

# Things I Learnt in the Forest

## TEST AND/OR EXAMINATION QUESTIONS

### QUESTION 1

Read the following extract from “Things I Learnt in the Forest” and answer the questions.

NOTE: The number of marks allocated to each question serves as a guide to the expected length of your answer.

#### 1. I DON'T WANT TO BE HERE

...

All right, so the driver sort of grunted when I got into the plantation's ancient seven-seater Avanza. I think he only bothered because Ma came out to see me off when he hooted outside our new house. Our new *old* house. It's seriously in need of a makeover.

And I'll admit the girl smiled at me as I sat down. The boys both ignored me. One is older, good-looking, and wearing a high-school uniform, so of course I'm keen for him to notice me. He's sitting behind me and the girl, so I can only peep at him into the rear-view mirror. So far, I haven't caught him looking at me. All I've achieved is a scowl from our driver.

The younger boy is in the same uniform as me and the girl. He has these light slip-slide eyes that half-look at you and then skim away. Ma called the driver Mr Dibokwane, but this boy calls him Baba, respectful, even though he's not his dad. He's sitting up front with him and they're talking about a honey badger, whatever that is, only Mr Dibokwane keeps calling it a ratel, which I guess is the same thing. The boy says he saw one last night.

“Those claws, hey?”

“So the farm people haven't driven away all the animals yet, like you were worried about?” Mr Dibokwane says in his rumbling voice.

“It's bad that they are ripping out the trees,” replies the boy.

I look at the girl again. She's quite a big girl and she has a round face surrounded by a fuzz of black hair like a halo – so totally not a fashion icon, but she doesn't exactly look like a rocket scientist either, so she's also not a nerd.

5

10

15

20

- 1.1 Choose a description from COLUMN B that matches a name in COLUMN A. Write only the letter (A-F) next to the question numbers (1.1a – 1.1d).

COLUMN A	COLUMN B
a) Mr Dibokwane b) Cal c) Andile d) Pabi	A. a high school boy B. middle aged teacher at the narrator's school C. a girl with dyslexia D. nature lover E. a spoiled girl from the city F. drives the kids to school

(4)

- 1.2 Refer to the title of this chapter. (1)
- 1.2.1 Where is “here”? (1)
- 1.2.2 Why does the narrator not want to be there? (2)
- 1.3 Refer to line 1, “...I got into the plantation’s ancient...”  
Provide a synonym for the underlined word. (1)
- 1.4 Quote TWO separate words from this extract that prove the following statement is TRUE.  
Mr Dibokwane seems unfriendly. (2)
- 1.5 Refer to lines 11 –12. The boy is still talkative at this stage of the chapter. Discuss what happens to him once they approach school. Make TWO separate points. (2)
- 1.6 Refer to lines 18 – 19, “...she has a round face...a halo...”  
Choose the correct answer to complete the following sentence.  
Write only the letter (A–D) next to the question number (1.6).  
The figure of speech evident in this line is a ...  
A metaphor.  
B simile.  
C irony.  
D hyperbole. (1)
- 1.7 What does this extract reveal about the narrator's character?  
Substantiate your answer. (2)

QUESTION 1 TOTAL: [15]

MEMO QUESTION 1

1.1		
a)	F	
b)	D	
c)	A	
d)	C	(4)
1.2	Refer to the title of this chapter.	
1.2.1	The plantation / rural Mpumalanga	(1)
1.2.2	She misses her friends/lifestyle (1) in Tshwane/the city (1) where she used to live	(2)
	OR	
	She does not know these people (1) and she is in a completely new environment (1). (Accept correct alternative responses.)	
1.3	old	(1)
1.4	“grunted”, “scowl”	(2)
1.5	Firstly, he becomes quiet (1). Secondly, he pulls his shoulders down/hunch/makes himself physically smaller (1).	(2)
1.6	B simile.	(1)
1.7	Thoko is judgmental (1) because she decides what Pabi and Andile are like based on how they look; “not a fashion icon”, not “a rocket scientist”, “One is older, good-looking, and wearing a high-school uniform, so of course I’m keen for him to notice me.” (1)	
	OR	
	Thoko is superficial/shallow; she wants Andile to notice her because he is older and good-looking, yet she knows nothing about him.	(2)
	(Accept correct alternative responses.)	
QUESTION 1 TOTAL:		[15]

## QUESTION 2

Read the following extract from “Things I Learnt in the Forest” and answer the questions.

NOTE: The number of marks allocated to each question serves as a guide to the expected length of your answer.

<b>4. PEOPLE AREN'T ALWAYS LOGICAL</b>	
<p>...</p> <p>Pabi needs someone to protect her from people like me.</p> <p>Or maybe I could become her protector, the way I imagine myself protecting my future baby brother, if Ma ever provides me with one.</p> <p>I'd been planning to text Sindi or one of my other Tshwane girlfriends, but instead I set myself the task of being kind to Pabi.</p>	5
<p>I talk to Pabi all the way to town in our old Nissan.</p> <p>Once we get to town, we hit the mall. Ma gives us money for milkshakes even though Pabi says she has her weekly pocket money with her.</p> <p>“You're our guest,” the new me explains. Kindly.</p> <p>“Drop the tone, please, Thoko,” Ma says, but mildly. “It's my treat, Pabi.”</p>	10
<p>...</p> <p>“Good morning, Pabi.” The woman greeting Pabi turns her attention to Ma and me. “And who are your new friends?”</p> <p>Pabi is looking everywhere except at us and the woman, and she's rocking her whole body and swinging her arms across her front. I've seen her shy before, but this is something else – like there's something seriously wrong with her. Maybe it's because this woman is really pushy.</p> <p>I remember my new role as mentor. Adults are just bigger people, and I need to help Pabi get over her discomfort in this sort of situation.</p> <p>“Introduce us, Pabi,” I encourage in a bright voice that I have to admit sounds rather silly if you remember I'm still twelve.</p> <p>“Do, Pabi, dear,” the woman agrees. Pushily.</p>	15
<p>...</p> <p>“Actually, it was her son who was really scary. There was always trouble when he visited her on the plantation. He'd bring his friends, and there'd be so much noise from them racing their quad bikes.</p>	21
<p>...</p> <p>My father says that's what comes of spoiling children. Ms Chundu gives her son everything he asks for. But he didn't come to the plantation very often. He said it was boring . . . a bit like you, Thoko.”</p>	26

- 2.1 Refer to line 1.  
Thoko believes that Pabi needs to be protected from people like her.  
List TWO of Thoko's bad qualities. (2)
- 2.2 Refer to line 4 and the story. Do you think Sindi is a true friend.  
Substantiate your answer. (2)
- 2.3
- 2.3.1 Prove the following statement TRUE by referring to the extract and the story.  
Ms Gumede is a good mother. (2)
- 2.3.2 Briefly discuss Thoko and her father's relationship. (1)
- 2.4 Refer to lines 11 – 21.  
Complete the following sentences by filling in the missing words.  
Write only the word next to the question numbers 2.4(a) – 2.4(d)
- Ms Chundu; secretary; fired; clerk; Ms Koacho; husband; son; banned.
- The pushy woman is called, (a) \_\_\_\_\_. She used to be the (b) \_\_\_\_\_ at the plantation. Her (c) \_\_\_\_\_ has made threats; promising to destroy the forest. He was (d) \_\_\_\_\_ from the plantation. (4)
- 2.5 Refer to the story as a whole.
- 2.5.1 List TWO things Ngcebo Chundu did that upset Cal and the rest of the people on the plantation. (2)
- 2.5.2 Do you think Ngcebo could be considered "really dangerous"? (1)
- 2.6 Refer to line 28. Do you think it is fair of Pabi to compare Thoko to Ngcebo? (1)

QUESTION 2 TOTAL: [15]

MEMO QUESTION 2

2.1	self-centred, mean/rude/unkind, tactless/inconsiderate.  (Accept any correct alternatives)	(2)
2.2	No, she does not answer the phone when one of her “closest” friends call. She does not make effort to keep in touch with Thoko. She does not seem keen to speak to Thoko over the phone and just rambles on about her own life. ANY TWO.	(2)
2.3	Extract: Ms Gumede spoils the girls by taking them to the mall and giving them some spending money. (1)  Story: She does not spoil Thoko by giving her everything she wants. She is strict, but fair. She spends quality time with her daughter (cycling), eating at the dinner table. She reprimands her daughter when she is being self-centred or unkind. She provides for her daughter as a single mother. (Any ONE 1)	(2)
2.3.2	Thoko’s father is absent from her life and they do not have a relationship. (1) / She knows nothing about her father as he left Ms Gumede to deal with the real life responsibilities of raising a child. (1)	(1)
2.4	a) Ms Chundu b) clerk c) son d) banned	(4)
2.5.1	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• He stoned a vervet monkey.</li> <li>• A forest buzzard has been injured with a pellet gun.</li> <li>• A bushbuck has been shot.</li> <li>• He blocked the mongoose holes.</li> <li>• Birds’ nests have been harmed.</li> <li>• Damaged young trees.</li> <li>• ANY TWO (ACCEPT OTHER CORRECT ANSWERS)</li> </ul>	(2)
2.5.2	Yes, at the end of the story he chases Thoko, Pabi, Cal and Vusi with a gun and fired at them.	(1)
2.6	Yes, Thoko has mentioned how boring the plantation is.  OR	(1)

	No, Thoko has started enjoying the wildlife and has shown some interest. / Even though, she is sometimes bored on the plantation, she would never do anything to harm wildlife.	
		QUESTION 2 TOTAL: [15]

### QUESTION 3

Read the following extracts from “Things I Learnt in the Forest” and answer the questions.

NOTE: The number of marks allocated to each question serves as a guide to the expected length of your answer.

I wish he hadn't seen us laughing. When you're angry or unhappy, seeing other people having fun just makes it worse. You want to do everything you can to stop their fun, because you need the whole world to feel as hurt as you are.	
At least that's how I am. I know it's not exactly nice, but I bet Vusi isn't any better than me. For a start, his life is way worse than mine.	5
Now that's a new thought for me: I used to believe my troubles were worse than anyone else's. Hey, I'm learning things here, about myself and also about other people.	
Vusi stops in front of us, and Pabi edges closer to me.	10
"I heard something," he says in that rough voice. Not in his usual angry way, but more like he's appealing to us.	
I look at him and wish I hadn't. Now I'm not going to be able to forget that look in his eyes, misery all mixed up with rage.	
"Yes?" I say, less sassily than usual. "What did you hear?"	15
"About animals getting shot. Also getting hurt in other ways, like being stoned and birds' nests being broken up." It bursts out of him in a rush. "On the plantation? I heard someone is doing it. On purpose. To hurt the plantation. Is it true?"	
...	
"Someone must catch this person," Vusi says, and it sounds all strangled, angry but somehow desperate at the same time. "Stop them. Or it will be the farm next."	20
"So that's what you're worried about? The farm, not the plantation and its wildlife. But you can leave it to us," I tell him, forgetting my humility. "We'll catch them."	25
"We're going to patrol, Vusi." Now Pabi is eager. "You guys could too."	
Vusi looks at us, and I see how worried and unhappy he is. Then he makes an awkward jerky movement with his head that could either be a nod of agreement or a goodbye. He doesn't say anything, just turns away and stumbles off.	30
...	
"Poor Vusi," Pabi says.	

- 3.1 Refer to line 6, "...his life is way worse than mine."  
In what way is Vusi's life worse than Thoko's? Make TWO points. (2)
- 3.2 Refer to line 10, "...Pabi edges closer to me."  
What incident in the story makes Pabi afraid of Vusi? (1)
- 3.3 Refer to line 20, "Someone must catch this person."  
3.3.1 What is ironic about Vusi saying these words at this stage of the story? (2)  
3.3.2 Vusi is concerned that "it will be the farm next." What is on the farm that makes Vusi sound desperate. (1)
- 3.4 While on the patrol (line 26) certain events occur.  
Choose a description from COLUMN B that matches a name in COLUMN A. Write only the letter (A-E) next to the question numbers (3.4a – 3.4e)

COLUMN A	COLUMN B
a) Vusi b) Pabi c) Ngcebo d) Cal e) Derek	A. ankle is hurt running away from the gunman B. driven by revenge C. runs ahead to warn the forester of the gunman D. "he looks at me. Properly. For the first time ever." E. a hero

(5)

- 3.5 Prove the following statement TRUE. Substantiate from this extract and the story as a whole.  
Pabi is a good person. (2)
- 3.6 Refer to the title, "Things I Learnt in the forest." Discuss TWO things Thoko learns in this story. (2)

QUESTION 2 TOTAL: [15]



	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• She has learnt to be more considerate and less self-centred.</li></ul> ANY TWO. ACCEPT CORRECT ALTERNATIVE	(2)
	QUESTION 3 TOTAL:	[15]