While we have developed a sound understanding of Makhaya throughout the book, it is in chapter nine that he is fully revealed. Chapter Nine deals with Makhaya’s perceptions of a lot of the “ism’s” of the book: tribalism, racism, feminism, colonialism, agriculturalism etc. He is, in this chapter, made fully transparent, both through the narrative point of view and through the conversations he engages in. If we were to accept Makhaya as the voice of Head, chapter nine is crucial for us doing so.

1. Identify the alliteration in the first page

2. Explain why July is so beautiful in Botswana

3. Chapter Nine finds Makhaya becoming more and more comfortable in Golema Mmidi. This is shown through his readdressing the internal conflict he faces, as his external conflicts are solved. Elaborate and explain the above statements.

4. “Gilbert felt that you _________________________ that had lived off __________________________ for generations __________________________ __________________________ overnight”

5. The way the people of Golema Mmidi lived off subsidence farming is compared to the way the “idle rich” live. Explain how this image does / doesn’t make sense.
6. “Voices had to be raised in Africa too, and they had to come from men like Makhaya who deeply craved a better life, not only for themselves but for all thousands of people who walked around with no shoes.” Do you think Head may also be talking about herself and her ‘purpose’ for writing *When Rain Clouds Gather* here: Explain.

7. Here are some great character quotes for Makhaya:

   “His inner life ____________________________________________________________________________ conflict”
   “this inner ____________________________________________________________________________ all by himself”
   “he had been born __________________________________________________________________________ continent”

8. Bessie Head wrote this in 1967:

   “He had seen it in the slums of all the cities of South Africa where black men had to live and how a man walked out of his home to buy a packet of cigarettes and never returned and how his seemingly senseless murder gave a brief feeling of manhood to a man who had none. Thousands of men died this way to boost up the manhood of a manless man.”

   Someone famous wrote this in 2004:

   “I have seen, the desperation and disorder of the powerless: how it twists the lives of children on the streets of Jakarta or Nairobi in much the same way as it does the lives of children on Chicago’s South Side, how narrow the path is for them between humiliation and untrammeled fury, how easily they slip into violence and despair.”

   Explain, in detail, what ideas these quotes have in common.

9. “_________________ told that dead thing that man was only his sex organs and functioned as such”
10. “It was to amaze Makhaya after all this that an old woman in the village of Goema Mmidi, named Mma-Millipede, was to relieve his ________________________________”

11. What is the significance of the biblical reference in chapter nine?

12. “I am Makhaya, the ________________________________”

13. Homework - In our culture, what does “the black dog” refer to?

14. “she was ________________________________ , but she had lived all her life inside this black skin with a ________________________________”

15. What is the one thing Mma-Millipede thinks Makhaya must learn? Why is this so difficult for him.

16. Makhaya calls Matenge four things, these are: ________, ________, ________, & ________.

17. “He hadn’t expected anyone to tell him that generosity ________________________________ real”

18. Makhaya hated the white man with a “powerful ________________________________ ________________________________”

19. In Makhaya’s opinion Christianity enabled the white man to do what and why...
20. What was ironic about Makhaya using dynamite in Golema Mmidi?

21. Makhaya confronted Paulina’s gender expectations by doing and saying what?

22. “happiness was ________________________________”

23. What is Makhaya implying with the following statement: “We’ll talk about relatives some other day,”

24. How / why is this statement surprising – “he was forcing friendship and understanding on her because he needed this in a woman more than he needed anything else.”

25. “poverty is like__________”