

FINDERS KEEPERS

CHAPTER 2

THEME

Prejudice versus Tolerance

The gang of boys who stops Lufuno on her way to school wants to know if she can speak English. (pg.11) They can see that she has darker skin than the local schoolchildren, and that she is walking on her own. To the boys, Lufuno looks weak and defenseless – easily bullied because she is different. They are prejudiced against her. They try to steal her bracelet.

When Lufuno gets to school, she is also bullied because she looks different from the other learners. Sindi, a mean girl at school, becomes jealous of the attention that Mandla gives to Lufuno. Sindi feels like the attention should be coming to her instead. She bullies Lufuno to make herself feel better, and try to get Mandla's attention back onto her. We see in this chapter that being different is not easy because of the prejudices people have.

STRUCTURAL ELEMENTS THAT HAVE IMPORTANCE IN CHAPTER 2

Code-mixing

The writer, Rosamund Haden, uses a mixture of languages(codes) in this novel.

Here she uses a combination of English and Isixhosa. In South Africa, many people speak multiple languages and they mix their languages when they speak. The author has written, using multiple languages to reflect how the characters would actually speak. This technique helps the reader to imagine how the characters sound and makes the characters sound as they would in real life.

Idiom

Writers use idiomatic language,

- to give colour and detail to a description
- to give a deeper meaning to what is being written or said

On page 11, Sindi looks at Lufuno “with daggers in her eyes”. She does not really have knives in her eyeballs. This is a way of saying that she is looking angrily and hatefully (as if she could kill) at Lufuno.

Title

The title of the book is taken from Mandla saying, “Finders keepers” when he picks up Lufuno's bracelet. He wants to keep it so that he can have more contact with

Luduno. The full saying is, "Finders keepers, losers weepers". (Lucky for those finding something because they can keep it, but too bad for those who lose it.)

What is your opinion of this saying? Is it fair?

Discuss the appropriateness of the title of the novel with the knowledge you have so far.

The title of the novel seems appropriate because there has been a literal loss and finding: Lufuno has lost her bracelet and Mandla keeps it.