

## Grade 9 English Worksheet

---

### Reading comprehension - "Boy in da city"

Read the text.

‘Kaa-doenck!’

Thabiso froze. ‘What was that?’ He was completely alone in the Siyagruva Scene. He had stayed on after classes to work on the month-end figures. Raymondo had gone out to supper with a friend and would only be coming back to take Thabiso home at 8 p.m. So he knew there was nobody else in the dance studios. So ... ‘What was that?’

He asked himself that question, but in fact, he knew exactly what that sound was. It was the sound of a bongo drum – a bongo drum being knocked over or kicked or ... bumped into. He’d put the bongo drums away himself yesterday and no one had used them today, so they were in the instrument cupboard in the main studio.

Quietly, Thabiso reversed his wheelchair from the desk, slowly swung it around in the direction of the door, and started to go and investigate. Why did the wheels suddenly make so much noise on the floor?

He usually just banged his way through the double doors of the main studio, but now he squeaked them open painfully carefully, and made his way across the floor in the ray of dim light that the open doors spread across the studio. His own shadow grew large and eerie as he went. When he got to the cupboard, there was nothing to do but to open it. He reached out his hand, closed it around the handle, swallowed his fear, took a deep breath, and ... opened the door.

from *Boy in da city* by Rusleen Malbusch.

Answer the questions.

#### **Part A: Comprehension**

- 1 Why did Thabiso freeze? (1)  
A He heard a noise.  
B He was cold.  
C He was hungry.  
D There was no one else in the dance studio.
  
- 2 What is the Siyagruva Scene? (1)  
A It is a place for physically handicapped people.  
B It is a dance studio.  
C It is a café.  
D It is a place for young people.
  
- 3 Why was Thabiso alone? (1)  
A Raymondo had gone out for supper.

## Grade 9 English Worksheet

---

- B Raymondo was fetching him at 8 p.m.  
C He had stayed after classes.  
D He was crippled.
- 4 Why does Thabiso think that there is an intruder in the Siyagruva Scene? (1)  
A He was alone in the house.  
B He was alone in the Siyagruva Scene.  
C He heard a noise.  
D He heard the sound of a bongo-drum.
- 5 Why was Thabiso worried about his wheels making so much noise? (1)  
A The wheels needed to be greased.  
B The wheelchair was old.  
C He was worried he would fall out.  
D He didn't want the intruder to hear him coming.
- 6 Why did Thabiso's shadow "grow large and eerie"? (1)  
A He was very tall.  
B His wheelchair was large.  
C He began to imagine things.  
D The sun was setting. (6)

### Part B: Past perfect tense

- 7 Study the following sentences from the text above. Number the sentences from 1-4 according to when each action took place. (4)

He was completely alone in the Siyagruva Scene.

He had stayed on after classes to work on the month-end figures.

Raymondo had gone out to supper with a friend and would only be coming back to take Thabiso home at 8 p.m.

So he knew there was nobody else in the dance studios. So ... 'What was that?'

## Grade 9 English Worksheet

---

### Part C: Synonyms

Match the words in Column B from the text above with their synonyms (words with the same meaning).

	Column A	Column B	
8	abruptly	exactly	(1)
9	normally	slowly	(1)
10	carefully	quietly	(1)
11	gradually	suddenly	(1)
12	precisely	usually	(1)
13	silently	painfully	(1)
			(6)

### Part D: Opposites

Match the words in Column B from the text above with their opposites.

14	closed	dim	(1)
15	bright	open	(1)
16	normal	large	(1)
17	shallow	eerie	(1)
18	little	deep	(1)
19	small	much	(1)
			(6)

### Part E: Dialogue

The story about Thabiso above continues as follows:

He jumped in his chair as the light picked out the eyes. Two scared, staring, white eyes. They belonged to a small boy. He was cowering down in the cupboard, shivering with fear.

- 20 Write a short dialogue/conversation that could have taken place between Thabiso and the small boy, for example:  
 Thabiso asked, "Who are you?"  
 Write at least ten lines. Don't forget to use quotation marks to show that someone is speaking.

## Grade 9 English Worksheet

---

### Part F: Role play

21 In pairs, read your dialogues. Then take turns to read them to the class.

## Grade 9 English Worksheet

### Suggested Solutions

#### Part A: Comprehension

1	A He heard a noise.	(1)
2	B It is a dance studio.	(1)
3	A Raymondo had gone out for supper.	(1)
4	D He heard the sound of a bongo-drum.	(1)
5	D He didn't want the intruder to hear him coming.	(1)
6	C He began to imagine things.	(1)
		(6)

#### Part B: Past perfect tense

7 The order should be as follows:

3. He was completely alone in the Siyagruva Scene.
2. He had stayed on after classes to work on the month-end figures.
1. Raymondo had gone out to supper with a friend and would only be coming back to take Thabiso home at 8 p.m.
4. So he knew there was nobody else in the dance studios. So ... 'What was that?'

#### Part C: Synonyms

	Column A	Column B	
8	precisely	exactly	(1)
9	gradually	slowly	(1)
10	silently	quietly	(1)
11	abruptly	suddenly	(1)
12	normally	usually	(1)
13	carefully	painfully	(1)
			(6)

#### Part D: Opposites

14	bright	dim	(1)
15	closed	open	(1)
16	small	large	(1)

## Grade 9 English Worksheet

17	normal	eerie	(1)
18	shallow	deep	(1)
19	little	much	(1)
			(6)

### Part E: Dialogue

20 Learners can write different dialogues, for example:

Thabiso asked, "Who are you?"

"Ummm," said the small boy.

"Don't hurt me," continued the small boy.

"It's alright, I won't hurt you," said Thabiso. "But, what are you doing in the cupboard?"

"I'm cold," replied the small boy.

"Cold?" asked Thabiso.

"Yes, and I'm hungry," continued the small boy.

"When did you last eat?" asked Thabiso.

"I don't know, I've forgotten," whispered the small boy.

"Well, if you come out of the cupboard, maybe we can find you some bread?" suggested Thabiso.

Award marks if preferred. Award 2 marks for each sentence, one for correct punctuation and one for the content.

### Part F: Role play

21 Encourage learners to practise using English in pairs. Walk around and listen to them. Help them to improve their dialogues so that when they say them for the class, they are correct. Praise learners who try to use English.

## Grade 9 English Worksheet

---

# BOY IN DA CITY

RUSLEEN MALBUSCH

S I Y A G R U V A

A series of novels for South African teens





## Grade 9 English Worksheet

### Chapter 1

**'Kaa-doenck!'**

Thabiso froze. 'What was that?' He was completely alone in the Siyagruva Scene. He had stayed on after classes to work on the month-end figures. Raymond had gone out to supper with a friend and would only be coming back to take Thabiso home at 8 p.m. So he knew there was



## Grade 9 English Worksheet

nobody else in the dance studios. So ...  
'What was that?'

He asked himself that question, but, in fact, he knew exactly what that sound was. It was the sound of a bongo drum – a bongo drum being knocked over or kicked or ... bumped into. He'd put the bongo drums away himself yesterday and no one had used them today, so they were in the instrument cupboard in the main studio.

Quietly, Thabiso reversed his wheelchair from the desk, slowly swung it around in the direction of the door, and started to go and investigate. Why did the wheels suddenly make so much noise on the floor?

He usually just banged his way through the double swing doors of the main studio, but now he squeaked them open painfully carefully, and made his way across the floor

2

in the ray of dim light that the open doors spread across the studio. His own shadow grew large and eerie as he went.

When he got to the cupboard, there was nothing to do but to open it. He reached out his hand, closed it around the handle, swallowed his fear, took a deep breath, and ... opened the door.

He jumped in his chair as the light picked out the eyes. Two scared, staring, white eyes. They belonged to a small boy. He was cowering down in the cupboard, shivering with fear.

'It's okay, it's okay. You don't have to be scared. Nothing's going to happen to you,' said Thabiso, holding up his hands to show the boy he had nothing in them. 'You can come out.' He extended his right hand for the boy to take.

3