Maryam: Hi everyone and welcome to tonight’s discussion : 2017 May/June P1, Q2 WRCG. Please give me a if you’re ready to begin

Maryam: Looking at the question, it doesn’t seem very difficult to answer because they want us to do a character comparison between Makhaya and Matenge. We did discuss both characters in detail in previous past paper discussions, so now we can brainstorm how to structure this essay and main points to include

PLS 8: Yes

Maryam: Let’s start off with the 1st bullet point: Makhaya’s experience in SA, and how it differed to the one in Botswana. Comments guys?

Eng Salmah: In SA he was oppressed by a white government so underwent political oppression

ENG Dudu: In Botswana was treated as an equal to a white man, Gilbert. Where’s in SA... was inferior to whites. In Botswana he felt at home ...and didn’t do much of journalism and radical politics. In Botswana he became more involved in the the transformation of the village.

Maryam: I like this because it gives examples of how things differed. I think it should be included in the essay

PLS Mrs K: Makhaya in SA was experiencing apartheid he was not free while in Botswana d was freedom

Eng Louise: In SA he was an ex convict, There was apartheid there.

Eng Mag: I think in South Africa people were living under oppression which made Makhaya to leave his country.

ENG Dudu: He also wanted or started to settle down. No more prostitutes...finally decided to marry...and work on a home...or family.

Maryam: I like this because it gives examples of how things differed. I think it should be included in the essay

Maryam: True, so we include the part about his personal character and how it changed from the time he was on SA to now. His character is a round one because there was significant growth in it throughout the novel

Eng Louise: Also in Botswana he finds Love n married Paulina, He finds work and success of co-operation. He finds healing from the pain He encountered in SA.

PLS 8: Makhaya prefers to leave his roots his homeland SA after spending 2yrs in jail. In SA he experiences social inequalities nd injustices due to apartheid nd wat annoyes and irritates him is dat black man are refered to as dogs nd boys which kills his dignity dats y he escape SA into botswana
where is experiences hatred nd prejudice frm chief matenge jst bcoz he is a foreigner nd bcoz of matenge’ jelousy of him. He experiences love, respect nd warm welcomes frm the community which restores his dignity

[10/11, 20:12] ENG Nontoh: Makhaya in South Africa is an ex convict and was oppressed because of his skin colour while in Botswana Every refugees were welcome and being treated equal

[10/11, 20:12]

[10/11, 20:14] Eng Louise: Makhaya realised only people bring Reward to living and give love and happiness


So looking at the structure of the essay, I think it can be:

1. Intro
2. Makhayas experiences in SA and Botswana
3. Matenge’s treatment of the villagers
4. Comparison between characters, Makhaya and Matenge (highlighting differences and similarities – if any)
5. Conclusion

[10/11, 20:16] Maryam: Do we need to discuss Matenge’s treatment of the villagers? It was previously discussed but we can do a recap if yourl want


[10/11, 20:16] Eng Louise: I don’t think we have to unless others want to

[10/11, 20:17] ENG Nontoh: How are we going to write an intro guys?

[10/11, 20:18] Maryam: You state the title and author, brief summary of the book (2 lines) and what the essay is about /what you’re arguing

[10/11, 20:19] ENG Nontoh: Thanks I understand that well I was jst little confused, now I remember

[10/11, 20:20] PLS 8: Dats how I wrote but I dnt kno if its correct

In bessie head’ wen rain clouds gather, the village of GM which is ruled by a cruel, selfish chief matenge goes under a positive development changes after the arrival of a handsome, dedicated, good, carrying nd respect gentleman makhaya maseko.

[10/11, 20:21] Maryam: Yes that’s good. Then you say, in the following essay I will be discussing....

[10/11, 20:22] Eng Louise: The changes after Makhaya worked with Gilbert and Paulina...

[10/11, 20:22] Maryam: Okay let’s discuss point 4. When you do a comparison you have to talk about both characters. If you mention something about makhaya, you mention something about matenge
Focusing on the oppression and domination between these two characters.

Makhaya treats everyone equal and with respect regardless of their genders while Matenge exploits the villagers, treats them as slaves and has no respect for them.

Makhaya is captivated by human generosity. He is very respectful, he maintains equal rights amongst men and women.

Matenge is a selfish man who stood against the progression of the villagers while Makhaya is selfless seeing how he contributed to the development the village went through.

Maryam: Do we go into an explanation of what they did? Example Matenge cheated the villagers with regard to their cattle and Makhaya empowered them to participate in the production of cash crops.

Whereas Matenge is a selfish man who thinks he is superior to the commoners simply because he is a chief. He feels entitled to a lavish lifestyle at the expense of the villagers.

Matenge is an oppressive man who takes advantage of his power and treats people as slaves also to pay tax while Makhaya wants to bring development in the village and promotes equality.

Matenge is the antagonist. He is selfish in the way that he lives off the poor and his inherited unpaid slaves. He is primarily concerned with bolstering his own image and nursing his ideas or his own self-importance.

Matenge is selfish and wants to be superior in the village, he treats people as slaves while Makhaya is a who is not power hungry and he treats people with respect regardless of their gender. He headed the tobacco production which was leaded by a women...he sees potential in women while Matenge view women as uncapable beings or slaves.

Makhaya embraces Change and Gilbert resists change.

If I may ask which domination are they talking about...is it the domination of Matenge to the villagers or??

Makhaya promotes equality while Matenge is power hungry and treats people as slaves.
Eng Louise: Yes Matenge I meant

PLS Mrs K: Matenge opposes development in Gollema mmidi whil makhaya supprrts development dats y he studied books just to boost his knowledge on farming afr he was employed to work at d farm

PLS 6 Vanessa: if we are writing in the exam do we have to quote from the book?

Eng Louise: Makhaya is a good ,respectful man while Matenge is a cruel, evil man.

Maryam: I agree. After making this point we must also state that makhaya suffered under apartheid in his own country was was like a refugee in Botswana

Eng Louise: I think u can quote but you don’t have to know the page numbers.

PLS Mrs K: Yes..we hv to provide facts

Maryam: Good answers! Remember that everything to mention something about one character, you have to show how it Contrasts to the other character

ENG Nontoh: If I may ask which domination are they talking about...is it the domination of Matenge to the villagers or??

Maryam: Yes domination of matenge to the villagers and domination of the apartheid government to non whites (Makhaya)

Eng Samiksha: *Conclusion*

In the novel _When rain clouds gather_ by Bessie Head, the alternative to the desire for power is shown through the actions and views of the characters in the novel. The corrupting and cruel influence of power is used in the story conveniently to highlight the alternative of power. (Guys you can add more stuff if you want)

PLS 8: Do we reference or include bibliography in exam?

Maryam: I think we can be a bit more specific and mention the chatacters makhaya and Matenge. We can also conclude with our final statement: matenge and Makhaya were men who were opposite in character and values

Maryam: No

Maryam: Yes ☏ intro and conclusion are ideally 3-5 lines
[10/11, 20:42] Maryam: Anything other comments to include before we Wrap up this discussion?

Also did you guys note how much easier it was to attempt this answer because we worked through previous ones and have a solid idea of everything? 🤗


[10/11, 20:44] Eng Louise: This essay shows various challenges and changes in Golema Mmidi and that its full of struggle. Protagonist Makhaya fights for change, equality, better working techniques, fighting for those oppressed including women, while Matenge was fighting against change, exploiting the villagers, banning them, cheating, but at the end they overpower him.

[10/11, 20:44] Eng Dudu 2: We find makhaya plays a good role of fatherhood where we see him advising Pauline to take his son back to school instead of herding cattle which tells us that he is a reliable person.

[10/11, 20:45] Maryam: This is also very well written, can be added to the conclusion 🌟

[10/11, 20:47] Maryam: Thanks everyone for participating 🌟 catch you on Sunday for *The road not taken* 🎉

P.s. It’s one of my favorite poems, we’re gonna have a blast discussing it 🎉