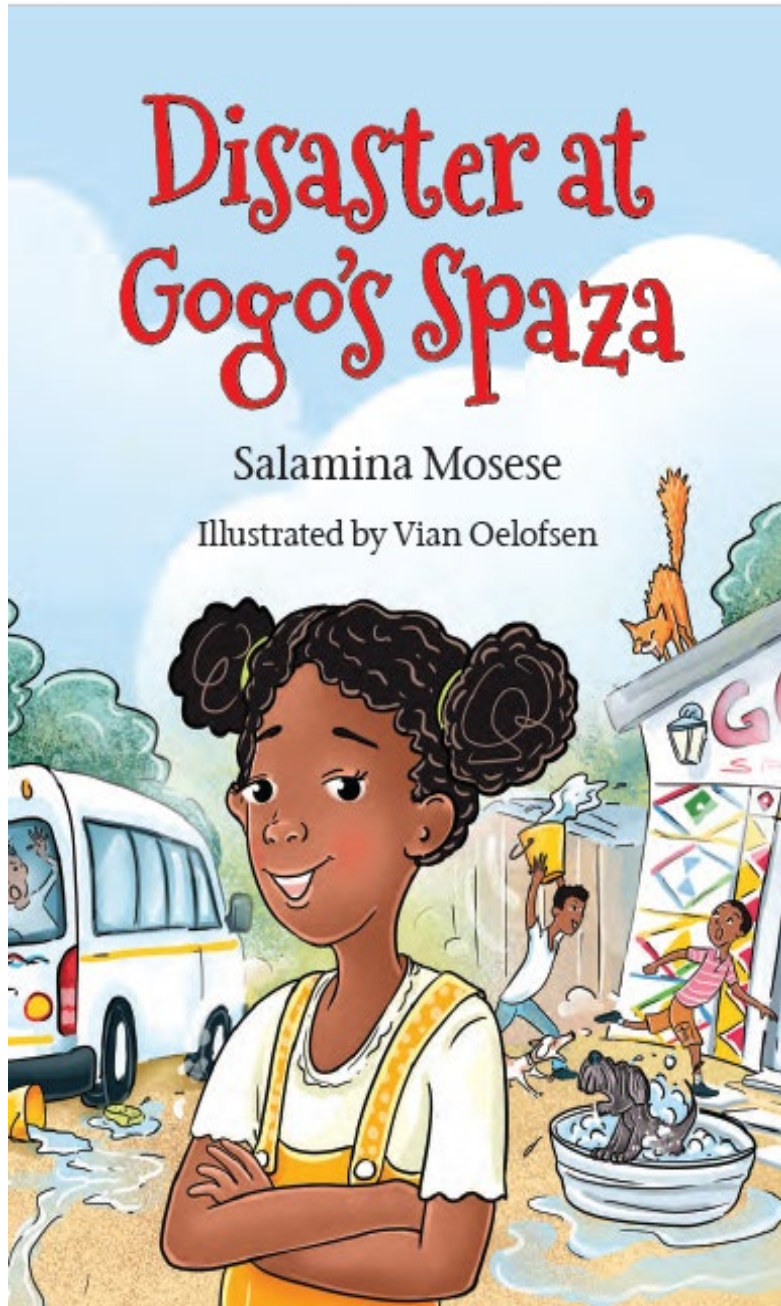


Disaster at Gogo's Spaza

by

Salamina Mosese

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A study guide for Grade 4 to 5 (home language)

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Compiled by Carolyn Morton

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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 *Disaster at Gogo's Spaza*.

The genre: Characteristics of realistic fiction/adventure stories

The word genre refers to what type of story a book is. *Disaster at Gogo's Spaza* is **realistic fiction** because it is about "events [that] could happen in [the] real world" with characters that "seem real" (Ashland University, n.d., Children's Literature Genres section). For example, the story takes place in a township in Soweto and is about a spaza shop, with which many South African readers will be familiar. Like many children in South Africa, the main characters in this story are staying with their grandmother.

Disaster at Gogo's Spaza is also an **adventure story**. According to *Collins English Dictionary* (n.d.), "if someone has an adventure, they become involved in an unusual, exciting, and rather dangerous journey or series of events." In this story, the children experience adventure because they have new, exciting experiences and face challenges that they have to overcome.

Short biography: Salamina Mosese



Salamina Mosese is well-known in South Africa as a multitalented TV presenter, actress, model and producer: The shows for which she has been presenter have included *CRAZe* and *Top Billing*. She has acted both in local television productions, such as *7de Laan* and *Abo Mzala*, and in *Beat the Drum*, which won 30 international awards. As a model, she has become known for her work with prominent companies such as McDonald's. Recently, she was producer of *Baby Mamas*, in which she also starred.

In addition to her acting skills, Salamina has a strong academic record, and after obtaining a BA in Corporate Communications at UJ, she also completed a postgraduate qualification in business management.

While her childhood was spent in Limpopo, Salamina later moved to Soweto, where she lived with her grandmother. This time spent in Soweto developed her love of the township and motivated the setting for *Disaster at Gogo's Spaza*. The main characters of her story were inspired by her nieces and nephews and her own daughter, to whom she read her book during lockdown.

The three stages of reading

Pre-reading

The first stage of reading is pre-reading, which happens before you actually read the book. According to the Department of Basic Education (2011, p. 10), pre-reading involves the following activities:

- *Activating prior knowledge*
- *Looking at the source, author, and publication date.*
- *Reading the first and last paragraphs of a section.*
- *Making predictions.*

You will be doing similar pre-reading activities in this study guide.

Reading

This is the actual reading part, where you read the story. Here are some important tips from the Department of Basic Education (2011, pp. 10-11), which have been paraphrased below:

- Give yourself time to make sure you understand what you are reading.

- Imagine the story as you are reading it.
- Think about whether the story is developing as you thought it would.
- Sometimes, you may not understand something. Try re-reading a difficult section, or ask for help if you need it. Even if you still don't understand everything, don't stop reading!!

Post-reading

There are different methods that you can use to reflect back on what you have read and what you have learned from your reading. The list below paraphrases suggestions from the Department of Basic Education (2011, p. 11):

- Draw a picture or graph, or summarise/outline key points about what you read.
- Make conclusions about what you read. Do you agree with the actions of the characters, for instance?
- Did you understand the story? Do you have any questions about what you read?
- Evaluate the story. Is it good? What do you like about it? Is there anything that you disagree with?

In this study guide, there are post-reading questions to help you reflect back on your reading.

Pre-reading activities

Before starting to read the actual story, it is helpful to have a look at the outside of the book: The **title**, the **front cover**, the **spine** and the **back cover** can help us understand the story. The **copyright page** tells us more about the making of the book and who owns its content: who printed it, who holds the copyright to it and so on.

Let's start by looking at the **title**, *Disaster at Gogo's Spaza*.

Pre-reading questions

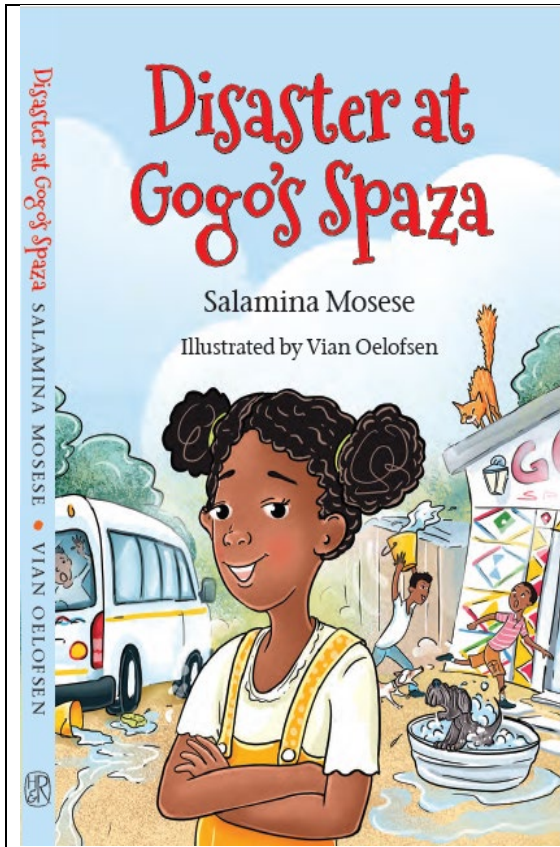
1. What information does the title reveal about where the book takes place?
2. What makes the title stand out?
3. What information does the first word of the title reveal about the kind of book this is?
4. Why would readers like a book about disasters?

Suggested answers

1. The title tells us that the story takes place at a spaza shop. According to *Collins English Dictionary* (n.d.), the word *spaza* is "South African slang for a small shop in a township", so the title reveals the setting (where the story happens) – the story takes place in a South African township.

We also know that the story happens in South Africa because of the word *Gogo*, which is a South African word for grandmother.
2. The title stands out because of the size and colour of the text – the title is in large, clear writing, and the letters are bright red. The title is also written in a fun font, e.g., each "s" has a twirl at the end. This also makes the title more noticeable.
3. The word *disaster* means that everything goes wrong, so this word suggests that this is an exciting book full of adventures.
4. In order to keep people reading, a book needs to contain conflict/problems. People like reading about conflict because they want to know how the conflict will be solved. The word *disasters* suggests that there is going to be lots of conflict and will grab the interest of readers who want to find out what the disasters are and how they are sorted out.

Now, let's have a look at the front cover and spine in the table below.



Pre-reading questions

1. Who wrote the book *Disaster at Gogo's Spaza*?
2. Who drew the pictures for the book?
3. Have a look at the spine of the book, on the left-hand side. Why do you think that information on the front cover is repeated on the spine?
4. The spine of the book also tells us about the publisher of the book. Who published this book?
5. Based on the front cover, who do you think the main characters might be?
6. What sort of person do you think the little girl is, based on the illustration (picture)?
7. Based on the illustrations, what are some of the disasters that you think might happen at Gogo's spaza?
8. Based on the cover picture, what do you think the tone of the book will be? Why?

Suggested answers

1. Salamina Mosese is the author.
2. The illustrator is Vian Oelofsen.
3. If the book is stacked on a bookshelf with other books, only the spine will be visible, so the spine needs to tell readers the most important information about the book: Its title, the author and the illustrator.
4. The letters "H" and "R" stand for Human & Rousseau, which is the name of the company which published the book.
5. Based on the title, Gogo could be an important person in the book. The little girl on the cover looks like she is the main character because she is placed in the foreground (front) and is the biggest person on the cover. One or more of the boys in the background might also play an important role.
6. Student's own answer. For instance, the little girl's hairstyle suggests she is young and innocent. The way she is smiling and folding her arms makes her look clever, calm and in control, compared to the boy in the chaotic background who is chasing another boy. The little girl's smile suggests she has a sense of humour.
7. Student's own answer. For instance, students might refer to disasters involving (1) a minibus and spilt water (2) pets/animals and (3) children throwing water at each other.
8. The tone suggested by the picture on the front cover is humorous/funny/entertaining. One reason for this tone is that the drawings are cartoon-style, and cartoons are associated with humour. The boy throwing water at someone could also be part of a funny situation. The use of colours also suggests a humorous tone as the colours are light blues and greens and bright yellow/orange/red, which creates a fun, happy atmosphere.

The **back cover's** main aim is to get people to read the book. It needs to grab the reader's attention and make him or her realise that this is a book well worth reading!

The back cover has several different parts to it:

There is a short summary of what the story is about called the **blurb**. Although this tells the reader the main idea of what the story is about, it doesn't give away too much information; otherwise, the reader wouldn't need to read the book to find out what happens.

At the bottom of the back cover, the name of the **publisher** is given, as well as their **logo** and their **Facebook page**.

The **ISBN number** is given at the bottom, along with the **website** of the book's publisher.

<p>Gogo's Goodies is one of the oldest spazas in all of Soweto and Gogo's pride and joy.</p> <p>So when Gogo goes away for a few days and closes the shop, Tumi thinks she has the perfect plan: she and her twin cousins will open the shop and run it themselves!</p> <p>But they've never had to do it without Gogo and things quickly get out of hand, making the spaza more famous than ever...</p> <p>Human & Rousseau</p> <p>Follow us on facebook.com/NBPublishers</p> <p>ILLUSTRATED FICTION ISBN: 978-0-7961-8285-0</p> <p>9 780798 182850 www.humanrousseau.com</p>	<p>Pre-reading questions</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. What is the name of the spaza shop in this story? 2. Sum up the blurb in a maximum of 15 words. 3. There is only space for a small amount of information in the blurb. Why do you think this specific information was chosen? 4. Describe Tumi's character based on the blurb. 5. What do you think the children will learn from trying to run the spaza on their own? 6. Why are there pictures on the back cover? 7. Why has the name of the publisher been given? Why would the publisher's logo, Facebook page and website address be included? 8. What is the ISBN number? 9. What is the function of the ISBN number?
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Suggested answers

1. Gogo's Goodies is the name of the shop.
2. Disaster strikes when Tumi and her cousins try to run their grandmother's spaza shop.
3. The blurb gives **background** information (the name of the spaza shop, where it is, who it belongs to) so that the reader can understand the setting.

The blurb also includes information that suggests there is **going to be trouble** – Tumi and her cousins decide to run Gogo's shop on their own even though they have no experience. Soon, all sorts of problems arise as "things ... get out of hand", according to the back cover. People like to read about problems and conflict, so this information will make the reader **want to**

read more.

4. Tumi sounds like she is confident (maybe a bit overconfident) because she believes she and her cousins can run her grandmother's shop. She sounds like someone who works well in a team because she wants her cousins to help.
5. Student's own answer. Perhaps the children will learn the challenges of running a business. Perhaps they will learn how much Gogo does in the shop.
6. The pictures of a cat and a dog will make readers curious. They may look at the cat and dog on the front cover and wonder how the animals on the back and front cover are connected in the story. The picture of the little dog is entertaining and amusing as he is scratching his ear. This helps to create the light-hearted atmosphere of the book, which will attract readers looking for a fun story.
7. Giving the name and logo of the publisher and their Facebook page and website address is a way to encourage readers to buy more books published by Human & Rousseau.
8. The ISBN number is 978-0-7981-8285-0.
9. This is a number given to each published book to identify it – a little bit like an ID number. As explained by the Publishers' Association of South Africa (PASA) (n.d.), "The International Standard Book Number (ISBN) is a unique identification number which indicates one publication or edition of a publication, produced by a specific publisher, in one format" (ISBN Numbers section).

The **copyright page** you will find on the last page of the book. You will see this sign on the last page: © This is the copyright symbol. It means the information in the book is the property of the writer, Salamina Mosese. There is also a copyright sign next to the illustrator's name.



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an imprint of NB Publishers, a division of Media24 (Pty) Ltd,
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Copyright in text © Salamina Mosese
Copyright in illustrations © Vian Oelofsen

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Pre-reading questions

1. When was the book published?
2. Who published the book?
3. In which city is the publisher based?
4. Is anyone allowed to copy the story or the pictures in the book?
5. Who designed the cover?
6. Who did the art on the cover?
7. Who printed the book for Human & Rousseau publishers?

Suggested answers

1. The book was published in 2022.
2. Human & Rousseau, which is part of NB Publishers.

3. Cape Town.
4. No. There is a copyright sign, ©, next to the name of the author, Salamina Mosese, and another copyright sign next to the name of the illustrator, Vian Oelofsen. These copyright signs mean that the text (the story) and the pictures may not be copied.
5. The cover design was by Teresa Williams.
6. The art on the cover was done by Vian Oelofsen, the illustrator.
7. The book was printed by CTP Printers in Cape Town.

Plot

The plot is the different events that happen in the book that together create the story. The different elements of the plot are the **background** (exposition), **rising action**, **conflict**, **climax**, and **falling action/anticlimax**.

Background

Disaster at Gogo's Spaza takes place in Diepkloof, Soweto, and revolves around three children, Tumi and her cousins, the twins Mpho and Lefa. The Golden Gogos Choir, for which the children's grandmother sings, is going to represent Soweto in the National Choir finals. Tumi is disappointed because it means Gogo has to go away for a few days. This means the postponement of the children's yearly saving competition, when they see which child can save the most money. In order to carry on with the saving challenge while Gogo is gone, Tumi suggests to her cousins that the three of them run Gogo's spaza shop on their own. And so Operation Kids' Spaza begins!

Rising action

The rising action is the build-up towards the most exciting part of the story. In *Disaster at Gogo's Spaza*, the rising action happens as things begin to go wrong with the children's plan to run Gogo's spaza. At first, the problems are smaller, such as the client who doesn't get airtime, but more and more problems start to emerge: Rexy the dog runs away when the children try to give it a bath, Lefa doesn't know how to wash cars and Chief, another dog, doesn't want to get washed and later frightens Sisi. At the spaza, customers are frustrated because they are kept waiting and Tumi gives the wrong change. At the car wash, a very long queue of dirty cars waiting to be washed starts forming, and some customers ask for their money back. Even when the children get more people to help them, the chaos still grows as large numbers of people arrive expecting their children to be babysat.

Conflict: Conflict means arguing/disagreements between people (external conflict) or tension within people (internal conflict).

There is a lot of conflict between people. This **external conflict** is seen between the children. For instance, Mpho and Tumi disagree about who will be manager of Operation Kids' Spaza. There is also conflict between the children when they try to run the spaza. For example, Tumi becomes frustrated with Mpho for taking so long when she is looking for airtime for a customer, and Mpho and Tumi are annoyed with Lefa when he advertises the spaza shop on the radio: Lefa's sister, Mpho, tells him he got carried away while Tumi worries that Gogo might have heard their advert.

There is also external conflict between the customers and the children because of the children's inexperience. For instance, Tumi gives a customer the wrong change, which also leads to a disagreement between two customers. When the car wash service starts, the owners of cars waiting for their vehicles to be washed get tired of waiting and demand their money back.

When Gogo finds out what the children are doing, there is conflict between her and her grandchildren. She tells them that they need to explain what has been going on at the spaza in her absence.

There is also internal conflict. This means conflict/tension *inside* a person. For example, when Tumi sees the yard "teeming with people", she becomes so overwhelmed that she stands "frozen with her palm on her forehead" (p. 77) and is unable to speak when she opens her mouth. When the children have to face the consequences of running the spaza shop without Gogo, both Tumi and Mpho feel guilty (internal

conflict) and say sorry to their grandmother. Lefa also feels ashamed, and after first trying to blame the girls, he says sorry too.

Climax: The climax is the most exciting/dramatic part of the story. This happens when there is absolute chaos at the spaza. There are masses of cars lining the street. A loose dog is running around which chases Mpho and frightens people standing at the gate. The road the children live in is filled with people, and Lefa and his friends are having a water fight because Lefa didn't want to share the money which was made from the car wash. In the middle of this disaster, Gogo arrives.

Falling action: This refers to the part of the book where the author ties up the story. In this book, the falling action happens as Gogo takes charge and calms the chaos. For instance, she gets Silas to sort out the huge number of cars waiting for a car wash. She sends her friend Agnes to look for Tumi and Mpho. Gogo and two choir friends start serving people at her shop, and soon they have helped all the customers.

Gogo also talks to her grandchildren and tells them that they have a lot of explaining to do. She tells them who the winner of the saving challenge is and then focuses on the good that has come from Operation Kids' Spaza.

Characters

The characters are the people in the story. The important characters are the main characters. There are also minor characters, who play a less important part in the story.

Main characters

Tumi is an eight-year-old girl and the main character, also known as the protagonist. These are some of the characteristics that describe Tumi:

- **resourceful**, e.g., she realises that the children need to find a way to draw more customers to the shop and recommends advertising on Soweto Radio.
- **can inspire others**. For instance, when Tumi suggests adding services such as babysitting, Mpho and Lefa get excited and suggest dog washing and car washing.
- **overly confident**. She thinks the children can run the spaza shop as well as doing babysitting, car washing and dog washing.
- **deceitful/dishonest** at times, e.g., she and Mpho carry out Lefa's plan to distract Sisi so that he can steal the keys to Gogo's spaza shop. Tumi lies to a customer wanting airtime and says they have no airtime left.
- **Doesn't easily give up/is a problem solver**. For instance, it is her idea to add more services to customers. Then after a disastrous day running a car wash and dog wash as well as the spaza shop, she calls an emergency meeting to tackle the problems they faced. Even when everything goes wrong, she still wants to continue in order to win the saving challenge (p. 70).
- **Able to admit when she is wrong**, e.g., she tells Gogo she is sorry for running the spaza/other services and accepts responsibility by saying what happened is her fault (p. 104).

Mpho is Tumi's cousin. These are some of the characteristics that define her:

- **Helpful**. She helps her cousin when necessary, such as assisting at the shop instead of doing dog washing.
- Like Tumi, she is also a **problem solver** and suggests to Lefa that he asks his soccer friends to help him with the car wash. It is Mpho who suggests asking Sisi to help them while Gogo is away.
- She is a little more **cautious** and **negative** than Tumi sometimes. For instance, when Tumi first has the idea of running Gogo's shop, Mpho doesn't think it is a good idea. After they have a disastrous day trying to wash dogs and cars and work in the spaza, she says that it was all a very bad idea (p. 69).

- Like Tumi, she is able to **accept responsibility** and **apologise** for mistakes. For instance, she tells her grandmother, "We know things went too far. We are sorry, Gogo" (p. 104).

Lefa is Tumi's cousin and Mpho's twin. The qualities that define him are these:

- **Resourceful**, e.g., he tells the girls to distract Sisi so that he can steal the keys to Gogo's shop.
- **Naughty**, e.g., he snatches the dice from Tumi when they are playing Monopoly, and he takes her turn. He doesn't want to share the money the boys earned with the car wash and tries to run away. He also thinks it is funny when Chief chases Sisi.
- **Less aware of consequences** sometimes than the girls – Mpho and Tumi are both worried about the consequences when Lefa phones Soweto Radio. He isn't worried, however.

He also doesn't realise he needs to face the consequences of his behaviour at first when Gogo comes home; he blames the girls, saying that he told them running the spaza was a bad idea. However, when the girls confront him, he feels ashamed and also apologises (p. 104).

Gogo Tina is the matriarch (mother figure) of the family and very much loved. Although she doesn't appear as much in the story as the children, she plays an important role in the book – she is an example to the children of how to treat people and also an example of how to run a business successfully. These are the qualities that characterise Gogo:

- **Popular**. Her customers congratulate her when they hear about her choir competition. People come from far away to buy products from Gogo because she makes people feel better about themselves (p. 7).
- **Very loving**. Tumi goes to look for her Gogo because Gogo "always knew what to say to put a smile on a person's face" (p. 7). She calls her granddaughters "my nunus" (p. 14) and makes them scones for tea. She hugs all her grandchildren goodbye when she leaves for her choir competition and tells the children she will miss them.
- **Capable/in control**. She quickly sorts out her customers when she returns, joking with a man who always buys the same product. She also deals very well with the camera interview and is "so charming, she even convince[s] the reporter to let the choir sing after her interview" (p. 103).
- Good **organisational skills**, e.g., she gets Silas, Agnes and the other choir ladies to help sort out the mess in and around the spaza shop.
- **Can find something positive in bad situations**, e.g., at the end of the book, she thanks her grandchildren for making her spaza shop the most famous in Soweto. In addition, she decides to keep the car wash that the children started because, she says, it is "a brilliant idea" (p. 107).

Sisi is a less important character than Gogo and the children, but without her help, the children would not have been able to cope at all with running the spaza and three services. Her key characteristics are the following:

- **Prepared to help** even when something is not her responsibility, e.g., she agrees to take on the babysitting. She also helps in the spaza and when Gogo returns, she supports her by helping with unpacking stock (p. 101).
- **Can be tough**, e.g., when a teenager tries to be cheeky, she orders him to "behave, wena" (p. 98).

Minor characters – these are the less important characters in the story.

Mam'Agnes – Gogo's next-door neighbour and friend

- finds the girls when they run away
- tells the girls that they need to say sorry to Gogo

Themba – best friend of Lefa

Silas - the driver of the combi that took Gogo to the choir competition

Narrator

The narrator is the person telling the story. The narrator in this story isn't part of the story or one of the characters in the story, so we call this a third person narrator.

Themes

The theme is the message behind a story. There are several main themes in this book.

1. The children need to realise that they are **responsible** for their **actions** (Conradie, 2022) and that all **actions have consequences** (Molefi, 2022).
2. However, the children also make the spaza shop famous. Thus, good can come out of mistakes – **mistakes can be valuable** both as a way of learning to do better and due to the new opportunities they can bring.
3. The children learn to tackle different problems as they face the challenges of running the spaza shop. Thus, **difficulties can build resilience** (not giving up easily/coping well with challenges) and **problem-solving skills**.

The story is also a celebration:

1. The story celebrates the **beauty, value and strength of our communities** – of everyday life. **Ordinary stories matter** and have value.
2. The story celebrates the **innocence of children**.

Section 2: Chapters - pre-reading, summaries, glossaries, questions and post-reading

Chapter 1

Pre-reading

Read the first page of Chapter 1 to the person sitting next to you in class, and discuss the following questions:

- Who do you think the main characters are?
- What is Tumi dreaming about?
- Why is her dream relevant (important) to the book, do you think?

Summary

Tumi is playing Monopoly with her twin cousins, Mpho and Lefa. She is also daydreaming about running her own spaza shop. Lefa grabs the dice and takes Tumi's turn because, he says, she was too slow. It is the June school holidays, and as usual, Tumi is spending the holidays in Diepkloof in Soweto, with her Gogo, Sisi and her cousins, Lefa and Mpho. Gogo's house is in a cul-de-sac of red-brick houses. In the holidays, the children (Lefa, Mpho and Tumi) play Monopoly or help Gogo in her spaza shop. Gogo is very proud of her shop, which is one of the oldest in Soweto.

Tumi asks when their yearly saving challenge competition is going to begin. Lefa tells her that their grandmother said they could start the next day. Mpho says she will win the challenge again, but Tumi hopes it will be her turn. Lefa tells Tumi she takes too long to count out the money in Monopoly, which is why she will never win Monopoly or the saving challenge.

Tumi goes out of the lounge to find Gogo, who always knows how to cheer people up. Gogo's cellphone rings, and Tumi hears Gogo talking excitedly. Gogo sings in a choir, the Golden Gogos Choir, and the choir has been chosen to take part in the National Choir Finals. Tumi is excited and runs off to tell her cousins.

Glossary

Afro – a hairstyle consisting of lots and lots of curls and which “has a full rounded shape” (*Collins English Dictionary*, n.d.)

Approached – came closer

Cheating – not following the rules/being dishonest

Chuckle – give a little laugh

Cul-de-sac – a dead end

Daydreaming – imagining things/thinking of nice things that might happen in the future

Defiantly – rebelliously/choosing to do something in spite of knowing it is against the rules

Glee – happiness

Gogo – grandmother

Halo – a ring of light around an angel's head

Imitate – copy

Lunged – to “lunge” means to throw yourself forwards

Monopoly – a board game. The players have to buy properties and put houses and hotels on them. When a player goes bankrupt (has no more money), they are out of the game. The last person left after everyone else has gone bankrupt is the winner

Murmured – said softly

Pride and joy – this is a phrase that describes something or someone who is very special

Protested – objected/disagreed

Skipped your turn – lost your turn

Slouched – walked awkwardly, bent over

Slowcoach – a nickname for someone who takes too long to do something

Smirked – smiled smugly/when someone smirks, they smile in a way that shows they are very pleased with themselves

Smug – someone who is smug is very pleased with himself or herself

Snugly – tightly

Spaza shop - “South African slang for a small shop in a township” (*Collins English Dictionary*, n.d.)

Token – the little objects that are moved around the Monopoly board by the players, e.g., a ship/a dog/an iron

Vetkoek - a dough bread that is fried. It is a South African food
Wailed – cried

Questions

1. On page 1, we meet Tumi and her cousins. Based on this first page, which child do you think is a) practical, b) naughty and c) a dreamer. Explain your reasons for your answer.
2. Read page 2. What is the setting of the story – where and when does it take place?
3. Who do you think this book was written for? Why?
4. How does Gogo feel about her shop, Gogo's Goodies? Quote a sentence to substantiate (support/explain) your answer.
5. Have a look at the following extract:

Gogo Tina had a puffy grey Afro that made Tumi think of a halo. Her hands were soft and broad, and they always smelt like cocoa butter (p. 3).

Underline the key words in this extract that describe Gogo. What does the word "halo" suggest about Gogo's character?

6. When are the children expecting to start their saving challenge?
7. How has Mpho been using Monopoly to help her win the saving challenge?
8. Have a look at the extract below:

Tumi was speechless, while Mpho sat like a smug cat next to her (p. 6).

Why is Tumi speechless?

9. In the extract above, Mpho is compared to a cat. When we compare two people or two things using the word "like" or "as", this is called a simile. Why is this an effective simile? To answer this question, use the guidelines below:

Cats are ... /In the same way, **Mpho is also ...** /Because **cats and Mpho ...** the simile is effective.

10. What exciting news does Gogo get?

Post-reading: Chapter 1

Listen to the author of *Disaster at Gogo's Spaza* reading from the first chapter at <https://www.facebook.com/watch/?v=630601304847649>. While you are listening, close your eyes, and imagine the scene. Do you experience the story differently when you are listening to it? How is it different? Imagine you are in the room with the children. Write a short paragraph describing the setting: What do you see inside the room? How does the carpet or floor feel under your feet? What can you hear outside? What can you see through the window? What smells are coming from the kitchen?

Chapter 2

Pre-reading

Have a look at the picture alongside the start of Chapter 2. Where do you think this picture is set? What do you think is happening here? What do you think will happen to the spaza when Gogo goes away?

Summary

It is the day before Gogo has to leave for her choir competition. She opens the spaza shop for a few hours. The family stack the fridge and sort out the money in the cash register. People have heard about Gogo's choir competition and customers congratulate Gogo. Gogo says that the spaza will be closed while she is away and the saving challenge will start when she is back. Tumi has the idea of running the shop for Gogo, but Gogo isn't listening. Gogo tells them it is teatime and that she has made scones. When

Mpho hears that Tumi wants to be manager of the shop, Mpho says “no ways”. Tumi says by running the shop, they can still have a good saving challenge and make some money. Mpho then agrees but also wants to be the manager, but Tumi refuses. Mpho says that Lefa can decide who the manager will be.

Glossary

Bolted – rushed

Gigantic – huge/very big

Hectic – busy

In unison – together

Prancing – dancing around

Pursed her lips – pulled her lips together “into a small, rounded shape” (*Collins English Dictionary*, n.d.) to show she didn’t like Mpho’s suggestion/wasn’t going to change her mind

Regular customers – customers who often came to the spaza

Rickety – old/not strong/could easily break

Stacking – filling

Stomach fluttered – it felt like something moved in her stomach (because she was excited/nervous)

Wailed – cried

Went into overdrive – started working furiously/very fast

Questions

1. The news of Gogo’s choir competition spreads, and her customers come to congratulate her. What does this show readers about the communities we live in?
2. Why are the girls upset that the spaza is going to be closed when Gogo is away?
3. Gogo says, “I’m sorry, my nunus. You will start as soon as I am back” (p. 14). What do these words show us about Gogo’s character?
4. Consider the extract below, and then finish Tumi’s sentence for her. What do you think she wanted to say? What does this show us about Tumi?

*Tumi’s face fell further. “But Gogo, I don’t think it’s a good idea to close the shop for so many days. Somebody has to run it for you,” she added.
“Don’t worry, my Tumi, I will only be gone for a few days,” Gogo smiled.
Tumi’s mind was racing. “But Gogo, I could . . . We could . . .” (p. 14)*

5. Summarise four reasons that Tumi gives for opening the shop when Gogo is away.
6. Why is the following underlined simile effective?

Like a bird that had just caught a fat, juicy worm, Tumi started prancing around the shop (p. 17).

Remember, if the bird and Tumi are both feeling/acting the same way, this means they can be compared and the simile is effective. Use the following words as a guide:

A bird . . . /In the same way, Tumi . . . /Because there is a similarity . . . the simile is effective.

7. How does Mpho feel at first about Tumi’s idea? How do you know this is how Mpho feels? Please quote to substantiate (support) your reason.
8. How do you feel? Do you think it is a good idea to open the shop when Gogo goes? Why/why not?

Chapter 3

Pre-reading

Skim pages 19 and 21 to find the following information. What is Gogo doing? What are the children going to do after Gogo leaves? What is the name of their plan?

Summary

Gogo is going away for her choir competition. Gogo tells the children to be good and to listen to Sisi. Tumi says they will miss Gogo, and Gogo says she will miss them too. Gogo will be back in two sleeps. When Gogo leaves, it is time to start Operation Kids' Spaza – running the spaza shop. The children need to get the keys for the spaza shop, so Lefa tells the girls to distract Sisi while he gets the keys. They agree to the rules of the saving challenge – whoever makes the most money from their chores is the winner. They are getting the shop ready for customers when Mpho wonders what they will tell Sisi. Tumi says they will tell her that Gogo allowed them to play in the shop and that customers arrived and they didn't want to turn them away. No customers come though.

Glossary

Approach – come closer

Bana ba ka – my children

Chimed in – to "chime in" means to add an extra comment to a conversation. According to *Collins English dictionary* (n.d.), "If you chime in, you say something just after someone else has spoken"

Combi – minibus

Commanded – ordered

Distract Sisi – the girls need to make sure that Sisi's attention is focused away from Lefa (so that he can steal the keys)

Fidgeting – fiddling

Gingerly – carefully

Gushed – to gush means to give someone lots of praise, which isn't necessarily true. Usually, people gush because they want the person they are praising to do something for them. In this case, Tumi is gushing to make sure that Sisi focuses on her and not on Lefa, who is stealing the keys

Hatch – an opening in the wall through which the children will serve the customers. There is a door keeping the hatch closed. Lefa unlocks the door to open the hatch

Held their breath – didn't breathe

Relieved – when someone is relieved, it means they were tense or stressed before because of a problem or fear but are now relaxed because the problem/fear is gone

Shrugged – When Tumi shrugs, she lifts and then drops her shoulders

Spot - see

Stammered – to stammer means to trip over your words/to struggle to say words or struggle to finish a sentence, for instance, because you are nervous

Stock – products that are being sold in the shop

Questions

1. What are the two main events that happen in this chapter?
2. On page 20, there is a picture of the three children with Tumi in the middle. After reading page 21, answer the following questions: What is Tumi doing in the picture? Why is Tumi doing this – how does she feel?
3. What other feeling does she have when Gogo goes? Quote to support (substantiate) your answer.
4. How realistic are Tumi's feelings about her grandmother's going away?
5. Have a look at the extract below:

*"Good luck, Gogo," Tumi said as she hugged her grandmother again. "We will miss you."
"Me too, bana ba ka. I will be back before you know it" (p. 20-21).*

Without looking it up, what do you think "bana ba ka" might mean? Remember who is talking and who she is talking to. Then, check your answer by looking up the meaning.

6. Tumi tells Sisi that her "hair looks so pretty" (p. 22). What is her purpose in doing this?
7. Does Tumi suggest that the children tell the truth if Sisi sees them serving customers and working in the spaza shop? Support (substantiate) your answer with a quotation.
8. What does this tell us about Tumi as a character?
9. What do you think will happen if the children follow Tumi's advice on what to say to Sisi?

Chapter 4

Pre-reading

Look briefly at all the pictures in Chapter 4. Based on these illustrations, what do you think happens in this chapter? Who are the man and young woman in the pictures? What do they want? How do the children try to help them? Then, skim quickly through the chapter to find the answers to these questions. Were you right?

Summary

Tumi says to her cousins that they need to find out how to get customers. Mpho asks how they can do that, and Tumi suggests advertising. Unfortunately, this costs money. Suddenly, a customer appears. Tumi pushes Lefa out of the way and asks how they can help. The man wants a loaf of bread and a tin of fish. He asks why the children are on their own. The children all answer at the same time. Tumi then says that what they mean is that they are running the shop while Gogo is away. No more customers come, but Tumi won't give up. She suggests that they add more services than just the spaza. She suggests babysitting. Mpho suggests dog washing, and Lefa has the idea of car washing.

Another customer comes and asks for airtime, but the children can't find the airtime. The customer is impatient because she is on the phone, holding for the radio station so that she can ask for a specific song request as she could win a pair of sneakers in a competition. Tumi lies and says that they have run out of airtime. The customer is very disappointed. Tumi feels embarrassed but then realises they can phone the radio station to advertise the spaza and other services.

Glossary

Agitated – worked up/stressed

Animatedly – excitedly

Anxiously – worriedly

Assured – According to *Collins English Dictionary* (n.d.), "If you assure someone that something is true or will happen, you tell them that it is definitely true or will definitely happen, often . . . to make them less worried"

Contents of two drawers – the objects inside the drawers

Cupped her hand – held her hand in a bent position

Determined – not prepared to give up

Faking – pretending

Figure out – work out

Fussed – hurried busily/worked busily

Gritted teeth – teeth that are clenched together because the person is angry

Hissed – spoke softly but fiercely

Huddled together – standing very close to each other

Jumped into action – acted/did something

Mumbled – spoke softly and unclearly

Panicked – got worried and scared/anxious

Responded – answered

Seemingly convinced – apparently believing what he heard

Sharp, sharp – goodbye

Sneakers – tackies

Stared . . . intently – stared hard

Swiftly – quickly

Tight-lipped smile – a tight-lipped smile is not a relaxed, natural smile. It happens when you force yourself to smile, so your lips feel tight

Twirled – spun around

Questions

1. Read page 29, and then copy and fill in the table below. What solutions does Tumi suggest for Operation Kids' Spaza? Mpho finds problems with these solutions. What problems does Mpho mention? The first one has been done for you.

Tumi – solutions	Mpho – problems
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The children need to find a way to get customers.	

- At the start of the book, Tumi is daydreaming about running her own spaza shop. In Chapter 4, the children have started actually running the shop. Have a look at your completed table for Question 1. How is Tumi developing/growing as a character?
- The children’s customer says “Sharp, sharp” as he finishes talking on his phone. What are different meanings of “sharp, sharp”? Use Google or a South African dictionary if you need to. Which meaning do you think fits in with this scene?
- List the extra services that the children think of to get more customers.
- Tumi lies to the customer wanting airtime. What lie does she tell? Why doesn’t she tell her the truth?
- What is the negative result/outcome of the children’s not being able to find airtime for the customer?
- Then, quote two sentences that show a good outcome from the same situation.
- This question focuses on literal and figurative language.

The table below gives a really nice explanation of literal and figurative language. You can also find slightly simpler definitions of these terms at the back of the study guide.



What is Literal Meaning?

“When we use literal language, we are saying exactly what we mean. For example, if we say ‘I’m hungry,’ we mean that we . . . need to eat” (Ali, 2023, What is Literal Meaning section).

What is Figurative Meaning?

“Figurative meaning . . . uses words or phrases in a way that is different from their literal meaning . . . if we say ‘He’s a shining star,’ we mean that he is . . . excellent, not that he is literally a star” (Ali, 2023, What is Figurative Meaning section).

Here is another example: “He is a tortoise.”

Literal meaning =		He is an animal with a shell on its back
Figurative meaning =		He moves slowly

Now, have a look at the sentence “Then it hit her” (p. 38). What is the literal meaning of this sentence? What is the figurative meaning of this sentence? Which meaning is the author using here?

- What do you think Tumi learns from their experience with the disappointed customer about mistakes/problems?

Post-reading: Chapters 2 to 4

There are some examples in Chapters 2 to 4 where the children lie to or deceive grown-ups. How realistic is this behaviour – in your experience, do children sometimes lie to, or deceive, adults? Why do children usually do this? How do you feel about this? Do you agree or disagree with the children’s behaviour? Why? If they had told the truth, what would have happened?

What do you think the consequences (results) of this behaviour will be? Do you think the children realise that actions have consequences? Will they get caught out for some of their lies in the end, do you think? If they do get found out, what might they learn from these experiences?

Chapter 5

Pre-reading

Read the first sentence of Chapter 5 aloud. Using your knowledge of what happened at the end of the previous chapter, why do you think that Tumi is so happy? What is she going to tell her cousins? What is the focus of this chapter going to be? Jot down your answers on a rough piece of paper. Once you have finished the chapter, have a look at your answers again, and see if you were right.

Summary

Tumi runs happily back to the shop to tell her cousins they can advertise on Soweto Radio. She says they can borrow Sisi's phone. Lefa talks on the phone and tells listeners about the extra services, such as babysitting, car washing and dog washing. Mpho is worried that Lefa got carried away while talking on the radio. Tumi is worried that Gogo might have heard their advertisement.

Glossary

Chuffed – pleased

Defending himself – protecting himself/supporting his own choices. Lefa is defending himself by saying why he is happy with the way he spoke on the radio

Elbowed – if you elbow someone, you poke them with your elbow

Get carried away – go overboard/get overexcited and say too much

Loading airtime – putting airtime onto a phone

Palms – the soft, inside part of the hand

Peeps – people

Prank – a joke

Yelped – shouted out

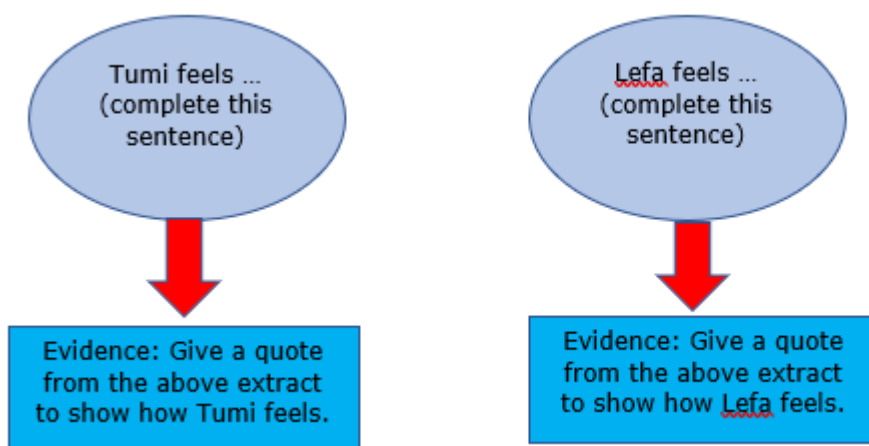
Questions

1. Have a look at the extract below:

A few minutes later, the three cousins were huddled closely together with the phone between them on speaker. Lefa was holding the line to speak to the DJ. Tumi's palms were sweating, but Lefa looked cool as a cucumber (p. 41-42).

Why are the cousins huddled together?

2. Based on the above extract, discuss the contrast (difference) between Tumi and Lefa by filling in the diagrams below:



3. What figure of speech is "cool as a cucumber"? Explain what it means.

4. How does Lefa get carried away when he is talking to the DJ? What does this show us about Lefa?
5. Explain why the DJ chuckles (p. 45) when he hears what song Lefa is asking for.
6. What is worrying Mpho at the end of the chapter?
7. What is worrying Tumi at the end of the chapter?
8. Does Lefa also feel worried at the close of the chapter? Support your answer by explaining his responses to the girls' worries.
9. What do Lefa's responses show us about how his character is different from the girls' character?
10. How do you feel? Do you feel confident, like Lefa, that everything will be fine? Or do you feel that the girls have reason to worry? Give a reason for your answer.

Chapter 6

Pre-reading

Form a group of three to four children. Select one person to read the first paragraph of Chapter 6 aloud. Then, discuss the points below with the rest of the group:

- This paragraph shows how excited Tumi is about adding services to draw more customers. What are these three services?
- How popular do you think they will be?
- What problems might arise?
- Imagine what problems you might experience if you decided to run someone else's spaza while also offering the three services the children are adding.

Summary

It is day two of Operation Kids' Spaza. Tumi has hardly slept. She is sure that they are ready. They have got everything prepared for the dog washing behind the spaza shop. Lefa is going to wash cars in front of the main gate. Themba, his best friend, will help him. Sisi helps them find soap and washing rags. She thinks they are going to help her with the cleaning. The spaza shop is clean and neat. They don't know yet how they are going to do the babysitting.

Tumi is very excited that she will be able to run the spaza shop on her own today. This is her opportunity to win the saving competition. She wakes up Mpho. The children are finishing breakfast when they hear a noise outside and see a boy with two dogs. The boy has been housesitting and looking after the dogs, a big dog called Chief and a terrier called Rexy. He says the dogs are a handful. Lefa won't help Mpho with the dogs because taxis have arrived to be washed. Tumi offers to help Mpho. Rexy jumps out of the washing bucket, and Tumi runs after the dog. Mpho struggles to get Chief to the tap. Lefa has to manage cleaning the taxis on his own as Themba isn't there yet. Lefa is about to start cleaning the tyres, but the taxi driver stops him and tells him the tyres must be cleaned last.

Chief doesn't want to get wet, and Mpho can't reach the doggy treats to try to make him move. Rexy keeps fighting as Tumi washes her. At last, Tumi manages to start rinsing Rexy, and Mpho gets Chief to the tap. Then the girls hear banging from customers waiting to be served at the spaza shop.

Glossary

A handful – difficult

A walk in the park – easy

Abandoning – leaving

Baba – this word means "father" or, if you are talking to someone who is not your dad, it can mean "sir"

Blaring – playing loudly

Booming – playing loudly

Clammy – wet and sticky

Commotion – a noise

Contemplated – thought about

Could barely contain her excitement - was very excited/was almost bursting with excitement

Figured out – worked out

Gestured – to gesture means to move your body in a way that tells someone something. Here, "gestured" means that Lefa waved his arm/hand in the direction of the gate to tell Mpho that the taxis were waiting for him

Giddy with excitement – very excited
 Had their hands full – were being kept very busy (trying to calm down the dogs wasn't an easy job)
 Hardly slept a wink – had slept very little
 Her mind started whirring – Her brain started thinking lots of thoughts
 Hola – hello
 Plead – beg/ask for help
 Sludgy – muddy
 Stashed – placed/hidden
 Streaks – dirty marks
 Yank – pull
 Yapping uncontrollably – “yapping” means barking. It was uncontrollable, which means the boy couldn't stop the dog's barking

Questions

1. Before you read the whole chapter, just read pages 47-48. Visualise the dog-washing and car-washing setups (imagine how they would look). Imagine how the babysitting service might be set up once they start it. Do you think that the children are as well prepared as Tumi thinks? Why/why not?
2. What problems might arise, and how do you think the children will deal with them?
3. Have a look at your answers. For each problem, you will have written a solution. What does this suggest about how the children in the story will benefit from facing problems?
4. Tumi is good with children, so she thinks that babysitting will be “a walk in the park” (p. 48). What figure of speech is this? Explain what it means.
5. Have a look at page 48. What are Tumi's main motivations (reasons) for starting Operation Kids' Spaza?
6. Now, read the rest of the chapter. Sum up the main problems that the children experience with the dog washing, the car washing and the spaza.
7. The taxi driver calls his taxi a Zolabud. Look up/google the name “Zola Budd”. Who is Zola Budd? What was she famous for?
8. Why do you think taxis are called Zolabuds?

Chapter 7

Pre-reading

Have a look at the picture on page 58 and then listen as your teacher reads the first paragraph to you.

Class discussion:

- Based on the first paragraph, who do you think the adults in the picture are?
- What sort of mood are they in? What is your reason for saying this?
- Why do you think they are in this mood?
- What will Tumi's response be, in your opinion?

Summary

Tumi had forgotten about the spaza shop because she was helping Mpho with the dog washing. Tumi finds there are three annoyed customers waiting for her. They all speak at the same time, telling Tumi what they want. Tumi tries to stay calm and puts on Gogo's apron and washes her hands. She makes mistakes twice with the first customer and gives a lady the wrong change. When she tries to sort the change, one of the other customers complains. The two customers start arguing, and Sisi comes to see what the problem is. The ladies stop arguing and stare at Sisi, who is in the middle of braiding her hair. Tumi uses the gap to work out the correct change and sort the customers.

Sisi demands an explanation, but then Chief, the big dog that Mpho is washing, escapes and runs straight for Sisi. Sisi gets a fright and runs away. Mpho appears carrying the little dog and orders Tumi to go after Sisi and Chief.

The car wash is overcrowded with impatient vehicles. People are blowing their horns because they are tired of waiting. Themba panics and runs away. Lefa says it is his lunch break and runs inside the gate and locks it. Sisi is still trying to escape from Chief.

Glossary

Afro comb – According to *Collins English Dictionary* (n.d.), it is “a comb with a handle and long teeth used [especially] on curly hair”

Barely – hardly

Barged ... up – charged up

Barked – shouted roughly/commandingly

Blared – played loudly

Bounding – if a dog is bounding, it is moving “quickly with large steps or jumps” (*Collins English Dictionary*, n.d.)

Catch his breath – breathe easily

Chanting – repeating over and over

Fumbled in her apron – felt around/searched clumsily in her apron

Grounded – being grounded is a punishment which means children may not go out of the house for a time because they have been naughty

Hot on the heels of the others – immediately after the others

Instructed – ordered

Mma – a term used to speak to an adult woman (*Dictionary of South African English*, n.d.)

On the verge of tears – almost crying

Peeped – peered around, trying to stay unseen

Riot – a violent protest

Running the spaza shop – managing the shop

Screech – scream/shout in a high voice

Slathered – covered in a thick layer

Snapped – spoke angrily, speaking in a short, sharp tone

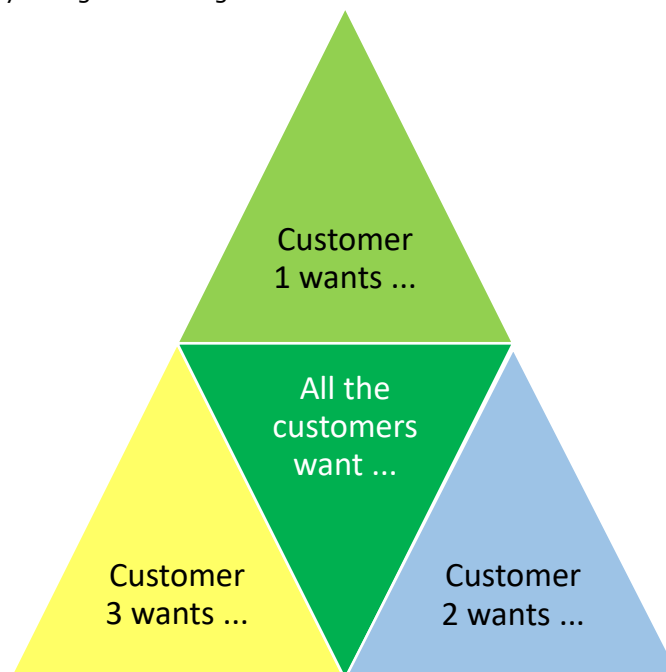
Thrust – shoved

Tufts – little clusters of hair standing up on your head

Two-ply toilet paper – toilet paper that is thicker than one-ply toilet paper

Questions

1. What do all three customers want Tumi to do for them (Why are they all getting impatient in the previous chapter)? Then, what specific item/items does each customer want? Answer these questions by filling in the diagram below.



2. When all three customers start demanding help, why does Tumi wash her hands and put on Gogo's apron?
3. Why do the customers start arguing with each other?
4. Who causes the women to stop arguing? Why?
5. How does Sisi say Tumi's name? What does this show about how Sisi is feeling?

6. Have a look at Tumi's response to Sisi. What does this show us about her character? Use S.E.E. to give your answer.

What is S.E.E? Have a look at the explanation and examples in the table below:

S.E.E. Explanation	Example
S = statement. Make a statement giving your answer to the question.	Lefa's response after he does the radio advert shows he doesn't worry about the consequences of his actions.
E = Example. Quote a section from the book that supports your answer.	For instance, Lefa says, "Gogo is busy with the choir stuff. Don't worry, we are fine" (p. 46).
E = Explain. Explain how the quote supports your answer.	Lefa's answer, and the fact that he winks at the girls, shows that he doesn't worry about the consequences of what he does – in this scene, he isn't worried about the effect of the radio advertisement.

Now, apply S.E.E. in your answer, using the table below:

S (Statement)	Tumi's response shows that she ... (describe her character).
E (Example)	We can see this because Tumi says, " . . ." (add quote).
E (Explain)	This quote shows that Tumi ...

- Why does Sisi ask Tumi to explain herself but not wait for the explanation?
- Why do Themba and Lefa run away from the car wash?
- What do you think the writer of *Disaster at Gogo's Spaza* is trying to show us in this chapter?

Post-reading: Chapters 5 to 7

Draw a picture showing the spaza shop and where the various different services being offered by the children are. Draw a picture for each service, e.g., Lefa washing a taxi at the car wash.

Under the picture of each service/the shop, write, in a sentence or two, what goes wrong in the above chapters.

Should the children have expected problems like these? Why/why not? In real life, do you think young people starting a business might also struggle? In other words, how realistic is it that things go wrong in the story?

What makes stories like this, that celebrate the ups and downs of everyday life, interesting? Why is it valuable/useful to read about other people's struggles?

Did the children expect things to go wrong? Why/why not? What does this say about how innocent they are?

Chapter 8

Pre-reading

Read the first sentence of Chapter 8. What is the emergency? What happened the day before? Are the children coping with running all their businesses? What plans do you think they will think up at the meeting? Skim through the chapter to find their solutions, and write these down. Do you think these solutions will be successful? Why/why not? Discuss your answers with the person sitting beside you.

Summary

Tumi calls an emergency meeting the next day. Mpho says Operation Kids' Spaza was a bad idea. Tumi says she can't think if Mpho is complaining. Mpho suggests asking Sisi for help. Tumi agrees. The girls make tea and get cookies for Sisi. Lefa says he and Themba also need help with washing cars. Mpho tells Lefa to ask his soccer friends for help. The girls go to Sisi, who tells them she has sent Gogo a message about what has been happening. Tumi apologises. Lefa rushes into the house, saying they have a problem. Lots of people are in the yard waiting for the babysitting service. Sisi is angry but agrees to help; she will do the babysitting while the girls run the shop. Tumi is overwhelmed, and Mpho drags her to the spaza shop. Many customers come to the shop, and Tumi makes lots of money. Mpho makes no money because she is helping Tumi. Lefa also makes good money.

Glossary

Apologise – say sorry
Brief – give information to
Called a ... meeting – arranged a meeting
Charged – raced
Considered – thought about
Dashed – hurried/rushed
Dumelang – hello
Erupted – burst out
Gawked – to gawk at someone means to stare at someone blankly/with a blank look in your eyes
High-pitched laugh – this refers to when someone laughs in a high voice
Out of earshot – far enough away that people can't hear
Paced – walked up and down
Plating – putting onto a plate
Sternly – severely/very firmly and a little angrily
Teeming – swarming with/full of
Unease – discomfort/nervousness
Urged – spoke urgently

Questions

1. Mpho sums up what the children need to do at the end of page 69. What do they have to do and why?
2. Have a look at the following extract:

Biting her lip, Tumi considered this for a moment. It was the last day to make money from the spaza shop. She still wanted to make sure that she would finally beat her cousins at their saving game.
"Okay. You are right. Let's make Sisi some tea and apologise," Tumi said, jumping into action. (p. 70)

- Why is Tumi biting her lip, do you think?
3. Why does Tumi agree to make tea for, and apologise to, Sisi? Use S.E.E in your answer

S (Statement)	Tumi agrees because . . .
E (Example)	Give a quote that supports your answer above.
E (Explain)	This quote shows that . . .

4. What does Tumi's response above show the reader about her character?
5. How does Sisi feel about the girls' bringing tea and cookies? How do you know? To support your answer, explain how she looks (nonverbal communication) as well as what she says (verbal communication).
6. Is Sisi prepared to let the children continue with running their services at first?
7. What makes her change her mind and agree to help?
8. Sum up the **different emotions** (feelings) Sisi has when she meets the people wanting babysitting. For each emotion, give an example of **body language** (what her body does – her eyes, her mouth, her hands etc.) that supports this emotion. Here is a similar example:

- **Emotion:** Tumi felt **excited** about running the spaza shop
- **Body language that shows her excitement:** She pranced around.

9. What does Sisi's willingness to help show us about her character?
10. How does Tumi feel when she sees all the people in the yard? How do we know she feels this way?
11. Why is Mpho upset at the end of the chapter?

Chapter 9

Pre-reading

Glance through page 80 to get an idea of the focus of the start of the chapter. Who is the main character in this scene? Why is she, along with the other choir members, happy? At the end of the page, Mam'Agnes asks for quiet because the radio is talking about a spaza shop in Diepkloof. Whose spaza shop do you think it is? Do you think Gogo is still going to be happy once she hears about the spaza shop on the radio? Why/why not? What do you think she is going to do?

Summary

Gogo and the rest of the choir are coming home earlier than planned. The radio is reporting on a spaza shop in Diepkloof. Gogo gets a huge fright when she recognises Tumi's voice on the radio. The driver says that the children have been running Gogo's spaza. Gogo gets very worried because the shop area is so busy and chaotic. Gogo says she has to get home to rescue her business.

Tumi is enjoying getting lots of attention. She thinks she is famous, like her grandmother, and a reporter takes her photograph. Lefa's friends start chasing Lefa because he doesn't want to share his car washing money with them. The reporter and cameraman follow after the boys. Lefa asks for help, but Tumi freezes. Mpho comes running out of the yard, calling to Tumi for help. She is being chased by a little dog. Some people run away screaming at the sight of the dog. Lefa and the boys are involved in a water fight. Tumi sees that Gogo has arrived back early and wonders if she has ruined Gogo's business. She runs away to hide.

Glossary

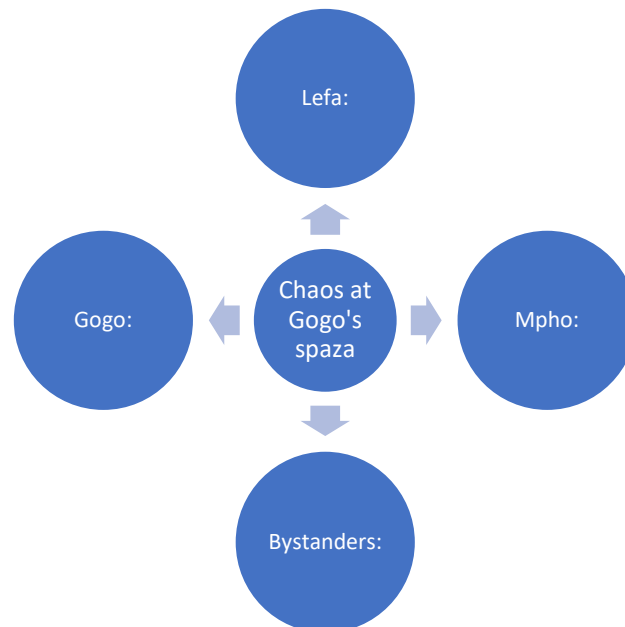
Begged – pleaded/asked
 Breathlessly – out of breath
 Chom – friend
 Clutched – clasped/grabbed
 Creative – have lots of ideas of new things to do
 Dazed – confused
 Disagreement – argument
 Ducking and diving between the cars – running away, going from car to car, trying to hide between and behind the cars
 Frozen – unable to move
 Gesturing – waving at
 Hawu – an exclamation of shock/surprise
 Hhini? – what (is happening)?
 Hurling – running very fast
 Intrigued – fascinated/interested/wanting to know more
 Parted – separated/moved back
 Passers-by – people passing the spaza
 Popular – well-liked/well-supported
 Posed – stood in a way that looked good/impressive for the photograph
 Received – accepted
 Remarked – commented
 Ruined – destroyed
 Section – area
 Snapping – biting/nipping
 Splitting – sharing
 Squealing – shouting in a very high voice
 Startled – shocked/given a fright

Swarming with people – teeming with people/full of people moving all over the place, just like bees swarm (fly in a group)

The spaza shop that's been on everyone's lips – this means everyone is talking about the spaza shop
Thumped – beat

Questions

1. Why does Gogo get such a fright when she listens to the radio?
2. Quote a sentence from page 83 that shows what a shock Gogo got.
3. Why does Gogo get more and more worried as she listens to the reporter? What is happening at her spaza shop?
4. Contrast the driver's attitude with Gogo's attitude (page 86). Why do you think their attitudes are different?
5. Gogo tells the driver to "please step on it" (p. 86). Read the rest of this paragraph as well. Then, based on what you have read in this paragraph and the rest of the chapter, what do you think this expression means?
6. Why does Tumi say that this is "the best day of my life" (p. 87)?
7. Fill in the diagram below to show what goes wrong after this (p. 88 on). What happens to Lefa and to Mpho? What do the bystanders do? What about Gogo?



8. Lefa is described as "ducking and diving" between the cars. Have a look at the underlined letters of this expression. What do you notice about them?
9. What figure of speech is this? Why is it effective?
10. When the boys start arguing, Tumi reacts the same way that she did previously. What is her response when Lefa asks her to "do something" (p. 88), and why?

Chapter 10

Pre-reading

This is the final chapter. Flip back briefly over the previous chapter to remind yourself of the chaos that occurred. In the final chapter of a story, conflict and problems are usually resolved (sorted out) somehow. Have a look at the pictures in Chapter 10, then answer the following questions in class:

- Do you think the problems and conflict will be resolved when Gogo returns?
- What do you think Gogo will do when she sees her grandchildren? How will her grandchildren respond?
- Do you think that some good has resulted from Operation Kids' Spaza? If so, what?

Summary

Gogo can't believe the chaos she sees when she gets home. A soccer boot almost hits her, and she sees Lefa hiding beside a car. She calls him, and the other boys go away. Gogo asks where Tumi and Mpho are. They are hiding! Gogo asks the driver of the choir combi, Silas, to sort out the long queue of cars with Lefa. Gogo asks Agnes to find Tumi and Mpho while she sorts out the spaza shop. Mam'Agnes is Gogo's next-door neighbour, so she knows where to look for the girls. Gogo takes her other choir friends with her. They discover the babysitting service, and the choir director says he will handle it with Mavis while Gogo deals with the shop. Gogo and two friends serve the waiting customers, and Sisi tells Gogo what the children have been doing while Gogo was away.

Mam'Agnes finds the girls hiding behind a coal container in her back garden. She tells them they need to apologise to their grandmother, and they go home. When the girls get home, everything is calm again. The reporter and the cameraman are there and are helping to clean up. The reporter tells Tumi they are doing a story on Gogo as part of their "Shining Stars of Soweto" series. Gogo is very charming in the interview and even gets the choir to sing. The children apologise to Gogo. Gogo tells them that the winner of the saving challenge is Sisi and that all the money they made from the extra services must go to her. Gogo thanks her grandchildren for making her spaza shop famous and says she is going to keep the car wash.

Glossary

A natural in front of the camera – she automatically knew how to act when being interviewed and filmed
 Applied lip gloss – put on lip gloss
 Ashamed – feeling bad/embarrassed
 Backing away from – moving backwards, away from someone
 Basked in the limelight – enjoyed being the centre of attention
 Beaming – smiling broadly/smiling a big smile
 Charming – delightful, pleasant
 Convinced – persuaded
 Crèche – a business that looks after little children
 Darting – moving quickly
 Exhausted – very tired
 Flanked by – surrounded by, on both sides
 Glimpse – a brief look
 Grudgingly – reluctantly/if you do something grudgingly, you don't really want to do it
 Had all but disappeared – had almost gone
 Had been up to – had been doing
 Handle – sort out
 Luminous – something that is luminous glows when it is dark
 Mageu – this is "a traditional Southern African non-alcoholic drink . . . made from fermented mealie pap" (*Educalingo dictionary*, n.d.)
 Melodic – musical/prettily/music in which the song (melody) can be heard easily
 Mortified – very embarrassed
 Musketeers – originally, a musketeer was a soldier. There is a famous story called *The Three Musketeers* about three soldiers who were very good friends, just like Tumi and her cousins. The children have been "fighting" to make money for Gogo's spaza, so she calls them the musketeers
 Mutt – a dog of mixed breed
 Narrowed her eyes – partly closed her eyes
 Nip – bite
 Peering – staring
 Piped down – was quiet
 Scanned – searched quickly
 Scolded – spoke angrily (you scold someone who has done something naughty or wrong)
 Shuffled – walked slowly, with small steps
 Sly – sneaky
 Sniggered – gave a short, rude laugh
 Stop him in his tracks – make him stop immediately
 Tilted – turned to one side
 Trailed off – his voice got quieter, then he stopped talking
 Tucked away – hidden away
 Volunteered - offered
 Wena – you
 Within earshot – could be heard

Questions

1. This chapter shows why Gogo is such a good businesswoman: She can delegate (ask others to help her), she is practical and she can find positive things in a bad situation. Give an example of each of these characteristics from Chapter 10.
2. What do the children do when Gogo returns?
3. Why do you think the driver winks at Lefa (p. 93)?
4. Why did Mam'Agnes find the girls so easily?
5. Read page 98-99. Why is Sisi so exhausted?
6. How does this page show us more about Sisi's character? Give examples as well.
7. Think about all the people who help Gogo sort out the spaza and the chaos at home. What does this say about her friends and community?
8. What do the children say when Gogo confronts them?
9. What lesson do the children learn?
10. Who wins the saving challenge and why?
11. How have the difficulties the children experienced been useful?
12. Why does Gogo thank her grandchildren (p. 107) rather than punishing them?
13. What does Gogo's saying thank you teach the children?

Post-reading: Chapters 8-10

Did you enjoy the book? What was your favourite part? Was there anything you would change and why?

Which of the characters is most like you and why? Could you relate to some of the experiences that the children had, whether it was wanting something different from what adults wanted, trying to cope with the unpredictability of life (in other words, sometimes unexpected things happen) or something else? Why can it be helpful to readers to be able to relate to characters in a book?

Although the children are not proud of the mistakes they make, Gogo is proud of the good things that they achieve, such as making the spaza famous and having the idea of the car wash. What does this say about how we should feel about *our* achievements in our everyday lives? What do you think the author is saying about the importance of the everyday challenges and triumphs that take place in different communities in South Africa?

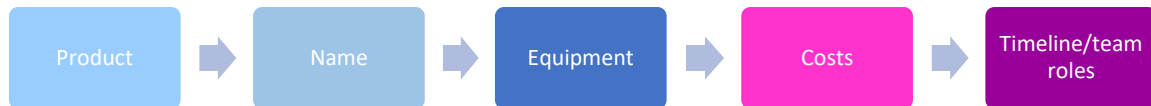
Reflection:

Choose the character (Tumi, Lefa or Mpho) that you relate to the most in the story. Write a diary entry after Gogo gets back. What did you enjoy about running a business? What were the most difficult times you experienced? If you could do it all over again, how would you do things differently?

Section 3: Enrichment exercises

Fun activity 3.1: Create your own stall and hold a market day at school

Get together in groups, and plan a market day when you get to live out Tumi's dream by having your own stall at school. Use the diagram below to help you plan your stall.



Product:

What do you want to sell? It is probably best to focus on just one product. For instance, you might choose to sell chocolate brownies.

Name:

What is the name of your stall? Why did you call it this? How will it attract customers?

Equipment:

What will you need to set up your stall? Make a list of everything you need and tick it off once you have it, e.g.,

Equipment	
Table	✓
Chairs	✓
Cardboard boxes/plastic packets for brownies	
Change for customers	
Cleaning cloths etc...	

Costs:

What will it cost to make your product? Draw up a table, e.g.,

Product: Chocolate Brownies	Costs
Flour	
Cocoa	
Sugar	
Eggs	
Margarine	
Vanilla essence	
Total cost	

Draw up another table for any other costs related to equipment.

Then, work out how much you will charge per product, e.g., R10 per brownie.

How many of the product will you make? How much money will you make if you sell them all?

Then, subtract the cost of ingredients and equipment and you will have the final amount that your team will make.

Timeline/team roles

Think about the following questions:

1. When will the ingredients be bought? Who will buy them?
2. Where will you get the equipment you need? When will the equipment be ready to take to school?
3. Then, when will you make your product?

4. When will it be packed?
5. Who will bring the different bits of equipment to school?
6. Who will bring the product to school?
7. Assign one person to check that all the ingredients have been bought and all the equipment is ready.

Here is an example of a timeline. A few of the days have been filled in for you as an example.

Timeline	Tasks and who is doing them
Wednesday	Jason buys flour and eggs/Thando buys sugar and vanilla essence/Karien confirms her mom has enough cocoa and margarine.
Thursday	
Friday	
Weekend	
Monday	Karien to check we have all the ingredients. Thando to check all equipment is ready.
Tuesday	Making brownies at Jason's house. Thando to check we have the brownies and equipment and take them to school.
Wednesday	Market day!!!!

Fun activity 3.2: Reflecting on your experience of running a stall

Write a reflection on your experience of running your own stall. Just like Tumi, you probably experienced both positives and challenges. Write a few paragraphs reflecting on your experience:

1. What was good about running your own stall?
2. What were some of the challenges/difficulties of running a stall? What was the most difficult part? How did you solve each challenge?
3. What have you learnt from your experience?

Have a look at the themes of *Disaster at Gogo's Spaza* again below: Did any of these lessons apply to your experience as well? If so, which of these lessons? How did they apply to your experience?

1. All **actions have consequences**.
2. **Mistakes can be valuable** both as a way of learning to do better and due to the new opportunities they can bring.
3. **Difficulties** can build **resilience** (not giving up easily/coping well with challenges) and **problem-solving skills**.

Fun activity 3.3: Wordsearch

Find words from the book *Disaster at Gogo's Spaza* in the wordsearch below. There are twelve words in total, and they are given at the bottom of the wordsearch. The words can go in any direction, including sideways, backwards, up and down.

L	E	F	A	A	I	G	N	I	T	T	I	S	Y	B	A	B
E	L	G	Z	Z	U	G	Z	O	G	D	S	G	U	C	Y	R
A	R	S	A	V	I	N	G	C	H	A	L	L	E	N	G	E
O	M	O	P	P	O	D	C	B	I	S	P	V	K	L	O	O
F	R	W	S	S	G	H	O	I	Y	S	O	P	S	D	B	M
O	S	E	H	T	D	L	S	J	Y	L	E	F	S	O	U	J
O	S	T	L	S	T	I	A	L	Q	O	R	G	V	L	T	S
L	J	O	U	X	S	E	S	Y	R	A	H	P	Q	G	D	U
K	R	A	B	M	D	G	Z	A	S	A	S	T	E	O	C	B
P	D	S	N	W	E	O	P	J	S	S	I	P	N	G	W	I
E	W	T	X	C	D	L	T	C	Q	T	C	V	Q	O	N	N
I	X	D	V	R	D	J	O	H	D	V	E	D	S	Y	M	I
D	R	Z	U	C	M	P	H	O	M	L	E	R	C	H	H	M

Diepkloof Tumelo Gogo Spaza Lefa Mpho	Sisi Saving challenge Disaster Soweto Minibus Babysitting
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Fun activity 3.3: Wordsearch answers

L	E	F	A	A	I	G	N	I	T	T	I	S	Y	B	A	B
E	L	G	Z	Z	U	G	Z	O	G	D	S	G	U	C	Y	R
A	R	S	A	V	I	N	G	C	H	A	L	L	E	N	G	E
O	M	O	P	P	O	D	C	B	I	S	P	V	K	L	O	O
F	R	W	S	S	G	H	O	I	Y	S	O	P	S	D	B	M
O	S	E	H	T	D	L	S	J	Y	L	E	F	S	O	U	J
O	S	T	L	S	T	I	A	L	Q	O	R	G	V	L	T	S
L	J	O	U	X	S	E	S	Y	R	A	H	P	Q	G	D	U
K	R	A	B	M	D	G	Z	A	S	A	S	T	E	O	C	B
P	D	S	N	W	E	O	P	J	S	S	I	P	N	G	W	I
E	W	T	X	C	D	L	T	C	Q	T	C	V	Q	O	N	N
I	X	D	V	R	D	J	O	H	D	V	E	D	S	Y	M	I
D	R	Z	U	C	M	P	H	O	M	L	E	R	C	H	H	M

Diepkloof Tumelo Gogo Spaza Lefa Mpho	Sisi Saving challenge Disaster Soweto Minibus Babysitting
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Fun activity 3.4: Writing an advertisement for Gogo's spaza

Imagine that you are Tumi, and you want to advertise Gogo's Goodies spaza shop. Design an advertisement to draw new customers to the business.

1. Start with a headline. You can ask the reader a question or make a statement or both (e.g., "Computer problems? We have the answer at Candy's Computers!" Or "All your computer needs – catered for at Candy's Computers"). Think about the size and colour of your headline – how can you make it stand out so it catches the reader's attention?
2. Include a bright, interesting picture/pictures that will make customers want to come to the spaza shop.

Then, give some more details:

- **What** kind of products can people buy at Gogo's spaza shop?
- **Why** should people come to your shop? What makes it a good place to shop? Why is Gogo's shop better than other spaza shops? What makes it special?
- **When** is the shop open? Only on weekdays? Saturdays and Sundays too?
- **Where** is the business? Without the address, new customers won't be able to find it.

You can also include a **logo** and **slogan**. A logo is a picture that represents your business. For example, think of the big yellow/gold "M" that represents McDonald's. This is their logo. When we see it, we automatically know it refers to McDonald's. A slogan is a short phrase or sentence that represents the company. For instance, the slogan for McDonald's is "I'm lovin' it".

Fun activity 3.5: Dictionary sword-fighting game

Your teacher will divide the class into two teams and make sure everyone has a dictionary. You are going to pretend that your dictionary is a sword.

1. When your teacher says, "Sheath swords", you will all hold your dictionary down at your side.
2. When your teacher says, "Draw swords", everyone will hold their dictionaries in the air with one hand.
3. Your teacher will say a word from one of the study guide glossaries for *Disaster at Gogo's Spaza*. Your dictionaries still need to stay in the air.
4. When your teacher says, "Fight!", everyone will put their dictionaries on their desks and start looking for the word the teacher said.
5. As soon as you find the word, put your hand up in the air.
6. The first person to find the word gets to read out the meaning to the class, and his or her team gets a point.
7. The winning team is the team with the most points!

Section 4: Suggested answers

Chapter 1

1. Practical = Mpho (she tells Tumi to stop daydreaming and play Monopoly)
Naughty = Lefa (he grabs the dice and steals Tumi's turn)
A dreamer = Tumi (she is staring dreamily at the ceiling and imagining running her own spaza shop).
2. The story takes place in the June school holidays, in a cul-de-sac in Diepkloof, Soweto.
3. The story focuses on three children (Tumi, Lefa and Mpho), which suggests that the story is written for children. The story takes place in Soweto in South Africa, which suggests that the story was written for South African children. The fact that this story is about ordinary children living ordinary lives that are similar to the lives of the readers also suggests that this book is written for all South Africans to celebrate how special ordinary, everyday lives are.
4. Gogo is very proud of her shop. This is clear from the following sentence: "Gogo's Goodies was Gogo's pride and joy" (p. 3).
5. Key words:
Gogo Tina had a puffy grey Afro that made Tumi think of a halo. Her hands were soft and broad, and they always smelt like cocoa butter.
Angels wear haloes, so the word "halo" suggests that Gogo is kind and good and protective, like an angel.
6. Gogo told Lefa they could start the saving challenge the next day.
7. Mpho always asks to be the banker in Monopoly so that she can practise working with money and win the saving challenge.
8. Tumi is too annoyed/angry/shocked to speak because Mpho told her she takes too long to count out the money in Monopoly and Lefa told her that is why she won't beat her cousins at Monopoly or win the saving challenge. She is upset with her cousins, especially Lefa, for saying she will never win the challenge.
9. **Cats** are often described as looking very smug/pleased with themselves. In the same way, **Mpho is also** feeling very pleased with herself because she thinks she has a much better chance of winning the saving challenge than Tumi, so her expression is similar to that of a cat. Because **cats and Mpho** have the same look, the simile is effective.
10. Gogo discovers that her choir, the Golden Gogos Choir, are going to take part in a choir competition, the National Choir Finals.

Chapter 2

1. This shows that the communities we live in can play a special role in supporting us. Just as Gogo supports those around her by providing goods they need in her shop, others support her by coming to congratulate her. This mutual support shows how valuable and special everyday community life can be.
2. The girls want to start doing the saving challenge.
3. The word "nunun" is a loving nickname for a child, according to the *Dictionary of South African English* (n.d.). Gogo's use of this word shows that she has a close, loving relationship with her grandchildren. The fact that she says, "I'm sorry" and "You will start as soon as I am back" shows that Gogo is considerate of her grandchildren and the things that are important to them.
4. "We could run the shop for you." This shows that Tumi has big dreams. It also shows her innocence (remember that *Disaster at Gogo's Spaza* celebrates the innocence of childhood) as Tumi has no idea of what running the spaza would involve.
5. They wouldn't be doing any harm.
They would be helping Gogo out.
They could have a good saving challenge.
They could make holiday money.
6. **A bird** that has just caught a worm might prance and jump around because it is very excited. **In the same way, Tumi** is jumping/prancing around because she is very excited about her idea. **Because there is a similarity** between the emotions (excitement) and behaviour (jumping around/prancing) of a bird and Tumi, the simile is effective.
7. Mpho thinks it is a bad idea at first because her mouth falls open, she shakes her head and she says, "No ways" (p. 17).
8. Student's own answer.

Chapter 3

1. Gogo leaves for her choir competition. The children open the spaza for business.
2. According to page 21, Tumi is rubbing her hands together. Tumi is doing this because she feels excited at their running the spaza shop alone.
3. Tumi feels sad because she knows she is going to miss her grandmother. We know this because Tumi hugs her grandmother and says, "We will miss you" (p. 21).
4. Tumi's feelings are mixed/ambivalent – in other words, she has feelings that clash with each other because she feels both sad and excited. This is realistic because in real life, most people have mixed feelings about important events.
5. Student's own answer. Gogo is talking to her grandchildren. "Bana ba ka" means "my children".
6. Tumi wants to distract Sisi so that she doesn't see Lefa taking the keys for the spaza shop.
7. No. When Mpho asks what they should say, Tumi answers as follows:

*Tumi shrugged. "That Gogo allowed us to play in the spaza shop."
 "And when she sees the customers?"
 "Then we will say that they saw that we were inside, and they forced us to sell to them, and we said yes because we didn't want to turn Gogo's customers away," Tumi said confidently. (p. 26)*

8. Tumi is prepared to be untruthful in order to run the spaza shop. She has become so focused on the idea of running the shop that she would rather lie than have to stop working in the spaza.
9. Student's own answer. For instance, there are usually negative consequences when people lie to others, especially if there is a good chance that the truth could be discovered.

Chapter 4

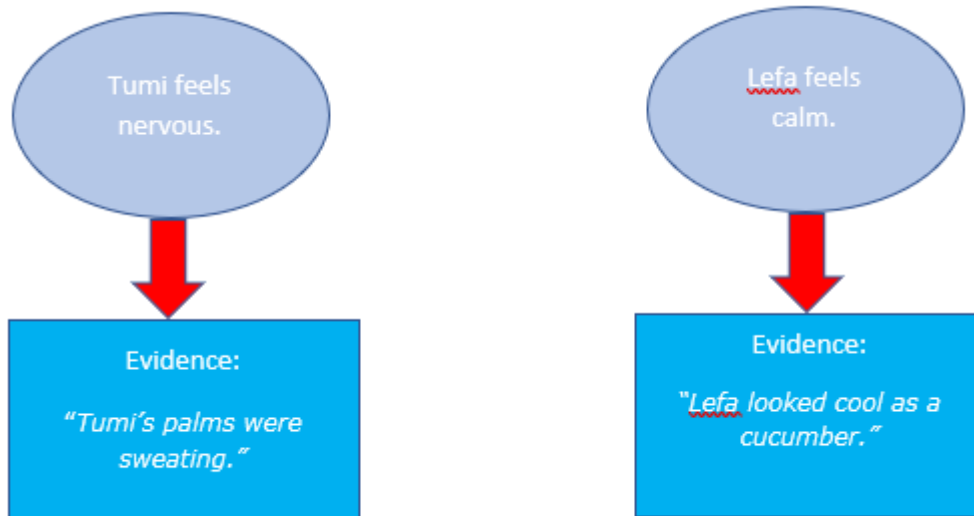
1. Your table should look something like this:

Tumi – solutions	Mpho – problems
The children need to find a way to get customers.	How can the children get customers when people know Gogo is away?
They should advertise to get customers.	Advertising costs money.

2. Tumi is no longer just dreaming about things she wants to do. She is actually doing what she dreamed of. She is learning that carrying out her dream also brings problems, and she is responding to those problems by being practical and thinking of solutions.
3. According to Arderne (2016), writing for Oxbridge Academy, "Sharp or sharp-sharp can be used to express a range of different things such as agreement, enthusiasm, and greeting. It could also mean 'thank you', 'okay', 'sure', 'yes', 'good' or 'goodbye'" (Sharp section). Here, the customer says "sharp, sharp" when he finishes his phone conversation, so here, it probably means "goodbye".
4. Babysitting
Dog washing
Car washing
5. She says that they don't have any airtime left. She doesn't want to admit that they can't find the airtime because then it looks like the children don't know what they are doing.
6. The customer is disappointed because now she won't be able to ask for a song on the radio or be entered into the draw for the shoe competition. Tumi feels embarrassed.
7. "Then it hit her: They could call in to the radio station themselves" (p. 38).
8. The literal meaning would be that something hit Tumi/hurt Tumi. The figurative meaning is that Tumi suddenly had an idea. Here, the author is using the figurative meaning of the sentence.
9. Tumi seems to be learning that even when she makes mistakes or experiences problems (for instance, the children couldn't find airtime for the customer), good things, such as new opportunities and ideas, can still come from bad experiences. For instance, Tumi's experience gives her the idea of advertising on the radio.

Chapter 5

1. They are about to phone the radio station, Soweto Radio, so that they can advertise the services they are going to provide.
- 2.



3. This is a simile – it is a comparison using like/as. Literally, a cucumber is cool to eat. Figuratively, Lefa looks cool, calm and collected. So even though the simile plays with two different meanings of "cool", both Lefa and the cucumber are cool, so the simile is effective.
4. Lefa starts adding extras related to the services they will offer, e.g., "the first ten customers get half price" (p. 43). He says there will be two babysitters and that the cars will be washed better than ever before. This shows how excited Lefa is getting about their services. It also shows his innocence – he has big dreams about these new services and doesn't realise yet how challenging they are going to be!!
5. Lefa asks for the song "Who Let the Dogs Out!" This makes the DJ laugh because one of the services that the children will be offering is dog washing.
6. Mpho is stressed at the extra details Lefa added – how he got carried away. She may also have been stressed that he mentioned all the services they discussed because this will be a lot to manage.
7. Tumi is worried in case Gogo hears their advertisement.
8. No. Lefa defends the way he advertised the spaza and their extra service, saying to Mpho, "You said I should advertise. It's not my fault that the DJ liked our ideas" (p. 45). When Tumi is worried about their grandmother hearing their advertisement, Lefa says that Gogo is busy with her choir competition. He also winks at the girls, which shows he is not worried, and he says that they are going to be fine.
9. Lefa isn't as worried about the consequences of his actions as the girls are. Both Mpho and Tumi, although they don't realise properly what the negative consequences of running the spaza and other services may be, do realise that the advertisement could bring negative outcomes for them. They might not be able to do everything they advertised, and if Gogo hears the advert, they will be in trouble.
10. Student's own answer.

Chapter 6

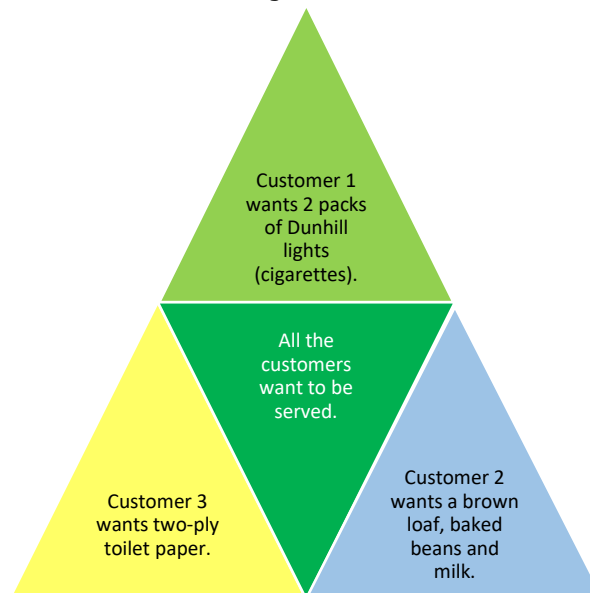
1. The children probably aren't as well prepared as they think. For instance, how will they dry the dogs? Will people be able to get in through the gate easily to come to the spaza shop if there are cars and taxis blocking the way at the car wash? Who will do the babysitting? For instance, if Tumi, who is good with children, does the babysitting, how will she run the spaza shop?
2. Suggested possible problems and solutions:
Problem: More children are needed to run the services ⇒ **Solution:** Maybe they can ask their friends.
Problem: Dogs won't get dry ⇒ **Solution:** Borrow old towels from Sisi.
Problem: Front gate might be blocked by taxis/cars ⇒ **Solution:** Ask those coming to the car wash to park in a specific spot.

Problem: How would Tumi manage with babysitting and running the spaza? ⇒ **Solution:** Offer babysitting after hours, when the spaza shop is closed.

3. The children will also need to find solutions to the problems they face if they are going to succeed. This shows that experiencing difficulties could also be a positive experience as the children will have to learn to build their resilience (determination/coping skills) and problem-solving skills.
4. "A walk in the park" is a metaphor. A metaphor happens when you compare two things without using the words "like" or "as". Here, babysitting is being compared to a walk in the park. A walk in a park is something that is relaxing and easy to do. In the same way, Tumi thinks that babysitting will be an easy, relaxing experience.
5. It is her dream to run a spaza shop. She also wants to win the saving challenge.
6. The dogs don't want to be washed.
Themba hasn't arrived when the first taxis arrive to be washed.
Lefa doesn't know how to clean a taxi and tries to start with the tyres.
Customers arrive at the spaza shop and are getting impatient – no one is there because Tumi is helping Mpho with the dog washing.
7. Zola Budd is a well-known South African runner.
8. Taxis are fast, just like the runner Zola Budd.

Chapter 7

1. Your diagram should look something like this:



2. Tumi is trying to stay calm, so she does what Gogo would do – washes her hands and puts on Gogo's apron.
3. A customer returns because she was given the wrong change. Tumi is about to help her when the third customer objects, saying that Tumi must help her first. Both women want to be helped first.
4. Sisi. The women stop arguing because Sisi looks so strange – her hair is only half braided as she was interrupted by the shouting.
5. Sisi uses Tumi's full name and emphasizes each syllable: "Tu – me – lo!" This shows how annoyed and shocked she is.
6. Your answer may look something like this:

S (Statement)	Tumi's response shows that she doesn't give up easily/is determined.
E (Example)	We can see this because Tumi says, "Sorry, Sisi. I promise I have it under control" (p. 62)
E (Explain)	This quote shows that Tumi is still trying to sort out the situation even though the two women are fighting and the situation is very tense. Only someone who was determined and resilient (doesn't easily give up/copos well with challenges) would do this.

7. The big dog, Chief, comes rushing around the corner, covered in soap, and charges at Sisi. Sisi gets a fright and runs away.
8. There are too many people wanting their cars washed. Angry drivers are blowing their horns, and several drivers start chanting, "Give back my money" (p. 67). Themba and Lefa are stressed and scared; Themba runs away down the street, and Lefa runs through the gate and makes sure he locks it.
9. The aim of the chapter seems to be this: The writer wants to show the absolute chaos that takes place when the children don't listen to their grandmother and go ahead with opening the spaza shop, as well as other services.

Chapter 8

1. They need to ask Sisi for help because they cannot cope alone with all the customers wanting to use their services.
2. People usually bite their lips when they are thinking about something or are unsure. Tumi is still thinking about Mpho's recommendation, and biting her lip shows she is unsure for a moment of what to do.
3. Have a look at the answer in the table below:

S (Statement)	Tumi agrees because it is the final day to make money at the spaza, and she wants to win the saving game.
E (Example)	For instance, according to <i>Disaster at Gogo's Spaza</i> , "she still wanted to make sure that she would finally beat her cousins at their saving game" (p. 70).
E (Explain)	This quote shows that she agreed to say sorry to Sisi in order to achieve her goal of being the winner.

4. Tumi's response shows that she is goal orientated (focuses on her goals) and doesn't easily give up. She is very determined.
5. She feels sceptical (she isn't sure what they are up to). We know this because Sisi lifts her eyebrow, which shows her scepticism (distrust). The fact that she is still suspicious is also seen in the fact that the smile she gives the girls is "small" (p. 73). She does, however, appreciate the tea and cookies. We know this because she thanks the girls and says the tea and cookies look nice.
6. No. She says, "We can't have a repeat of yesterday's mess. Your game will have to wait for Gogo" (p. 73).
7. Sisi is almost forced to help them when a crowd of people arrive with their children for the babysitting service. She feels sorry for the girls – Tumi takes her hand and begs her to help.
8.
 - **Emotion:** Sisi feels confused (as she doesn't know about the radio advert).
 - **Body language that shows her emotion:** Sisi frowns.

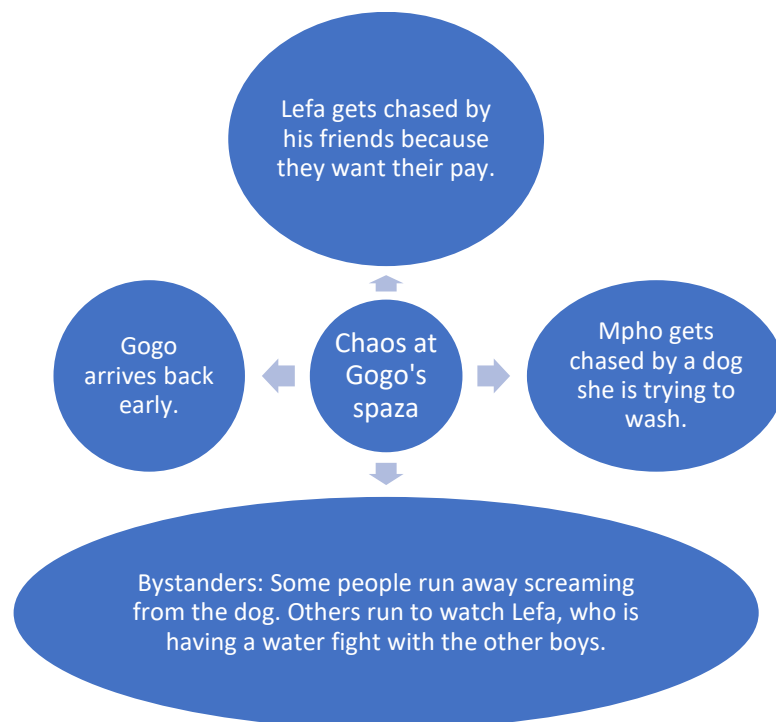
 - **Emotion:** Sisi feels shocked.
 - **Body language that shows her emotion:** Sisi "gawked" (p. 75) at the girls, her "eyes wide" (p. 75).

 - **Emotion:** Sisi feels stressed/hysterical.
 - **Body language that shows her emotion:** Sisi "bit her lip and suddenly let out a high-pitched laugh" (p. 76).
9. She is kind – she is prepared to help because it is an emergency. The children can depend on her.
10. Tumi feels completely overwhelmed. We know this because Tumi freezes, with her hand to her forehead, and doesn't seem able to talk.
11. Mpho helped Tumi to cope in the shop and so couldn't do the dog washing. This meant she couldn't make any money.

Chapter 9

1. She recognises the speaker's voice and realises it is her granddaughter, Tumi.
2. "'Hawu, hawu!' Gogo screamed" (p. 83) OR "Gesturing towards the radio, Gogo stuttered: 'Yoh, yoh! I know that voice.' She clutched her chest" (p. 83).

3. The situation at her home is becoming more and more chaotic. There are cars on both sides of the street. The yard is full of people.
4. The driver's attitude is positive/admiring – he says Gogo's grandchildren are "very creative" (p. 86).
Gogo's attitude is very worried; she is "dazed" and "clicking her tongue" (p. 86).
Their attitudes are different, and the driver is less worried because it is not his home that is so chaotic and not his business that is threatened.
5. Student's own answer. Possible answer: Gogo says, "I have to get home to save my business" (p. 86). This suggests that "step on it" means that the driver must take her home quickly. If you look up the expression, "step on it" literally means "step on the car's accelerator" (to make the car go faster). Figuratively, then, "step on it" means "hurry".
6. She is enjoying the attention and likes waving when people call out her name. She feels like her Gogo, who is also well-known to people. Tumi really loves and admires her Gogo, so feeling that she is like her Gogo is probably another reason why she feels so happy.
7. Your answer may look something like this:



8. Both words start with the same consonant, "d".
9. Repeating consonant sounds is called alliteration. It is effective because the repetition emphasises how Lefa is bobbing around between the cars, trying to hide.
10. Tumi freezes again because the situation is too overwhelming – "everything around her was happening so fast" (p. 88). Tumi probably reacts like this because she is still little and the situation is too much for her to manage. She does her best to respond to problems by finding solutions, but sometimes, the problems become too big or overwhelming for her to cope.

Chapter 10

1. Gogo can delegate – She asks Silas to sort out the car washing and sends Agnes to find the girls. Gogo is practical – she gives Sisi ice lollies for the children in the yard. She starts working in the shop with two friends and quickly serves all the customers.
Gogo can find the good in bad situations – Gogo does a TV interview and is charming, which will gain support and new clients for her spaza shop. She likes the fact that her spaza is now famous and is going to continue with the car wash.
2. Lefa freezes then slowly turns to Gogo and stammers as he talks – he is scared. Mpho and Tumi run away and hide.
3. Student's own answer. Perhaps the driver admires Lefa's naughtiness and his bravery in being involved in the craziness of the new services?

4. Mam'Agnes has lived next door to Gogo for a long time and knows where the girls like to hide.
5. Sisi started by babysitting. Then she asked her friend to babysit and was working in the shop. There are lots of customers because when Gogo arrives, she thanks them for being patient and mentions they have been waiting for a long time.
6. Sisi can be tough, e.g., she tells the teenager to behave. Sisi is also very loyal to her family, e.g., she has been working all day to help the children and to protect Gogo's business, even though the situation wasn't her fault.
7. This shows how special the communities we live in, and our friends in those communities, can be – it highlights their value. For instance, Mam'Agnes, Gogo's choir friends and Silas are all happy to help Gogo.
8. Gogo tells the children they have "a lot of explaining to do" (p. 104). The girls apologise. Lefa tries to blame the girls at first, but then he also admits he is sorry.
9. They realise that they have to accept responsibility for their decisions. Even innocent goals, like wanting to win the saving challenge or work in the spaza, don't always have positive outcomes – especially when their methods are wrong (the children try to achieve their aim by opening a shop that doesn't belong to them and by starting services that are more than they can manage.).
10. Sisi wins because it was thanks to her help that there wasn't even more chaos. She did her best to help with the babysitting and the spaza shop.
11. The children have learnt that mistakes can be good. Firstly, they have learnt what not to do in future – that they need to respect Gogo's decisions about her business. If Gogo closes her spaza shop, they cannot just decide to open it. However, running the spaza shop and other businesses also meant that they had to grow as people and think of solutions to the problems that they faced. For instance, Tumi thought of advertising on the radio, the children all thought of different services to offer and Mpho thought of asking Sisi for help.
12. The children have made Gogo's spaza famous, and she has realised it is also a good idea to have a car wash. Gogo doesn't punish the children because she recognises that they meant well and that they were too innocent to understand how difficult it might be to run several businesses. The fact that she isn't harsh and doesn't punish them shows that she values their innocence.
13. Gogo's gratitude shows the children that mistakes can also be positive and bring new opportunities – Gogo's Goodies is now famous in Soweto, and Gogo is going to start a new service, car washing.

Study guide glossary

Alliteration: Repeating the same consonant sound at the start of a word, e.g., “ducking and diving”.

Characters: These are the people in the story, e.g., Tumi, Lefa, Mpho, Gogo, Sisi and the minor characters.

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.

External conflict: This is conflict (arguing/tension) between people, e.g., there was conflict between Lefa and Tumi when Lefa said that Tumi would never win the saving challenge.

Falling action: The falling action happens after the climax. The conflict is usually sorted out and the story is brought to an end.

Figuratively: See “figurative meaning” below.

Figurative meaning: This refers not to the literal meaning (the actual meaning) of something but to another meaning. For instance, the figurative meaning of “I’m cool” is “I’m popular”. The literal (actual) meaning of “I’m cool” is “I’m not warm”.

Genre: This is the type of story which has been written, such as an adventure story.

Internal conflict: This is conflict (arguing/tension) within a person.

Literally: See “literal meaning” below.

Literal meaning: This refers to the actual meaning of something. For instance, “I’m cool” means “I’m not warm”. Compare this to figurative meaning above.

Metaphor: A metaphor is a comparison that doesn’t use the words “like” or “as”, e.g., “that beautiful girl is a morning rose.” Here, the girl is being compared to a rose (they are both very pretty), but the words “like” and “as” are not used.

Narrator: the person telling the story.

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

Protagonist: The protagonist is the main character in the story.

The rising action is the build-up towards the most exciting part of the story.

Setting: The setting is where and when the story takes place. This story takes place in Diepkloof, Soweto, in South Africa.

Simile: A simile compares two things using the word “like” or “as”.

Theme: The theme of a story is the message behind a story.

Tone: The tone refers to the feelings/emotions created by the book. *Disaster at Gogo’s Spaza* is a fun book, so the tone could be seen as light-hearted/humorous/entertaining.

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