

Twenty questions to help you think about *The Cedarville Shop and the Wheelbarrow Swap*

1. Boipelo's name means 'proud'.
  - a) Do you think this is a good name for him?
  - b) What does your name mean? Do you think your name suits you?
2. Put the trades that Boi made in the right order that they appear in the story:

Place in the soccer team      Coke              Chicken              Wheelbarrow              Clay cow  
Transport to Kokstad

3. Why does Boi have a special connection with the 'Piet-my-vrou' bird?
4. Early in the story Boi says "What I like about this plan ... is that it's so simple." Do you think the plan was simple or not?
5. What do you think were some of the difficulties that Boi faced when making a trade?
6. Mr Tshezi says that "Mess is where everything starts..." In what ways is Boi's plan messy?
7. Choose two qualities from this list you think a person needs to see a plan through to the end:

determination      try to please people      highly organized      easy going  
a willingness to take action      don't take too many risks

8. Boi overhears Aunty Shirley saying: "The biggest problem in this place might not be unemployment. I think it's *laziness*." Why does Boi know that this is not true?
9. Boi's father says: "Most people's lives are just leaky buckets that never fill up." In what ways has this been true for Boi's dad?
10. Boi learns a song at school about a bucket with a hole in it. What do you think he means when he says: "Without a bucket to fix a bucket, you just go round in circles."
11. Mrs Jafta say that grace is what happens when "it is dark and suddenly there is some light to see by." How does grace appear at just the right time to help these characters:
  - Boi's family
  - Boi and Sesi
  - Sis uDana
  - Aviwe
  - Grandfather Gaba

- Boi's neighbour: Sis uNomazizi
12. Can you think of something that happened in your own life when something really difficult worked out well?
  13. How would you explain 'grace' in your own words?
  14. Compare the two journalists in the story. What roles did they play in helping or damaging Boi's plan?
  15. Do you think it's true that it's easier to be friends with a person when you are both struggling?
  16. What do you think caused the problems between Boi and Potso?
  17. Grandfather Gaba told Boi that "...every person has something they must do. It's like a door that has your shape...if you try to take your friends with you all the time, you will never fit through that door." What do you think he was saying to Boi? Choose from these statements:
    - Friends are not very important in life
    - Boi has the right to make his own plans, even if it means he must act alone
    - Sometimes people must be willing to make unpopular decisions
    - Its very important to always take your friend's opinions into account
    - You can still be friends even if you have different paths to walk
  18. Are there things you would like to do, but don't do, because you worry it might upset your friends? What are they?
  19. At the end of the book Sesi says: "You've done something, Boi. Something impossible ...but wonderful." Do you agree with this?
  20. Who benefits in the end from Boi's trading game? Think of all the characters and what they get out of it.