**Nelson’s Dream**  J. M. Newsome

**Summary**

Nelson Mbizi returns to his home in Kurupenda, the capital of Gomokure, a country in southern Africa, after three years in the UK studying hotel management. He immediately gets involved in the problems of his country when the Mbizi family’s housekeeper asks his mother for financial help for some children she knows. They live in the poor township – Sector D – where she also lives, and have recently been orphaned by AIDS.

When Nelson visits Sector D, he finds a TV cameraman and journalist from South Africa’s Network 10 filming there; the reporter, Viki, is using the Mawadza family to make the point that something serious needs to be done to help. Nelson finds Viki very attractive. He also notes that one of the boys – Daniel – is a very good musician.

The story of Nelson helping the Mawadza family is intertwined with his family’s problems. His father owns the three hotels where Nelson works, and he is also Minister for International Trade in the government. Nelson and his father don’t have a good relationship, and his father hits him when he says he’s been to Sector D. Soon, however, his parents have to leave when his father is accused of stealing government money. Nelson is questioned and followed by the Intelligence Agency.

With his parents away, Nelson is left in charge of the hotels; however, in the end his father decides to sell them, and Nelson concludes a deal with an Australian businessman.

In the meantime, Nelson has been working with the Sector D community. They have restored an old bus garage to turn it into a centre where the young people can meet but also learn about and be treated for AIDS/HIV. He is particularly involved with the Mawadza family, who have been trying to get along without their parents. Daniel earns a little money singing, Eddy gets a job at a garage and Nelson gets Lily Anne and their baby brother Blessing into a hospice, where Blessing soon dies of the AIDS his mother passed on to him.

Nelson is also involved with Viki, partly because he wants her to cover the story and partly because he is interested in her as a woman. However, she is always distant and rude. It is only when Daniel sees her taking drugs for HIV that things start to fall into place, and they realise why she is so bitter.

The story ends relatively happily for this group of people, with Daniel having his first concert appearance with top singer Kundai, Viki and Nelson starting a relationship and the Garage working for the community. We learn that a year later Nelson and Viki have a healthy child, Daniel makes a CD, Eddy works as a driver and Lily Anne works at the Garage. Only Nelson’s parents are left outside, waiting for a change of government to be able to come home.

**Before reading**

1. Student’s own answers.
2. Nelson Mbizi. HIV/AIDS.
3. Viki and Phil work in television and have non-African names; Sister Michael is a nun, and they are often from other countries.
4. The hotel business.
Check your reading

Chapter 1
1. Because he has finished his studies.
2. His mother is ‘lovely but difficult’ and his father orders people around.
4. Four (Daniel, Eddy, Lily Anne and Blessing).
5. Their neighbour Philomena.
6. Her rich employer.

Chapter 2
1. b, c, e, f, h

Chapter 3
1. a Because they are rich and famous, and don't want to associate with a poor area of the city.
   b So that he wouldn't stand out from the inhabitants of Sector D.
   c From lack of food.
   d There is rubbish in them.
   e That they can be in good spirits even when living in such miserable conditions.

Chapter 4
1. c, a, d, b
2. His father's other children from his affairs.
3. That Nelson will get what he should despite his father's plans.
4. Viki's documentary.

Chapter 5
1. 1 c, 2 e, 3 a, 4 d, 5 b
2. At a garage.
3. Because the other children had not eaten for three days.
4. That the children rent their house.
5. They decide to take the offer.
6. Student's own answer.

Chapter 6
1. a Washington Mbizi
   b Nelson
   c Lily Anne and Blessing
   d Daniel
   e Mrs Chivasa
   f Phil
   g Viki

Chapter 7
1. Lily Anne gets rescued.
2. Because the Nakula brothers tried to have sex with her.
3. No she doesn't.
4. That Lily Anne and Blessing can come to her house.
5. To an empty room at Nelson's house.

Chapter 8
1. c, e, a, f, b, d

Chapter 9
1. a, c, d

Chapter 10
1. a Viki to Nelson
   b Nelson to Viki
   c Mr Nakula to Viki
   d Viki to Mr Nakula
   e Daniel to Viki
   f Phil to Daniel
2. That everyone in Africa will be affected by AIDS and that they need to think about it.

Chapter 11
1. False.
2. a, b, d, e, f
3. He is arrested.
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Chapter 12
1. 1 cell  6 drop-in
2 Intelligence Agency  7 bus garage
3 relieved  8 tested
4 bugging  9 advice
5 government funds

Chapter 13
1. 1 d, 2 f, 3 a, 4 e, 5 c, 6 b

Chapter 14
1. Someone from the Intelligence Agency.
2. That the charity had accepted his proposal.
3. His mother. She says his father might want him to sell the hotel.
4. The Chivasas organise people to clean and paint it and clear up the yard.
5. Top singer Kundai Kambera hears him singing and invites him to be on his show.

Chapter 15
1. a He is preparing everything for the arrival of Paul Walker to buy the hotel.
b There has been great progress in redoing the Garage.
c He is going to sing at Kundai’s concert the next evening.
d She tells them that Blessing died at the hospice.
e She thinks that babies dying make good television.
f He doesn’t want them to film his brother’s funeral.

Chapter 16
1. a, b, d, f

Chapter 17
1. a Daniel to Nelson
   b Nelson to Daniel
   c Viki to Nelson
   d Viki to Nelson
   e Nelson to Viki
2. To the football stadium to see Daniel in the concert.
3. To sell the hotel.

Chapter 18
1. a Yes, he does.
b Yes, she is.
c Yes, he does.
d Yes, they did.
2. To film and do interviews.
3. That he wants to be with Viki and have children.

EPILOGUE
1. The first part is about what happens in the story over the next year. The second part is about the AIDS situation in southern Africa.
2. a Nelson and Viki have a healthy baby.
b Daniel makes a CD and tours with Kundai.
c Lily Anne works at the Garage.
d The Mbizis get together and travel, waiting until they can come home.
e Eddy becomes a driver.
3. a Between one in five and one in four people have AIDS, and in some places it’s as high as one in two.
b There are more than 4 million AIDS orphans in southern and central Africa.