

Finders Keepers

Chapter 1

Theme: Prejudice versus Tolerance.

In the Prologue, we see that the Mukwevho's home has been burned by other strikers who are angry that Mr and Mrs Mukwevho have not stayed home from work at the bread factory. The strikers also target the family because they have darker skin than they do, and thus look different. The community is prejudiced against the Mukwevhos – they target them because they are different from the other people in the community. The strikers do not show tolerance and respect towards the family. The fire is very serious: it could have killed the Mukwevhos. Here we see how serious effects of prejudice can be. We understand that prejudice has the power to kill people.

In this chapter the following structural elements have importance.

- **First person narration**

The action is from Lufuno's point of view.

She speaks in the first person. She says "I" and "we".

The advantage of first-person narration is that it is detailed and intimate (we feel like we know the character well). It is as if we are in her head: we know her thoughts and feelings.

- **Descriptive language**

There are lots of adjectives and descriptions of the setting. They help us to picture the action vividly and strongly.

Page 5. Tshilidzi shows Lufuno a butterfly. "I remember the colour of its wings: brown with a yellow and orange pattern." This tells us that Lufuno is an observant and imaginative, dreamy person. She says: "In my dreams I see a butterfly escaping from its cage of fingers." When Lufuno looks at human fingers, their shape reminds her of the bars of a cage.

- **Idiom**

Page 4. "When Mr Guineafowl dies his children scatter..."

Just as an adult guinea fowl takes care of the young ones so does people. But, we all need a leader and without one people tend to go their own ways.

People have to make an effort to stay together and take care of each other.

Concluding discussion

Do you think that remembering the past helps us or hinders us in our lives?

Remembering can be useful if those memories are good, happy ones. It can help us get through difficult times.

What happens if we think too much about the past?

Sometimes memories hinder us, like when we feel as if the past was better than the present. Then we cannot move on and get on with our lives. Lufuno has a hard time letting go of her friend Dudu. This may prevent her from moving on and making new friends.

In your opinion, should Lufuno be spending more time remembering her past, or thinking about the present?

Teacher's answer. Lufuno should be moving on. Her past has shaped her, but she has to concentrate on living in a new city, and going to a new school. She should not let her sadness about Dudu stop her from making new friends.

Refer to "I role my eyes; I know what is coming" to "I know I am being rude..." on page 5**Discuss the suitability of Lufuno's attitude towards her mother in these lines.**

Lufuno's attitude is appropriate because she is a teenager and she is nervous, so it is normal for her to be a bit rude to her mother.

Or

Lufuno's attitude is appropriate because she is a teenager and she is nervous about going to a new school, so it is normal for her to be a bit rude to her mother.