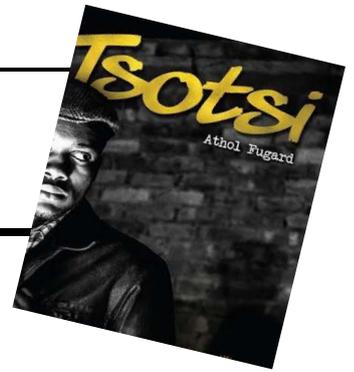


Copy and
Teach!

Introducing Tsotsi

Recommended level: Grades 10-11



Read the following extract and then answer the questions that follow.

With *Tsotsi*, Fugard has crafted an intelligent and insightful novel. One which humanizes brutality, exposes the corruptibility (*sic*) of humans, and conversely presents the possibilities for redemption, not in a biblical sense but in the more down-to-earth manner in which individuals can take an opportunity to change their life for the better. While the book reflects a particularly bloody time in South Africa's history, it is not a gratuitous offering. Acts of sex and violence are not described in explicit detail, instead the writer zones in on the characters and causal factors.

<http://www.spikemagazine.com/athol-fugard-tsotsi.php> [Accessed 22/01/2016]

Questions:

1. How would you correct the punctuation of the first sentence? (2)
2. Would you regard the first sentence as complimentary or critical? Motivate your answer. (3)
3. In sentence 2, the word 'humanizes' has been used. Is this spelling correct or should it have been 'humanises'? Explain your answer. (2)
4. Explain the inclusion of the words in brackets in line 2 – (*sic*). (2)
5. Explain the use of the word 'conversely' in the second sentence. (2)
6. The writer refers to two forms of 'redemption' – a biblical one and a down-to-earth one. Explain what he means. (3)
7. Explain the meaning of the following words in context:
A. insightful
B. gratuitous
C. explicit (3)
8. What part of speech is each of the following words:
A. offering
B. zones
C. causal (3)



(3)
/20/

Suggested answers:

1. The name of the book (*Tsotsi*) should be in italics, or inverted commas or underlined ✓ to show that it is a title. ✓
2. Complimentary. ✓ (no mark if not substantiated)
The adjectives 'intelligent' and 'insightful' have positive connotations ✓ and act as praise ✓ for the novel.
3. According to the Oxford dictionary, either is acceptable. Learners may respond that the 's' is correct as often a spelling with a 'z' is the American spelling. ✓ Or, they might say that although the 'z' may be regarded as an American spelling ✓, the 'z' is acceptable in this word. ✓
4. 'corruptibility' has been spelt incorrectly. The inclusion of (*sic*) indicates that the error occurred in the original ✓ and has not been corrected. ✓
5. The word indicates that opposite ✓ ideas are being mentioned i.e. how man can be corrupted (negative quality) vs. his potential for redemption (positive quality). ✓
6. Redemption in a biblical sense would mean that a person accepts Jesus as his saviour, ✓ while a down-to-earth interpretation would refer to a practical situation ✓ in which a person finds solutions to problems that will make his life better. ✓ (Also accept an explanation that provides 'secular' as an antonym for the biblical interpretation.)
7. A. It gives you a vision or understanding of a situation. ✓
B. unwarranted or uncalled for – the novel has a *good reason* for showing the 'bloody times' in South Africa. ✓
C. clear, definite, detailed ✓
8. A. noun ✓
B. finite verb ✓
C. adjective ✓

