

7 STEPS TO HEAVEN

Key concepts in "Seven Steps to Heaven"

by [R BEHARI](#) - 27 Feb 2017 @ 14:12

Seven Steps to Heaven explores concepts such as **gender**, **identity** and **stereotyping**.

What do these words mean to you? Use your Study Guide to help you answer this.

Can you find examples from the text to illustrate each of the key concepts?

The book has many examples of release. Here are some examples:

- Ramu the Hermit's sense of release of his "long-suppressed desire whirled around his groin" (Seven Steps, 129)
- the return of the 'holy' Reverend Tembe of the Anglican Church from the clutches of the shebeen femme fatale, Sis Lovey
- Sizwe's journal entry that, "I lost my virginity on the same day that Mandela was released from prison" (94).

Can you find meanings in these examples? Can you find other instances where the image of release is shown in the book?

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Activity 4

by [R BEHARI](#) - 27 Mar 2017 @ 10:44

Please use this space to discuss Activity 4 from your study guide:

Issues of bias and discrimination against blacks and gays remain prominent and relevant. What are your thoughts in racial and sexual stereotyping in the novel.

What is your understanding of the word "bias", and the phrases, "racial stereotyping" and "sexual stereotyping"?

Activity 6

by [R BEHARI](#) - 27 Mar 2017 @ 10:44

The mirror at the bar has a symbolic role in explaining the identities of Sizwe Dube and Thulani Tembe. Discuss the recurrence of the mirror whenever the protagonist contemplates his merits as a writer. How does it express his identity?

Use the feedback from this activity to help you formulate an answer.