When Rain Clouds Gather by Bessie Head

1. (a) He was going to leave South Africa for ever. (b) He would not stay in a country where black men were called 'boy' or 'dog'.
2. Botswana.
3. (a) He thought the bells were witchcraft. (b) Cows. They had bells round their necks.
4. He was tall and handsome. He had a long, calm face, with high cheekbones.
5. The land was completely flat, and there were thorn bushes everywhere.
6. He had broken the law when he entered the country. He wanted to tell the police why he had come to Botswana.
7. News of Makhaya's escape was in the newspaper on his desk.
8. He hopes his daughter, Maria, would fall in love with Makhaya.

21. Because the people who lived there came from different tribes and different parts of Botswana.
2. (a) From England. (b) He had given the people new ideas about cattle farming. And he had shown them better ways of growing crops.
3. Maria was Dinorego's daughter. She was a thin girl with bright black eyes and a serious face.
4. He was young and very tall. He had bright blue eyes and a deeply tanned face.
5. They shook hands and smiled at each other. And Gilbert asked Makhaya to have supper with him.
6. He preferred life there to life in England. And he liked the people.
7. She said it was wrong for him to marry an uneducated woman.
8. He wanted to do the ploughing. And he wanted him to teach the women agriculture.

2. To the cattle-posts.
2. Because there had been little rain for five years and many cattle had died. Gilbert wanted to keep the cattle near the village, where there were wells. The villagers could get water from the wells to grow crops. And they could feed the cattle to the cattle.
3. To break with tradition and grow crops that grew well in that area.
4. They saw that his ideas were working well.
5. He was an evil, greedy man.
6. He had lost a lot of his power because of Gilbert's ideas. The villagers were working together and they had less fear of their chief.
7. He was the Paramount Chief of the whole area and he was Matenge's brother. Matenge went to see him because he wanted to get rid of Makhaya and Gilbert.
8. He wanted to talk to him about the trouble that Matenge was making.
9. He wanted Makhaya to apply for a residence permit. Then Matenge could not make trouble for Makhaya.
10. (a) Not to get involved in the politics of southern Africa. (b) No. (c) He said he would support him if Matenge made trouble.

6. He said he was going to make things very difficult for him.
7. He said his terrible temper would kill him. Makhaya said bad-temper would not kill Matenge — he would kill him.
8. Because a chief wanted to marry Mma-Millipe. Because he felt that she was like a mother to him.
9. She thought he was too handsome. And she thought he might make trouble with the village women.
10. George Appleby-Smith had made sure it arrived as quickly as possible.
11. Because Matenge was away in hospital. The villagers could get on with their plans.

31. She had married a man from Rhodesia. When he died she was left with two small children and no money.
32. She was tall and very thin. She had lovely black eyes and she liked to wear brightly coloured skirts.
33. (a) She had sent her daughter to give Makhaya her greetings. (b) 'No, no my child. You must remember that Makhaya is a foreigner. He doesn't understand our ways.'
34. He wanted to help people in Golem Mmidi. He did not want his heart filled with hate any more.
35. Because Gilbert spent most of his time with Makhaya talking about plans for the village. Gilbert saw that Maria was upset by this. He decided to ask Maria to marry him again.
36. He wanted to get married before Maria changed her mind.
37. Maria said that she knew now that Gilbert loved her. And she said she knew she had to look after him.
38. She had been afraid that Maria loved Makhaya. Now she knew that Maria loved Gilbert.

61. The women met in Mma-Millipe's yard. They drank tea and shouted happily to each other. Everyone had brought something to throw into the big cooking pots. They peeled hundreds of potatoes and put them into the pots with some meat.
62. Because they knew she was thinking about Makhaya.
63. She meant that she thought Paulina was in love with Makhaya.
64. She was afraid that Paulina was going to make herself unhappy because of Makhaya. She wished she knew whether Makhaya loved Paulina.
65. Because it was a cash-crop, and they could sell it to buy tools and more seed. And they could make money and have a better life.
66. Makhaya.
67. (a) 'I might have too.' (b) She said that she wouldn't go with him. He would have to go by himself.

71. A hundred.
72. In drying sheds which they would build on every plot.
73. On Paulina's land.
74. A toy village that Paulina's little girl had made.
75. Each shed was to be made of mud. It would have two rooms and it would have wooden shelves in one of them.
INTERMEDIATE LEVEL

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6 She said that he did not like goat meat and sour-milk porridge. That is what the others were going to eat.
7 To eat with the other women. The women shouted with laughter because Makhaya said he would not notice the worms on the meat.

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Because he was the man she wanted.
Little trees.
Because the country was very dry. Every plant had to be watered and looked after carefully.
Because they were brave. They had all smoked cigarettes and drunk beer, like men.
She knew that many men thought Paulina was attractive. She was worried that Gilbert thought so too.
Because she was going to look after all the women who were growing tobacco. It would be hard work. She said, 'I will take the money when we have sold the tobacco.'
Because he had asked her to. He had a bad cold.
He was dying of tuberculosis.

In South Africa his thoughts had been full of murder and hate. In Golema Mmidi he had found peace.
His blackness.
To love his brother.
They were storage holes for rain water.
She thought that making tea was woman's work.
To make money to send her son to school.

Because there was no rain when September came. The wells were drying up and the cattle were dying.
Because her son was not with the men.
Makhaya.
He wanted to keep the cattle near the village and near the water.
He said that, with enough water, Botswana would be a beautiful garden.
Gilbert.

The clean, white bones of Isaac.
'My wife'.
Some beautiful wood carvings wrapped in a cloth.
Makhaya planned to take them back to Paulina.
He poured it over Isaac's bones and lit a match. The bones were burnt to ashes.
The ashes of Isaac's bones.
'No, not everything.'
She said Paulina was blaming herself for the death of her child. She wanted Makhaya to talk to her.
The wood carvings Isaac had made.
Living and working with friends in a quiet place.

Because the villagers were busy doing things. They had not asked his permission. And they had not paid him for it.
Because she saw one of Matenge's servants outside her yard.
Everyone in the village except Gilbert and Makhaya.