓ (1)
2 Think. Act. Sing. ✓ (1)
3 She is not making enough eye contact. ✓ (1)
4 In the opera world all the voices have equal power, ✓ but in traditional African culture women are supposed to defer to men. ✓ (2)
5 He believes that someone is jealous of him and whispering about him. ✓ (1)
6 He doesn't have the courage. ✓ (1) [7]

Chapter 13: Lyric

1 The lyrics are about Thato and Miracle's feelings for each other. ✓ (1)
2 Feel ✓ (1) [2]

Chapter 14: On stage

1 "My beloveds" ✓ (1)
2 It is a term of endearment, ✓ but he is shouting at them in an angry voice. ✓ (2)
3 They are no longer in the rehearsal room, ✓ but on a real stage. ✓ (2)
4 The opera is set in the 1890s when people didn't wear watches. ✓ (1)
5 She is supposed to smash a plate in the scene, but it doesn't break and when the stage manager tries to help her, the plate breaks and a piece cuts Kagiso. ✓✓ (2)
6 He is involved in criminal activities such as stealing goods for people who then sell the goods. ✓✓ (2)
7 He finds animal fur and grey powder under his door. ✓ (1)
8 Thato receives news that his brother has been in a mining accident. ✓ (1) [12]

Chapter 15: Opening night nerves

1 She has gotten into the final round of *Idols*. ✓ (1)
2 She is in love with Thato. ✓ (1)
3 Professor Grasso is giving Thato a lift to the airport. ✓ (1)
4 He needs to be with his family, ✓ but he also doesn't want to let his friends down and lose the chance to make it in the opera world. ✓ (2)
5 Thato can do what he loves to do, ✓ but Malome has to do what he has to do in order to support his family. ✓ (2)
6 He is angry at himself because he never has the chance to follow his own dreams. ✓✓ (2)
7 Luzuko is missing. ✓ (1) [10]

Chapter 16: Opening

1 To wake him up. He is semi-conscious. ✓ (1)
2 A ✓ (1)

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3 A banana ✓ (1)
4 She prays for him. ✓ (1)
5 Miracle calls him to come and give her notes instead. ✓ (1)
6 He would have found Luzuko soaking wet and not ready to perform yet. He would probably have shouted at him. ✓✓ (2) [7]

Chapter 17: A night at the opera

1 Maestro Levin ✓ (1)
2 Thato and Luzuko are talented black opera singers, ✓ but when Professor Grasso was a young opera singer in the apartheid years, ✓ only white opera singers were allowed on the stage. ✓ (3)
3 Both of her parents have come to watch the opera. ✓ (1)
4 Luzuko is performing amazingly and this proves that the curse that the chorus member put on him hasn't worked, so he wants his money back. ✓✓ (2)
5 He might have tuberculosis. ✓ (1)
6 FALSE ✓: "Hers is a voice that could light up Vienna, New York and London." ✓ (2)
7 Thato ✓ and Miracle. ✓ (2)
8 Learners give their own opinions based on the text. Accept a YES or NO answer with suitable substantiation. For example: Yes, it is a happy ending because Thato and Miracle finally acknowledge their feelings for each other and they will go and perform in London. ✓✓
OR No, it is not a happy ending because there are still several unresolved issues. Luzuko might be seriously ill or could get caught stealing for the gangsters later on and Kagiso could be leaving Gook for *Idols*. ✓✓ (2) [14]

Exploring the novel further

Explore the plot

1 Point of view of each chapter:
   1 Miracle
   2 Thato
   3 Miracle
   4 Thato
   5 Miracle
   6 Thato
   7 Miracle
   8 Thato
   9 Miracle
   10 Miracle and Thato
   11 Miracle and Thato
   12 Miracle and Thato
   13 Miracle and Thato
   14 Miracle and Thato
   15 Miracle and Thato
   16 Miracle and Thato
   17 Everyone (Maestro Levin, Professor Grasso, Miracle, Mama, Charlie,

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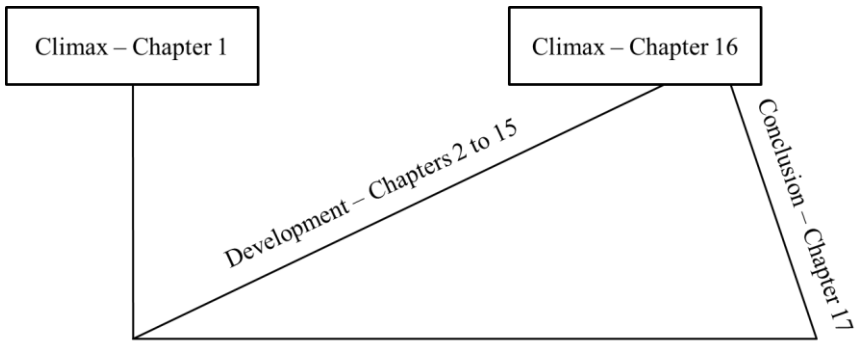
Auntie Mavis, the jealous chorus member, Kagiso, Luzuko, Maritha, the Artistic Director of Cape Opera, George, Thato, Miracle) (17)

a The first few chapters alternate between Miracle and Thato. ✓ Then from Chapter 10 on, each chapter is from both their points of view. ✓ And in the last chapter the reader gets insight into all the characters' thoughts. ✓ (3)

b Alternating points of view make the story more interesting. ✓ It could show that from Chapter 10, Thato and Miracle are growing closer to each other, ✓ etc. (2) [22]

2 a The story of *Think Act Sing* differs from the traditional plot sequence because the first chapter starts with the climax of the novel ✓ where Luzuko is missing and Thato has gone to find him. It is still the introduction in the sense that the characters are introduced and the setting is given. ✓ It is opening night and the tension is heightened ✓ because they have to go on stage in a little while and it would be a disaster if Luzuko is not there. The first chapter ends with Luzuko in a daze and the others not knowing whether he would be able to perform. This creates suspense. ✓ The second chapter is a flashback ✓ – the start of the development that leads up to the climax again ✓ when Chapter 16 continues where Chapter 1 has left off. ✓ The conclusion where the conflicts are resolved is in Chapter 17. ✓ (8)

b



(4) [12]

Place in sequence

1 "A long time ago, when he belonged to the school choir, nothing could compare to the act of making music."
2 "He knew that the idea of becoming a football player belonged to the dreams of a younger Thato."
3 "But his name was in the newspaper. He had passed Matric. His whole life was ahead of him."
4 "It seemed impossible that something so beautiful could be coming from the very same courtyard where he had played as a child."
5 "Embarrassed, Thato scrambled down the ladder and jumped onto the platform."
6 "He went to his voicemail box hoping to hear Luzuko's voice but instead, it was his mother's."
7 "Every now and then there is a singer that comes to Gook who has a special quality," he had told Thato. 'You are one of those singers."
8 "After what I have been through in the last few days, I did not come this

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far to be replaced at the last minute."

9 "He would kiss Miracle when the snow started to fall and it would be Thato who would kiss her not Rodolfo, the poet."

10 "He will make the perfect young Mandela for *Mandela Trilogy* ..." [20]

Match columns

1

Column A	Column B
"Speak to me of dreams and illusions, Of wonders the world would call poetic." *La Bohème*, Puccini	1 Opening
"Have courage. Perhaps Heaven has expressly sent this miracle man to the village for my own good." *L'elsir d'amore*, Donizetti	2 Before
"Nobody shall sleep ... vanish, oh night! Set, you stars! For at dawn I know I shall win!" *Turandot*, Puccini	6 In-between time
"I am writing to you from my little room; A leaden grey sky bears down on me like a shroud." *Werther*, Massenet	7 Pregnant letter
"One day a student kissed her on her mouth, And with that kiss came a revelation: it was passion." *La Rondine*, Puccini	9 College daze
"Write a song. She'll know what you feel, Sing it plainly but make it real!" *The Tales of Hoffman*, Offenbach	13 Lyric
"Deathly pale, weak and broken, he shivered all night, And his days were spent in pitiful weeping; he was bewitched!" *Il Trovatore*, Verdi	14 On stage
"Tonight you will see love as real as human beings' love; You will hear agonies of grief and bitter laughter; But look not upon our theatrical costumes but into our souls ..." *Pagliacci*, Leoncavallo	17 A night at the opera

(8)

2

Column A	Column B
"Her brown hair fell on her shoulders in a nest of curls ..." (p. 1)	Metaphor
"The idea had been hiding in the shadows of her mind all through the final term at school." (p. 9)	Personification
"The voices of the choir soared around her in a cathedral of sound ..." (p. 9)	Metaphor
"The shunt and shuttle and clickety-clack of the train's motion had stopped." (p. 18)	Alliteration and onomatopoeia
"He looked at me like I am an alien from outer space." (p. 35)	Simile
"The news about working for Cape Opera ran like a bolt of electricity through the students." (p. 49)	

(5) [13]

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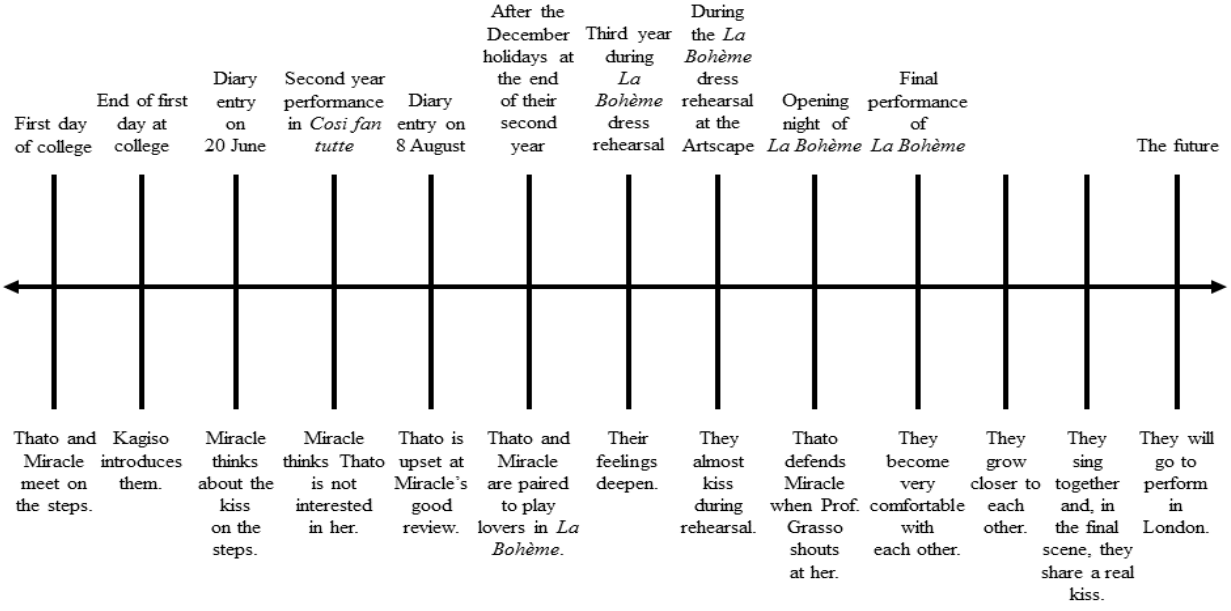
Identify the quotes

Quote	Who says it?	To whom do they say it?
"So, little brother, what did you do today while everyone else was out working?"	**Malome**	**Thato**
"This will bring you nothing but unhappiness..."	**Mama**	**Miracle**
"*Hemel, daai Miracle-kind sing nes 'n engel...*"	**Auntie Mavis**	**Herself**
"Is no one listening to me? I do not want to work with dead animals and I do not want to work under the ground. I want to sing."	**Thato**	**His family**
"I want to be more than a choir soloist...There's a world of music out there..."	**Miracle**	**Her mother**
"When I told my uncle he shrugged and said that's one fewer mouth to feed."	**Luzuko**	**Miracle**
"Oh, really? So I am looking at a real wannabe first-year, am I?"	**Kagiso**	**Thato**
"But I'll need my car for that and you're standing on it."	**Professor Grasso**	**Thato**

[16]

Complete a timeline



Allocate 2 marks if the event in the 'Relationship' column is correctly paired with the one in the 'Time' column (2 × 11 = 22). Allocate only 1 mark for the two extra events under "Final performance" (22 + 2 = 24). The following can be swapped and still receive marks: 'Their feelings deepen', 'They become very comfortable with each other' and 'They grow closer to each other'. [24]

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Cloze exercise

Think Act Sing tells the story of four friends who are studying (1) **opera** at the Good Hope Opera College in (2) **Cape Town**. Miracle, who is from (3) **Ezibeleni** township in the Eastern Cape, has received a (4) **bursary** that funds her studies while her best friend, (5) **Luzuko**, has to pay his own way. Miracle believes that her voice is a gift from (6) **God**.
Thato (7) **Pilane** has just finished matric and is still unsure of his plans for the (8) **future**. One day while fetching his little (9) **sister** from school, he hears someone (10) **singing** opera and realises that is what he wants to do with his life. He travels from (11) **Rustenburg** to Cape Town by (12) **train** where he meets (13) **Kagiso**. She is already studying at (14) **Gook**, which is what the students call the opera college. Thato almost does not get an (15) **audition**, but he persists and Professor (16) **Grasso** admits him because he recognises Thato's exceptional (17) **talent**.
Thato and Luzuko become good friends despite their (18) **differences** and they also perform together at (19) **Mama Afrika** to earn extra cash for Luzuko. Thato and Miracle fall in (20) **love** and Kagiso makes it to the final round of (21) ***Idols***.
The friends study together for three years and perform the lead roles in the production of (22) ***La Bohème*** in their third year. On (23) **opening** night, Luzuko (24) **disappears**, but Thato finds him in time. Luzuko is troubled and believes he is (25) **cursed**. Miracle (26) **prays** for him and he calms down.
La Bohème is a big (27) **success** and the Director of Cape Opera chooses Thato and (28) **Miracle** to go and perform in (29) **London**. [29]

Identify themes

1 A When you have a **responsibility** towards your family and you want to live up to the **expectations** of your **family**, it can put you under **pressure**. (4)

B When you do what you are **passionate** about, you feel as if you can achieve the **impossible**. (2)

C Making your **dreams** come true takes **hard work** and **commitment**. (3)

D If you don't take the **opportunities** that come your way, you might never get another **chance**. (2)

E If you believe in something, you have to make **sacrifices** to be **successful**. (2)

F Sometimes you have to make **difficult** decisions and wrong choices can have negative **consequences**. (2) [15]

2 a "I won't hear another word," Mama said, standing up from the table. "You have a responsibility towards the choir, young lady. We have built you up and supported you every step of the way. You cannot walk out on us now. For the first time in years we have a chance to make the finals. Everyone is counting on you. And then there is the Gospel Convention – what will the bishop say? All the church officials will be there. What will I say to them? How can you even think of doing this?"
When you have a responsibility towards your family and you want to live up to the expectations of your family, it can put you under pressure. (1)

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b "How can I make you understand what this opportunity means to me? It is a dream that has been growing inside me. I do not know how it will turn out, but I know I must grab it now as it might never come again."
If you don't take the opportunities that come your way, you might never get another chance. (1)

c "When Thato finished the aria, he said, "I have come all the way from Rustenburg to audition, Professor. I did not understand the letter. I cannot go home without having at least tried to get into college. Please, I am begging you, let me audition properly."
If you believe in something, you have to make sacrifices to be successful. (1)

d "Doing what you love, not what you have to do. He remembered studying the faces of the football players pasted on his bedroom wall, and failing to discover their secret. But tonight he would do what he loved to do and he could not wait to get back to Cape Town and make it happen."
When you do what you are passionate about, you feel as if you can achieve the impossible. (1) [4]

Talking about it

Learners' answers will vary depending on the content of their discussions. Make sure that they cover all of the points in Questions 1 to 7 and that each learner participates in the discussions.

Writing about it

Learners' answers will vary depending on the content of their written work. Make sure that they cover all of the points in Questions 1 to 8 and that the written work is relevant to the contents of the novel.

Practising questions for assessment

Contextual question 1 (from Chapter 2)

1 Charlie ✓ (1)

2 She is thinking about how to tell her parents ✓ that she is leaving for opera college in two weeks' time. ✓ (2)

3 a The Church of the Resurrection ✓ (1)

b Ezibeleni township ✓ (1)

c Miracle likes the church ✓ because she loves singing in the choir ✓ OR because she is deeply religious. ✓ (2)

4 They might think she is leaving because she wants to get out of the poverty-stricken township. ✓ (1)

5 Miracle and her father have a very close relationship. ✓ He knows her very well and instinctively knows that she is hiding something from him. ✓ (2) [10]

Contextual question 2 (from Chapter 12)

1 Professor Grasso ✓ (1)

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2 The professor shouted at Miracle ✓ because she was casting her eyes down (as is expected of a woman in her culture) instead of looking up so that the audience could see the emotion in her eyes. ✓ (2)

3 Her comment put Luzuko in his place. ✓ OR She is making a joke.✓ OR She is very popular with the other students. ✓ (Any one) (1)

4 He means that it is African tradition ✓ for women to defer to men. ✓ (2)

5 He tells her that her traditional ways are not right or wrong, ✓ but on the opera stage everyone is equal. ✓ (2)

6 Learners' own opinions. Accept a YES or NO answer with suitable substantiation. ✓✓ (2) [10]

Paragraph question

1 a Thato: supportive; reliable; shy; talented; determined; loyal; optimistic; romantic; spontaneous; intense; honest. Luzuko: confident; charismatic; talented; resourceful; superstitious; secretive; outgoing; intense; proud.

b These are only suggested answers. Learners can come up with other relevant examples:
Thato: supportive – he helps Luzuko with his 'job', he helps Miracle when Prof. Grasso shouts at her; reliable and loyal – he is always on time for rehearsals, he is there when his family needs him, he finds Luzuko when he goes missing; shy – he gets tongue-tied around Miracle, he is too shy to ask Miracle out; talented – Prof. Grasso tells him he has a special quality; determined – he insists on an audition; romantic – he kisses Miracle in the final act of the opera; spontaneous – he sings on top of the train, he kisses Miracle on the steps of the college
Luzuko: confident and charismatic – he is popular with girls, has lots of friends, others are jealous of him; talented – he is a very good baritone; resourceful – he finds ways to earn money to pay for college; superstitious – he believes someone has cursed him; secretive – he doesn't tell anyone about the trouble he is in; outgoing – he sings at Mama Afrika and the tourists love him; intense – he believes someone is out to get him; proud – he doesn't accept financial help from Miracle

c Opposites attract. They have a lot in common, but their differences also complement each other, e.g. Luzuko is confident with girls and Thato is shy, so singing with Luzuko at Mama Afrika boosts Thato's confidence.

d Learners could cover the following points:
Thato and Luzuko are both talented opera singers and good friends. Although Thato is shy, it is clear that he is more reliable than Luzuko. Luzuko is charismatic, but Thato is someone who can be counted on in a crisis. When Thato sings on the roof of the train, we can see that he is spontaneous and passionate. This tells us that he is very determined to reach his goals. In the end, Thato and Luzuko are still good friends even though they are very different. [10]

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