

Down Second Avenue

Ezekiel Mphalele

- 1
 - 1 Ezekiel hated school because the teachers sometimes beat the students with a stick. Also, there was one huge class and they had to chant multiplication tables and spellings of words.
 - 2 We learn that Ezekiel's family are Christians, and so are some of the other villagers. But we also learn that the differences between black and white people makes one man not believe in Christian teaching.
 - 3 Ezekiel's grandmother was big and stern and she never spoke kindly to Ezekiel; she wanted him to be tough. His mother sent them food and made clothes for them so was kinder towards the children than the grandmother.
- 2
 - 1 Because Ezekiel's father had nothing to leave him when he died. He didn't earn any money.
 - 2 She had collected them because the Native Commissioner had told her to. The Native Commissioner thought that if Ezekiel and his brother and sister lived with their parents, their father would remember to pay to look after them.
 - 3 The smell reminds him of the Sunday when his father attacked his mother very violently. It was the last time he did this.
- 3
 - 1 Because there was no communal fire in the location, and the people had a private toilet, and they built fences between their houses. These things suggested a need for privacy. But Ezekiel discovered that people really were interested in one another, even though they seemed not to be.
 - 2 We can tell that his family was poor because there were twelve people living in two rooms which were both for living in and sleeping in. There were two other rooms in the house which were rented out to tenants.
 - 3 The family ate mainly porridge, sometimes with a small amount of meat. They only had vegetables on Sundays and they only bought butter when they had visitors. If they had no money, they ate fried tomatoes. The adults ate their meals from saucers and the children shared one plate.
- 4
 - 1 They hid the beer in oil cans because they weren't allowed to make beer and the police often came to look for people making beer.
 - 2 Ezekiel was very frightened by the police but he was brave as well. He didn't admit to them that his mother and Aunt Dora were brewing beer.
 - 3 The raids made no difference. People continued to make beer.
- 5
 - 1 In both schools teachers often beat pupils.
 - 2 Ezekiel read the words on the screen in the silent films to his friends who were not as good at reading as he was. His friends paid for his ticket if he hadn't got any money. So he earned money from his skill.
 - 3 Ma-Lebona thought that Rebone thought that Ma-Lebona wanted to marry, or live with, her father.
- 6
 - 1 Ma-Lebona always gave people advice and told them what to do and how to behave – she tried to control them. She was very strict.

- 2 Joel's wife left him because she resented Ma-Lebona's control. The next girl he tried to marry didn't arrive for the wedding.
- 3 The white people ignored Ezekiel or treated him rudely.
- 7
- 1 At last, Ezekiel started to understand his school lessons very well and so he did well in all his subjects (except arithmetic).
 - 2 Some people thought Big Eyes was a good headmaster because he caught the students when they behaved badly outside school and punished them.
 - 3 They both won. Aunt Dora made the headmaster understand that he shouldn't beat Ezekiel when he was telling the truth. The headmaster won because he didn't let Ezekiel sing in the choir.
- 8
- 1 Ezekiel's grandmother was a Christian, and many Christians have always believed that life on earth will get very bad just before the end of the world. She saw that the behaviour of the young people was getting worse. She thought this showed the end of the world was coming.
 - 2 He was sent to prison for ten years for raping a black girl. If the girl had been white, he would have been hanged. This tells us that the legal system was not fair, and that black people received stronger punishments than white people.
 - 3 His family didn't like the Columbia Dance Hall and he had heard it was 'an evil place where immoral behaviour went on'. He wanted to see what happened there because his family didn't want him to go.
- 9
- 1 Ezekiel's mother worked for English-speaking people but would not work for Afrikaner people. Aunt Dora did not feel the same. She worked for Afrikaner people. Ezekiel's grandmother felt some sympathy for the Boers because she claimed that in the past they protected Africans from the British, who she disliked the most.
 - 2 Abdool used to stamp a book each time the family bought something from him. When there were enough stamps in the book, he gave them a present. But on one occasion after Ezekiel spent a lot of money (ten shillings) Abdool refused to stamp the book for the whole value. He said that the book would fill up too soon. Aunt Dora was angry because she thought she should get the right number of stamps for the whole ten shillings.
 - 3 Dora and Abdool used terms of racial abuse for each other. She called him 'Coolie' and he called her 'Kaffir', just as the white people might. These words were not used in fun.
- 10
- 1 The police had violently evicted Dinku Dikae and many others from their homes in Prospect town ship. They had shot at the protesters and they had shot and killed a boy who needed help.
 - 2 Ezekiel started to fall in love with Rebone.
 - 3 Ma-Lebona did nothing. This was unusual because Ma-Lebona was usually very strict and had arguments with people and told people what to do.
- 11
- 1 Ezekiel and his friend pretended that they were Coloureds, not Africans, in order to try to make a journey on a segregated bus.
 - 2 When Ma-Bottles made a rude noise, she showed that she thought that black people shouldn't go to school and be educated.
 - 3 He was working too hard because he wanted to pass his exams. He knew his mother could not afford for him to study for the whole year again if he failed.

- 12**
- 1 It shows they didn't care what his name was and didn't take time to even ask. They didn't see him as a person, he was just one of many.
 - 2 Rebone laughed because she didn't believe he was serious. She thought of Ezekiel as a friend not as someone who she could fall in love with.
 - 3 Dinku Dikae killed the policeman because the policeman insulted him and his family in a terrible way. The policeman suggested that Dinku Dikae had been in bed with his own daughter.
- 13**
- 1 At St Peter's students could discuss anything and they could form their own views about South African society. At Adams College, debate was controlled, and anything political was avoided. Students were expelled if they developed views which disagreed with what the people in charge of the college thought.
 - 2 Ezekiel couldn't save any money because he was only paid £6.10s a month and he had to buy books and clothes and send money to his mother.
 - 3 People who were tenants in Marabastad – people who rented rooms in other people's houses, or who rented houses owned by other people – were happy. They got much better houses to live in at the new location in Atteridgeville. They lost nothing. But the people who owned houses in Marabastad were not happy. They did not get much money for the houses they had to leave, so they lost money and they could not own houses in Atteridgeville – they had to be tenants. Also, some people were unhappy about having to travel a long way to their work.
- 14**
- 1 Ezekiel remembered the shared water taps from his earlier life, which reminded him of the poverty and oppression of Africans.
 - 2 The report said that Africans would have a separate education system linked to their traditional culture and that this would be a positive thing. But the African teachers knew that this was a way of making the black population inferior to the white population permanently. Ezekiel called his type of education a 'tool of oppression' which would make the Africans into the white man's slaves forever.
 - 3 Ezekiel was sacked because he refused to run any more errands for one of the typists. Also, he was rude to a girl in another office when she called him 'boy'.
- 15**
- 1 Ezekiel didn't think he was going to be a good journalist because he didn't like the way the press worked. He didn't like the fact that there was a press for whites and one for non-whites. Also, he didn't like the type of stories which the magazine *Drum* published. These were crime and love stories.
 - 2 Ezekiel's white and non-white friends sat together and avoided the whites-only seating areas. Also they all drank from the cups and saucers which didn't match. These were intended for the non-white people to use.
 - 3 Ezekiel was referring to black people who were involved in politics and who had been banned from their jobs.
- 16**
- 1 The Minister explained to Ezekiel the details of what happened when an African applies for a passport. He also went to the CID headquarters in Pretoria and discovered why Ezekiel had been refused a passport. He talked to the chief of the CID who agreed to interview Ezekiel. When Ezekiel went to the government offices to wait for his passport, the minister went with him each time.
 - 2 The chief of the CID was a white man who was quietly spoken and cultured. He was polite and Ezekiel described him as 'human'. He spoke Afrikaans with Ezekiel and was interested in him.
 - 3 No, Ezekiel had always feared that he would stop caring about the way the whites and the white government treated him because he was so oppressed.