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.