Cry Freedom

Before Reading

BEFORE READING ACTIVITIES (PAGE 108)

ACTIVITY 1 BEFORE READING
1 Yes 2 No 3 Yes 4 Yes 5 No 6 Yes 7 Yes 8 No

ACTIVITY 2 BEFORE READING
The true statements are numbers 2, 3, and 6. The others might be rewritten like this:
1 In terms of natural resources, South Africa is one of the richest countries in Africa.
4 Most black people are still poor, and it will probably take quite a long time to change this.
5 Some whites have left South Africa, but many have remained.

While Reading

CHAPTERS 1 AND 2 WHILE READING
1 Acceptable answers: A woman holding a baby in her arms in front of her wrecked home; two policemen beating a boy; an old man sitting in an armchair, with broken walls around him; a policeman with a whip chasing a girl; a bulldozer smashing through a tiny kitchen.
2 Because the government did not want the town to become permanent.
3 Woods did not believe that black people should be allowed to vote, and he accepted the laws that forced blacks and whites to live in separate areas, but he did not like police brutality against black people.
4 Because she thought that Steve Biko was one of the few people who could still save South Africa, and that Woods should find out what Biko’s opinions were.
5 Some men and women were painting the walls while others were putting up partitions. Some girls were sewing and two older men were making children’s toys.
6 Any white authority – police, government, army.
7 The idea that Biko might have a house, a job and a Mercedes, while the whites lived in the townships.

CHAPTERS 3 TO 5 WHILE READING
1 What . . . ? Organizations where black and white people could work together.
2 What . . . ? Whether Woods had spent any time in a black township.
3 Where . . . ? From churches, from abroad, from black people, and from some companies.
4 Why . . . ? Because if he got caught outside his banning area he would go to prison.
5 What . . . ? They worked as domestic servants for white families.
6 Who . . . ? The white man.
7 Why . . . ? Because they didn’t want to be put into white society; they wanted to do things their way.
8 What . . . ? How to live together.

CHAPTERS 6 TO 9 WHILE READING
1 Woods, to Ken Robertson, about Tenjy Mtintso and Mapetla Mohapi, who had just become reporters for his newspaper.
2 Mzimbi, to the crowd at the football match, about the white government.
3 De Wet, to the two detectives, about Biko, because he didn’t want any marks on Biko when he appeared as a witness in a trial.
4 Biko, to the State Prosecutor at the trial, giving an example of how his call for ‘direct confrontation’ need not involve violence.
5 Wendy, to Woods, about Kruger, the Minister of Police.
6 Woods, to Kruger, the Minister of Police, about Biko.
7 Kruger, to Woods, about the Afrikaner belief that South Africa was their country, built by their hard work.
8 Woods, to Lemick, about Kruger, who had sent his policemen to demand from Woods the name of the witness.
9 Biko, to Woods, about how he came to the rugby game, avoiding his police minders.
10 Biko, to Lemick, about the warrant to search Biko’s house for dangerous documents.

CHAPTERS 10 AND 11 WHILE READING
Possible answers:
Mapetla was the first to be arrested. Tenjy was arrested next, on no charges, and a week later Mapetla died in prison. The police said he had hanged himself, but Woods knew this was not true. At the inquest Tenjy said the bruises on Mapetla’s neck were caused by the security police pulling a towel tighter and tighter round his neck until he became unconscious. No one was blamed for Mapetla’s death. Then Biko was arrested because he was stopped at a road-block outside his banning area. The doctor who saw Biko in prison found him deeply unconscious and very badly injured. The police put Biko in the back of a Land Rover and drove him to the police hospital in Pretoria, which was a thousand kilometres away over rough, country roads.
Before Reading The Rest of the Story

Open answers. Encourage discussion of Woods’ best course of action.

After Reading

Activity 1 After Reading

Acceptable answers are words that have an appropriate meaning and fit the grammar of the sentence. Some alternatives are given below.

Biko was right. Black people know how we whites live, but we have no idea how black South Africans live.

When we went to the township, there were nine of us in the taxi. I sat in the back, wearing somebody’s hat to cover my hair. I was so squashed that I couldn’t even move my hands. We drove around, watching the crowds of people until the evening rush was over.

Then four of us went on foot down the side streets. The place (township) is full of violence. Gangs of youths (boys, men) walk the streets. Most women work as domestic servants, so they see their children (husbands, families) only on Sundays. Biko took me to eat with a black family – twelve people living in four rooms, with no electricity, and they have to fetch water from an outside tap and heat it on the cooker.

We sat and talked about the differences between black and white societies (communities), and I tried to understand their anger (despair) and their bitterness. I realize now that I have never understood the feelings of the black community.

Activity 2 After Reading

Possible answers:

WOODS: Hello, Steve. Did you finish that article last night?
BIKO: No, I’m sorry, I didn’t.
WOODS: Why not? What happened?
BIKO: Well, I was working late when suddenly someone banged on the front door.
WOODS: Were you expecting anybody?
BIKO: No, I wasn’t. So I quickly gave the pen and the papers I was working on to Ntsiki.
WOODS: And then?
BIKO: I opened the front door a crack and pretended I’d just woken up.
WOODS: It was the police, I suppose.
BIKO: Yes. Lemick, and my two regular minders.
WOODS: What did Lemick say?
BIKO: He said he had orders to search my house for dangerous documents.
WOODS: Did he have a warrant?
BIKO: Yes, he did. So I asked him to bring it to the window so that I could read it.
WOODS: But what did you do with the papers?
BIKO: Well, while I was reading the warrant, Ntsiki put an extra nappy on the baby and put the papers inside!
WOODS: Very clever! And did they search the house?
BIKO: Yes. In the end I let them in. They used torches to search the house, but they didn’t find anything.
ACTIVITY 3  AFTER READING
The government accused black leaders like Biko of being terrorists, but Biko thought the government itself was guilty of terrorism. He wanted black people to confront the problems of society and to build a sense of their own humanity. But although he called for direct confrontation, he meant a face-to-face challenge of ideas, not violent action. He did not believe that violence was the solution and he wanted to influence the government by the force of his arguments.

ACTIVITY 4  AFTER READING
Open discussion. Encourage discussion of the motives of those who collaborate with violent political systems.

ACTIVITY 5  AFTER READING
Free writing.

ACTIVITY 6  AFTER READING
4+9+11  3+8  5+14+1+13  7+15+2+12  16+10+6
After Woods had waved goodbye to Tami, he walked to the iron gate at the start of the bridge, but it was locked and there was no one around. Suddenly a Land Rover came down the hill very fast, and stopped right in front of him. Woods saw with relief that it was the postal service, and not the police, and when the driver offered him a lift across the bridge, he accepted gratefully. No questions were asked about Woods’ passport, and although a frontier policeman asked Woods what was in his bag, he did not ask him to open it. Then Moses drove slowly across the bridge, crossing the frontier out of South Africa, and Woods saw ahead of him the wet green hills of Lesotho.

ACTIVITY 7  AFTER READING
Open answers. Encourage discussion of the risks of fighting against political injustice. This could be extended into some project work on South Africa, with students finding out and presenting information on the changes that have taken place in the country.