

Grade 9 English Worksheet

Book review, grammar on a text from S. Memela

Part 1: Review (30 minutes)

Read the review.

Memele, S. *Flowers of the nation*. Scottsville: University of KwaZulu-Natal Press. 2005. ISBN 1-86914-068-0.

Flowers of the Nation is the story of two sisters, sixteen-year-old Zenzele and ten-year-old Mpumelelo, who go on a journey to Pretoria. They need help for their father, whom they have left in Soweto. He is too proud to ask for help himself in his struggle to fight AIDS-related diseases. The girls need to secure their future as “flowers of the nation” and do not want to end up as AIDS orphans. Therefore, they decide to travel to their wealthy uncle Vusi who, according to African tradition, is obliged to help them.

The book raises a number of very interesting issues for South Africans, one of which is how ex-president Thabo Mbeki turned the tragedy of Aids into an intellectual debate. The story will appeal to young adults, who will be challenged by the debates. Many will sympathise with the very real characters. Sandile Memela’s book is highly recommended.

Answer the questions on the review.

1. Who wrote the book, *Flowers of the Nation*? (1)
 2. Name four characters in the book. (4)
 3. Where is the book set? (2)
 4. In about three sentences, describe the plot of the book. Try to use your own words. (3)
 5. Who is the audience for the book? (1)
 6. Does the reviewer think the book is worth reading? (1)
 7. Based on the review and the questions above, what are the components of a book review? In other words, what are the things that a book review tells you about? (6)
 8. What is the purpose of a book review? (2)
 9. Would you read this book? Give reasons for your answer. (5)
- (25)**

Part 2: Book cover (30 minutes)

10. Design a book cover for the book *Flowers of the Nation* by Sandile Memela. Your book cover must meet the following criteria:

- It must be based on what you know about the book. In other words, it must reflect the characters, setting and plot.
- It must appeal to young people. Think about colour and design.
- It must include essential information, namely the title and author.

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If you do not want to draw, you can use photographs or even pictures from magazines. If you have access to a computer, you can also use clipart.

Part 3: Own book review (2 weeks)

11. Read a book from the school or community library. Write a review of the book. The review

must have the following components:

- Bibliographical information
- An introduction to the characters, setting and plot of the book
- The target audience – in other words, who will the book appeal to?
- A recommendation.

Part 4: Language (30 minutes)

Choose the correct word in the box to fill in the spaces and complete the paragraph.

can may should ought will

You 12) _____ really read Jenny Robson's books. She's such a good writer and 13) _____ write such a variety of books. You 14) _____ enjoy her realistic stories or you 15) _____ even enjoy her science fiction titles. She has great ability and 16) _____ write in different genres. You 17) _____ be amazed by titles such as *The Denials of Kow-Ten* and *Savannah 2116 AD*, both science-fiction titles and you 18) _____ be touched by titles such as *When pula means rain* and *Praise Song*. She 19) _____ also make people laugh with books such as *Mellow Yellow*. You really 20) _____ to try her books. You 21) _____ be glad you did.

(10)

Choose from the following words to join the sentences into ONE sentence.

although because and but while whom until

22) I like Jenny Robson's books. I also like books by Michael Williams. Most of all I enjoy Beverley Naidu's books.

(2)

23) Beverly Naidu was born in South Africa. She left the country to move to England during the apartheid years. Unfortunately she has never returned permanently. She has visited many times since 1994.

(3)

24) Many people write books. They hold down full-time jobs. They raise their children.

(2)

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25) I am a great admirer of Reviva Schermbrucker. She wrote a book called *Lucky Fish* that tells the story of a boy raised alone. His parents were in jail.

(2)

26) It is a moving story. It is also full of humour.

(1)

27) There is another author. I admire. She uses humour in her stories.

(2)

28) You can't say anything about South African literature. You have read Zakes Mda's books. He writes so well.

(2)

29) Tom didn't like reading. He read Sarah Britten's books.

(1)

(15)

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Suggested Solutions

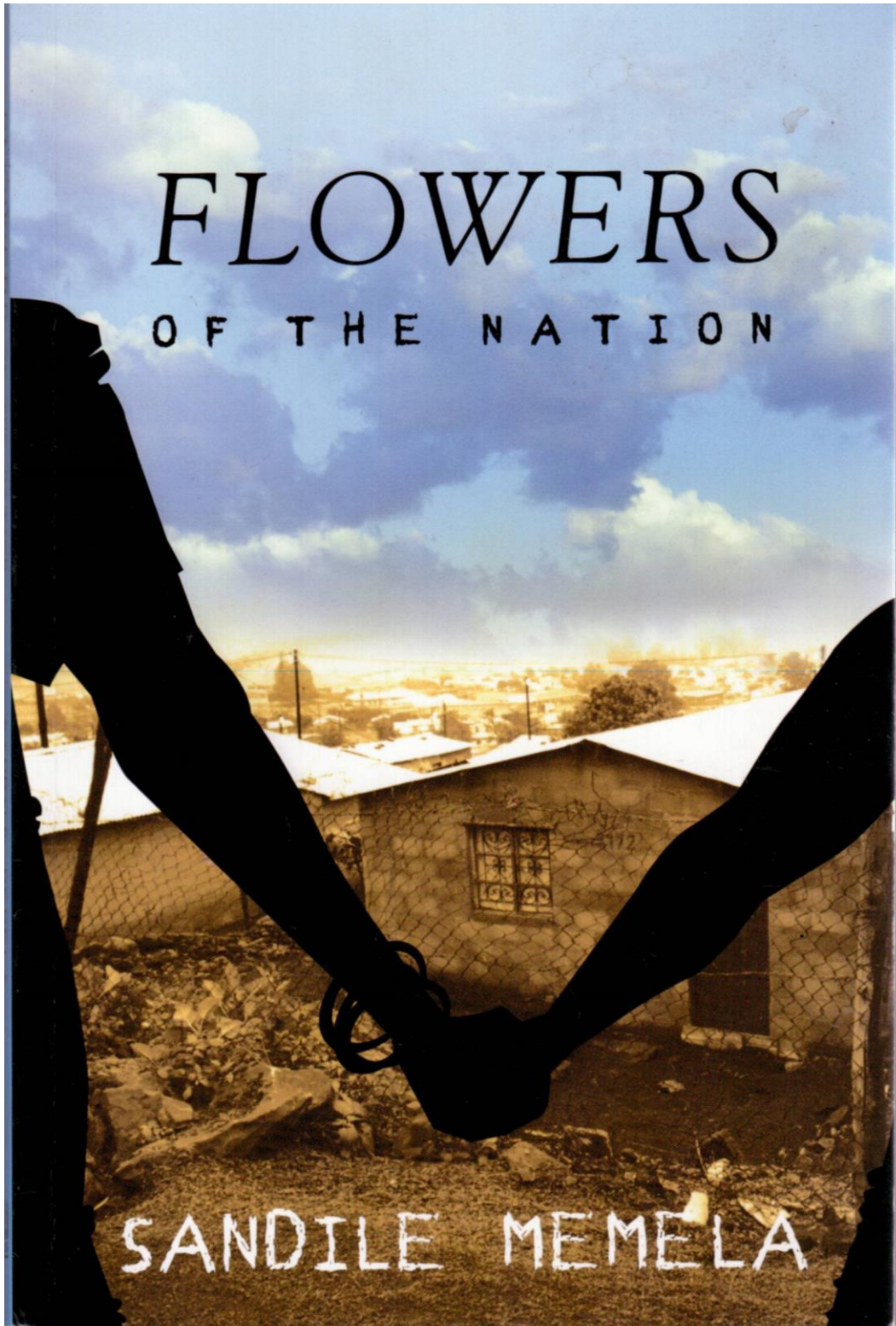
Part 1: Review

1.	Sandile Memela wrote the book, <i>Flowers of the Nation</i> .	(1)
2.	<i>Zenzele, Mpumelelo, their father, uncle Vusi</i>	(4)
3.	The story is set in Soweto and in Pretoria	(2)
4.	The story is about two sisters whose father has AIDS. They are worried he is going to die, because he's very sick. Therefore, they go on a journey to find their rich uncle to ask him for help.	(3)
5.	Young adults	(1)
6.	Yes, he does.	(1)
7.	Title, author, characters, setting, plot, audience, recommendation.	(6)
8.	A book review markets a book / tells potential readers about it / promotes it / criticises it / recommends it.	(2)
9.	This is an open-ended question and learners can answer either way, but they must substantiate their answers.	(5)
		(25)

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Part 2: Book cover

10. Assess the covers by allocating symbols to each aspect. The assessment checklist gives criteria. Give an average symbol. See the real book cover of *Flowers of the nation*.



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Part 3: Own book review

11. Use the memorandum to assess learners' reviews.

Part 4: Language (30 minutes)

You 12) should really read Jenny Robson's books. She's such a good writer and 13) can write such a variety of books. You 14) may enjoy her realistic stories or you 15) may even enjoy her science fiction titles. She has great ability and 16) can write in different genres. You 17) will be amazed by titles such as *The Denials of Kow-Ten* and *Savannah 2116 AD*, both science-fiction titles and you 18) will be touched by titles such as *When pula means rain* and *Praise Song*. She 19) can also make people laugh with books such as *Mellow Yellow*. You really 20) ought to try her books. You 21) will be glad you did. (10)

22) I like Jenny Robson's books and I also like books by Michael Williams but most of all I enjoy Beverly Naidu's books. (2)

23) Beverly Naidu was born in South Africa but/and she left the country to move to England during the apartheid years and/but unfortunately she has never returned permanently, although/but she has visited many times since 1994. (3)

24) Many people write books while they hold down full-time jobs and (they) raise their children. (2)

25) I am a great admirer of Reviva Schermbrucker because she wrote a book called *Lucky Fish* that tells the story of a boy raised alone while his parents were in jail. (2)

26) It is a moving story but/although it is also full of humour. (2)

27) There is another author whom I admire because she uses humour in her stories. (2)

28) You can't say anything about South African literature until you have read Zakes Mda's books because he writes so well. (2)

29) Tom didn't like reading until he read Sarah Britten's books. (1) (15)

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Part 2: Book cover

Assessment checklist

	A	B	C	D
The book cover is based on what is revealed about the book by the review. It accurately reflects the characters, setting and plot.				
The book cover would appeal to young people. Its design is modern and interesting. The colours are bold and eye-catching.				
The book cover includes the names of the title and author. They are well-placed in that they enhance the attractiveness of the cover. They are correctly spelt.				
Average symbol				

Part 3: Own book review

Memorandum

The learner has written a review that includes:	Learner's marks	Possible marks
Accurate and complete bibliographical information, i.e. author, title, place of publication, publisher, year of publication, ISBN.		6
An introduction to the characters, setting and plot of the book that provokes interest but does not give the plot away.		6
The target audience, in other words who will the book appeal to?		1
A recommendation		2
		15