

I -COMPRÉHENSION

1. a) In which country does the story take place?

The scene takes place in South-Africa.

- b) l. 39: What important historical event does the "big change" refer to?

The "big change" is the end of Apartheid in South-Africa (in 1994).

2. How are the main characters related to each other?

The main characters are two siblings.

3. a) Find one quotation for each character that shows their economic situation.

Gavin: "Gavin had made a fortune in just a few years" (l. 8)

Adam: "He'd never been seriously poor before and it wasn't nice." ll. 16-17)

- b) What is Gavin's job and what does it consist in? (20 words)

Gavin might be a developer. His job consists in buying old buildings, tearing them apart and building something new on the vacant spot.

- c) Explain exactly what Gavin's proposition is.

Gavin's proposition is to hire Adam as his own personal assistant.

4. True or false? Justify your answer by quoting from the text.

Gavin takes Adam to the top of the construction site to impress him.

True. "the view from the top of the construction site was heady, full of the promise of industry and power" (ll. 23-24)

5. What are the 2 adjectives that best describe Gavin's character? Justify your choices by quoting from the text.

HONEST - DISHONEST - PESSIMISTIC - CONSIDERATE - IDEALISTIC - SELF-SATISFIED

Gavin is **dishonest** ("Gavin had pointed out proudly to Adam that one of their company directors was a black man who was paid a healthy retainer just to stay at home " ll. 12-14) ou ("no, we'll put in copper... the cheapest, I told you, it's got to look good, that's the point" ll. 27-28) and **self-satisfied** ("I employ hundreds of people" l. 36)

6. l. 12 to 15: Why does Gavin mention the fact that "one of their company directors was a black man"? (40 words)

In South-Africa, employing black people at the highest level of a company might be a proof of modernism, lack of racism and good will.

7. a) What does the pronoun "it" refer to in the following phrases?

1. l. 17: it wasn't nice.

"it" refers to "being poor"

2. l. 19: the possibility of it

"it" refers to being near that state (of great poverty)

b) True or false? Justify by quoting from the text.

Poverty only affects black people.

False. "white people at the traffic lights, wearing old clothes and a hopeless air, begging." l. 18)

8. 1. 16 to 22: Explain Adam's first reaction to Gavin's proposition.

To begin with, Adam is interested in Gavin's proposition for fear of poverty. He knows that in today's South-Africa, even white people are in jeopardy of becoming beggars.

9. a) What is Adam's final decision?

Adam finally refuses Gavin's offer.

b) What does he discover that precipitates his decision? (20 words)

Adam discovers that his brother is sacrificing the quality of the buildings he is involved in in the name of profit.

10. How different from Gavin is Adam? (30 words)

Gavin is more down-to-earth than Adam. Adam feels he has moral duties, contrary to his brother, more full of himself and greedy.

11. How does Gavin react to Adam's decision and why? Choose 2 adjectives and use them in your answer. (40 words)

INDIFFERENT - RELIEVED - OFFENDED - OVERJOYED - OUTRAGED

To begin with, Gavin feels **offended** by Adam's remark on his greed and lack of involvement in his country's development. Then, he feels **outraged** by Adam's refusal and position, arguing that he's doing his best for a selfish and ungrateful brother.

12. Translate from l. 38 "It was a difficult argument to answer ..." to l. 40 "...full of hope for the future."

Il était difficile de répondre à cet argument. Mais Adam se souvint alors que dans les années qui précédèrent le grand changement en Afrique du Sud, Gavin avait été maussade et apeuré. Il avait même parlé d'émigrer/de quitter le pays. C'est Adam qui avait été positif et plein d'espoir pour le futur.