



# Contents

<b>Foreword to the learner</b>	iv
<b>Section A: Helpful information on <i>Finders Keepers</i></b>	1
Overview	1
Biography of the author: Rosamund Haden	1
Approach	2
Setting: Places in the novel – “from Venda via Jozi”	2
Narrator	5
Structure and plot	6
Conflict	6
Mood or atmosphere	7
Tone	7
Timeline	9
Characterisation	10
Significance of names	14
Dialogue	15
Imagery and figurative language	15
Idioms, proverbs and fixed expressions	16
Themes in <i>Finders Keepers</i>	18
<b>Section B: Exploring the chapters</b>	22
Chapter 1	22
Chapter 2	24
Chapter 3	26
Chapter 4	29
Chapter 5	32
Chapter 6	35
Chapter 7	37
Chapter 8	40
Chapter 9	42
Chapter 10	44
Chapter 11	46
Chapter 12	49
Chapter 13	51
Chapter 14	54
Chapter 15	56
Chapter 16	58
Chapter 17	60
Chapter 18	63
<b>Section C: Examples of formal assessment</b>	66
<b>Section D: Enrichment activities</b>	70
<b>Glossary of literary terms</b>	84
<b>Bibliography</b>	87





## Section B: Exploring the chapters

### Plot development summary

#### Chapter 1

Lufuno goes to school for the first time in Cape Town after moving there from Johannesburg. She originally comes from Venda. She finds the change stressful and she misses her best friend Dudu and her grandmother very much. The Mukwevho family now live in a shack behind Mrs Jantjies's home. Lufuno's parents were retrenched in Johannesburg and now work at the On the Rise Bakery where the unions have called a strike.

#### Pre-reading

1. Discuss the stress and challenges involved for a teenager having to move to another province. Include the impact a move of this nature will have on friends, school, family and relationships in general in your discussion.

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(2)

#### Reading

2. The first paragraph contains an extended **metaphor**. Identify the elements being compared and say why the comparison reflects the feelings of Lufuno effectively.  

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(2)
3. Why is Dudu on the forefront of Lufuno's thoughts at the beginning of the novel? How big was the role she played in the protagonist's life?  

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(3)
4. The three different settings that Lufuno found herself in as she was growing up are described in the first two pages of the novel. Identify the **main similarities and differences** of these places.  

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(6)
5. The bead bracelet made for and given to Lufuno by her grandmother is brimming with **symbolic significance**: discuss the familial, cultural and emotional importance of the beads.  

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(3)



**Post-reading**

6. What **significance** does the On the Rise Bakery play in the life of the Mukwevho family?
- \_\_\_\_\_
- \_\_\_\_\_
- \_\_\_\_\_ (2)
7. Discuss the **pun** contained in the name of the bakery.
- \_\_\_\_\_
- \_\_\_\_\_ (2)
8. Describe Mrs Jantjies and her sons in the **opening scene** of the novel.
- \_\_\_\_\_
- \_\_\_\_\_
- \_\_\_\_\_ (3)
9. Would you say that Lufuno's words: "**My first day and trouble has already sought me out**" have any truth to them? Supply reasons for your answer.
- \_\_\_\_\_
- \_\_\_\_\_
- \_\_\_\_\_ (2)
10. Lufuno is prevented from boarding the taxi to school on her first day. Who stops her and what do you think their intentions are?
- \_\_\_\_\_
- \_\_\_\_\_
- \_\_\_\_\_ (2)

**Glossary**

<b>evaporate</b> ( <i>verb</i> )	to change into vapour and disappear into thin air
<b>crooners</b> ( <i>noun</i> )	people who sing in a low, subdued, sentimental manner (sob singer)
<b>petulant</b> ( <i>adjective</i> )	to be impatient and bad-tempered (grumpy)
<b>saunter</b> ( <i>verb</i> )	to walk slowly without hurry or effort
<b>distorted</b> ( <i>verb</i> )	form changed or twisted during amplification
<b>morogo</b> ( <i>noun</i> )	traditional food plant eaten as spinach
<b>Mma</b> ( <i>pronoun</i> )	Tshivenda for "mother"
<b>python dance</b> ( <i>noun</i> )	dance young initiation rite – movements resemble that of a snake

Identify the themes you feel are present in this chapter. Place a tick (✓) next to the relevant theme and write a short sentence on how this theme is expounded in this chapter.

**Thematic links in this chapter**

- Poverty and unemployment:
- \_\_\_\_\_





• Bullying:
• Friendship:
• Family:
• Death and grief:
• Stereotyping:
• Strike:
• Love:
• Violence:
• Cultural beliefs versus Westernisation:

## Chapter 2

Three school drop-outs accost Lufuno on her first day of school, until she is rescued by Noki. They are both in Grade 11 at Victory High School. On her way into class, Lufuno is tripped by Sindi who has a crush on Mandla who picks up the bead bracelet that Lufuno dropped when she fell. He refuses to return it to her, teasingly saying “Finders keepers”.

### Pre-reading

1. Is bullying by their peers a problem most teenagers have to deal with on a regular basis these days? Answer “yes” or “no” and suggest ways of dealing with bullies.

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(2)

### Reading

2. Why do you think Lufuno instinctively reaches for her little bead bracelet when she finds herself in stressful situations?
3. Noki replaces Dudu in Lufuno’s life to a certain extent. Describe the **similarities** in Dudu and Noki’s characters.

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(1)

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(2)





4. Does Noki have any misconceptions regarding her brother Sim? Discuss.

(2)

5. Sindi is one of the main antagonists of the novel. Describe her physical appearance, her character and her behaviour.

(2)

### Post-reading

6. Describe Lufuno's meeting with Mandla, in detail and in your own words. Do you believe in the concept "love at first sight"? Do you think that is what happens in the novel? Motivate your answer.

(4)

7.

- 7.1 Who says the words "**Finders keepers**" first in the novel?

(1)

- 7.2 What is he/she referring to when these significant words are spoken?

(1)

8. The first negative reaction to Lufuno's culture and heritage occurs in this chapter. Find the reference and discuss the introduction to the theme.

(2)

9. Would you say that Lufuno suffers from a "**victim mentality**"? Answer "yes" or "no" and explain your answer.

(2)

### Glossary

<b>stale</b> ( <i>adjective</i> )	not fresh, musty and unpleasant (food)
<b>intimidated</b> ( <i>verb</i> )	frightened or over-awed
<b>dodge</b> ( <i>verb</i> )	to change quickly from position to avoid collision
<b>self-conscious</b> ( <i>adjective</i> )	to be unduly aware of one's appearance or actions
<b>hesitant</b> ( <i>adjective</i> )	to be irresolute or indecisive
<b>flounces</b> ( <i>verb</i> )	to move with an agitated, impatient motion
<b>Uphethe'nto?</b>	isiXhosa for "what are you carrying?"
<b>Vula</b>	isiXhosa for "open or clear the way"





## SECTION B: EXPLORING THE CHAPTERS

<b>uyacinga</b>	isiXhosa for “you think”
<b>skollies</b>	unemployed sluggards

Identify the themes you feel are present in this chapter. Place a tick (✓) next to the relevant theme and write a short sentence on how this theme is expounded in this chapter.

Thematic links in this chapter
• Poverty and unemployment: _____
• Bullying: _____
• Friendship: _____
• Family: _____
• Death and grief: _____
• Stereotyping: _____
• Strike: _____
• Love: _____
• Violence: _____
• Cultural beliefs versus Westernisation: _____

## Chapter 3

While Lufuno is battling to find a seat in her new class, Sindi keeps on harassing her. Mandla finds a chair for her and she introduces herself to the class. Lufuno is lonely and unhappy until she is paired up with Mandla for an English exercise. They connect well and she learns that he is passionate about soccer.

### Pre-reading

1. Would you say that teenagers are very critical of each other? Supply reasons for your response.

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_ (2)

