

## Finders Keepers Chapters 3 and 4

### Theme

#### Prejudice and Tolerance

Discuss the two aspects of the theme “Prejudice versus Tolerance” that are prevalent in this extract. Page 28 to 29 Refer to “Mrs Jantjies says if ‘you people’ ...” to “overwhelms me and I want to cry.”

On pg. 28 Mrs Jantjies says, “You people better be careful. If you brake the strike, I can’t guarantee you will be safe here.” This is a threat. Mrs Jantjies means that someone (it could be herself) will tell the other strikers that the Mukwevhos are not joining the strike. Then they will be punished.

“You people” is a way of showing that the Mukwevhos are not the same as everyone else in the township. “You people” is an unkind way of making someone feel different and like they do not belong. Because they come from Venda and then Johannesburg, people do not think they belong in their new community in Cape Town. The community and Mrs Jantjies are prejudiced against the Muvhevhos.

#### Structural elements of importance

#### Dialogue

Dialogue (talking aloud between characters) is a quick way for the writer to get information to the reader. We also get an idea of the characters’ personalities, by how they speak and what they say. On page 28 Mma Mukwevho and Lufuno are talking to each other about Mrs Jantjies’s prejudice. She has said to them: “You people go to that funny church...” and “You people cook that funny food and speak a funny language...” The direct quotes from Mrs Jantjies’s speech tell us her low opinions and negative judgements about anyone different to herself. Mrs Jantjies is prejudiced.

*What sort of person is Mrs Jantjies? Is she likeable and sympathetic? Why or why not?*

Mrs Jantjies is an awful character – completely unlikable. She is nosy, deceitful, greedy and insensitive. She threatens the family about not joining the strike. She gives people small presents (like potatoes) and then makes them feel as if they own her a great deal.

*Why do people try to conform (be like other people?)*

*Do you think everyone should be the same (fit in and conform)?*

People try to conform for lots of different reasons:

- \* Maybe they are afraid of being teased or bullied.
- \* Maybe they are not confident in themselves, so they would rather be like other people around them.
- \* Maybe they are still trying to be liked by other people.

OR

No, our differences are what makes us special.

*What is a hypocrite?*

A hypocrite is someone who does the opposite of what they say – someone who “does not practice what they preach”. They have a double standard: one rule for themselves and a much stricter rule for others.

*How is Mrs Jantjies a hypocrite?*

Mrs Jantjies is a hypocrite because she is a deceitful and judgemental person. If anyone in the community is inferior, it is herself – because she cheats people.

Example: She sold plants to Chantelle’s mother without roots.

She hates foreigners or people who look different, but she is happy to make money off them by renting out her shack.

These words give the reader extra information /detail about the characters.

Page 29. Baba “looks grey from tiredness and there are rings around his eyes.” This tells us how weary and worn out Baba is after a long day working in the bread factory. We also understand how tired he must be about the whole situation: trying to keep his family safe, fed, educated and under one roof. We have sympathy for the character.

**Page 22. “‘Euphemism,’ I say.” to “...that he will give my bracelet back.”**

A euphemism is a nicer way to say something that is not nice. (unpleasant)

*What is Mandla saying about Sindi when he refers to her as “challenging”?*  
He is saying that it is difficult to get along with her.

*What evidence is there in this extract that Mandla is not in love with Sindi?*  
He makes a joke about her with Lufuno.