INTERMEDIATE LEVEL

When Rain Clouds Gather by Bessie Head

1 Student's own answer. Details: An African scene. The picture is a tall, thin shape. From the top downwards, we can see: a turquoise blue sky with a brownish-orange shape which is the hot sun/a group of huts on the ground which is sand-coloured/a large back cow which is standing on a bowl which is being carried on the head of a black woman wearing a turquoise headcloth/ on the top of the bowl also: 2 plants and 2 birds/on the side of the bowl are patterns and 5 black cows/below the bowl, on either side of the woman's head: more huts and crowds of people.

2 Student's own answer.

3 Student's own answer. Main details:
(a) Paulina: surname: Sebese/comes from the north of Botswana/tall and very thin/not very beautiful but her black eyes were lovely/liked to wear brightly coloured skirts/has two children — Lorato, a little girl and Isaac, a young son — who lives at a cattle post twenty miles from the village/isac dies from tuberculosis and starvation/well-organized person/respected by the other women/hard working/clever and brave and honest/falls in love with Makuya/marries Makuya.
(b) Dinorego: an old man, wearing a torn coat/takes Makuya, a refugee/a foreigner and escaped prisoner) to Golema Mmidi and makes him welcome/calls Gilbert and Makuya his sons/wants his daughter, Maria, to get married/wonders if she might marry Makuya/is happy for her to marry Gilbert.
(c) Gilbert: an Englishman/surname: Balfour/has brought new ideas about growing crops and cattle farming to Golema Mmidi/tall and thin/bright blue eyes and a deeply tanned face/marries Maria.
(d) Maria: daughter of Dinorego/a thin girl with bright, black eyes and a serious face/Gilbert asks her to marry him several times and she eventually agrees to do so.
(e) George Appleby-Smith: English/a colonial police officer/friendly and helpful to Makuya.
(f) Chief Matenge: enemy of George/village chief/evil, greedy man/hates the people of Golema Mmidi because they are working together and do not fear him as they used to/is always causing trouble/has terrible temper/brother — Paramount Chief Sekoto is a fat, happy man who has no sympathy with Matenge/Matenge is so angry when Makuya gets a residence permit that he has a heart attack and is kept in hospital/wants to keep the people of Golema Mmidi poor and unhappy so that they continue to fear him/when they show that they no longer fear him, he is so afraid of them that he hangs himself.
(g) Makuya: South African/surname: Maseko/escapes from prison and gets to Botswana/a tall, handsome young man from the Zulu tribe/long, calm face, with high cheekbones/speaks like a well-educated man/worked for a newspaper in South Africa and was put in prison (presumably for showing his anger at the South African regime openly)/gets a residence permit to live in Botswana/is angry and bitter about the way he was treated in South Africa and gradually learns to feel positive about people and life because of the welcome from the people of Golema Mmidi and the work which Gilbert involves him in/is kind to Paulina’s daughter/finishes her son after he has died/falls in love with Paulina and marries her.
(h) Mma Millipede: an old woman from the same village in the north of the country as Dinorego/nearly married Dinorego as a young woman/Her old face was kind and friendly/helps Makuya learn to believe that people can be good whatever the colour of their skin ‘You are a good man, but you have one thing to learn — to love your brother.’ ‘And who is my brother?’ Makuya asked. ‘Everyone on this earth.’

4 Student’s own answer. Student could use details about people from Question 3 and details about the changes going on in the village way of life from Question 5 in order to provide the detail for Gilbert’s or Makuya’s letter. (This would entail answering Question 5 before Question 4.)

5 Student’s own answer. Main details: Gilbert’s ideas: old way — the men following the cattle through the bush; new way — cattle to be brought close to the village. Instead of dying in the drought, cattle can be given water from the wells in the village. (Pages 17 and 54) Old way — certain types of crop always grown; new way — growing new and different crops which grow well. (Pages 17 and 54) Growing of cash-crops (see Glossary 34) which can be sold and the money used to buy tools and more seed. Tobacco as ideal cash-crop. (Pages 34, 38–41) Old way — drought causes terrible problems; new way — making holes in the ground in which to store the water which falls in the rainy season. (Page 49) Old way — boy tending cattle; new way — suggestion that education will improve the boy’s prospects (Page 51). The quality of life in the village is improving; Gilbert’s ideas work well. (Page 17) The power of a cruel village chief diminishes as the people become more self-sufficient and prosperous. (Pages 18, 62–3)