

7 STEPS TO HEAVEN

Activity 3 in your Study Guide asks you to explain the relationship between Sizwe and Thulani and compare it with the one between their fathers.

Using the Feedback from this activity as a guide, share your thoughts on this. Review the meaning of "Patriarchy", and think about how it applied to *Nervous Conditions*. How is the concept of patriarchy evident in *Seven Steps to Heaven*?

The part of the novel that deals with the childhood friendship between Thulani and Sizwe is called a **Bildungsroman**. It's a big German word with an easy meaning. It literally means, "novel of formation" or "novel of education". It means that we get to see the main character of a book develop his mind and character in the passage from childhood to adulthood through varied experiences - basically we see the main character grow up. The experiences usually involve an emotional or spiritual crisis which leads the character to question and recognise his or her own identity.

A famous example of a Bildungsroman is *Jane Eyre* by Charlotte Bronte, which I encourage all of you to read.