

This study guide was written and compiled by **Carolyn Morton**.

It is meant as a resource for the teacher in the classroom to help learners comprehend, enjoy and interpret this novel. It has been written for use in the Senior Phase for Grade 7-9 Home Language or First Additional Language learners and follows the guidelines set out in the Curriculum Assessment Policy Statement (CAPS).

This user-friendly guide includes a simple introduction about the characteristics of a short novel, a summary of the plot and a biography of the author. It also explains some of the most important themes and the main characters in the story. Learners will also benefit from the glossary provided for difficult or foreign words used in each chapter and the important terms used in the guide.

Section 2 of this guide includes a useful summary of each chapter, as well as contextual questions that follow the basic requirements set out in CAPS, designed to integrate listening and speaking, reading and viewing, writing, presenting and language skills. Section 3 also includes extra enrichment activities to help learners enjoy and engage with this text. The teacher can use and adapt the questions according to the requirements for their learners' specific grade and language level – Section 4 provides suggested answers for each question to assist with individual assessment.

Please note: All page numbers in this guide refer to the first edition of the novel *The Boy and the Poacher's Moon* (Human & Rousseau, 2020)

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Section One: Introduction

Note: Throughout this study guide, you will find underlined words. These words have been defined in the study guide glossary. There is also a glossary for each chapter of *The Boy and the Poacher's Moon*.

Characteristics of a short novel

The Boy and the Poacher's Moon is written as a short novel. A short novel is similar to a novel, but, as the name suggests, it is not as long. Even more specifically, the short novel can be referred to as a *novella*. According to Casano (2016), "a novella is shorter than a full-length novel but longer than a short story" (para. 1). Carstairs (2015), from the Manuscript Appraisal Agency, notes that a novella is "between 10,000 and 40,000 words" (Novella section).

The short novel usually has the following characteristics:

1. It tells a story for a specific purpose – to reveal a message or a theme to the reader. There can be several themes/messages in one story. The main message of *The Boy and the Poacher's Moon* is about the danger and destructiveness of poaching.
2. A short novel contains characters. These are the people who are in the book. The characters have defining characteristics (behaviours/desires/personalities) that make them easily recognisable from each other. Here are the characters in *The Boy and the Poacher's Moon*:

The four teenagers:

- **Billy Samuels:** shy and lacking confidence.
- **Jabu Ntuli:** studious and brainy and says what she thinks.
- **Vusi Mabuza:** outgoing and a great joker.

- **Surina Govender:** pretty and very attached to her phone. She doesn't seem as interested in conservation as the others.

The poachers:

- **Moamba:** a cruel Mozambican poacher.
- **Lebadi:** a local man who works under Moamba. He carries the horn but has also sometimes attacked rhinos with an axe.
- **The boy:** a sensitive teenager who works for the poachers because he needs the money. He cares about others and hates his job.

Those working at Wild2Save:

- **Bokkie and Schalk Kriek:** This married couple runs Wild2Save, supposedly to do conservation work, but they use this company as a front for their poaching activities.
- **Karel Smit:** working for the Krieks. He joined their company to try to expose them.

Those working at the Kruger National Park:

- **Piet Smit:** Karel's brother Piet is a game ranger at Kruger.
- **Thandi Matlala:** a young game ranger who is captured by the poachers.
- **Captain Absalom Dlamini:** Piet's commanding officer, working to stop poaching.

3. Events/plot: The plot is all the different events that tell a story. These events are all related to each other; in other words, they all play an important part in telling the story the writer wants to share with the reader (*Collins English Dictionary*, n.d.). For instance, in the first scene of this book, the author starts by describing the boy walking through the bush with the poachers Moamba and Lebadi after killing a rhino. The next scene shifts to Billy being fetched at the

airport. Although these two scenes are about different people in different places, they are **related events** because the poachers and Billy will interact in the book in a dramatic battle over the life of a rhino.

The different elements of the plot are the **exposition, rising action, conflict, climax, falling action/anticlimax.**

Exposition: This is the background to the main part of the story. In the exposition of *The Boy and the Poacher's Moon*, we meet Billy, Jabu, Vusi and Surina and discover why they are going to Kruger Park: They are finalists in a competition for which the prize is a university bursary to study conservation. We also meet Schalk and Bokkie Kriek, from Wild2Save, Piet, the game ranger, and his brother Karel, who works for Wild2Save.

Conflict: Conflict refers to arguing/disagreement between or within people which builds up.

Rising action: In this part of the story, the conflict starts to develop. For instance, in *The Boy and the Poacher's Moon*, a rhino is poached. The four teenagers go on a game drive, and their vehicle breaks down. Thandi, the game ranger who is driving, sets off on foot to fetch help and is captured by poachers determined to kill another rhino.

There are many examples of conflict in the story. There is conflict between those trying to protect and those trying to poach the rhino, which is partly resolved when Moamba and Lebadi are caught and finally resolved when the middlemen, Bokkie and Schalk, are arrested.

There is also conflict between the two brothers, Karel and Piet, as Piet struggles to understand why Karel stopped being a ranger. This conflict is resolved when Piet learns that Karel had gone undercover to try to prove the Krieks guilty of being involved in poaching.

Conflict is also seen between Captain Dlamini and the Smit brothers: The captain is angry with Piet when he discovers that Billy and Vusi were present at the shootout with the poachers Moamba and Lebadi because the teenagers could have been hurt. In addition, the captain takes Karel in for questioning, and he suspends Piet from his job. Resolution takes place once Karel is found innocent and the poaching middlemen are arrested.

The above paragraphs describe external conflict between people. Conflict can also take place in characters' minds (for instance, a character might struggle between making a right or wrong decision). This is called internal conflict. For instance, the unnamed boy in the story struggles with the fact that he is helping the poachers and doing a job which he hates. Billy also experiences inner conflict as he gets angry with himself for being shy and for worrying about what other people think of him.

Climax: The climax is the most exciting/dramatic part of the story. There are two climaxes in the story. The first is the battle between (1) the poachers and (2) Karel, Piet, Vusi and Billy.

The second climax occurs when Billy and Surina discover that the Krieks are running a poaching setup and are captured by Bokkie and Schalk.

Falling action: This refers to the part of the book where the author ties up the story. In *The Boy and the Poacher's Moon*, we discover that Karel was Hornblower, that there is enough evidence to prove the Krieks' guilt, that Piet will be able to return to his job, that Karel will be welcomed back as a game ranger and new task team member and that all the teenagers will obtain SANParks bursaries.

4. Milieu: The milieu is the **setting** of the story – where and when the novel takes place. This novel takes place mostly in the Kruger National Park in South Africa over a weekend.
5. A short novel has a narrator. This is the person who is telling the story. In *The Boy and the Poacher's Moon*, there is a third-person narrator, which means that the person telling the story is not part of the events but instead is describing to the reader what happened to other people.
6. The story takes place within a specific time frame. *The Boy and the Poacher's Moon* mostly happens chronologically, which means that the writer starts at the beginning of the story and continues until the end. There are some flashbacks (memories of the past) though, such as the unnamed boy thinking back on how he came to be involved with the poachers. This helps us to understand how poverty drove him to take on a job that is making him miserable and helps the reader understand the reason for his choice.
7. Mood: This is how the book makes readers feel. The mood is tense and exciting as well as humorous (funny) in parts. At the end, the mood is ironic because it turns out that Bokkie and Schalk, who are supposed to be promoting conservation, are in fact involved in poaching. It is also ironic that Karel, who they thought was working for them, is actually working to expose them.

Summary of the plot

The plot is the interrelated happenings that together tell a story. This story begins with the journey of an unnamed teenage boy through the bush of the Kruger Park together with two poachers who have killed a rhino. The boy hates working with the poachers, but it is later revealed that he joined the poachers because his family is very poor and he needs money.

The story then shifts to focus on another boy, Billy, a self-conscious teenager from Cape Town, who has won a weekend at the Kruger National Park because he is one

of four finalists in the Wild2Save competition, organised by Bokkie and Schalk Kriek. After they arrive at the Krieks' farm, which is the Wild2Save headquarters, the four finalists discover that another rhino has been poached in Kruger. A mysterious whistleblower had contacted game ranger Piet Smit and warned him ahead of time, but the e-mail had been dismissed by his commanding officer as a hoax.

Billy, along with the other contestants, Jabu, Vusi and Surina, go on a game drive with Thandi, a young ranger. When their Land Rover breaks down, Thandi starts walking back to camp to get help and instead is captured by poachers. The four teenagers overhear the poachers talking about their next planned kill and rescue Thandi, who has been tied to the wheel of the damaged Land Rover. Thandi has injured her ankle badly, so Billy and Vusi set out to get help.

In the meantime, Piet Smit and his brother Karel, who left his work as a game ranger to work for the Krieks, set out to look for the teenagers and Thandi; the Smit brothers find Billy and Vusi, and the boys tell them details of the poachers' plans to cut out the horn of another rhino that night. They race to the scene of the planned crime to stop the poachers. A rhino is shot and wounded, but the poachers are arrested. Vusi's life is saved by the unnamed boy, who hits one of the poachers across the back of his head. The nameless boy subsequently decides to leave poaching forever.

Karel is taken in for questioning by the police because they suspect he may be involved in poaching, and his brother Piet is suspended. Back at camp, Billy and Surina discover that the real culprits behind the poaching are Bokkie and Schalk Kriek and are taken captive by them. They are saved by Karel, who turns out to be "Hornblower", and the Krieks are arrested.

Billy realises that he is no longer as concerned about what others think of him, and he has the confidence to believe that Surina might like him. All four of the teenagers are awarded SANParks study bursaries as a reward for their contribution towards capturing the Krieks and defeating the poachers. Piet's suspension is lifted, and Karel returns to being a game ranger again and will also join the task team.

The title: *The Boy and the Poacher's Moon*

The title, the cover and the back cover can reveal important information to help us understand the story. Let's have a look at the title first.

Pre-reading questions: Discuss these questions based on the title.

1. How important do you think the boy's role is in the story, and why do you think this?
2. What do you think the story is about? Why?
3. Considering the title, when (what time of day/night) does a large part of this story take place? Why do you say this?

The title refers to the unnamed boy who works with the poachers. A "poacher's moon" is a full moon. When the moon is full, it is very bright, so poachers are more easily able to track and kill rhinos.

The title hints at two themes/messages in the book:

- The main theme of *The Boy and the Poacher's Moon* is the danger and destructiveness of poaching, not only to wildlife but to those involved, both in poaching and in trying to combat it.
- The reference to the boy also hints at another theme, which is the destructiveness of poverty. The boy joins the poachers, although he doesn't want to, because he needs money.

The front cover

Pre-reading questions: Look at the picture of the front cover below before answering the following questions:

1. Where do you think this story takes place? Why?
2. What do you think the connection might be between the rhinos and the four figures?
3. Based on the picture on the front cover, what is a poacher's moon?



The cover gives the title of the book, *The Boy and the Poacher's Moon*, and the name of the author, Pamela Newham.

Besides this information, it also includes two pictures, separated by the title. The top picture shows four people silhouetted by a full moon. The four figures represent the four teenagers: Billy, Vusi, Jabu and Surina. The moon is full to show that it is a poacher's moon, the time when the moon is brightest and poaching is easiest. The large number of stars hints at the fact that the story takes place somewhere away from urban areas, where city lights hide the brightness of the stars. The veld around the rhinos also indicates this.

Underneath the heading, there are two rhinos, highlighting the focus of the novel, which is poaching. The veld behind the rhinos is an orange colour: Reds and oranges are often colours that represent danger. The fact that the two rhinos are all alone also emphasises how vulnerable they are and their need for protection.

The back cover

The back cover has a short quote from the book:

The boy was glad that darkness had come, even though it was more difficult to see. He knew that when the moon was at its brightest, it would light the way.

Earlier, Moamba had picked up the rhino's tracks, and they had followed the spoor, moving silently through the bush. Even so, the boy knew there were eyes watching. He just hoped they were not human eyes . . .

The aim of this quote is to show the reader an exciting part of the book which will make him or her want to read/buy the book in order to find out why the boy is out in the dark following a rhino.

Pre-reading questions

1. Why do you think the boy is glad that it is dark if it means he cannot see properly?
2. Who do you think Moamba is? Why is he tracking a rhino?
3. What "human eyes" do you think the boy might fear?

The back cover also has a summary of the book, called the back blurb:

Billy is one of four finalists chosen in the Wild2Save competition to spend a weekend in the Kruger National Park, competing to win a bursary to study conservation. At first, he is nervous to meet new people, but soon finds a great group of friends in the fun-loving Vusi, brainy Jabu and pretty Surina. Their hosts, Bokkie and Schalk Kriek, promise a fun weekend exploring the bushveld and viewing the amazing wildlife. But on their first night they come face to face with a group of ruthless poachers and land in grave danger.

Who is the mysterious boy, and the anonymous "Hornblower"? Will they help the four friends expose the villains and save the rhino?

This blurb provides us with valuable information:

1. The four main characters are named. The villainous Bokkie and Schalk, who oppose the four teenagers, and two key characters who support the teens (the boy and “Hornblower”) are mentioned because they are important characters in the story.
2. The blurb also reveals key aspects of the plot and the conflict in the story (the clash between the teenagers and the poachers). All stories have to have conflict; otherwise, there would be nothing to keep the reader’s interest.

Questions are also asked about the boy and “Hornblower” and their role in the story. The aim of these questions is to grab the reader’s attention so he or she reads the book to find out the answers.

Pre-reading questions

1. What type of person do you think Billy is? Do you think you would like this character?
2. What is conservation?
3. Who do you think “Hornblower” is?

Inside the book

Inside the book, there is a copyright page. This is often at the front of the book, but it can also be at the back. In *The Boy and the Poacher’s Moon*, you will find the copyright page at the front of the book.

At the top of this page, the author indicates that she has dedicated the book to Finn, Jet, Brodie, Neo and Maya. Below this, the copyright page includes the following information:

- The name of the publisher: Human & Rousseau
- The date the book was published: 2020

- The address of the publisher: 40 Heerengracht, Cape Town
- The name of the cover designer: Nadene Kriel
- The name of the book designer: Teresa Williams
- Who printed the book: **novus** print
- The ISBN number—all books written in South Africa have to be registered and given an ISBN number.

You will also see this sign on the copyright page: ©

This is the copyright symbol. It means the information in the book is the property of the writer, Pamela Newham, and you may not copy it.

Short biography: Pamela Newham



Pamela Newham, who comes from Hout Bay, has worked as a journalist in the magazine industry for the past 24 years and has also taught English as well as working as a librarian and in public relations. Her first book, written in 2010, was *Three Blind Dates*, and it was selected as runner-up in the Maskew Miller Longman Literature Awards. Her novel *The Klipspringers* is CAPS approved for Grade 7 home language learners. In addition to her novel writing, Pam has had poetry published in *Carapace*, *The Ground's Ear*, *Difficult to Explain*, *Heart of Africa*, *Scrutiny2*, *Stanzas* and *The Sol Plaatje European Union Poetry Anthology*.

Contextualising the short novel

The Boy and the Poacher's Moon focuses on the ongoing threat of poaching in South Africa. According to Save the Rhino (2020), "South Africa holds nearly 80% of the world's rhinos and has been the country hit hardest by poaching criminals, with more than 1,000 rhinos killed each year between 2013 and 2017" (para. 2). Although rhino poaching decreased over the five years from 2015 to 2019, the situation is still of great concern as "on average in the country, a rhino is killed every 15 hours" (Save the Rhino, 2020, para. 5). If poaching is not controlled, rhinos may become extinct (Bale, 2018). The majority of poaching happens in the Kruger National Park (Save the Rhino, 2020). According to *Rhino Poaching Update* (2018/2019), 446 people were arrested in the Kruger National Park in 2017, out of the 502 poachers who were arrested across South Africa.

Poverty may play a role in the poaching of rhino. According to Gallagher (2017), inadequate resources and education "can tempt poor people living on the borders of wildlife sanctuaries to participate in poaching" (para. 5). For instance, according to *Rhino Poaching Update* (2018/2019), there are "2 million people with an unemployment rate of 50% living next to the [Kruger National] park" (para. 4), and for those with very little money, poaching may be a way to earn more (*Rhino Poaching Update*, 2018/2019).

Corruption also encourages poaching as those supposed to protect rhinos are sometimes involved in poaching them. This, for instance, happens in *The Boy and the Poacher's Moon* as the Krieks are discovered to be guilty of running a poaching operation. Julian Rademeyer from Traffic, which monitors the unlawful buying and selling of wild animals, says the following: "In far too many cases, rangers, police, government officials – even magistrates – are easily corrupted by powerful criminal forces with ready supplies of hard cash" (as cited in Leithead, 2018, para. 13). According to *Rhino Poaching Update* (2018/2019), in 2017, 21 officials were arrested for being involved in poaching.

Explanation of type of short novel

The **genre** is the type of short novel that has been written. *The Boy and the Poacher's Moon* is both a **thriller** and a **bildungsroman**. The book is an adventure story/thriller as four teenagers have to race against time to stop poachers in the Kruger National Park. Joslyn Chase (n.d.), drawing largely on *The Story Grid* by Shawn Coyne, identifies several key elements of a thriller:

1. A crime: In *The Boy and the Poacher's Moon*, the crime is the ongoing poaching that is taking place in the Kruger National Park. More specifically, the particular **crimes** in this story are the killing of a rhino cow and the attempted killing of another rhino.
2. Life, liberty and justice are the values being fought for. In the novel, the lives of Billy, Jabu, Vusi and Surina are endangered when they are stranded in the Kruger National Park on the same night that poachers are determined to make a kill. Thandi's **life** is also in danger and her **liberty** taken from her when the poachers capture her. Billy and Surina also lose their **liberty** when they are kidnapped by the Krieks. The four teenagers fight to bring the poachers to **justice**: For instance, Billy and Vusi lead Piet and Karel to the poachers, resulting in Moamba and Lebadi being arrested.
3. The villain must appear more powerful than the hero. There are two sets of villains in the story, the poachers (Moamba and Lebadi) and the middlemen (the Krieks). The villains are all adults and so appear **more powerful** than Billy and the other finalists. In addition, the poachers are **armed** with a knife and rifles, and the Krieks are also armed whereas Billy and the three other teenagers have no weapons (other than the rhino horn!).
4. Red herrings and clues: The story will contain clues and false clues (red herrings). For instance, the hunting photo of Karel with Piet is a red herring which makes them look like they might be poachers. In the same way, the poaching information on Karel's computer and his being taken in for questioning

by the police make him seem guilty, but these are just **red herrings**. The fact that the Krieks have a vehicle that is the same as the one that passes Vusi and Billy in the night is a **clue** that they may be guilty. Another **clue** is that Karel stopped working as a ranger and started working for the Krieks. If he is not guilty of poaching, another reason he might have chosen to leave his job is that he suspects they are up to something dishonest.

5. A race against the clock: Making the thriller a race against time helps to make the story more tense because there is limited time for the hero to triumph. For instance, Billy and Vusi, together with Piet and Karel, have to rush to stop the poachers before they kill the rhino. Bokkie is arrested just in time as she attempts to make a getaway.

The Boy and the Poacher's Moon can also be seen as a bildungsroman. The bildungsroman is a story about how the most important character grows psychologically and morally (MasterClass, 2019). This means that the story focuses on how the main character, called the protagonist, develops as a person because of the difficulties he or she experiences. At the start of the story, Billy is very shy and concerned about how other people see him. By the end of the book, after the poachers are defeated, Billy has grown in confidence and is able to believe that a girl like Surina could be interested in him. Another character who grows during the novel is the nameless boy who works with the poachers. He has to overcome his fear of poverty that led him to join the poachers and to turn away, forever, from poaching. It is clear, in the novel, that the boy is unhappy working with the poachers but is scared to leave. His turning point comes when he hits Lebadi and saves Vusi.

Themes

There are three main themes in this book.

Theme 1: Poaching is dangerous and destructive, not only to wildlife but to both poachers and those trying to fight poaching.

Poaching is destructive to wildlife and can lead to the extinction of entire species. In this story, it is rhinos which are being poached, and these animals may well become extinct if poaching is not controlled.

Poaching is also dangerous and destructive to the poachers – each time they go out, the poachers could be attacked by wild animals, or they could be injured or killed if they are confronted by game rangers or police.

Poaching can also be destructive to those trying to fight against poaching. In the case of the Smit brothers, Karel couldn't tell his brother he was going undercover, which resulted in tension between them when Karel started working for the Krieks. Furthermore, trying to stop poaching is dangerous as the poachers are armed and could threaten or attack anyone trying to stop them. For instance, Thandi is captured and threatened by Moamba, and Vusi is held at knife-point.

Theme 2: Poverty is destructive

Poverty is destructive because it often **limits people's choices** to bad options: The boy doesn't want to choose to work for the poachers, but he feels he has to because he is so poor. In other words, the choice the boy makes is not a completely free choice because if he says no to the work, he and his family may go hungry. His two bad options are to join the poachers or not have enough money/food. This makes his decision, at the end of the book, to leave poaching particularly admirable as he now has to face the possibility of hunger and more hardship.

Theme 3: Making good choices takes courage

Making good choices takes courage, especially when good choices include negative consequences. For instance, Karel's decision to work undercover is a

good choice but one that causes tension between the two brothers. The boy decides to turn away from poaching, which is so destructive, but a negative outcome is that he may no longer have enough money.

Symbols

A symbol is usually something that we can see or touch that represents something that we can't see or touch. Here are some important symbols in the book.

1. Owls

Owls are mentioned a couple of times in the book. The novel starts with a reference to an owl:

The boy heard it first. The call of an owl. The second time it hooted, the two men on the track in front of him stopped and stood as still as tree trunks. They did this, the boy knew, because the call of an owl could mean something else. Sometimes, at night in the bush, these were the sounds men made to signal to each other. Men all searching for the same thing. (p. 1)

Here, the owl represents the possibility of danger to the poachers and the boy. On page 72, Moamba and Lebadi use an owl's cry to communicate with each other. The fact that dangerous criminals are using an owl call again continues the idea that the owl could be connected with danger – in this case, it is the poachers who are the source of danger.

Piet and Karel see a barn owl in a marula tree (p. 77) before their meeting with the poachers, and they hear the “ping ping” of a scops owl (p. 85), so in these examples, the owl could be seen as a sign of the danger that lies ahead for them.

2. The boy

The boy is never named in order to show that he represents all those affected by poverty. He is almost forced into working for the poachers because he does not have enough money, as seen in the quote below:

But it had been hard to say no to the money. That was what kept him here. That and the fear of what these men might do to him and his family. The money allowed his grandmother to buy pap and bread, sometimes chicken. Even though, when she took the cash, she never looked at him. Just went, "Aai, aai, aai," and stuffed it into her blouse. (p. 27)

This quotation shows that not only can poverty drive people into crime but that poverty also brings fear. The boy wishes he could stop poaching, but he is frightened that the poachers might hurt his family.

3. The axe

The axe symbolises both poaching (the axe is sometimes used to cut off the horn) and the burden of poaching – that is, the pain and suffering it causes. This is clear from the quote below, where the boy is seen carrying the axe across his shoulders:

His legs felt like lead. The axe he carried across his shoulders was heavy, and his neck ached. (p. 1)

The boy is literally aching from the weight of the axe on his shoulders, but figuratively, he is also suffering because of his involvement with the poachers. He is unhappy and wishes he had never accepted the job. In the end, the boy hits Lebadi with the handle of the axe and then drops the axe and runs. Figuratively, this also symbolises the fact that he is throwing off the weight and suffering caused by poaching and turning away to a new life.

4. Full moon

A full moon is known as a “poacher’s moon” because it provides enough light for the poacher to follow and attack the animal he wants to kill. Thus the full moon here is symbolic of poaching and all the danger and suffering/death it involves (at one point in the story, the moon is red, symbolising the blood the poachers plan to shed). During the night when the poachers are tracking the rhino, the moon gradually rises in the sky as it brightens:

Billy tried not to think of what could be lurking behind the dark trees and bushes. He looked up at the moon. It hung just above the horizon: a huge red ball in the sky. It would not be too long before it lit up the bush. Now all they could do was wait. (p. 46)

The moon was much higher and brighter now, and it was beginning to light up the bush. (p. 61)

5. The animal life in the Kruger Park

The descriptions of the different animals found in Kruger Park help the reader to picture the setting more easily, but they also symbolise the beauty of nature, in contrast to the ugliness of poaching. Here is one of these descriptions:

A glossy starling hopped about on the grass, its blue feathers iridescent in the sunlight. A mother warthog followed by three babies, their antenna-like tails in the air, trotted quickly away. (p. 28)

Names

Bokkie: “Bokkie” means a little buck, and Bokkie Kriek appears to be a lot like a little buck as she has “big brown eyes and soft ginger hair” (p. 9). A small buck would also be gentle, so Bokkie’s name seems very appropriate for her when she cries when Vusi and Billy get safely home and hugs them (pp. 100-101). However, looks can be deceptive as Billy discovers when he finds out that Bokkie is in fact running a poaching business with her husband.

Hornblower: This name is given to the unknown informant who contacts Piet to let him know about planned poaching expeditions. When someone blows a horn or a similar instrument, he or she does it to attract everyone’s attention, often about something important. In the same way, the informant was “blowing his horn” – drawing attention to crucial information about when poaching was going to take place.

Lebadi: The boy names the other poacher “Lebadi” because he has a scar. According to the *South African Multi-Language Dictionary and Phrase Book* (1991), “lebadi” is the Sesotho word for “scar”.

Moamba: One of the poachers is named Moamba because he comes from Mozambique. Moamba is a town in Mozambique.

Section 2: Chapter summaries, glossaries and contextual questions

Chapter 1 summary

The boy is walking with two poachers, Moamba and Lebadi, in the Kruger National Park. Lebadi is carrying a sack on his shoulders containing the rhino horn they have poached. They hear an owl hooting, which is sometimes the call used by men in the bush to signal to each other. The boy is exhausted. They find a place to camp. The boy is instructed to hide the rhino horn, and the boy digs a hole with his axe and covers the sack containing the horn with sand and branches. The smell of the horn makes the boy feel sick. The boy and the poachers eat and drink. The boy eats hungrily even though he can still smell the horn because he doesn't know when he will have an opportunity to eat again.

Glossary

Crammed (into his mouth) – stuffed into his mouth until his mouth was full.

Frenzy – A frenzy is frantic or crazy behaviour. In this chapter, it means that the flies were buzzing wildly/crazily and emphasises that there were a large number of flies in the sack.

Hessian – a rough material from which sacks are made.

Lebadi – The man Lebadi is called this because he has a scar. *Lebadi* is the Sesotho word for “scar”.

Moamba – a town in Mozambique.

Moshanyana – This means “boy” in Sesotho.

Stench – stink/bad smell.

Questions

1. Who are the three people in this scene?
2. Summarise what happens in this scene.

3. Compare the role of the boy with the role of Moamba.
4. What is the author's reason for introducing the owl in this scene?
5. Do you empathise with (identify with/feel you can relate to) the boy, who is clearly exhausted, treated as less important than the men and feeling sickened by the smell of the rhino horn, or do you feel more negative emotions towards him because he is working with the poachers? Or do you feel a mixture of both positive and negative feelings? Why?

Chapter 2 summary

Billy Samuels arrives in Johannesburg and is met at the airport by Bokkie Kriek. He will be travelling with three other teenagers to the Kruger National Park for the weekend as a prize for being a finalist in the Wild2Save Eco Competition. The winner of the competition will obtain a bursary covering a university degree in conservation. The bus in which the teenagers travel is driven by Karel Smit, who works with Bokkie and her husband Schalk. Billy meets the other finalists on the bus: Surina Govender from Bloemfontein is constantly on her phone. Vusi Mabuza from Durban is very outgoing and a joker. Jabulani Ntuli from Johannesburg is serious and enjoys reading about conservation. Vusi teases Billy, asking him whether he is in a gang and whether he has ever seen a wild animal. Billy feels embarrassed that he sounded like he didn't have experience of wildlife and wishes he was confident like Vusi. Before going to Kruger, the four finalists are going to the Krieks' farm, which is the Wild2Save headquarters. Bokkie tells them they are planning to make the farm a wildlife sanctuary and to create a learning centre to teach the youth about conservation. Surina is shocked that she has to hand in her cellphone when they get to Kruger.

Glossary

Bokkie – Her name means “small buck”.

Brush cut – a type of haircut where the hair is cut very short.

Conservation – protecting the environment.

Itinerary – a list of all the places that a traveller will see.

Lock forward – the name of a position held by a rugby player. A lock forward is usually very powerful and heavy.

Lurched – moved jerkily and unexpectedly forwards.

Sanctuary – a place where wild animals can be protected from harm.

Yanking your chain – teasing you.

Questions

1. Name the four finalists in the Wild2Save Eco competition.
2. What are the Krieks planning to do with their farm, according to Bokkie?
3. The description “With her big brown eyes and soft ginger hair, she did look like a little buck” (p. 9) refers to Bokkie’s appearance but also suggests something about her personality. What sort of person would you expect her to be from this description?
4. Billy and Vusi respond differently to the other finalists. Compare these differences.
5. Explain the cause of Billy’s embarrassment in the extract below from page 7:

“Er, actually, I’m really interested in conservation. I’ve read a lot, and I’ve watched wildlife programmes on TV but. . .”

“Oh,” said Vusi. “TV. Wow! But have you actually ever seen a wild animal, dude?”

Billy felt his face get hot. “Um, porcupines, baboons, small buck, things like that. I saw an elephant at the circus once,” he added lamely. And then immediately wanted to kick himself. (p. 7)

6. When Vusi asks Billy if he is in a gang, Jabu responds (see the quotation below). What does her response show the reader about her character?

Behind him, he heard Jabu click her tongue. "What kind of question's that?" she asked. (p. 6)

7. In your opinion, is Vusi's teasing of Billy acceptable?

Chapter 3 summary

Game ranger Piet Smit feels worn out at the death of another poached rhino. The anti-poaching task team are collecting evidence at the scene of the crime. A member of the South African Defence Force (SANDF) arranges for a helicopter to be sent out to look for the poachers. The Hawks, a South African crime-fighting team, are on the scene of the crime too. Piet is upset because he had received a tip that another rhino was going to be poached, but the rhino had still died. The tip had come from an unknown person nicknamed Hornblower. When Piet had shown the e-mail from Hornblower to Captain Absalom Dlamini, the captain thought it was a hoax because after Hornblower's previous warning, nothing had happened. Piet is part of the poaching task team, along with members of the police and soldiers from the SANDF. Piet feels very uncomfortable with the intense paramilitary training he received as he wants to be a conservationist and not a soldier. Almost every day, heavily armed groups enter the Kruger Park from Mozambique, and many local South Africans are involved in poaching too. Piet knows that catching the poachers themselves is not going to stop poaching because overseas syndicates are directing the poaching, and there are also middlemen involved. Piet is scared that rhinos might become extinct.

Glossary

Black market – the illegal selling/buying of goods.

Calibre – The "calibre of a gun is the width of the inside of its barrel" (*Collins English Dictionary*, n.d.).

Conservationist – someone whose job is to protect the environment/wildlife.

DNA – DNA is an acid that "determines the . . . structure and functions of every cell" (*Collins English Dictionary*, n.d.) in a person's body. If a DNA sample from a criminal

is found at the scene of a crime, investigators can try to match it up with a DNA sample from a suspect in order to prove that the person is guilty.

Drained – exhausted/feeling as though one has no energy left.

Escalate – increase.

Gruelling – exhausting and difficult.

Hawks – a South African crime-fighting team which aims to tackle serious crimes.

Kingpin – the leader/boss (often of a criminal organisation).

Koppie – a little hill.

Militia – groups of people armed with weapons and acting like an army.

Paramilitary training – training similar to army training.

Relentless – Someone who is relentless never stops/never gives up trying to achieve his or her goal, which is often harmful or negative to those trying to stop the person.

SANDF – South African National Defence Force.

SANParks – South African National Parks.

Seam – the join, where the horn meets the rhino's skin.

Slaughter – killing.

Sniffer dog – a dog trained to sniff out criminals or drugs.

Syndicate – a business organisation, often used to refer to an organisation formed for illegal purposes.

Wild goose chase – a pointless chase.

Questions

1. List those groups who are involved with trying to stop poaching in Kruger.
2. Describe the background setting when Piet Smit gets out of his bakkie.
3. Why is the setting so heartbreakingly ironic for Piet?
4. List how those fighting poaching will respond at the scene of a crime to try to catch the poachers.
5. Identify the different levels of people involved in poaching.
6. Explain the effect of the poaching on Piet.
7. What does the paramilitary training given to rangers reveal about the poaching struggle they are involved in?

8. How does the metaphor “wild goose chase” (p. 12) affect your understanding of Captain Absalom’s reaction to the e-mail?
9. Explain the ultimate effect that poaching could have on the rhino population.
10. Was Captain Absalom’s scepticism about the e-mail from Hornblower justified in your opinion? Explain your reasoning.

Chapter 4 summary

At the Krieks’ farm, the four teenagers meet Schalk, Bokkie’s husband, a big man with a grey moustache. On the veranda of the farmhouse, coffee, rusks and koeksisters are standing ready for the teenagers. Billy remembers his mother’s coconut cookies, which he had been too embarrassed to eat because the others hadn’t brought food from home. There are lion cubs on the farm which Bokkie says had to be removed from their mother because she wasn’t feeding them sufficiently. Surina calls Billy to have a look at the cubs, and Billy thinks Surina is cute but is overcome by shyness and hurries away to get coffee. There is a very large shed on the farm which Schalk says is for his helicopter and tractor. Schalk will fly up to Pretoriuskop to join the teenagers for a braai. Schalk shows Billy, Vusi and Jabu his office and all the awards that Wild2Save has won. Piet, Karel’s brother, is coming to drop off Thandi, a game ranger, who will help the teenagers get settled in at Pretoriuskop. Jabu questions why the Krieks have a mounted kudu head in Schalk’s office if they are conservationists. Schalk says the head was there before they bought the farm. Piet arrives with Thandi and shares the news about the poached rhino. Piet blames the full moon, which makes it easier for poachers to find the rhinos; for this reason, the full moon is known as a “poacher’s moon”.

Glossary

Aangename kennis – “nice to meet you” in Afrikaans.

Bliksem – bastard (Afrikaans swear word).

Boet – brother.

Eland – a type of antelope. According to Siyabona Africa (2020), “both males and females have fawn coloured coats. They also have faint vertical white stripes on their flanks, which are distinctive to the eland” (para. 1).

Kudu – also a type of antelope. A kudu has “stripes and spots on the body, and most have . . . white hair between the eyes” (African Wildlife Foundation, n.d., para. 1).

Magenta – a purplish-red colour.

Okes – guys.

Pretoriuskop – a rest camp in the Kruger National Park.

Waai – “go” in Afrikaans (literally, “waai” means “wave” or “blow away”).

Questions

1. Name the three people introduced in this chapter.
2. Describe the differences and similarities between the two brothers.
3. Describe the scene between Jabu and the Krieks when she sees a kudu head on the wall.
4. Why do you think the writer included this scene?
5. Jabu smells potatoes and explains to Billy that the smell comes from *Phyllanthus reticulatus*, the potato bush. Explain the effect of this information on Billy.
6. How has the full moon come to symbolise poaching?
7. Piet has to attend an anti-poaching meeting. Discuss how effectively this acts as an example of irony.

Chapter 5 summary

The four teenagers are in the bus on the way to Kruger. The mood in the bus is very serious. Billy cannot enjoy the bushveld scenery and the villages they pass because he keeps thinking of the rhino that was poached. Thandi says that in the first eight months of the year, more than six hundred rhinos have been poached and that the killing is always worse during full moon. Thandi says that the motive for poaching is financial because rhino horns are so valuable – worth more than gold or platinum. Jabu explains that rhino horns are not bone but made from a protein called keratin,

which is the same protein that forms people's hair and fingernails. Jabu says that rhino horns have a very strong smell and that hiding the smell is a difficulty for poachers trying to smuggle the horn out of the country. Thandi says that most rhino horns go to Vietnam, where they are used as medicine. People believe that rhino horns can cure cancer and other conditions, but there is no proof that the horn makes any difference to people's health. Billy feels angry that he didn't stand up for himself earlier and tell Vusi how much personal experience he has of nature from his mountain climbing with his Uncle Raymond. Uncle Raymond became a father figure when Billy's dad died in a car crash when Billy was four. Uncle Raymond also encouraged Billy to take part in the Wild2Save competition and helped him prepare for the competition. Billy remembers saying goodbye to his mother at the airport and how she was emotional. Billy really wants to win the bursary because his mother doesn't have the money to send him to university.

Glossary

Concerned – worried.

Fynbos – Fynbos refers to the types of plants found in “the Mediterranean-climate region of southern and southwestern South Africa, characterized by evergreen hard-leaved shrubs” (*Collins English Dictionary*, n.d.).

Platinum – a very expensive metal.

Raptor – a bird of prey.

Rattled – upset/disturbed.

Tracked – followed.

Questions

1. Describe what has happened to change the mood of those in the bus.
2. Explain in your own words two reasons why rhinos are poached.
3. Explain the effectiveness of the metaphor “a huge supermarket” to describe Kruger Park.
4. What kind of person is Uncle Raymond? Substantiate (explain the reason for) your answer.

5. How could the setting in which Billy grew up have caused his mother's concern about her son?
6. One of the themes of the story is the courage that it takes to make good choices. How do Billy's thoughts about his home life here support this theme?
7. Billy offers to share his coconut cookies with the others. What does this reveal about Billy's character?

Chapter 6 summary

The boy wakes up. It is daytime, and the poachers are smoking dagga. Moamba says that the white man who employs them wants the men to kill another rhino because the order is for two sets of horns. The boy is unhappy because he knows his grandmother will worry if he does not get back that day. He wishes that he had never met Moamba. The boy only works for the poachers because he needs the money and he is scared the poachers might harm his family if he stops working with them. The boy hides their tins and the leftover stompies of the men's dagga cigarettes; otherwise, the SANParks staff could find them and track the poachers.

Glossary

Mhlungu – a white person.

Pungent smell – a strong smell.

Tshukudu – rhino.

Zol – dagga cigarette.

Questions

1. Who spoke to Moamba on the cellphone?
2. Explain the cause of the mhlungu's unhappiness.
3. List Moamba's concerns about poaching again that night.
4. One of the themes of this story is the destructiveness of poverty. How is this theme illustrated in the experience of the boy and his family?
5. Do you empathise with the boy for feeling trapped/unable to leave poaching?

Chapter 7 summary

Billy and Vusi are sharing a rondavel. They have to meet the others at 17:00 as they are going on a short drive to the dam. Surina is not too keen to go. Bokkie makes them hand in their cellphones. They all do except for Vusi, who says he doesn't have one. Because they won't have their phones, Jabu will use her camera to take photographs. Billy discovers she has her own blog. Vusi's dad is a game ranger in KZN, and Vusi goes out tracking with him when he is not at boarding school. Surina entered the Wild2Save competition because she gets the best marks in biology. Vusi calls Surina Miss Bollywood. They see a golden orb spider, which has a very strong web, and Billy realises Vusi is scared of spiders. They also see impala rams butting horns. When Jabu notices buffalo dung, Thandi agrees to go down a dirt road to look for them. They find the buffalo, and Thandi points out an older male; these buffalo become very bad-tempered and are known as "old dagga boys" (p. 36). The Land Rover has an accident when it hits a huge rock sticking out of an aardvark hole. Thandi sets out on foot to get help from those at the camp.

Glossary

Aardvark – an ant bear. It has a long nose, called a snout, and eats termites.

Bollywood – the movie industry in India.

Clambered – climbed.

Craned – stretched.

Embedded – stuck in.

Encyclopaedia – a book which contains factual information about different topics, normally in alphabetical order.

Imbecile – idiot.

Impala – a type of antelope well known for its impressive leaping ability.

Iridescent – If something is iridescent, it "has many bright colours that seem to keep changing" (*Collins English Dictionary*, n.d.).

Johnny Depp – famous actor.

KZN - KwaZulu-Natal, one of South Africa's provinces.

Poncho – an item of clothing made out of a large piece of material with a hole in it for your head to go through.

Rondavel – a circular shaped hut, usually with a thatched roof.

Spoor – tracks/a trail/marks left by an animal.

Veer – swing to the side.

Questions

1. Describe Billy and Vusi's accommodation.
2. Describe the conflict that occurs between Surina and Bokkie.
3. Draw up a table of the wildlife that the teenagers see in this chapter. Use one column for the wildlife at the camp and another column for the animals they see on their game drive.
4. What are the similarities between Vusi and Jabu that make Billy envious of them?
5. Everyone has to hand in their cellphones. Explain the unexpected negative effect of this rule later on.
6. Explain why the extract below contains an example of a pun:

"Duck!" yelled Thandi as she drove under a thorn tree, its branches hanging low over the road.

"Duck? I don't see a duck," Vusi said, and Billy laughed. (p. 33)

7. What does the simile "as bad as the bite of a black widow" reveal about how dangerous a golden orb spider is?
8. What do you think the author's intention might be in showing Vusi's fear of spiders?
9. Do you think that the accident with the Land Rover is realistic?
10. Do you agree with Thandi's decision to walk back to camp to ask for help?

Chapter 8 summary

Piet enters the Operations Centre of the Anti-poaching Joint Task Team and senses the tension of the task team; they are upset at the loss of another rhino. The task team is based in a big rondavel. When Piet looks at his computer, he sees an e-mail from Hornblower and tells Captain Dlamini. The message says, "One down. One more to go. Tonight. Same herd" (p. 42). Piet suddenly remembers that the Wild2Save finalists are out on a game drive and is worried because there may be poachers around if the e-mail is correct. Piet is unable to make contact with Thandi, and when he phones Bokkie, she says the teenagers have been gone for more than an hour and should have been back. The captain tells Piet to keep trying to get hold of Thandi on the radio and he will contact a patrol in the area; it is important to get the teenagers back as soon as possible and to stop the poachers.

Glossary

Aikona – no way/no.

Came to terms with – learnt to accept.

Civilian – ordinary citizen, someone who is not in the army or police.

Loot – stolen goods.

Static – When you just hear loud crackling noises in place of voices on a radio, this is called static.

Questions

1. Describe the mood of the task team, and explain the reason for this mood.
2. Piet sees a new e-mail in his inbox. What similarity to a previous e-mail makes him think the message may be from Hornblower?
3. At first, the captain says the information in the e-mail cannot be correct. How is his response similar to, and different from, his response to the previous e-mail?
4. What is the writer's intention in the following description of Thandi?

Captain Dlamini frowned. "Thandi. She's quite new, isn't she? I thought she was still a trainee."

"No, she's just qualified. They put her with the kids because she's young." He paused. Shrugged. "I shouldn't be worried really. She's taken the Landie out plenty of times, and she will stay on the tarred road, I'm sure." (p. 43)

5. How effective is the final paragraph of the chapter (included in the table below) in creating a cliff-hanger (an ending that makes the reader want to carry on reading)?

"Keep trying her on the radio," the captain said. "We've got a patrol in the area. I'll get hold of them. We've got no time to waste. We have to get the kids back as soon as possible. And stop the poachers before they strike again." (p. 44)

Chapter 9 summary

The teenagers are feeling anxious as they sit alone in the Land Rover. Billy and Jabu try to reassure Surina. Surina says that it was a bad idea for them to hand in their cellphones. Vusi feels that Thandi should have let him go with her. They hear jackals howling nearby. Billy feels nervous but also excited at being in the bush. The moon is a huge red ball in the sky.

Glossary

eerie – strange/frightening.

Landie – Land Rover.

lurking – lying in wait.

tremor – unsteadiness.

unconcerned – not worried.

Questions

1. Can you provide examples to show that both Jabu and Billy feel as nervous as Surina?
2. Sum up three reasons why it is scary to be in the teenagers' position right now.
3. What do you think will be the outcome of Thandi's leaving the teenagers on the Land Rover so she can walk back to camp?
4. The moon is now "a huge red ball in the sky" (p. 46). How does this metaphor illustrate the symbolic use of the moon in the story?
5. How effective is the use of the word "lurking" in the extract below in creating tension?

Billy tried not to think of what could be lurking behind the dark trees and bushes.
(p. 46)

Chapter 10 summary

The boy is relieved it is dark so that hopefully no one can see them. The boy and the two poachers are tracking the rhino. Moamba is a very good tracker. They have just heard the noise of Thandi's Land Rover accident. Moamba says that the noise is coming from a place very nearby. The boy thinks of his first meeting with Moamba, six months ago. Moamba offered the boy work, and the boy had known that he would be involved with poaching. The boy's job was to carry for Moamba. The boy didn't want to work for Moamba, but he needed the money. He had had to leave school because of his family's need for money. He had been working on the farms, but there wasn't much work available. The boy's grandmother clearly knows what his work is, but she only says, "Be careful." The boy feels trapped now because he cannot stop working for Moamba – it would be too dangerous. They disturb a herd of buffalo. The moon has turned from red to gold.

Glossary

Beckon – gesture to someone to come closer or to follow you.

Cicada – a type of insect.

commotion – disturbance.

Crate – a wooden box.

Game path – the pathways made by animals.

On edge – nervous.

Thicket – thickly growing bushes/trees.

Tracker – someone who is able to look at the marks/signs/evidence that people or animals have left behind as they were walking or running and to know in which direction they are going.

Turmoil – confusion.

Weir – a barrier of some kind across a river or stream that controls or directs the water or creates a pool (*Collins English Dictionary*, n.d.).

Questions

1. Why is the boy feeling uptight?
2. List how Moamba avoids being tracked.
3. Give an outline of the key points of the boy's first meeting with Moamba.
4. What is the writer's intention in referring to the Land Rover accident in this scene when it was described earlier?
5. What theme does the flashback (a scene from the past) of the boy's first meeting with Moamba illustrate?
6. Explain why all the grandmother says to her grandson when he tells her he has work is the following:

She had looked at him for a moment, but all she said was, "Be careful, son of my son." (p. 49)

7. Is the grandmother's acceptance of the boy's work with the poachers justifiable in your opinion?
8. What has been the psychological effect of working for Moamba on the boy?
Substantiate.
9. Use examples to compare the financial status of Moamba (how wealthy he was) with the financial status of the boy.
10. Discuss how effective the use of repetition is in the extract below to show the boy's regret.

Ever since then, the boy had often wished he had been more careful. He wished he had not waited on the main road. He wished there had been no crates on the bakkie. Because now there was no way out. (pp. 49-50)

Chapter 11 summary

Billy keeps thinking about Thandi. He and Vusi estimate it will take Thandi an hour or more to get back to camp. They hear a rustling in the grass, but it is just a hare. Surina is thirsty, and Billy offers to get off the Land Rover and go round to the back to fetch water for her. He is confronted by the large old male buffalo they saw earlier that day. Billy is too frightened to move even though the buffalo looks like it is about to charge. The buffalo seems to hear something and moves away. Billy is very shaken but manages to climb back into the vehicle. Vusi says it was strange how the buffalo moved away as if it had heard something. Billy notices the moon is rising and has turned from red to gold.

Glossary

Hesitating – waiting.

Hoisted – pulled.

Mock charge – fake charge.

Paralysed – unable to move.

Scramble – climb quickly.

Slug – drink.

Whimper – a soft, broken moaning noise.

Questions

1. What happens after the teenagers hear a rustling in the grass?
2. Why can't Jabu get the water for Surina?
3. When Vusi offers to get the water for Surina, why is Billy's response different from when Vusi offered to go with Thandi?
4. Jabu suggests that Billy shouldn't get off the vehicle, but Surina puts pressure on Billy to go.

"I don't know if you should, Billy," said Jabu.

"Remember what Thandi said?" Surina gave a loud groan. "Oh for goodness sake! It won't take him more than a minute. Pretty please, Billy." (p. 52)

Was it acceptable for Surina to act this way in your opinion? Substantiate.

5. Explain why when Billy is confronted by the buffalo he is so terrified that he cannot move.
6. How does Billy feel when the buffalo moves away? Substantiate.
7. How does this chapter show development in Billy's character?
8. Discuss the effectiveness of the use of onomatopoeia in the extract below. Onomatopoeia means that a word sounds like its meaning, e.g., the words *beep beep* sound like the noise of a car horn.

His ears were buzzing, and he felt as if he was about to pass out. (p. 53)

Chapter 12 summary

The boy is hiding in the long grass, wondering who is coming. He is anxious in case it is a ranger as the rangers will do anything to keep the rhino safe. According to people in his village, more poachers are being arrested, and some have been shot. The boy doesn't know whether he is more scared of the people in Kruger (rangers/other poaching gangs) or the animals that might kill him. Moamba tells the boy to wait for him. Moamba and Lebadi jump out at the person who is passing them. It is Thandi. She screams. Thandi tells Moamba that her Land Rover has broken down. She also lies and says that she radioed camp and help is coming. Moamba orders Thandi to go back to the Land Rover with them and sticks her gun in her back. The boy follows them. The boy is very upset because he knows that Moamba hates the rangers and he is worried about Thandi. Thandi stumbles and injures her ankle. Moamba orders her to get up and points the rifle at her. She screams.

Glossary

Armed – carrying weapons, e.g., guns.

Close shaves – narrow escapes.

Menacingly – threateningly.

Stumbled – tripped.

Questions

1. Why is the boy hiding in the grass?
2. List the reasons why the boy fears the Kruger Park rangers.
3. Why do you think Moamba hates the game rangers so much?
4. Compare the boy's response to Thandi to Moamba's response to Thandi.
5. What does Moamba's treatment of Thandi reveal about his character?
6. How does this chapter illustrate the theme of the destructiveness of poaching?
7. Comment critically on Thandi's motivation (reason) for lying to Moamba in the extract below.

There was a slight pause. Then the ranger said quickly, "I did. I did radio the camp. Rangers are on their way. Any moment now, they will be coming down this road. I told them exactly where to find me. Any moment." (p. 56)

8. Discuss how effective the word choices in the following lines are in revealing the boy's state of mind.

The boy trailed behind the dark figures in front of him. The torch had been turned off. His hands holding the axe across his shoulder were shaking. (p. 57)

Chapter 13 summary

The teenagers hear Thandi's scream. Jabu wonders if it was a bird or animal, but Vusi says it was a person screaming. Jabu says it sounded very close. They see the flash of a torch switching on and then off quickly. Billy says that they have to get off the Land Rover. He makes Surina get off because she wants to stay. Billy falls into a donga, and all the teenagers decide to hide there. They hear Moamba telling Thandi to shut up, and they hear Thandi saying that she cannot go further as she thinks she has broken her ankle.

Glossary

Canopy – covering.

Donga – a gully.

Hurling – tumbling/moving quickly.

Shrub – a small bush with "several woody stems" (*Collins English Dictionary*, n.d.).

Stifled – to stop, e.g., if you stifle a shout, you start shouting and then stop yourself, usually because you don't want to be heard.

Tilted – turned or tipped to the side/at an angle.

Questions

1. What happened just before the teenagers hear the scream?
2. Jabu, Surina and Vusi each have a different explanation for the scream they hear. Sum up the reasons they give for the scream. What does Billy think?
3. Billy and Surina have different ideas about what they should do after hearing the scream. What does each of them want to do?
4. How does the metaphor “head high” create a vivid image of the setting in the extract below?

He took the torch and walked a little way into the bush with Vusi behind him. They had to fight their way through the long grass, which was almost head high. (p. 59)

5. Identify and explain the effectiveness of the figure of speech used in the following extract:

Billy could hear voices. Coming closer and closer. (p. 60)

Chapter 14 summary

The boy is half carrying and half dragging Thandi along. She is in pain because her ankle is so sore. Moamba asks how far the Land Rover is. She says she doesn't know, which makes Moamba angry and the boy anxious. The moon is higher and brighter now. They come to the Land Rover, and the vehicle is searched. No one is there. Moamba asks Thandi where the others are, and she says she was alone in the Land Rover. Lebadi ties Thandi to the Land Rover's steering wheel at Moamba's command. The mhlungu phones Moamba with a change of plan. They have to go and meet the mhlungu at a place near the old grave – it is at the grave where they will find the rhino after meeting with the mhlungu. First, though, they have to fetch the horn that was poached the previous night. Moamba holds the rifle under Thandi's chin and tells her

to keep quiet. The boy and the two poachers leave Thandi. The boy looks back and wonders what will happen to her.

Glossary

Coil – spiral, loop.

Buckled – collapsed.

Wince – flinch in pain.

Questions

1. Can you provide an example of the boy's concern for Thandi from the extract below?

The boy was half carrying, half dragging the girl ranger. She was breathing heavily. Every now and then, she moaned in pain. When she tried to put her foot down, her leg buckled. Moamba had asked her how much further they had to go to get to the Land Rover, and she had said she didn't know. This had made him even angrier. And the boy felt more nervous. (p. 61)

2. Sum up why Moamba became angry during his cellphone conversation with the mhlungu.
3. How does the extract in the table below show that we are getting closer to a climax (the climax is a very dramatic/very exciting point in the story)?

The moon was much higher and brighter now, and it was beginning to light up the bush. (p. 61)

4. What is Moamba's motive for telling the boy to wait when they get near the vehicle?
5. Explain why Thandi reacts as she does in the following lines:

The boy felt Thandi tighten her grip on his shoulder. He heard her make a soft noise in her throat. (p. 61)

6. What does Moamba's treatment of Thandi in this chapter reveal about his character?
7. Discuss your response to the way the boy treats Thandi in this chapter. What would you have done if you had been in his position?

Chapter 15 summary

The teenagers climb out of the donga and untie Thandi. Vusi laughs at Jabu because she and the others are dirty and have grass and leaves in their hair. Jabu teases Vusi and pretends there is a spider on his shoulder. Vusi gets a big fright because he is scared of spiders. Surina gets Thandi water. Billy thinks maybe they can carry Thandi, but she says she will slow them down. They decide that Vusi and Billy will go for help and the girls will stay with Thandi in the donga. Thandi marks the route back to camp on a map for the boys. Thandi tells the boys to let Schalk or Bokkie know about the poachers' plans as soon as they get back to camp.

Glossary

Haul – pull.

Muffled – unclear.

Option – choice.

Slumped – collapsed.

Questions

1. In your own words, describe Thandi's response when she sees the teenagers.

2. What would be the pros and cons of the teenagers trying to walk back to camp and taking Thandi with them?
3. How does Surina's treatment of Thandi show a new side of her character in this chapter?
4. How does Billy's interaction with the others show the development in his character?
5. What course of action would you have recommended if you had been one of the teenagers? Would you have agreed to split up the group and have the boys go for help while the girls waited with Thandi?

Chapter 16 summary

The moon is high in the sky now. The poachers are walking quickly to make up for the time they lost when they captured Thandi. Lebadi goes back to fetch the horn. They have to take the horn to the crossroads. The boy is very worried that Thandi saw their faces as she now knows what Lebadi and Moamba look like and may know what he looks like too. Moamba moves cautiously to the car, being careful not to be too visible. They wait for Lebadi. Lebadi arrives, and they give the horn to the mhlungu. Now the poachers have to hurry to get the other rhino horn as the boss wants it that night.

Glossary

Crossroads – where two or more roads meet.

Grind – crush.

Muti – medicine.

steady pace – walked briskly.

Questions

1. What will happen at the crossroads?
2. Can you provide examples of how careful Moamba is not to be seen?
3. Sum up why the boy has a very bad feeling about what has happened that night.

4. Explain why the big boss's face may not have been visible to the boy.
5. Why does the boy look away when he sees Lebadi carrying the sack?
6. How do the closing lines of the chapter carry the plot forward?
7. Comment critically on the mhlungu's decision to meet Moamba in the park.

Chapter 17 summary

As Piet hurries through Pretoriuskop Camp, he envies the tourists who are relaxing and braaiing and enjoying Kruger. Piet goes to the Krieks' rondavel hoping that Thandi and the teenagers are safely back, but they aren't. His brother Karel asks if he has heard any news about the children and says that Bokkie is very worried. He says that Bokkie's husband, Schalk, has gone to look for the teenagers. Piet says he is going to take out one of the SANParks Land Rovers to go and look for the teenagers, and his brother says he will go with him. Piet comforts Bokkie by saying that the teenagers are with Thandi, who is responsible. When Piet and Karel are alone, Piet admits that he is worried about the children being out in the dark when there are poachers around. Piet tells Karel that they need him on the task team. The fact that Karel left SANParks is a source of conflict for the two brothers because they always both dreamed of being game rangers and had always been very close. Karel resigned a year ago to work for the Krieks. The brothers see a barn owl. Piet feels that sometimes he doesn't even know his brother any more.

Glossary

Hit – killing.

Holidaymakers – people who are on holiday.

Laaities – boys/young males.

Mbombela – a city in Mpumalanga.

Skulking – hanging around, trying not to be seen.

Terrorised – frightened.

Questions

1. Describe the scene at Pretoriuskop Camp as Piet heads towards Bokkie and Schalk's rondavel.
2. Can you explain in your own words why Piet is envious of the holidaymakers?
3. How are Bokkie's and Piet's responses to the missing children different/the same?
4. In what ways do Karel's and Piet's career dreams no longer seem to be the same?
5. Explain the effect of Karel's leaving SANParks on his relationship with his brother.
6. What does the extract below reveal about Piet's values?

The happiest day of Piet's life had been when he had been given a job working in Kruger, and the second-best day had been when Karel had joined him. (p. 76)

7. Is Karel's explanation for why he stopped being a ranger convincing? Why/why not?
8. What do you think is the writer's intention in describing this conflict between the brothers?
9. Explain the symbolism of the owl in the following extract.

"What's that in the tree?" said Karel. Piet stopped the Land Rover as Karel shone the light into a marula tree. Eyes glowed yellow.

"It's a barn owl," said Piet. "Beautiful," said Karel as the owl flew upwards like a silvery shadow in the moonlight. (pp. 76-77)

10. How effective is the final paragraph of the chapter in creating tension?

It occurred to Piet that it had been a very long time since the two of them had driven together in the bush. Sometimes, he felt as though his brother had become a different person. Someone he didn't know at all. (p. 77)

Chapter 18 summary

Vusi and Billy are relieved when the kudu they come across runs away. They realise they are really close to the crossroads. Billy keeps wondering about what the poachers are doing and wonders whether the poachers might be tracking him and Vusi. Billy is also worried in case the poachers find Thandi and the girls. The boys hear a vehicle. Vusi says that it is not a Land Rover, which would be the kind of vehicle that the rangers would come in. He suspects danger and hides in the grass. Billy hides with him. The car that goes past is a 4x4. A bit later, they see another vehicle coming. They guess it must be someone looking for them.

Glossary

Frantic – desperately worried.

Spiral – curving round and round.

Questions

1. What makes Billy and Vusi breathe out in relief in the following extract?

Billy and Vusi said "Phew!" at the same time. (p. 78)

2. Billy reflects on page 79 on the conversation Thandi overheard earlier. What conclusion does he reach?
3. What is the significance of the fact that the boys head for the crossroads?
4. In the quotation below, Billy is worried about the poachers finding the girls and Thandi. Why do you think Vusi doesn't answer?

Billy said, "I'm worried they might go back to the Landie. What happens if they find Thandi and the girls?"

Vusi didn't answer. He stopped, shone his torch. "This must be the crossroads."
(p. 79)

5. Sum up Billy's and Vusi's different responses to the first vehicle they hear.
6. Who was in the 4x4? How do you know?
7. How would you have responded to hearing the first vehicle if you were alone in Kruger in the middle of the night. Why?

Chapter 19 summary

Karel sees someone on the side of the road, and he and Piet stop and find Vusi and Billy. The boys explain what happened to Thandi and what the poachers are planning. The poachers are going to attack the rhino at a grave. Karel says that there is an old Voortrekker grave nearby where the rhinos can sometimes be found. Piet says he will radio the captain to call in a patrol. He also organises for someone to get Thandi and the girls. Billy also tells Piet and Karel about the 4x4 they saw. Piet decides to go to the grave even though he has civilians in the vehicle.

Glossary

Freaking out – stressing.

Intuition – sixth sense/gut feeling.

Jolted – jerked.

Kill the lights – turn off the lights.

Monotonous – the same sound, over and over.

Pin it down – remember it.

Plaintive – sorrowful.

Rutted – A rutted road “is very uneven because it has long, deep, narrow marks in it made by the wheels of vehicles” (*Collins English Dictionary*, n.d.).

Skelms – criminals/dishonest people.

Voortrekker – early Afrikaner settler.

Questions

1. State the reasons that Piet stops.
2. What makes the boys run out to meet Karel and Piet?
3. Sum up the key points of the boys’ explanation of what has been happening on p. 81 to 82.
4. What causes Vusi to shiver in the extract below?

Karel and Piet looked at each other. “This is incredible,” Piet said, shaking his head. “Jeez, Vusi, I don’t think you guys realise how lucky you are. Those skelms are seriously bad news. Thandi’s lucky she’s still alive.”

Vusi shivered. “Yeah, I get that. . .” (p. 83)

5. Why do you think the mhlungu didn’t take the poachers to the rhino himself?
6. Was Piet justified in going on to the grave? Draw up a table of the reasons for and against going, and then give your conclusion.
7. What do you think will be the outcome of the two boys and the two men going to the grave?
8. On page 85, Billy realises something is bothering him. What do you think it was?

Chapter 20 summary

Moamba is following a game path. Lebadi is complaining and asking why the mhlungu didn’t go with them and how they will get the horn to him. Moamba says he will phone the mhlungu when they have got the horn. The boy thinks about how tonight has been different because this was the first time the mhlungu met them in the park. The boy is

worried about what will happen to Thandi. They come to the plain. They disturb a nightjar, a type of bird. They are nearly there.

Glossary

Jolt – bolt/sudden surge.

Nightscope – a piece of equipment that you look through on a rifle that helps you see when it is dark.

Scrub – bush.

Spindly – thin.

Questions

1. How many guns do the poachers have?
2. What frightens the boy that also frightened Billy?
3. Contrast Lebadi's role with Moamba's role. How is this reflected in the types of sentence they use?
4. What is the writer's intention behind the words "holding his gun at the ready" in the following extract?

Moamba grunted. Then, holding his gun at the ready, he started to walk forward very slowly. (p. 88)

5. Explain the effect of using a sentence fragment (incomplete sentence) at the end of the extract below:

Moamba stopped again. He lifted his rifle and looked through the nightscope. The boy could see trees ahead. Some big rocks. (p. 88)

Chapter 21 summary

Shots are fired. Billy sees the rhino running towards the trees. A male rhino is hit and gives terrible cries. The rhino falls to the ground. The poachers hurry towards the rhino. Karel turns on the headlights of the Land Rover and the game-viewing spotlight. Piet orders the poachers to drop their weapons. One of the poachers fires at Piet, and the shot bounces off a rock. The second poacher runs towards the rhino with his knife in his hand. Karel jumps out of the Land Rover. Vusi climbs into the driver's seat and drives at the man with the knife, who has to leap out of the way. Karel orders the man to drop onto the ground with his hands on his head. Vusi is grabbed by the other poacher. The unnamed boy hits the poacher with the handle of his axe, and the poacher collapses onto the ground. The nameless boy runs away. Three vehicles arrive. A helicopter arrives with Captain Dlamini.

Glossary

Blinded – unable to see because the light was so bright.

Eased himself out – slowly and carefully let himself out.

Erupt into chaos – burst into confusion.

Jerked – yanked, pulled.

Plain – open, flat land.

Ricocheted – bounced off.

Rifle cracks – the noise of a rifle shooting.

Squinted – screwed up his eyes to see better.

Stumble – trip.

Unconscious – not conscious (because of an injury, often to the head).

Questions

1. Who fired the shots?
2. Sum up the main points of the battle between (1) the poachers and (2) the two brothers/Vusi and Billy in bullet points.
3. What key theme does this chapter illustrate and how?

4. How do Billy and Vusi respond differently to the poachers?
5. What do Vusi's actions show about his character?
6. What is the second poacher's motive in capturing Vusi?
7. What do you think would have been the outcome if the nameless boy hadn't hit the poacher?
8. How does the setting add to the excitement and danger of the scene?
9. Why is it symbolic that it was the axe handle that the boy used to hit the poacher?
10. In your view, what values motivated the boy to act as he did?

Chapter 22 summary

Armed men jump out of their vehicles. Captain Dlamini and two other men get out of the helicopter. The poachers are arrested. The captain is furious that the boys are at the scene of the arrest, and he doesn't know why Karel is there either. The captain admits that it is thanks to the boys that the poachers were stopped. Billy asks if the rhino is still alive. The vet says that the rhino is traumatised but will get better. The horn was not taken out. The poacher who was knocked out was Lebadi. Karel is asked to go back to the Operations Centre to answer questions about the poaching incident.

Glossary

Chuffed – happy/pleased.

Clobbered – hit.

Full account – complete story.

Glaring – staring in anger.

Groggy – not fully awake/dazed and confused.

In custody – under arrest.

Meneer – sir.

Storming towards them – walking very angrily towards them.

Traumatised – had a great shock.

Questions

1. State why Piet says “About time!” when the armed men arrive.
2. Which poacher is the man with his hands behind his head, and which poacher was hit by the boy?
3. Sum up why Dlamini is so angry.
4. What does Billy’s question below show about his values?

Then Billy swallowed hard and plucked up the courage to speak. He had an important question to ask. No matter how angry the captain was.

“Sir, is, er, is the rhino still alive?” (p. 94)

5. Explain the cause of Captain Dlamini’s gratitude towards the boys.
6. How risky was the nameless boy’s decision to protect Vusi?
7. What do you think will be the outcome of the questioning of Karel?

Chapter 23 summary

Billy tells Vusi the way that he drove at the poacher was awesome. Piet says it was a crazy thing to do. Piet isn’t really angry with Vusi. He is worried about his brother. Piet admits that Vusi was very brave. He says they have been trying to catch Moamba for a long time. Lebadi is local. Piet says that they have to catch the people who employed the poachers. He says there may even be people from SANParks involved in the poaching. When they get back, Surina and Bokkie hug the boys. Billy hopes Piet isn’t going to get into trouble. Schalk says it is crazy that Captain Dlamini is questioning Karel, and he goes off to Ops to discover what is happening. The boys join the girls in their rondavel, and the girls tell them that Karel is the middleman for the poachers.

Glossary

Buzzing – overwhelmed.

Grimaced – pulled a face.

Hacked – chopped/cut roughly.

Insane – crazy.

In unison – together.

Middleman – the person who employs the poachers to get horns for a buyer.

Nail – catch.

Reprimand – get a scolding.

Scumbag – someone who is no good/a bad person.

Snitches – tells tales.

Questions

1. Describe what happened to make Piet angry at the start of the chapter.
2. Sum up the contradictory responses Piet has to the night's events. Place them under two headings, "Positive experiences" and "Negative experiences".
3. Explain the irony in the following quotation:

Billy could see lights in the distance. Pretoriuskop. It seemed a lifetime ago since he and the others had set off on their game drive. Just to the dam, Thandi had told them. Yeah right, he thought. (p. 99)

4. Poaching thrives on corruption. What evidence does Piet give that there may be corruption involved in this poaching ring too – in other words, that people who are supposed to protect wildlife may actually be helping or employing the poachers?
5. How was Jabu's behaviour in the donga typical of her character?
6. State why Schalk leaves so soon after seeing the teenagers.
7. Explain the irony of this statement:

Jabu said quickly, "But first we HAVE to hear what happened this evening. With the rhino and everything." (p. 102)

Chapter 24 summary

Jabu says they think that Karel is the man who smuggles the horns out of South Africa and sells them to the east. Vusi and Billy can't believe this because Karel has just been involved in catching the poachers. Jabu says that Karel's work as a ranger and at Wild2Save has just been a cover. Surina discovered accounts with names and addresses of people in Vietnam and Thailand and pictures of rhino horns when she hacked into Karel's computer. Billy still doesn't quite believe that Karel is involved in poaching and doesn't think the information that they found on the computer is proof. Surina says there is something else that she thought was suspicious too. Bokkie comes into the rondavel and sends the boys to their beds. Vusi and Billy decide to look for Karel's computer.

Glossary

Baby Boks – South African Under-20 rugby squad.

Confess – tell the truth.

Unconvinced – not sure.

Questions

1. The girls think that Karel is the middleman. Define the term "middleman" by quoting from page 104.
2. What does Surina's hacking into Karel's laptop reveal about her character?
3. Sum up what Surina and Jabu found on the laptop.
4. Billy is not convinced Karel is the middleman. Why?
5. Do you agree with Billy? Why/why not?

Chapter 25 summary

Piet goes to the Ops room. It will be light soon, and patrols are coming back. People stop talking when he goes in. Some of the task team glance at him and then look away. Others pretend they haven't noticed him. Piet asks Captain Dlamini if he can speak to him. Piet defends his brother, saying he would never become involved in poaching. The captain shows Piet a picture of Karel after he had shot a kudu. Piet says that was the first and last buck that Karel shot and it doesn't make him a poacher. The captain says that Karel is okay and is at Skukuza. The captain orders Piet to take time off until the issues with Karel have been sorted out.

Glossary

Cleared up – sorted out.

Downed – drank.

Littered – covered.

Lukewarm – slightly warm.

Skukuza – the Kruger National Park's biggest rest camp.

Questions

1. Describe how the people in the Ops room act when Piet goes in.
2. Quote from page 108 to explain why people acted like this.
3. In one sentence, sum up Piet's argument as to why Karel could not be involved in poaching.
4. What is the captain's intention in showing Piet the photo of Karel? Is the captain's point valid?
5. Explain how differently Piet views the photo.
6. What does Piet's conversation about his brother reveal about his character?
7. Is Piet's suspension justifiable in your view?

Chapter 26 summary

Billy and Vusi go to Karel's rondavel to search for his laptop, but it isn't there. Jabu and Surina are outside their rondavel. They were also going to look for the laptop. The girls go into the boys' rondavel. Vusi admits that he has an iPhone which he hid under his mattress. He does an online search for Karel and finds various pictures of him, e.g., Schalk and Karel on the farm driving in Schalk's 4x4. Schalk comes back and talks to the boys – the girls keep quiet so that Schalk doesn't know they are there. Vusi goes to sleep. Billy cannot sleep. Something is bothering him, and he can't make out what it is.

Glossary

A long shot – not much chance of succeeding.

Bushed – exhausted.

Indignantly – annoyed and upset.

Mocking – teasing/laughing at.

Niggling feeling – a feeling that something isn't right. Something that niggles is something that bothers you.

Shuteye – sleep.

Zilch – nothing.

Questions

1. Describe Billy and Vusi's search for Karel's laptop.
2. Who also planned to look for the laptop?
3. Explain Vusi's pun in the extract below. How does this play on words illustrate Vusi's character?

“Probably,” said Vusi. “I don't think we've got a hope of finding it now. We might as well go to bed. I'm bushed.” He laughed. “Bushed. Get it?” (p. 111)

4. Who speaks to Billy while the girls are in the boys' rondavel?
5. Why are Surina and Jabu annoyed with Vusi when they discover he has an iPhone?
6. Billy sees something on the iPhone that looks familiar:

“Wait a minute,” said Billy, who had been peering at the screen over Vusi’s shoulder. “Just go back a bit. This is interesting. I’ve seen this before . . .” (p. 113)

What do you think Billy had seen before?

7. Comment critically on the boys' search for Karel's laptop. Do you think they were justified in going into his room to look for property that didn't belong to them?

Chapter 27 summary

Piet goes into the Ops room. Most of the staff have gone already. Piet feels down because he has been ordered to take time off. He sees a new e-mail from Hornblower and opens it. He cannot believe what he reads.

Glossary

Critical – crucial/vital/very important.

Slumped – slouched.

Suspended – not allowed to work for a while, often because of an investigation into your behaviour.

Questions

1. Describe the setting of the Ops room.
2. State the reason Piet feels frustrated/upset.
3. Explain why Piet kicks the wastepaper basket.
4. What clue is there, before Piet opens the e-mail, that it is from Hornblower?

5. Do you empathise with Piet for feeling frustrated and down?

Chapter 28 summary

Billy is very tired but cannot sleep. He sees a person moving towards the Wild2Save bus. It is Surina. He goes onto the stoep, and she gets a fright when she sees him. She saw a picture on Karel's computer of rhino horns, and it looked like they were in the Wild2Save bus as she thought she saw the company logo. He and Surina go back to the Wild2Save bus and discover that the horn is in fact in Schalk's 4x4. Billy realises this is what was bothering him – he had seen Schalk's 4x4 in Kruger when he and Vusi were trying to get back to camp. He and Surina are caught and held up at gunpoint.

Glossary

Fibreglass – a type of plastic containing strands of glass to strengthen it.

Gag - almost throw up.

Luggage hold – where bags are stored in a bus.

Stealthily – trying to move quietly without being seen or heard.

Tarpaulin – a waterproof cover made from a material like canvas.

Questions

1. Who does Billy see outside through his window?
2. Why do you think Billy couldn't sleep even though he is exhausted?
3. Sum up in one sentence why Surina was looking at the Wild2Save bus.
4. Where is the smell of the rhino horn coming from?
5. Consider the following quotation:

"I'm not sure if. . ." Billy began, but Surina had already left the stoep and was moving towards the bus. Billy followed her. He thought back to how shy he had been around Surina earlier. Now he felt as if he'd known her forever. (p. 117)

How does Billy fit in with the requirements of the main character of a bildungsroman here?

6. Infer (“infer” means to work out/conclude/deduce) who is pointing the gun at Surina and Billy at the end of this chapter. (Have a look at Billy’s conversation with Surina to give you clues about who is pointing the gun.)
7. Explain how effective the use of onomatopoeia is in the following extract:

There was a creak as the screen door of the rondavel next to them opened. (p. 119)

Chapter 29 summary

Schalk is pointing a rifle at them. Bokkie comes out and tells Surina, who shrieked, to “shuddup”. Bokkie and Schalk force Surina and Billy to go with them, in the back of the Raider with the rhino horn. The smell makes them feel sick. Karel comes running towards them and joins them in the vehicle. They get to where the helicopter is standing on a flat piece of veld. Billy and Surina use the horn as a battering ram and hit Schalk in the face. They try to run away, but Bokkie grabs the rifle and orders them to stop or she will shoot.

Glossary

Abandon – leave.

Battering ram – “a long heavy piece of wood that is used to knock down the locked doors of buildings” (*Collins English Dictionary*, n.d.).

Blabbing – talking/telling everything they know.

Boy tjie – diminutive of “boy”/little boy.

Instinctively – without thinking/automatically.

Jislaaik – an Afrikaans expression that means “gosh/goodness”. It can be an expression of surprise, dismay or shock.

Merchandise – goods for sale.

Overpowering – very strong/overwhelming.

Shuddup – shut up.

Thudding – hammering.

Questions

1. Who are the poaching middlemen?
2. Sum up what the Krieks decide to do with Billy and Surina.
3. Who came running up after the vehicle?
4. Discuss the irony of the name “Bokkie” in the light of what we have discovered about Bokkie in this chapter.
5. Why does Billy go cold when he thinks of the lion cubs?
6. Schalk says to Karel that they weren’t going to abandon him:

“We’ve got to get out. Things are getting hot. When they grabbed you, I thought it was best to get moving. But don’t worry man; we weren’t gonna abandon you or anything.”

Karel kept quiet, and Schalk continued quickly . . . (p. 123)

How does the word “quickly” affect your interpretation of what Schalk actually intended to do?

7. How realistic was Billy’s plan of attacking Schalk with the horn?
8. Discuss the effectiveness of the repetition in the sentence below:

Billy jumped down from the bakkie with Surina right behind him.

He shouted, “Run, Surina, run!” (p. 125)

Chapter 30 summary

Billy and Surina stop, and they put their hands up. Karel orders Billy and Surina onto their stomachs. Bokkie says they will have to drive because Karel won't be able to fly the helicopter now. Bokkie orders the teenagers to get up. Karel aims a pistol at Bokkie and orders her to drop her gun. Bokkie says she can't believe she ever trusted him. Karel tells Billy to pick up Bokkie's rifle and not to shoot unless Bokkie tries to escape. Bokkie gets into the vehicle and drives off, but Billy cannot bring himself to shoot her. A helicopter arrives and starts chasing Bokkie. She drives into a tree. Piet and Captain Dlamini race up in a police car. Bokkie is arrested. Karel admits he is Hornblower. He has been working undercover to try to expose the Krieks.

Glossary

Ineffectually – not effectively.

Skat – dear/darling.

Questions

1. Indicate why Bokkie wants Billy and Surina on the ground.
2. Sum up Bokkie's change in getaway plan after Schalk is injured by the teenagers.
3. Why does Bokkie drop her rifle?
4. What is Karel's reason for turning on Bokkie?
5. Billy is unable to shoot at Bokkie even though she is escaping. What does this reveal about his character?
6. Would you also not have shot at Bokkie if you had been Billy?
7. Compare the arrival of the helicopter and Captain Dlamini this time with their arrival at the night-time shootout with the poachers. What is the difference in the timing of the reinforcements?

8. Why do you think Billy and Surina are “howling with laughter” (p. 128) when Piet and Captain Dlamini find them?

Chapter 31 summary

The boy keeps running. He has to get to the fence before the rangers bring their dogs; otherwise, he will not escape. During the conflict between the rangers and poachers, when he heard gunfire, he ran to the trees and hid. When Lebadi grabbed Vusi, the boy had taken his axe and hit Lebadi on the back of the head. The boy can see the fence and the hole in the fence to get through. He imagines his grandmother and sisters and knows he will never poach again.

Glossary

Kraal – a “hut village in southern Africa” or “an enclosure for livestock” (*Collins English Dictionary*, n.d.).

Questions

1. Where is the boy heading for?
2. Outline how the boy responded when he saw Lebadi grab Vusi.
3. What does the boy’s response say about his character?
4. What was the boy’s motivation in hitting Lebadi?
5. Explain the irony of the following extract:

He had moved swiftly and silently. Just as he had been taught by Moamba. (pp. 132-133)

6. How does the personification in the lines below add to the vivid imagery? (i.e., how does the personification draw a very clear picture for the reader of what the boy experienced?)

He did not stop. Branches snatched at his clothes, and thorns ripped his skin”
(p. 133)

7. It was poverty that drove the boy to poach in the first place. Keeping that in mind, what makes his decision to leave poaching especially courageous?
8. What do the boy's thoughts below reveal about his values?

He did not think about Moamba and Lebadi. They were already in the past. Gone like morning mist over the kraal when the sun breaks through. In his mind, he saw his grandmother, his sisters. The small hut that was his home. (p. 133)

Chapter 32 summary

Billy only wakes up in the early afternoon. He gets up when Vusi tells him that Surina is awake. The Krieks have been involved in illegal hunting and canned lion hunting and then finally returned to where they had grown up and started Wild2Save as a cover for their poaching. Jabu says she realised something was wrong when she saw Surina and Billy were not in bed and Surina's cap was lying next to the Wild2Save bus. Jabu told Thandi who got hold of Captain Dlamini, and he and the task team went to arrest Bokkie. The teens go to the Operations Centre, and there are lots of rangers there and braai fires burning. The rangers all cheer the teenagers. Karel explains that the Krieks' farm has been raided and lots of evidence has been collected to prove they are guilty. Schalk used to keep rhino horn in his tobacco shed. Karel says that he sent e-mails to his brother to tell him what the Krieks were doing because he needed someone he could trust who would take action. Karel gives the teenagers their cellphones back, and Surina talks on her phone to someone. It turns out she doesn't have a boyfriend; she has been speaking to her brother Jayesh, who has a good chance of being selected as a Baby Bok. Billy is thrilled that Surina doesn't have a boyfriend, and he realises that he has the confidence now to believe that Surina could like him back. Captain Dlamini arranges SANParks bursaries for all four teenagers,

and Karel will join the park again, both as a ranger and as a member of the task team. Piet's mistake in confronting the poachers, especially when he had civilians with him, will be overlooked.

Glossary

Anonymously – without including a name.

Confiscated – removed/took away.

Consignment – an order/goods.

Crank – a crazy person.

Flouting – ignoring/disobeying.

Flustered – unsure of what to do/how to react.

Freaked out – Here, this term means disappointed.

Illegal – against the law.

Leaking information – passing on secret information.

Mounted – hung up on the wall.

Nail them – prove their guilt.

Unconventional – unusual.

Unscrupulous – no morals/untrustworthy/dishonest.

What went down – what happened.

Whistleblower – someone who tells the authorities about illegal business, corruption or abuse that has been happening at an organisation.

Questions

1. What made Jabu suspect the Krieks?
2. Sum up the Krieks' history of abusing wildlife.
3. Explain what canned lion hunting is.
4. Explain the role of Surina's baseball cap in catching the Krieks.
5. How does this affect Billy's impression of Surina?
6. What was Karel's motivation in e-mailing his brother to give him information?

7. Consider the following extract: In what way can Billy be seen as typical of a main character in a bildungsroman here?

Okay, thought Billy, no boyfriend. Right on! But who was he kidding? She'd never be interested in him. This stunning girl would never go for a guy like him. Then he stopped himself.

That was the old Billy.

The one who'd been shy and worried about what people thought of him. The new Billy was not that guy. The new Billy had saved a rhino. He'd been part of a team that had caught poachers. And Surina had put her head on his shoulder, hadn't she? (p. 140)

8. What other character can also be seen as a bildungsroman hero?
9. Captain Dlamini shows his thanks to the teenagers, to Piet and to Karel by rewarding them in very practical ways. What do his actions reveal about his character?
10. Below, Captain Dlamini compares the struggle against the poachers as a war. Discuss the effectiveness of this metaphor.

Captain Dlamini hesitated for a moment, his face growing serious. "We all know we are fighting a war here. Sometimes, it seems as if it is an impossible war. That it can never be won. But I don't believe that. (p. 142)

Chapter 33 summary

Billy and Vusi sit in front of the camp fire by their rondavel. Billy is glad they are staying an extra day and is looking forward to going on a game drive the next day. Vusi says he is going to bed. He also comments that Billy is getting on well with Surina. Billy says that Surina has given him her cellphone number. Vusi goes into the rondavel and then

comes rushing out because there is a spider on his pillow. Billy laughs and says he will sort it out. He glances up at the night sky and looks at the poacher's moon, which is dangerous for rhinos but beautiful.

Glossary

Earth to Billy – said to Billy, who is daydreaming, to get his attention.

Embers – hot, glowing pieces, such as coal, that you find as the fire is dying down.

Gave a start – jerked slightly from surprise.

Hit the sack – go to bed.

Questions

1. What are the teenagers going to do the next day?
2. Sum up how the teenagers' dreams can now come true.
3. Explain why Billy is also looking forward to going home.
4. Surina has given her cellphone number to Billy. What does this action reveal about how she feels?
5. Explain the irony of the description of the moon.

He paused at the door. Looked up at the night sky. There it was. The poacher's moon. Bright and clear. So deadly for rhino. But so beautiful. (p. 144)

Section 3: Enrichment exercises

Enrichment activity 1: internet video plus article

URL: <https://abcnews.go.com/International/wireStory/south-africas-rhino-poaching-drops-virus-lockdown-73162855>

South Africa's rhino poaching drops during virus lockdown

By ANDREW MELDRUM September 22, 2020



This short video about the Kruger Park explains how poachers are using tourists' videos to discover where animals are located. Discuss whether Kruger Park officials are justified in considering jamming the phone signals of tourists. Are the tourists being irresponsible?

The article explains how the corona lockdown reduced poaching numbers drastically. Discuss in class how you think these numbers could be maintained/brought even lower after lockdown.

Enrichment activity 2: BBC article

South Africa rhino poaching: 'Web of corruption' blamed

By Alastair Leithead
BBC News

19 April 2018 | Africa



URL: <https://www.bbc.com/news/world-africa-43821674>

According to this article, there is a great deal of corruption involved in rhino poaching.

1. Write the government a letter in which you discuss your feelings about the corruption surrounding rhino poaching.
2. Share an article on poaching in South Africa with your class. What are the main challenges faced by those trying to protect wildlife?

Enrichment activity 3: video

URL: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Q8eh58Z249o>

Watch this video on the last two northern white rhinos in the world and plans to save the species. Write an e-mail to naturalist David Attenborough sharing your response to this video.

Section 4: Suggested answers

Chapter 1

1. The boy, Moamba and Lebadi are the three people in the opening scene.
2. The poachers and the boy are walking in the bush in the Kruger National Park. They have poached a rhino, and Lebadi is carrying the horn in a hessian sack on his shoulders. When they stop to camp, the boy hides the horn in a hole that he makes with his axe.
3. Moamba clearly has a position of power in relation to the boy. There are several examples that show this power imbalance: Moamba is the one who decides when they start moving again after hearing the owl, Moamba decides where they will camp and Moamba instructs the boy to hide the rhino horn. Moamba and Lebadi also drink before the boy and only leave a small amount of water for him.
4. One possible reason the author introduced the owl is to create tension because owls are often symbols that danger lies ahead. Another reason why the owl might create tension is that the owl call could actually have been another poacher calling to someone working with him. Other poachers would have been a threat to Moamba, Lebadi and the boy because they are competition: The poachers all want the same thing – to kill wildlife for money. The owl is also a bird/wildlife and so could be seen as symbolic of the animal world, which is threatened throughout the story by poachers; in this way, the author is foreshadowing (hinting at what is coming) future events in the story.
5. Student's own answer.

Chapter 2

1. The four finalists are Billy Samuels from Cape Town, Surina Govender from Bloemfontein, Vusi Mabuza from Durban and Jabulani Ntuli from Johannesburg.
2. Bokkie says they are turning the farm into a wildlife sanctuary so that they can look after injured or endangered animals there. Bokkie says they also want to create a learning centre to help young people learn about conservation.

3. A little buck is timid and gentle and sweet, so this description suggests that Bokkie not only looks like a buck (because she has big brown eyes and ginger hair) but may be gentle and sweet too. (Later, the story reveals that this is not true at all, so this description is an example of irony; irony means that something that seems to be true is not in fact true.)
4. Vusi talks to, or about, each of the finalists. For instance, he goes to sit right next to Surina and chats to Billy about Cape Town as soon as they meet. Billy has to force himself to smile at the other finalists and says hello to the girls only when they greet or look at him. Billy's throat feels dry when he greets Jabu, and he gulps when he says hello to Surina. These responses show the difference in Billy and Vusi's characters. Vusi is outgoing while Billy is shy.
5. Billy feels embarrassed because Vusi asks him if he has ever seen a wild animal in real life, suggesting that Billy's only experience of wildlife has been from TV. Billy also feels very embarrassed because when he tries to explain that he has seen wildlife, he ends up saying that he saw an elephant in the circus, which isn't an experience of seeing an animal in its natural environment, which is what conservation is about.
6. Jabu responds even though Vusi isn't directing his question at her. She questions whether he should be asking someone whether he is in a gang because this is a rude thing to say. Her response shows that Jabu is outspoken about what she thinks and doesn't mind questioning people's behaviour if she doesn't agree with it.
7. Student's own opinion. Possible answers:

Yes, Vusi was just joking and explained that he wasn't serious

OR

No, Vusi should not have suggested that Billy didn't have any wildlife experience or have asked if Billy was part of a gang because these comments are insulting and Billy is sensitive and shy and more likely to be affected/embarrassed than someone who is more outgoing and confident.

Chapter 3

1. Those involved with preventing poaching are the anti-poaching task team, the Hawks and the SANDF.
2. The sun is just rising and is lighting up koppies in the distance. Birds are starting to sing their wake-up call.
3. This is usually Piet's favourite time of day, and the scene is one of great beauty and apparent peace. However, although Piet can usually expect beauty and joy from the early morning setting, today, ironically, the opposite is true because in the middle of all this beauty is the ugliness of the pointless killing of an endangered animal, who has had her horn cut out.
4.
 - The Hawks take photographs so that they have evidence of the crime.
 - DNA samples are collected.
 - A helicopter will be sent out to look for the poachers.
 - Sniffer dogs will be taken out to try to find the poachers' trail.
5. There are three levels of people involved in poaching: (1) the poachers themselves who kill the animal, (2) the middlemen in South Africa who send out the poachers and (3) kingpins of overseas syndicates.
6. Piet feels "drained" (p. 10) because this is a situation which has happened repeatedly. He also feels this loss more than usual – it was "really tough" (p. 11) - because they had been prewarned by Hornblower.
7. The fact that the rangers are given paramilitary training shows that their battle to stop poaching is very similar to a war situation and highlights how difficult it is to overcome poaching.
8. Captain Absalom said following the tip-off from Hornblower would have been a "wild goose chase" (p. 12). A wild goose chase is a pointless task or action, so the captain's reaction to the e-mail was clearly one of disbelief: He didn't believe that the e-mail writer could be trusted or that the warning was true.
9. Rhinos might become extinct. Piet thinks, "Rhinos have been around for fifty million years . . . And in my lifetime, they may all be gone" (p. 13).
10. Student's own answer. Possible answers:

Yes, the captain was justified because he had acted on information from Hornblower before and nothing happened. He couldn't afford to waste time and manpower on a pointless exercise.

OR

No, the captain should act on every possible lead if it means a rhino may be saved.

Chapter 4

1. Schalk Kriek is Bokkie's husband, Piet Smit is a game ranger and Karel's brother, and Thandi Matlala is also a game ranger at the Kruger National Park.
2. Karel is very powerful (p. 4) whereas Piet is "thinner and taller" (p. 19). A similarity is that both men are keen conservationists. We know this because Karel was a game ranger and says he now wants to educate young people about conserving wildlife (p. 18). Piet is still a game ranger at Kruger.
3. Jabu asks why the Krieks have a kudu head on the office wall when their focus is on conservation. Schalk excuses it by saying the head was there before the farm became theirs. Bokkie says that Schalk should take the head down and that she hates seeing it.
4. One possible reason for this scene is to reveal more of Jabu's character: She is outspoken and straightforward, saying what she thinks even if it is an uncomfortable topic. Another possible reason for this scene is to question whether the Krieks are as keen on conservation as they say and whether they are entirely to be trusted if there is an animal head on their wall.
5. Billy is impressed by Jabu's knowledge. Billy also probably feels a bit down as he doesn't believe he knows as much as Jabu or the others; he thinks he doesn't have a chance of winning the bursary. Billy's response also reveals his lack of confidence in his own abilities and how he compares himself negatively to others (earlier, he compares himself negatively to Vusi).
6. The full moon symbolises poaching because its brightness makes tracking and killing animals easier for poachers. This moon is therefore called a "poacher's moon".

7. This is very effective as an example of irony because the aim of the meeting is to prevent poaching – but Piet was not able to stop the rhino cow being poached.

Chapter 5

1. The mood in the bus is very serious now because of the news of the dead rhino and because of what Thandi has been telling the four teenagers about poaching. According to Thandi, more than six hundred rhinos have been killed that year already.
2. Poachers kill rhinos for the money they obtain for their horns – horns are more valuable than gold or platinum. The reason that rhino horns are so valuable is that they are believed by people in the East, especially Vietnam, to cure illnesses.
3. The metaphor is effective because a supermarket is a place where large numbers of people go to do shopping for goods/products that they need or want. Similarly, large numbers of poachers enter the Kruger Park – according to Thandi, on the night the rhino was killed, there were probably “thirty or more groups of poachers” (p. 21) in the park. Just as shoppers choose goods, the poachers were there to select the animals that they saw as “products” that they wanted.
4. Uncle Raymond is kind and caring. We know this because he took Billy “under his wing” (p. 23) after Billy’s father died and taught Billy about nature (fynbos, birds and insects) when they went on hikes. He is also someone who puts time and effort into relationships with those he cares about. For instance, he spent hours assisting Billy when he had to do quizzes and prepare an essay for the Wild2Save competition.
5. The setting in which Billy grew up was Cape Town, in an area badly affected by gangsterism. This has caused great worry to Billy’s mother as she has seen other boys in the neighbourhood have their futures destroyed by gangsterism and the drug tik.
6. Billy is thinking about his mother’s fears that he might join a gang or take drugs. In spite of so many boys in Billy’s neighbourhood making these choices, Billy has clearly shown courage in not following this path. We see this courage in the words “he did know how to stand up for himself” (p. 25).

7. Before, Billy kept quiet about the cookies because he felt embarrassed as he was the only one whose mother had sent food (p. 15). His offering the cookies to the others shows his determination to stand up for himself and to value who he is, even if he is different from other people.

Chapter 6

1. The mhlungu spoke to Moamba.
2. He is unhappy because he wants the poachers to kill another rhino as the order is for two.
3. Moamba has two concerns related to how dangerous poaching that same night would be:
 - SANParks rangers will be out in the park at night.
 - Other poachers will be in the park.
4. Poverty is destructive as it pushed the boy into accepting Moamba's job offer to join the poachers – it "had been hard to say no to the money" (p. 27). Now that the boy is working for the poachers, he is suffering and is too frightened to leave in case the poachers harm him or his family. Poverty has also been destructive to his grandmother as she clearly knows what her grandson is doing and is unhappy about it. For instance, she says "Aaai, aaai, aaai" (p. 27) when he gives her the money from his poaching job, but she still takes it even though it goes against her values because it enables her to buy pap, bread and chicken. Without the money, she might go hungry.
5. Own answer. Possible answers:

Yes, it is essential that he and his family eat, so what choice did he have other than to accept Moamba's offer?

OR

No, even though the temptation was great, the boy should not have accepted a job that he knew would place him and his family in danger.

Chapter 7

1. They are staying in a rondavel, a circular hut with a thatched roof. It contains two beds, a cupboard and a shower.
2. There is conflict between Surina and Bokkie over Surina's cellphone. All the finalists are told they have to hand in their cellphones. Surina resists and says that she needs to keep her phone with her in order to stay in communication with her family. Bokkie is very firm and says "No cellphones, and that's it" (p. 30). Surina is not happy; she hands in her cellphone but does so with a "dramatic sigh" (p. 31).
- 3.

In camp	On game drive
Glossy starling	Lilac-breasted roller
Mother warthog and three babies	Golden orb spider
	Impala
	Buffalo

4. Both Vusi and Jabu seem to have a better chance than Billy of getting the bursary because their knowledge of wildlife and conservation is so good. Jabu has her own wildlife blog and always keeps her camera with her to take photographs. Vusi's father is a ranger in KZN, and he takes Vusi out tracking animals with him.
5. When the Land Rover has an accident, the radio breaks. Because no one has a cellphone, neither the teenagers nor Thandi can contact anyone to ask for help.
6. A pun is play on words, that is, a joke made about words that sound the same but have different meanings. In this extract, Thandi uses "duck" as a verb/action, meaning "bend down", but Vusi pretends that she is talking about the bird called a duck.
7. A black widow spider's bite is venomous (poisonous) and painful, so this simile shows that the golden orb spider's bite can be dangerous too.

8. One reason why the author may indicate Vusi is frightened of spiders is to show his vulnerable side because so far, the reader has only seen Vusi as confident and outgoing.
9. Student's own answer. Possible answer:

Yes, it is realistic as an aardvark hole is likely to be found in Kruger, and it is easily possible that a rock could have become dislodged and have fallen into the hole. It was getting late, so neither the rock nor the hole would have been easy to see.

10. Student's own answer. Possible answers:

Yes, there was no other way to get help

OR

No, Thandi should not have left the teenagers on their own but should rather have stayed with them until they were found

OR

Thandi should have gone but taken the four teenagers with her as they were her responsibility and they were safer with her because she had a rifle.

Chapter 8

1. The mood is tense because of the loss of the rhino. The mood is probably despondent as well because the final sentence of the first paragraph of Chapter 8 says, "No matter how many rhino they lost, the men and women of the task team never came to terms with it" (p. 42).
2. The subject line has been left blank.
3. When Piet showed the captain the previous e-mail, he didn't believe it either. A difference is that although the captain at first says this latest message can't be true, as their conversation develops, it becomes clear that the captain is taking the e-mail seriously. This is obvious from the fact that he insists that the teenagers cannot be out after dark "with this kind of danger" (p. 44). The captain

also says that they have to “stop the poachers before they strike again” (p. 44), showing he believes the message may well be true.

4. Piet mentions that Thandi is newly qualified. He also tries to convince himself that there is no need for concern, but expressions such as “I shouldn’t be worried really” (p. 43) and “I’m sure” (p. 43) suggest that he is in fact worried and that he isn’t sure that Thandi stayed on the tarred road. The writer’s intention is to create tension because the captain and Piet are having doubts about whether Thandi is a suitable person to be out with the teenagers. If she is not, then this makes her decision to leave them and walk back for help questionable. If Thandi is new, then she isn’t yet well known by the others at Kruger, which hints at the possibility that she may not be trustworthy. Although this turns out not to be true, creating this doubt in the reader’s mind also creates tension and anxiety, which can only be solved by reading further to find out what happens. When tension is created, it makes a book more gripping.
5. The final paragraph contains several loose ends, which makes the reader ask questions.
 - Piet hasn’t got hold of Thandi yet and has to keep trying her on the radio: Will Piet manage to get in contact with Thandi?
 - Captain Dlamini says “We’ve got no time to waste”: This creates a sense of urgency. What will happen if the captain doesn’t get the teenagers back in time?
 - The captain says they must “stop the poachers before they strike again”: Will they stop the poachers?

The reader will only discover the answers to these questions if he or she reads further, so this paragraph forms an effective cliff-hanger.

Chapter 9

1. There is a “slight tremor” (p. 45) in Jabu’s voice when she speaks, and Billy knows “how she felt” (p. 45).

2. They are on their own in the Kruger National Park in a broken-down vehicle, it is night-time and there are jackals around.

3. Possible answers:

The poachers will find the teenagers.

OR

The poachers will capture Thandi.

4. A metaphor is a comparison between two things, but a metaphor does not use the words “like” or “as”. Here, the moon is being compared to a huge red ball. A red moon would look eerie and scary and remind the reader of the red colour of blood. This links up with the symbolic use of the moon to represent poaching and the suffering/death it brings as the death of the rhino would result in a great deal of blood being shed.

5. The word “lurking” means “lying in wait”, usually waiting to attack someone. It is very effective in building up tension as it creates the expectation that there is danger out in the dark. In addition, the fact that the reader knows, even though the teenagers don’t, that there are poachers nearby increases the tension as we know that it is not only wild animals that may threaten the four teenagers but armed men. The only way to resolve this tension is to read further, so the word “lurking” is also effective in making the book more gripping and exciting.

Chapter 10

1. The boy feels nervous because when he heard the crash, he knew there were others nearby. This could mean danger for him and the poachers if they are caught.

2.

- He avoids man-made roads.
- He chooses rocky surfaces or concrete weirs.
- He follows game paths.

3. They met six months ago. Moamba said he had work for the boy as a carrier. He offered good pay. The boy had to look for him at the main road on Friday

afternoon at half past four if he wanted the work. If Moamba's bakkie held red cooldrink crates, there was work.

4. One reason is to show that there is going to be a connection between Thandi's accident and the poachers later on in the book. The fact that the accident can be heard by the poachers shows that the two groups of people are close to each other, which suggests that they may meet soon. Another reason for describing the accident is to give the reader an idea of the timing of this scene. It happens at the same time that the Land Rover accident occurs.
5. The flashback illustrates the theme of the destructiveness/negative effects of poverty: There are several examples of these negative effects of poverty. Firstly, poverty means poor sanitation. There is no running water in the boy's house. He is fetching water when he gets the message from Moamba. Secondly, poverty has forced the boy to leave school. Poverty also means that the boy and his family have to worry about whether they will have food to eat. These circumstances then drive the boy to accept work with the poachers, even though he doesn't want to.
6. The grandmother says "Be careful" because she knows that he will be involved with poaching and is worried because it is dangerous. She doesn't say more, e.g., that the boy mustn't accept the work, because of the need of their family for money and food.
7. Student's own answer. Suggested answers:

Yes, it is justifiable because the consequence of the boy's not accepting the work might be starvation.

OR

No, it is not justifiable as the work is dangerous and the boy might easily lose his life.

8. Psychological effects mean the effects on someone's mind. One psychological effect on the boy has been increased anxiety. For instance, the boy is on edge/nervous after hearing the Land Rover accident; if people are nearby, he could be caught or killed by other poachers/rangers/the police. Another psychological effect is that the boy feels trapped as "now there was no way out" (p. 50).

9. The boy is poor. For example, he has to carry water to his home as they have no running water, and he had to leave school to do the small amount of work that was available on farms. Moamba is much wealthier than the boy. He has been able to afford dental treatment (he has a gold tooth), and he also has a bakkie.
10. There is repetition of the word “wished” (“*the boy had often wished . . . He wished . . . He wished . . .*”) to highlight how much the boy wants to go back to the time before when he met Moamba. This repetition shows his regret at choosing to work for the poachers.

Chapter 11

1. Jabu switches on her torch, and they discover that the noise is just a hare.
2. The angle at which the Land Rover is leaning makes it impossible for her to reach the water. The only way to get it is to climb out of the Land Rover and to go around the back.
3. When Vusi offered to walk to camp with Thandi, Billy didn't offer as well. This time, when Vusi offers to get the water for Surina, Billy quickly says that he will do it instead, so his response is different from before. One reason for this is that Billy feels bad for not offering to accompany Thandi and feels he should have. Another reason may be that Billy is trying to impress Surina.
4. Student's own answer. Possible answers:

No, Surina's behaviour was not acceptable because Thandi had warned them to stay on the Land Rover.

OR

Yes, Surina's behaviour was acceptable because Billy wasn't going far away from the Land Rover; he was just going around it to get water. Jabu had used her torch shortly before, and the only thing they saw in the grass was a hare.

5. Billy is frightened because it is the old buffalo who confronts him, and older males are known to be dangerous. Another reason he is so scared is that he remembers that buffalo never fake charging, and the buffalo looks like it is about to attack: It snorts, lowers its head and paws the ground.

6. Billy feels weak with relief. We know this because “Billy dropped down onto his haunches and put his head on his knees” (p. 53). Billy also felt as though he was going to faint because he was so relieved.
7. Billy is growing in confidence. Previously, at the Krieks’ farm, he was overwhelmed with shyness when around Surina, but in this scene, he offers to get water for her. Although this probably wasn’t a very sensible decision, it does show that he is confident enough to try to impress her.
8. The word “buzzing” is an example of onomatopoeia. This use of onomatopoeia is effective as the noise that one hears in one’s ears after going through a very stressful experience does sound like “zzzzz”.

Chapter 12

1. Moamba heard somebody coming.
2.
 - The rangers are armed and will shoot poachers.
 - They will go to great lengths to protect the rhinos.
 - An increasing number of poachers have been arrested.
3. The most obvious reason is that the rangers do everything that they can to prevent Moamba killing wildlife. Perhaps Moamba also hates the rangers because they are a source of danger to Moamba – they could easily kill him if given the opportunity.
4. The boy is no threat to Thandi and wishes her no harm because he hopes that Moamba will let her go by and not capture/confront her. On the other hand, Moamba jumps out at Thandi, orders her onto the ground and threatens her. Moamba shows no concern for Thandi – he sticks a gun into her back and orders her to “shut up” (p. 57). The boy is very concerned about Thandi. We know this because he worries that “this could turn out badly for the girl ranger” (p. 57).
5. Moamba’s telling Thandi to shut up and threatening her life as well as pointing a gun at her after she falls all show that he is cruel and a bully.
6. This chapter clearly shows that poaching is destructive to poachers as the boy is stressed (his hands are sweating at the start of the chapter) and anxious. The generally destructive nature of poaching to poachers is seen in that many have

ended up in jail or been shot. Poaching is also destructive to rangers as it places them in great danger – in this chapter, Thandi’s life is threatened and her gun taken away.

7. Thandi hopes that if Moamba thinks there are people who know where she is and who will be coming soon, she will be in less danger from him. Maybe he will want to get away from the scene if he thinks others are coming to avoid being arrested. Unfortunately, her lie is not very convincing. If the other rangers knew where she was, there would be no reason for her to be walking through Kruger after dark, which is dangerous. She could simply wait for them to come to her.
8. The words “trailed behind” show that the boy does not want to be with Moamba and Lebadi. The fact that his hands are “shaking” shows that he is very upset and frightened.

Chapter 13

1. Thandi fell and injured her ankle. Moamba pointed the rifle at her and ordered her to get up.
2. Jabu suggests it was a bird or animal, Surina hopes it was the rangers come to save them (and then later thinks maybe it was a bird), Vusi says it was a scream. Billy doesn’t think it is the rangers because there hasn’t been enough time for Thandi to get to camp. He doesn’t think it was an animal or bird because it had sounded to him like a scream.
3. Surina wants to stay on the Land Rover. Billy says that they have to get off and hide.
4. Here, the metaphor is comparing the height of the grass to the height of a person. This creates a vivid picture of how vulnerable and small the teenagers must have felt compared to nature. Even the grass, which is normally only as high as one’s foot, is reaching up almost to their heads.
5. The repetition of consonant sounds is called alliteration. In the extract above, “Coming closer . . . closer” is an example of alliteration. The alliteration is effective here as the repeated “c” sounds almost like footsteps approaching, which would create tension in the reader as he or she realises that danger is getting nearer.

Chapter 14

1. The boy feels more nervous when Thandi makes Moamba angry. The boy is nervous because he is scared of the consequences for Thandi.
2. Moamba seems to be angry because there has been a change of plan – the poachers have to get the horn and then meet the mhlungu at a place near the old grave. They can only go on to kill the rhino after this. Moamba is probably angry because the change will mean more time in the Kruger Park and every extra minute that they are there means greater exposure to danger.
3. When the moon is at its brightest, then the poachers are best able to see in order to find and kill their target. The moon is almost at its brightest, which will be when Moamba and Lebadi try to poach the next rhino. This will be a major climax of the story.
4. Moamba wants to approach quietly on his own first to see if there are others lying in wait for him. The moon is also bright enough for him to see a lot without the torch although he does then ask for the torch to do a more thorough search.
5. Thandi tightens her grip and makes a noise in her throat because she is worried that Moamba will find the teenagers.
6. Moamba's treatment of Thandi shows how inhumane and cruel he is. For instance, he "lifted his rifle until it was right under her chin" (p. 64). This would have been terrifying for Thandi as she wouldn't have known whether he was going to shoot her. He also threatens Thandi, telling her that he will come back and make her sorry if she makes any noise.
7. The boy is kind to Thandi. For example, when Moamba orders him to bring the torch, the boy "helped Thandi onto the ground" (p. 61). He lets her lean on his shoulder, and he holds her tightly so she doesn't collapse. What would you have done? Student's own response.

Chapter 15

1. Thandi is close to tears and continually shakes her head in disbelief that she is going to be rescued.

2. A pro is that no one would be left behind in the dark. A con is that Thandi cannot walk on her own and might need to be carried because of her injured ankle. Another con is that Jabu is not dressed for walking in the veld because she is wearing flip-flops.
3. Up until now, Surina has seemed fairly self-centred and spoilt. She just wanted to be on her phone whenever possible and put pressure on Billy to fetch her water even though they had been told to stay on the Land Rover. In this chapter, however, she shows that she can be caring and sensible in her treatment of Thandi. Surina checks Thandi's ankle and holds an ice pack on it and lets Thandi have two of her Disprin.
4. Billy is showing increasing confidence. He unties Thandi and offers to go with Vusi to get help. He isn't just a bystander but makes suggestions, recommending that the girls hide in the donga with Thandi. When Vusi asks Billy if he is up for the journey back to camp, he stands up for himself, saying, "Of course I'm up to it . . . Maybe we don't have bushveld like this in Cape Town, but boy, do we have mountains! And I've climbed plenty of them. Let's go" (p. 69).
5. Student's own answer. Possible answers:

I would have agreed to the plan as Thandi could not possibly walk and trying to carry her would not have been possible.

OR

No, the girls should not have been left behind on their own as it was too dangerous.

Chapter 16

1. The mhlungu will meet with Moamba and get the horn from him.
2. Moamba keeps on the game paths and hides in the long grass when he gets to a dirt road. When they get to the crossroads, Moamba moves very carefully towards the car, bending so that it is not easy to see him in the moonlight.
3. He is worried because Thandi had seen the faces of Lebadi and Moamba and possibly his face as well. This is bad for Lebadi and Moamba and him if she

manages to get away because she might be able to identify them in a line-up. If she doesn't get away, it could be very bad for her as her life is in danger – Moamba might kill her to prevent her identifying him and having him arrested.

4. The boss would have been making sure that he was not easily visible as he doesn't want to be seen by anyone who might be about as he is doing illegal business.
5. The boy may still remember how sick the smell of the rhino horn made him feel. He probably also feels ashamed because the horn reminds him that he was involved in helping the men who killed the rhino.
6. The plot of a book is all the connected events that combine to create a story. The closing lines of the chapter lead on to the next event in the story, which is the scene in which Moamba and Lebadi will aim to kill another rhino. We can see this connection in the words "The boss wants the other rhino horn tonight" (p. 72).
7. The boss had never tried to meet up with the poachers in the park before. The fact that he does indicates that he may be desperate to get his hands on the horn as quickly as possible either because his buyer is putting pressure on him or because he has heard that there are others out in Kruger at night besides the poachers. Another possibility is that the boss meets up with them because *he was already in the park tonight*. This raises the possibility that the boss might be one of the people currently at Pretoriuskop and also makes it more likely that he would have heard about the teenagers' being lost in the park – which would make him more eager to get the horn before any of the rangers searching for the teenagers comes across the poachers instead.

Chapter 17

1. People are talking and laughing and making braais, and Piet can smell boerewors being cooked.
2. Piet wishes that he could be relaxing at Kruger, going on drives to see the wildlife, watching a waterhole towards the end of the afternoon and then braaiing. Instead, Piet is overwhelmed by the ugliness of poaching that is affecting Kruger

and so is unable to enjoy its beauty. He is also worried about the missing teenagers.

3. Bokkie says she feels that something has gone wrong because Thandi hasn't been in contact, and she is clearly very worried. Piet's response to Bokkie suggests he feels more positive as he says that Thandi will look after the teenagers because she is responsible. He tells Bokkie to light a fire so that she can start a braai for the children when they get back. This shows a positive response as he is suggesting that they will come back safely and be able to enjoy a braai. However, Piet and Bokkie are actually more similar in their response than Piet admits because once he sets off with his brother, he tells his brother that he is worried about the children because the poachers are also in Kruger.
4. Karel and Piet both used to dream about being rangers when they were younger, and both became rangers. Now Karel has stopped being a ranger and is working for Wild2Save. Piet is trying to protect wildlife by carrying out his duties as a ranger and fighting against the poachers. Karel says that maybe his future prospects with the Krieks are more important than fighting a losing battle against poachers.
5. Karel's decision has caused a rift/conflict between the brothers. They were once very close: "When they were kids, only two years apart in age, they had been inseparable" (p. 76). Since Karel left Kruger, Piet has been struggling to accept his brother's decision.
6. Piet clearly values work that gives meaning to his life/where he can make a contribution as his happiest day was obtaining a job at Kruger. He also places a high value on close family relationships because his second-happiest day was when his brother also became a ranger at Kruger.
7. Student's own answer. Possible answers:

Yes, Karel is convincing because he is still working to preserve wildlife if he is working in conservation. It could be seen as a convincing argument that Karel was tired of the endless war against poachers and wanted to make a difference to wildlife in a more positive environment.

OR

No, in spite of what Karel says, a lot of his work simply seems to involve driving

the Krieks' bus, which seems a major step down for someone who was a top ranger at Kruger. The fact that Karel would leave Kruger so suddenly, especially when he was working with his brother, who was so close to him, is also a bit strange.

8. One reason for including this conflict could be to draw in the reader. All books need conflict in order to be interesting. If there is no conflict, either between people or within characters, there is no real reason for a reader to continue reading. Perhaps the writer also wants to create a suspicion that one of the brothers may be untrustworthy. Why did Karel leave so suddenly if being a ranger was his passion?
9. An owl is often a symbol of death or danger to come. Here, the brothers are heading out to look for the teenagers and keeping an eye out for poachers as well; the sighting of the owl suggests the possibility of danger and even the possibility of the death of another rhino or a person.
10. This links up with question 8 above. The fact that Piet and Karel are no longer so close (they haven't driven together in the bush for a long time) and the fact that Piet sometimes feels he doesn't know his brother any more creates suspicion in the mind of the reader that Karel may be hiding something from his brother or may even be involved with poaching. This effectively creates tension and conflict, which the reader will only resolve by reading further.

Chapter 18

1. They come across a kudu bull with enormous horns who stares at them, which clearly makes them nervous in case the bull injures them. They breathe out in relief when the kudu runs away.
2. He concludes that the poachers who captured Thandi are the same poachers that were responsible for the killing of the rhino the previous night.
3. The mhlungu is going to meet the poachers at the crossroads, so there is possible danger awaiting the boys if they are heading for the same spot.
4. One reason Vusi doesn't answer may be that he doesn't know what will happen if the poachers find Thandi and the girls. Perhaps he is also worried about the danger they might be in and so doesn't want to talk about it because there is

nothing he can do to protect them other than going to get help as quickly as possible.

5. Billy suggests that the vehicle may be rangers. Vusi doubts whether it is rangers because he says the vehicle is not a Land Rover.
6. The mhlungu, who is employing the poachers to kill the rhino, was in the 4x4. We know that because in a previous chapter, we read about how “the big boss was still sitting in his 4x4” (p. 71).
7. Student’s own answer. Possible answer: I would have been hopeful that someone was coming to rescue me but nervous in case it was someone connected with poaching, especially after the experience of Thandi’s capture.

Chapter 19

1. Piet stops because Karel sees someone next to the road disappearing into the bushes. Karel thinks it looks like Billy.
2. Billy sees the SANParks logo of a kudu head and realises that the vehicle belongs to the Kruger National Park and so must contain rangers. This means it is safe to come out of hiding.
3. The Land Rover broke down, and Thandi and the girls are hiding in a donga from poachers because Thandi is injured. The poachers are making for an old grave to kill another rhino.
4. Vusi shivers with fear because he is imagining how badly the night could have turned out for them and for Thandi especially and how easily she might have been killed.
5. If the mhlungu were spotted transporting the armed poachers, one of them carrying Thandi’s rifle, his identity would be discovered, and he would be arrested and imprisoned.
6. Students can draw their own deductions based on the table below. Based on the table, my personal opinion is that Piet is not justified in going as he risks endangering the boys’ lives and their lives are more valuable than the life of a rhino.

Pros	Cons
The captain didn't explicitly order Piet not to go.	Piet is supposed to stand down and wait for the patrol.
They are very close to where the poachers are.	Piet has civilians with him, and the captain wants to keep the civilians away from the poachers.

7. Student's own answer, e.g., The poachers will be caught/the identity of the mhlungu will be revealed/Piet or Karel will be rescued by one of the boys/Vusi or Billy will be badly injured/the captain will be livid with Piet for endangering the boys etc.
8. Student's own answer, e.g., Billy has seen the 4x4 somewhere else.

Chapter 20

1. They have two. Moamba has a rifle, and Lebadi has Thandi's rifle.
2. The nightjar frightens both the boy and Billy, showing that the two boys are close by each other now, which means a showdown with the poachers will happen soon.
3. Lebadi's role is to obey Moamba – in other words, he is subservient. Moamba is the leader. We know this because Lebadi asks questions, which shows he does not have all the knowledge that the leader does, e.g., "Why did the mhlungu not come with us? How will we get the horn to him?" (p. 87) Moamba uses commands, showing he is leader, e.g., "We go this way" (p. 87).
4. The aim behind these words is to make the reader anxious about what is going to happen next. If Moamba is holding his gun ready, he is about to shoot. The reader is tense because he or she doesn't know if Moamba will in fact shoot. If he shoots, will he hit the rhino? Will the rhino be killed?
5. The words "some big rocks" form a sentence fragment (an incomplete sentence) because there is no verb (doing word). A complete sentence must contain a verb. The verb has been left out because only the most essential words have been

included to show what the boy can see. Any extra words have been left out to make the writing very tight in structure, which makes the scene more exciting and tense.

Chapter 21

1. The poachers fired the shots.
2. Here are the key points of the battle:
 - The rhino is shot by the poachers and falls down.
 - Karel turns the Land Rover headlights and spotlight on, and the poachers are blinded.
 - Piet orders the poachers to drop their weapons.
 - One of the poachers shoots at Piet.
 - The second poacher runs to the rhino with his knife to cut out the horn.
 - Vusi drives at the poacher in the Land Rover.
 - The poacher jumps out of the way, and Karel orders him onto the ground.
 - The other poacher grabs Vusi.
 - The unnamed boy hits the poacher with the handle of his axe, saving Vusi.
3. This chapter illustrates how destructive poaching is. Firstly, it is destructive to the victims; in this scene, the rhino is shot and would have died if he hadn't been rescued. Secondly, poaching is destructive to poachers; Moamba and Lebadi are both arrested. Thirdly, poaching can be destructive to those trying to stop poaching; Piet is shot at, and Vusi could have been badly injured or killed.
4. Billy shouts a warning at Karel to show him that the second poacher wants to cut off the rhino's horn. Vusi, however, takes a more active role; he drives straight at the second poacher. Once the second poacher has been caught, Vusi jumps out of the vehicle whereas Billy stays where he is and is starting to advise Vusi to do the same when Vusi is captured.
5. Vusi is brave but also impulsive and perhaps doesn't always think about the consequences of his actions.
6. He needs to have a way of forcing Piet and Karel to let him go without being shot.
7. Student's own answer. One possibility is that Vusi could have been badly injured or killed. The poacher may have got away.

8. It is night-time, which creates a sense of danger as it is harder to see what is happening. The scene is set near the old grave, which also creates a feeling of danger as graves are associated with death. There are rocks and trees, which add to the excitement and drama as they provide a place for people to hide and attack. Piet hides behind the rocks and threatens the poachers from there. The boy comes out from the trees to attack Lebadi.
9. The axe is symbolic of poaching as it is sometimes used to cut out the horn. It is also symbolic of the suffering poaching causes (see discussion on this under the “Symbols” section). It is symbolic of the boy’s determination to turn away from poaching that he uses the axe, which represents poaching and all its suffering, to defeat the poacher. He is figuratively throwing away the suffering caused by poaching just as he literally throws away the axe. He is choosing a different life.
10. The boy has clearly shown that he values life and cares about others simply because they are human. This is seen in his concern for Thandi and now again for Vusi, whom he saves because he doesn’t want him to get hurt. Perhaps this scene also shows that the boy has learnt to value himself enough to do whatever is necessary to escape poaching.

Chapter 22

1. The armed men only arrive after the rhino has been saved and the poachers defeated.
2. Moamba has his hands behind his head; the boy hit Lebadi.
3. The captain is angry that the boys are there, that Karel is there and that Piet allowed civilians to be at the scene of the battle.
4. This shows that Billy values life and cares about animals more than he cares about whether someone gets angry with him.
5. Without the boys, the poachers could have taken the horn and escaped. The rhino would probably have died. Instead, the poachers were arrested, and the rhino will survive.
6. He took a huge risk as he could easily have been arrested. He could also have been injured by Lebadi. His behaviour shows the courage it takes to make good choices (Theme 3)

7. Student's own answer. Possible answers:

Karel is found to be involved with poaching.

OR

Karel knows who the real poachers are. (Remember, it was Karel who told Piet that he should go to the Voortrekker grave.)

Chapter 23

1. His brother has been taken in for questioning.
- 2.

Positive experiences	Negative experiences
Vusi was very brave.	Vusi's driving at the poacher was insane and could have killed both him and Billy.
The Mozambican poacher, who had killed many rhinos, has been caught.	Piet is in big trouble with the captain. He may be reprimanded/cautioned.
The night was "terrific".	Piet's brother, Karel, has been taken in for questioning.

3. The game drive was supposed to just be a short, fairly uneventful trip – "just to the dam" (p. 99). Instead, the irony is that the opposite was true. It turned out to be a long, very eventful trip in which Thandi was captured by poachers, the teenagers had to hide in a donga, Billy and Vusi helped Piet and Karel to capture the poachers and the rhino was saved.
4. Piet says, "We believe that there may even be people in SANParks involved" (p. 100).
5. Jabu is very academic and studious. Even in the donga, Jabu asked Thandi for information on wildlife; for instance, Jabu says, "She is so interesting. I've got a lot of material for my blog" (p. 101).
6. Schalk says that he needs to find out what's going on regarding Karel.

7. The boys think that the girls want to know all about their adventure. In actual fact, ironically, the opposite is true. The girls actually want to tell Billy and Vusi *their* news - that they believe Karel is the middleman.

Chapter 24

1. Jabu defines middleman when she says, “[H]e’s the guy who gets the horns out of the country and sells them. You know, to people in the East” (p. 104).
2. She is very determined to achieve what she wants to do and doesn’t mind breaking rules in order to get her own way. Some might see her as a bit self-interested as well as dishonest for hacking into a laptop that is someone else’s property.
3. Surina found a list of accounts for a product being sold by the kilogramme. The accounts contained names and addresses, and most of the places were in Vietnam and Thailand. She and Jabu also found pictures of rhino horns.
4. Billy doesn’t think that accounts and photos are enough proof that Karel is involved with poaching. His explanation is that perhaps Karel is conducting research.
5. Student’s own answer. My own feeling is that Billy is right. Finding accounts and pictures of horns doesn’t provide much evidence that Karel is involved in poaching.

Chapter 25

1. People stop talking. Some of the task team members glance at Piet and then look away. Some of them look down and pretend they haven’t seen Piet.
2. “His brother had been taken in for questioning” (p. 108).
3. Karel would never take part in poaching because he loves the bush and cares about protecting wildlife.
4. He shows Piet the picture to show that he has evidence that Karel hasn’t always tried to protect animals. In the picture, he shot and killed a buck. Shooting a buck that belongs to your farm is, however, very different from shooting and killing an

endangered animal to sell for profit. Most farmers shoot some of their buck, either to keep numbers down or for food/to sell. This is not poaching; the animals belong to them, and they are not endangered. For these reasons, the captain's point isn't really valid. Even rangers may sometimes need to kill animals, for instance, if they have become a threat to humans.

5. Piet says that Karel shot the buck because their father used to sometimes shoot buck on their farm to make biltong. Karel was very young, only fifteen, and that was the only buck he ever shot.
6. Piet defends his brother and says Karel is innocent. His conversation shows that he is loyal to his family and that he really loves his brother even though recently they haven't been as close as they were.
7. Student's own answer. My answer would probably be "no" if the reason for the suspension is Karel's possible involvement in poaching - the investigation is into Karel, not Piet, so there doesn't seem to be valid reason to suspend him. On the other hand, if Piet is being suspended for allowing civilians to be involved with the shootout with the poachers, then I would say his suspension is valid because he put the lives of two young boys at risk. According to Captain Dlamini, Piet should take time off "until this has been cleared up" (p. 110), so it sounds as though the reason for the suspension is Karel's possible involvement with poaching – in which case the reasons for the suspension don't seem fair. Perhaps, though, both reasons are underlying causes of the suspension. This possibility is suggested at the end of the book, when the captain says it has been decided to forgive Piet for ignoring a clear order (p. 142).

Chapter 26

1. They open the door of Karel's rondavel, which is unlocked. Billy uses his torch to search around the room. They look on the table and on/under the bed, in the cupboard and bathroom and on the shelves, but the laptop isn't there.
2. Jabu and Surina were also going to look for the laptop.
3. Here, Vusi jokes that he is "bushed" – which means exhausted. However, this word also refers to the bush/nature, and the boys have just been wandering through the bush in the Kruger National Park, so Vusi is jokingly referring to this

too. He is “bushed” (tired) because they have been wandering through the bush! This pun is typical of Vusi’s character; he is always full of jokes and fun, even when exhausted!

4. Schalk speaks to Billy.
5. Surina is annoyed because Vusi laughed at Surina for being so attached to her phone. Jabu is annoyed that Vusi didn’t take the iPhone on the game drive; then they could have called for help.
6. Student’s own answer. A student may note that Schalk’s vehicle looks familiar to Billy – he saw a 4x4 in the night when he and Vusi were trying to walk back to camp.
7. Student’s own answer. Possible answers:

Yes, they were justified because they believed the laptop might have evidence to prove/disprove that Karel was a poacher. Proving Karel was guilty or else clearing his name would be reason enough to justify looking through his rondavel.

OR

No, they are civilians and do not have the right to search Karel’s accommodation. This is the job of the police.

Chapter 27

1. It is very quiet. Most of the staff have gone although a few are still there having coffee.
2. Piet is upset and frustrated because he has been ordered to take time off just when he most wants to be at work – because poachers have been caught and because he is worried about his brother, who may or may not be involved in poaching.
3. He kicks the wastepaper basket because he feels powerless and angry; this is a way of venting (expressing) his emotions.
4. The subject line is empty – just as it was in the previous e-mails from Hornblower.
5. Student’s own answer. My answer would be yes. Piet is worried about his brother and cares deeply about stopping the poachers, but he feels powerless to do

anything because he has been told to take leave. This leaves him feeling frustrated and depressed. I think anyone would feel like this in these circumstances.

Chapter 28

1. Billy sees Surina.
2. Billy may not be able to sleep because he is overexcited. It is also possible that he is being kept awake by the fact that something about the evening is bothering Billy and he can't work out what.
3. Surina saw a photo of horns on Karel's computer, and it looked like they were in a bus with the Wild2Save logo on it.
4. The smell is coming from Schalk's dark blue Toyota Raider 4x4.
5. In a bildungsroman, the main character grows and becomes more mature. At the start of the story, Billy is very shy and concerned about how other people view him. He was barely able to talk to Surina. Now, Billy is much more confident and feels comfortable being with Surina – "as if he'd known her forever" (p. 117).
6. It is probably Schalk or Bokkie who is holding the gun because the vehicle belongs to them. If Karel is innocent, then it can only be Schalk or Bokkie or both of them who are guilty.
7. Onomatopoeia means that a word sounds like its meaning. In the above extract, "creak" sounds like the noise of a door creaking. This is effective in helping the reader to visualise (picture) the door opening threateningly. This image will also keep the reader tense and wanting to read more, which makes the writing effective too.

Chapter 29

1. The middlemen are Bokkie and Schalk Kriek – and it looks like possibly Karel too at this stage. Later, his role in exposing the Krieks is revealed.

2. Schalk and Bokkie cannot leave Billy and Surina behind as they will tell Captain Dlamini that the Krieks are involved in poaching. They decide that Billy and Surina have to go with them to prevent them from talking.
3. Karel came hurrying after the vehicle.
4. “Bokkie” means little buck, which suggests that Bokkie is sweet and gentle, which is how she appeared up until now. However, the name is ironic as in actual fact, Bokkie is a middleman who has been responsible for the deaths of the rhinos she supposedly wanted to conserve. Billy thinks that Bokkie is, in reality, more like a hyena than a little buck.
5. He realises that people like the Krieks, who use animals to make money (e.g., by commissioning poachers to kill rhinos for their horns), would not care about the lion cubs and were probably going to use them for “canned lion hunting” (p. 122), which means that when the lions are grown up, the right to shoot them is sold to rich people wanting a lion’s head as a trophy.
6. The word “quickly” is an indication that Schalk is lying and that he was intending to abandon Karel. People often talk quickly when they are not telling the truth because they are nervous they will get found out. Schalk carries on talking quickly because he knows he is lying and suspects that Karel knows too because Karel “kept quiet”.
7. The plan was not very realistic as it could easily have gone wrong. Schalk might have managed to slam the door in time to protect himself, or the teenagers may have mistimed the attack or aimed the horn incorrectly. Even though the attack was successful, there were still two other adults to stop them from escaping.
8. The word “run” is repeated. This repetition is effective because it shows how urgent it is that they try to escape as quickly as possible – repeating the word emphasises its importance.

Chapter 30

1. They have just tried to escape, so she wants them in a position from which they can’t easily get away while she checks on her husband.
2. Because Schalk is not able to fly the helicopter, they will have to drive.
3. Karel is pointing a pistol at her.

4. Karel has been working undercover to try to prove the Krieks were involved in poaching. That was the reason that he joined Wild2Save. He couldn't say anything because he wasn't sure if members of the task team were working with the Krieks. Karel was Hornblower.
5. This reveals that Billy values life, even when it is the life of someone who herself does not care about others.
6. Student's own answer, e.g., I wouldn't have shot at Bokkie because I might have accidentally hit someone else/because I would have been scared of killing her.

OR

I would have shot at her because otherwise she could have got away etc.

7. At the shootout, the reinforcements arrived a bit late as the poachers had already been caught. In this scene, the helicopter arrives on time as it is needed to chase after Bokkie.
8. The obvious reason they are laughing is that Bokkie managed to hit the only tree in the area. The underlying reason that they are laughing is that they are so relieved that they are safe from the woman who had threatened them with a rifle. The laughing is a way to get out all the emotion and stress that had built up in them while they were being held captive.

Chapter 31

1. The boy is trying to get to the fence because if he gets through, he will presumably be outside the Kruger Park and will be safe.
2. The boy responded instinctively – without thinking. He was anxious as he untied his belt with shaking fingers. He took the axe, moving quickly, and hit Lebadi over the back of his head.
3. The boy's response shows his courage in standing up for another boy his age. It also shows that he values life and this value was deeply rooted inside him because when Vusi was threatened, he didn't even have to think; he just acted.
4. There were two motives. One was the obvious reason – to save Vusi. On another level, the boy realised that this was his one opportunity to escape from the poaching life that he hated so much.

5. Moamba taught the boy how to move so that he wouldn't be seen or heard. Moamba meant him to move this way so that he could help the poachers without getting caught. Here, the irony is that the boy has used the skills Moamba taught him not to help the poachers but to stop the poachers.
6. The words "snatched" and "ripped" are examples of personification – where something that is not a person (branches/thorns) are described as though they are people (they are snatching and ripping at the boy). This personification creates a very vivid image (a clear picture) of how frightened the boy is; he feels like even the branches and thorns are attacking and grabbing at him.
7. Now that the boy has left poaching, he will no longer have money to give to his grandmother for food. This makes his choice very brave because he won't know yet how he is going to make more money.
8. All he can think about is his grandmother and his sisters. He doesn't think about the poachers. This shows that he values his family. This is more important to him than anything.

Chapter 32

1. Jabu distrusted the Krieks from the moment she noticed the kudu horns on their wall.
2. They had an illegal hunting business in Limpopo, they offered canned lion hunting in the Free State and they then started Wild2Save as a cover for their poaching activities.
3. Canned lion hunting means that lions are bred for the purpose of selling them to be shot by "hunters". The lions are drugged to make it even easier for them to be shot and killed.
4. Surina dropped her cap on the ground when Schalk forced her to get into his vehicle. She hoped that someone would see it. Jabu found Thandi and told her that something was wrong when she discovered Surina's cap and realised that both she and Billy were not in bed. Thandi contacted Captain Dlamini via walkie-talkie.
5. It increases Billy's admiration of Surina. He already knew she was beautiful. Now he is even more impressed because he realises she is clever too.

6. Karel realised that things were happening fast with the Krieks. He needed to contact someone trustworthy who would act on his information, so he e-mailed Piet.
7. In a bildungsroman, the most important character grows as a person. In the beginning of the book, Billy is very shy, and although he likes Surina, he is scared of talking to her. By the end of the book, after the poachers are defeated, Billy has become much more self-assured; he has grown as a person. In this extract, he remembers that he has rescued a rhino, that he helped to catch the poachers and that Surina rested her head on his shoulder. These things all show that he is a new, stronger person. He is no longer so shy and can believe that Surina would be interested in him.
8. The nameless boy also develops during the novel. We see that because of his need for money, he joined the poachers. Working with them causes him stress and anxiety, and at the end of the story, he has grown enough to have the courage to hit Lebadi and save Vusi. He runs away from Kruger, leaving behind his life of poaching forever.
9. Captain Dlamini arranges bursaries for the teenagers, forgives Piet for ignoring orders and welcomes Karel back as a ranger and new member of the task team. These actions show that he cares about justice and recognising the service of others.
10. A metaphor compares two things without using the words "like" or "as". The captain uses an effective metaphor here because there are many similarities between war and the struggle against the poachers. A war usually develops because two groups/countries want the same thing, such as land or, in this case, the rhinos. The poachers want to kill the rhinos, and the rangers want to protect the rhinos. A war also involves fighting and weapons and involves death. In the struggle against poaching, both sides are armed and sometimes people die trying to kill or protect the rhinos. A war also often involves traitors, who will betray their country. In the poaching struggle, sometimes corrupt people working in conservation will betray the animals they are supposed to protect and become involved in poaching.

Chapter 33

1. They are going to go on a game drive.
2. Billy and Vusi can become game rangers. Jabu can qualify as a conservation journalist and photographer. (It is not clear what Surina's career dreams are although she is excited about having her studies paid for.)
3. He wants to tell his mother and uncle about everything that happened that weekend because it is so incredible: catching the poachers and the middlemen and obtaining a bursary.
4. This shows that Surina is also interested in Billy.
5. The moon is described in positive terms as "bright", "clear" and "beautiful". Ironically, it is the qualities that make the moon so beautiful (its clearness and brightness) that make it so "deadly" for rhinos as it is when the moon is at its brightest that the rhino can be most easily seen by poachers.

Study guide glossary

Alliteration: Alliteration is the repetition of consonant sounds, e.g., the clinging, climbing creeper.

Bildungsroman: This is a story in which the main character grows during the story and becomes a better person. In this story, both Billy and the boy develop as characters.

Characters: These are the people in a book/story, such as Billy, Vusi, Jabu, the boy, Moamba, Lebadi, Surina, Bokkie, Schalk, Karel, Piet, Thandi and Captain Dlamini.

Climax: The climax is the most dramatic/exciting part of a story.

Conflict: Conflict is tension or arguing. There are two kinds of conflict: internal conflict and external conflict. See “external conflict” and “internal conflict” for explanations of these terms.

Empathy/empathise: Empathy means understanding other people’s pain and feeling the pain as if it were your own pain.

External conflict: This is conflict (arguing/tension) between people. For example, there is conflict between the poachers and the SANParks rangers.

Figuratively: See “literally versus figuratively” below.

Flashbacks: A character has flashbacks when he or she has memories of the past. For instance, the boy remembers how he came to work for Moamba.

Foreshadow: To foreshadow is to hint at what is going to happen later in a story.

Genre: This is the type of story which has been written, such as a bildungsroman or a thriller.

Internal conflict: This is conflict (arguing/tension) inside a person. For example, the boy feels torn between (1) working for the poachers because he is scared to leave and needs the money and (2) hating his job and wanting to leave.

Irony/ironic: Irony means that we say or do something but the opposite is true/the opposite happens. For instance, the Krieks think that Karel is working for them, but he is actually undercover trying to expose their involvement in poaching.

Literally versus figuratively: Literally means something is a fact/true, e.g., The axe is *literally* heavy on the boy's shoulders – it is hurting his shoulders. Figuratively means something that is true but in a more abstract way/not a fact, e.g., The axe is figuratively “heavy” in that it represents the heaviness and suffering that poaching has brought into the boy's life.

Metaphor: This is a comparison that is made without using “like” or “as”. For example, Kruger Park is described as “a huge supermarket” for poachers.

Milieu: See “setting” below.

Mood: The mood of a story is its tone/the feeling that a story creates in readers.

Narrator: This is the person telling the story. A **third person narrator** is someone outside of the story telling the reader what happened.

Onomatopoeia: Onomatopoeia happens when a word sounds like its meaning. For instance, the word “buzz” sounds like the noise that bees make.

Personification: When something that is not a person acts like a person, this is personification. An example would be “the sun *smiled* down on them” as the sun is acting like a person.

Plot: The plot is the related events that together form a story.

Protagonist: The protagonist is the main character in the story. In *The Boy and the Poacher's Moon*, the main character is Billy although the nameless boy also has an important role.

Pun: A pun is a play on words that share the same sound but have different meanings, e.g., "I decided not to buy lamb; if I do, I won't be able to make ends *meat*" (joking about the cost of meat). The correct expression is *to make ends meet*.

Sentence fragment: A sentence fragment is an incomplete sentence.

Setting: The setting or milieu is where and when the story takes place. This story takes place mostly in the Kruger National Park in South Africa over a weekend.

Short novel: A short novel is a book that is shorter in length than a novel. It tells a story that reveals a message or theme(s) to the reader. A short novel also contains conflict that is usually resolved (solved/sorted out) by the end of the novel.

Simile: This is a comparison using "like" or "as": An example would be this description of Bokkie: "She did look like a little buck."

Substantiate: To substantiate means to give a reason/reasons/evidence to support your answer or opinion.

Symbols/symbolism/symbolic: A symbol is something that we can see or touch that represents something that we can't see or touch. For instance, in this book, the owl represents danger.

Theme: The theme of a story is the message behind a story. A key theme of *The Boy and the Poacher's Moon* is the danger and destructiveness of poaching.

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