

THE POWER OF ONE

LIVING LITERATURE SERIES

BRYCE COURTENAY

A PERMA-BOUND PRODUCTION

TEACHER'S GUIDE

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SYNOPSIS

Set in South Africa before, during, and immediately following World War II, *The Power of One* revolves around the adventures of Peekay, an brilliant boy of English descent struggling to overcome the prejudices of Afrikaners, who are gaining political and social dominance. When Peekay is five years old, his mother has a nervous breakdown. Since Peekay does not have a father, the child is sent to a boarding school. Ripped from the arms of his loving black nanny, Peekay is cruelly abused by his Afrikaner classmates. In his terror, the child wets the bed. Back at home during vacation, his nanny summons the powerful Zulu medicine man Inkosi-Inkosikazai, who successfully cures Peekay's night terrors and bed-wetting. This is Peekay's first introduction to "the power of one," the magical strength of the inner self to prevail against the intolerance of others. Peekay brings a pet chicken he names "Granpa Chook" back to school to ease his loneliness. The vicious bullies, led by the swastika-festooned Jaapie Botha, kill the chicken and torture Peekay.

When a disease kills his grandfather's beloved chickens, the family sells their farm and moves to a town in the Eastern Transvaal called Barberton. Peekay is removed from the boarding school. While traveling home, the boy meets a kindly train conductor/boxer named Hoppie Groenewald, who buys the little boy several hot meals. Hoppie also takes the lad to see him defeat Jackhammer Smit in a dramatic boxing match, which instills in Peekay the desire to become the welterweight champion of the world. As his parting gift, Hoppie teaches Peekay to lead "first with the head and then with the heart" for "that's how a man stays ahead from the start."

Peekay learns that his mother had become a born-again Christian. He is crushed when he finds out that his mother has sent away his black nanny because she has not accepted Jesus as her savior.

Peekay befriends Professor von Vollensteen, a German botanist and piano virtuoso. "Doc" encourages the boy's personal growth and emphasizes the power of optimism. The two enjoy many blissful hours hiking through the hills and collecting different samples of cacti for Doc's garden. Doc also teaches Peekay how to read music and play the piano.

During World War II, Doc is imprisoned as an enemy alien. Peekay is allowed to visit Doc at the prison, and he soon learns that the prison has its own boxing team. One of the inmates, a canny mulatto boxer and black-marketer named Geel Piet, assumes responsibility for Peekay's boxing training.

The black prisoners are treated with great cruelty, but Peekay and Geel Piet band together to provide the men with a modicum of relief. With the aid of Mrs. Boxall, the local librarian, Peekay sets up a regular mail system in and out of prison. Since the men are illiterate, Peekay and Mrs. Boxall write the letters that the prisoners dictate; Mrs. Boxall and

several other women set up the "Earl of Sandwich Fund" to supply the prisoners' families with much-needed clothing and money. For his boxing ability and kindness, Peekay is nicknamed "the Tadpole Angel," and a mystical aura quickly grows up around the boy. To show their admiration for Peekay, the prisoners buy him a pair of handsome boxing boots and Peekay win his first fight, a three-round contest. Peekay continues to box and wins all his matches.

Peekay falls in love with his beautiful new teacher, Miss Bornstein, and learns chess from her father. On May 9, 1945, Peekay conducts an emotional public "Concerto for the Great Southland." It is a dramatic evening: Doc plays the piano and the prisoners sing their tribal chorus *indaba*. Only Geel Piet is missing; later, Peekay learns that one of the prison commanders, Borman, has beaten the mulatto to death. The prisoners put a curse on Borman and he dies soon after. That night, World War II ends and Doc is freed. Using Bible tracts as a cover, Doc and Peekay continue their letter writing program, tobacco smuggling, and "Sandwich Fund" activities.

Peekay's outstanding academic achievement earns him a place in the prestigious Prince of Wales boarding school, where he meets Morris Levy, an intelligent and rich Jewish boy. The two outsiders quickly become best friends and flourish by exploiting the social system to their advantage. They rejuvenate the school's boxing program; Peekay wins many championships. To make money, the boys set up a betting system; later, this evolves into the "Boarders' Bank," which makes loans to their classmates. As Peekay wins more and more boxing matches, the legend of the Tadpole Angel continues to spread. For their academic excellence and leadership skills, both boys are selected to be one of the Headmaster's six select ones, "Saint John's People."

Peekay returns home and goes for a hike with Doc. They discover a wondrous crystal cave and Peekay realizes that Doc is preparing for his death. Soon after, Doc dies and Peekay treks to the cave to pay homage to his surrogate father. Back at school, Peekay and Morris raise enough money by betting to pay for Peekay to be trained by the great Solly Goldberg. Peekay fights his greatest match with the Zulu leader Gideon Mandoma, Nanny's son. Peekay is victorious and the boys become fast friends. Peekay and Morris start a school for the blacks. The authorities shutdown, but the boys reopen it as a correspondence school.

After graduating from school, Peekay decides to work in the copper mines of Rhodesia to raise enough money to attend Oxford. Nearly crushed in a mining accident, Peekay is rescued by his friend Rasputin, who is killed in the effort. With an inheritance from Rasputin, Peekay decides to attend Oxford University with Morris. When Peekay meets his childhood tormentor Botha, he beats him to a bloody pulp and carves the swastika from his arm.

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BIOGRAPHICAL SKETCH

Bryce Courtenay was born August 14, 1933, in South Africa. His father Arthur was a lawyer; his mother Maude, a dressmaker. As with Peekay in *The Power of One*, Courtenay despised the South African policy of apartheid, which required segregation of blacks and whites. Courtenay was so repulsed by the maltreatment of blacks that he decided to follow the family tradition of law with a twist: he would defend blacks. Horrified, his parents withdrew all financial support.

Cut loose, Courtenay decided to make his way through his homeland. He earned his living by boxing and working in different copper mines, experiences he drew on in creating Peekay. After many years, Courtenay managed to save enough money to pay for his tuition at Kings' College in London. His studies completed but his wanderlust still unsatisfied, Courtenay then traveled to Norway and Sydney, Australia. Courtenay had exhausted his money by the time he arrived "down under." Ever resourceful, he managed to parlay one course in television into a position as a writer of advertisements.

It took Courtenay only five years to become a success in his chosen field. From 1955 to 1966, he was the regional chairman of the McCann-Erickson company; eventually, he rose to the position of board member. Later, he achieved a similar position at the J. Walter Thompson ad agency, one of the largest and most prestigious advertising firms in the world. Despite his economic achievements, Courtenay was not satisfied. Courtenay said, "In becoming successful in life, the cost was my own conscience, my questioning of what was morally right or wrong." In addition, he began to suffer serious physical ailments. He drank and smoked far too much and his back caused him serious discomfort.

In mid-life, Courtenay decided to live differently. He left his job, quit drinking and smoking, and underwent a series of painful back operations. For three months he was immobilized in a full body cast. He spent the time well, plotting a series of novels. To enable him to write the books he had long imagined, Courtenay needed to become independently wealthy. In 1976, he started his own advertising agency and made a fortune. A decade later, he sold his company for what he called "an indecent amount of money," paid off his debts, and began his literary career.

He got the germ of the idea for *The Power of One* at a dinner party. Furious at the guests' justification of apartheid, Courtenay decided to write about South Africa's racial discrimination "not as a statement, not as a flaming sword." He wanted to write it "so that people could feel it."

CRITIC'S CORNER

While some reviewers fault Courtenay's portrayal of South Africa's tumultuous history as simplistic, others agree with David Keymer that *The Power of One* is "a near-perfect popular novel, grand in theme, rich in narrative vigor, resolutely old-fashioned in form but not without sentiment. It stands comparison with the works of such master African storytellers as John Buchan and Laurens van der Post. Readers will remember it."

Critic Peter Tonge said that "*The Power of One* is a compelling tale of a young boy's refusal to be demoralized by fearful racial torment; of the discovery that loyalty, strength and courage can be fused into 'The Power of One' so that nothing worthy of achievement lies beyond his grasp." Tonge

was especially impressed that "the pace never falters as the author's well-chosen words parade a steady flow of clearly drawn images: from a wizened witch doctor's kindly rapport with a troubled little white boy as they squat facing each other over a circle drawn in the sand, to the frozen moment when a deadly mamba's swaying head and flicking tongue come within inches of the now young man's face, and on to a fight scene in the copper mine in central Africa, where skills nurtured from childhood triumph over brute force and bestiality and a personal hatred is finally dissipated."

GENERAL OBJECTIVES

1. To probe the effects of racism and prejudice
2. To understand the abuses of power
3. To analyze how inner strength can prevail against injustice
4. To discuss the importance of education
5. To explore the process of maturity
6. To examine the importance of friendship
7. To discuss the meaning of "integrity"
8. To understand mysticism
9. To contrast settings
10. To celebrate the triumph of the human spirit

SPECIFIC OBJECTIVES

1. To describe Peekay's experiences in boarding school
2. To comprehend why Peekay decides to become the welterweight boxing champion of the world
3. To analyze the need for moral responsibility
4. To understand Peekay's relationship with Doc, Geel Piet, and Morris
5. To contrast the characters of Mrs. Boxall and Peekay's mother
6. To understand and appreciate Peekay's courage in fighting apartheid
7. To comprehend why the author set the book against the backdrop of World War II
8. To discuss the symbolism of the "power of one"
9. To compare and contrast Zulu mysticism and Protestant Fundamentalism
10. To understand the values of loyalty, strength, and courage

MEANING STUDY

Below are words, phrases, sentences, or thought units that have a particular meaning in the novel. Explain the meaning of each. Chapter and page numbers pinpoint the context in which the item appears.

1. Ahead of me lay the dreaded Mevrouw, the Judge and jury, and the beginning of the power of one—how I learned that in each of us there burns a flame of independence that must never be allowed to go out. That as long as it exists within us we cannot be destroyed. (Chap. Two, p. 21)
(His vacation over, Peekay returns to the brutal boarding school. For comfort, he has smuggled in his pet chicken, Granpa Chook. When Peekay's grandfather suspects that there is something living in Peekay's sack, Nanny covers for the child, quickly saying that the bag contains only sweet potatoes. As he prepares to enter his living hell, Peekay realizes that he has within himself the

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courage to resist destruction. Although only a child, he understands that he can withstand oppression if he remains true to himself.)

2. Mevrouw let go of my ear as though it were a red-hot poker. You've got to be quick on your feet in this world if you want to survive. Though once you know the rules, it is not too hard to play the game. (Chap. Four, p. 61)
(Peekay tricks Mevrouw into relinquishing his ear by claiming that it was the one that was injured. Peekay has quickly learned how to manipulate the social system to his advantage by adopting camouflage: he will be clever, but he will not show it; he will be strong, but he will act afraid; he will never cry. This ensures his survival. Later, he will parlay this ability to help others as well as himself, by starting a letter-writing service for prison inmates, for example.)
3. It was all very complicated, beautiful ladies with skin like honey who were not as good as us and black men who were white men underneath and good as us. The world sure was a complicated place where people were concerned. (Chap. Five, p. 87)
(Using the unsophisticated child narrator Peekay allows Courtenay to offer trenchant social comments on the mysteries of racism in much the same way that Mark Twain used Huckleberry Finn a century earlier. When compared to his actions, Peekay's comments here can be seen as ironic, for the child treats people according to their desserts, not according to their color, gender, age, or nationality. But life was not as simple for the author. Frustrated by a government unwilling to reform its race practices, Courtenay eventually emigrated to Australia.)
4. In my excitement I was jumping up and down and yelling my head off. It was the greatest triumph of my life. I had hope. I had witnessed small triumph over big. I was not powerless. (Chap. Six, p. 101)
(Under the best of circumstances, children are powerless. Peekay, however, is more powerless than most, because he is unusually small, of English descent in an anti-English world, and poor. But Hoppie's boxing victory over his huge opponent demonstrates to Peekay that the underdog can win, when aided by cunning and desire. Further, Hoppie's gracious salute to his opponent shows Peekay a way to acknowledge victory and turn a potential enemy into an ally, if not a friend. Peekay internalizes this early life lesson, and begins to use the "power of one" to withstand the multiple injustices that the world inflicts on the seemingly powerless.)
5. Doc rubbed his hand through my hair. "No more wolves. Absoloodle," he said quietly, and then he looked up at the hills again. (Chap. Ten, p. 213)
(A brilliant pianist, Doc has been haunted by an earlier failure during a public concert. He refers to his fear of failure as his "wolves," the demons that gnaw at him and fuel a vicious drinking problem. Performing in public for the townspeople cures Doc's fears and banishes his demons. Now, he is free to enjoy his music and once again share it with others. His success demonstrates to Peekay that people can harness the "power of one" to achieve their dreams and make the world a better place.)
6. Throwing caution to the winds, he yelled, "We have one,

we have a boxer!" The colored man's intrusion into the general hilarity caused a sudden silence around the ring. (Chap. Eleven, p. 225)

- (As the mulatto Geel Piet recognizes, Peekay is a natural athlete. Combined with his determination, rigorous practice, and desire to win, he is sure to become a champion. But even in the midst of celebration, the realities of life in South Africa in the 1950s intrude: people of color have no rights. Although he is Peekay's trainer, Geel Piet has no right to share in his victory. The separation of the races is maintained at terrible personal as well as social cost.)*
7. I nodded and tried to look contrite. As Klipkop pulled the big mitts off my hands, I suddenly felt light, as though I was going to float away. It was a wonderful feeling. It was the power of one stirring in me. (Chap. Twelve, p. 254)
(Peekay once again experiences the power of one—the thrill of achievement that comes with determination and courage—after winning his boxing match against an opponent eight inches taller and much heavier. As he continues to mature, Peekay realizes more and more how he can channel the "power of one" through focus, practice, and virtue.)
8. I was no better than the brighter chaps in my form. But above all things I had been taught to read for pleasure and for meaning, as both Doc and Mrs. Boxall demanded that I exercise my critical faculties in everything I did. At twelve I had already known how to think for at least four years. In teaching me independence of thought, they had given me the greatest gift an adult can give to a child besides love, and they had given me that also. (Chap. Fifteen, p. 327)
(Peekay has just won a scholarship to the highly competitive Prince of Wales boarding school. He earned the highest marks the school had ever given. Rather than take full credit for his stunning achievement, Peekay is aware of the help he has received from others, especially Doc and Mrs. Boxall. A true hero, he is humble and gracious even in victory. This passage also reinforces the importance of education, one of the novel's general objectives. Peekay realizes that he must train his mind as well as his body.)
9. Christ, Morrie, it's not what a man does, it's what a man is that counts! (Chap. Seventeen, p. 366)
(Geel Piet could have saved himself from death by simply confessing that it was Peekay who had smuggled the prisoners' mail into the prison. But he didn't. Peekay did not view Piet as any of the things he was supposed to be—a black man, a "kaffir," an outcast. Instead, Peekay viewed him as one of the best human beings he had ever met. Peekay realizes that people are defined by what they are, not what they do.)
10. The power of one is above all things the power to believe in yourself, often well beyond any latent ability you may have previously demonstrated. (Chap. Twenty-one, p. 439)
(At the end of the novel, when he has become a man, Peekay has internalized Hoppie's dictate: "First with the head and then with the heart." He realizes that it is more than simply mixing brains with guts. Instead, the power

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of one means thinking beyond the powers of normal concentration and daring your guts to follow your mind. This is what Peekay has been able to do both academically and athletically.)

COMPREHENSION STUDY

Answer the following questions in your own words. There is not always a right answer. Your judgment is important and you should be ready to defend your answers by referring to passages from the novel.

Questions 1-5 Literal Level

1. How is Peekay's bed-wetting cured?

(When Peekay's mother has a nervous breakdown, the child is sent to a harsh boarding school far from home. Being wrenched from his familiar life and his beloved Nanny shocks the lad; being urinated on by the other children traumatizes him. He reacts by wetting his bed and earns the hateful nickname "Pisskop." Later, the child adopts his sole name "Peekay" as a symbol of his defiant triumph over unreasoning hatred. When Peekay returns home and tells Nanny, she decides to call Inkosi-Inkosikazi, the great Zulu medicine man, for help.

Nearly two weeks later, Inkosi-Inkosikazi arrives in his big black Buick at Peekay's home. All day the women bring gifts of food, including a group of tough old roosters. To win Peekay's trust, Inkosi-Inkosikazi squats and with his fingers traces a circle about two feet in diameter in the dust. He hops around the circle, muttering to himself, and draws five more circles. The incantations complete, he grabs a cockerel and retraces the first circle, using the bird's beak as a marker. Then he places the cockerel inside the circle, where it stays unmoving. He does the same with the rest of the chickens. The medicine man calls Peekay over and explains the trick with chickens, winning the child's confidence. Next, Inkosi-Inkosikazi asks the women to describe Peekay's problem. That night Inkosi-Inkosikazi visits Peekay in his dreams. The next morning, the old man sits with the child and flicks his twelve magic shinbones. The medicine man describes Peekay's dream, the place of three waterfalls and ten stones across the river. According to the shinbones, Inkosi-Inkosikazi must take Peekay back across the river. If the child can jump from stone to stone without falling into the rushing torrent, he will be cured. The medicine man then instructs the child to take a deep breath and say the number three to himself as he leaps. When Peekay surfaces, he must take another breath and say the number two as he is washed across the rim of the second waterfall. Then he must swim to the first stone, counting backward from one to ten. Finally, he has to count each stone as he leaps from it to the next to cross the rushing river.

The power of suggestion is strong and Peekay is cured. Throughout the book, Peekay will return to the image of the three waterfalls to help him harness the "power of one.")

2. Why is Doc arrested and imprisoned?

(During World War II, governments often suspected people from enemy nations living in their countries of being spies. In America, for example, Japanese-Americans were imprisoned in detention camps in California and the Southwest; in South Africa, Germans were detained

and often jailed. Doc is German, and so is suspected of being a spy. As with nearly all the war-time detainees, Doc is harmless. His only crime is not registering as a resident alien, as the prisoner warden acknowledges at the end of the war.)

3. How does Geel Piet die?

(Geel Piet is beaten to death by Lieutenant Borman, a violent prison official who hates all black men. Borman very much resents Piet's skill at procuring needed items such as tobacco and food for the prisoners and his skill at boxing. He beats Piet to death to get him to reveal the name of the person who is passing letters to the other prisoners. Borman broke every bone in Geel Piet's face and violated him with a donkey prod. Despite this brutal torture, Piet died without revealing the identity of the letter writer—Peekay.)

4. How is the Prince of Wales school Peekay attends as a teenager the same as the first boarding school Peekay attended when he was only five years old? How is it different?

(The two institutions are alike in that both admit only white boys. There the similarities end. The Prince of Wales school is an elite high school, one of the best in South Africa, whose scholars are admitted only through a rigorous examination. The tuition is steep; the education is superb. The children wear uniforms modeled on those worn in elite British boarding schools such as Eton and Harrow. The grounds are lush, the accommodations and classrooms are superb, and the food is excellent. The headmaster is intelligent, courageous, and kind: he supports the boys when they try to establish a school for black children, for example. Further, he singles out six exceptionally promising scholars/leaders for special attention. Peekay is one of these privileged students. Peekay flourishes in this environment, bonding with his best friend Morris Levy and soaking up knowledge.

In contrast, the first school Peekay attended was dreadful. There are no apparent entrance requirements. A brilliant child, Peekay is forced to conceal his intelligence. The children wear ratty clothing and rarely bathe. The campus is desolate and dusty, the rooms are spartan, and the food is barely edible. The classroom instruction is indifferent at best. The school is populated by racist bullies and run by a tyrant. When Peekay's ear is nearly ripped off as a punishment, one of the administrators forces him to lie about his injuries. The doctor sees through the falsehood but is powerless to intervene. The children urinate on Peekay, tattoo themselves with Nazi swastikas, and ultimately kill Peekay's pet chicken. Peekay is miserable at the school.)

5. Who is Gideon? Why does Peekay box with him?

(Gideon Mandoma is a young bantam weight champion boxer and a Zulu chief of great promise. He is strong, handsome, and intelligent. Incidentally, he is also the son of Mary Mandoma, Peekay's beloved Nanny. Ngumi, the Zulu leader who brings his people to every one of Peekay's fights, explains the reason for the boxing match. The Zulus call Peekay the "Onoshobishobi Ingelosi"—the "Tadpole Angel"—and believe that he is a great white leader and a symbol of hope to the black

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man. This legend grew up around Peekay's boxing skill and great kindness to the men in prison. As a result, the Zulus have been following Peekay to every one of his major boxing matches, silently savoring his victories.

A female Zulu witch doctor discovered through rituals with bleached bones, a snake, and other magical means that Peekay must fight Gideon. There is a story among all the tribes that a chief will rise who is not one of them but will unite them against the oppressor. The Zulus must see if Peekay still has the spirit of greatness within him to lead the black man out of injustice. The boxing match will be the way to discover this. If Peekay loses the fight, he will no longer be "Onoshobishobi Ingelosi." Conversely, if he wins the fight, he will remain a symbol of hope to the black African. Peekay wins the fight and he and Gideon become close friends.)

Questions 6-8 Interpretative Level

6. Why does Hoppie Groenewald treat Peekay so kindly?
(Hoppie Groenewald is a conductor and a guard on the South African Railways. He is a strong young man in the prime of life, possessed of great decency and humanity. He promises to look after Peekay on his long trip to the family's new home, for Peekay is only five years old and this is the first time he has ever been on a railroad. As Hoppie watches over Peekay on the train journey from the boarding school to Gravelotte, he shows the child the greatest kindness he has experienced since he left Nanny. Seeing that Peekay is hungry, frightened, badly-dressed, and neglected, Hoppie takes pity on the lad. Hoppie buys Peekay a number of delicious hot meals and trades the boy's ill-fitting sneakers for a properly fitted pair. To Peekay's great delight, Hoppie also takes him to see his first boxing match, a tremendously exciting bout between Hoppie and Jackhammer Smit. Hoppie lets Peekay try on boxing gloves and enjoy the post-match celebration.
Hoppie then gives Peekay the advice that guides the child's life: "Remember always, first with the head and then with the heart, that's how a man stays ahead from the start. Without both, plans are useless!")
7. What causes Borman's death?
(Not long after Geel Piet's death, Borman begins to complain about hemorrhoids. He is losing weight and is very uncomfortable when he has to sit down. Borman is relatively unconcerned about his affliction because his father also suffered from hemorrhoids. The prisoners, in contrast, are convinced that Borman is really dying of rectal cancer as a result of the curse they placed on him to avenge the brutal way that he killed Geel Piet—by violating him with a donkey prod. Peekay is certain that Borman is indeed dying from the Africans' curse. Like many Africans, Peekay is intensely superstitious. Also, Borman's suffering exactly parallels Geel Piet's torture at Borman's hands, lending a kind of cosmic balance to the curse. Borman dies soon after, suffering from dreadful pain.
According to the official report, Borman dies of rectal cancer. According to the prisoners and Peekay, Borman dies as a result of the curse placed on him to avenge his murder of Geel Piet.)
8. Why are Morris and Peekay best friends?
(On the surface, Morris and Peekay seem to have virtu-

ally nothing in common. Morris Solomon Levy is the only Jewish boy at the Prince of Wales school. During the student line-up on the first day, Morris introduces himself by saying: "Levy, Sarge. Morrie Levy, and I'm not a gentleman or a Christian. I'm a Jew. My dad had to pull all sorts of strings to get me in." Peekay is tremendously impressed with Morrie's self-possession and courage on the first day of school and subsequently. Morrie's family is close-knit and intact. He has a doting mother and father and a web of relatives. Further, the Levys are extremely rich. They own a chain of lucrative carpeting stores and live in enviable comfort and style. They stand firmly behind Morrie's education and try to do whatever they can to make his life more comfortable, successful, and enjoyable. In addition, the Levy family is kind and generous. For example, Mr. Levy graciously volunteers to underwrite Peekay's college tuition at Oxford. This will help Morrie as well as Peekay by keeping the two friends together. As the boys become close friends, Peekay is always welcome to stay at Morrie's home and does indeed pass several holidays there. Morris has little apparent athletic ability or interest in athletic competition.

In contrast to Morrie's Jewish heritage, Peekay is a Christian of English descent. Although the English South Africans are derided as "rooineks" because of their role in the Boer War, as a Christian, Peekay is still in the majority, unlike Morrie. In another sharp difference from Morrie, Peekay's family is shattered. His father does not appear in the novel and no mention is ever made of him. Peekay's mother is unstable, having suffered a nervous breakdown serious enough to require extended hospitalization. She embraces Fundamentalist Christianity with a rabid fervor. Peekay's grandfather is well-meaning but completely distant from the child; Peekay's surrogate father, Doc, dies and leaves the lad once again fatherless. Peekay is also different from Morrie in that Peekay's family is grindingly poor. His mother supports the household with her sewing, often working day and night. As a result of their poverty, Peekay attends the Prince of Wales school on a scholarship. His friends and neighbors take up a collection to pay for his clothing. Mr. Bornstein, the father of his beloved teacher, stitches up Peekay's blazers and pants; Peekay's mother makes much of his other clothing. Unlike the other students, Peekay initially does not have any pocket money at all, while Morrie has more money than he knows how to spend. The boys' families are different as well. Although Peekay's mother is not unkind, she is obsessed with her religion and supporting the family. As a result, she has little time for her only child. She also has little understanding of his life or needs. Peekay often tricks her to get what he wants. For instance, to continue helping the men in prison by supplying them with contraband, Peekay rigs up a scheme to hand out Bible tracts to the prisoners. This satisfies his mother and allows Peekay to distribute tobacco and write the prisoners' letters to their homes. Unlike Morrie, Peekay is extremely athletic, especially skilled at boxing. His lifelong dream is to become the South African welter weight boxing champ.

What brings together these two very different boys is the fact that both are outsiders. Morrie is suspect

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because of his religion; Peekay is different because he is English. Much is made of Morrie's religion: Helpmekaar, one of their classmates, refuses to do business with "a Jewboy" (p. 419). This anti-Semitism is especially chilling when set against the Nazi specter of World War II. Peekay experiences similar hatred as a rooinek: the Judge, a fellow student at his first boarding school, forces him to eat human excrement because of his English heritage.

Both boys learn to use the system to their advantage. Peekay figures out early how to circumvent the rigid school rules to learn at his own pace; Morrie shows Peekay how to set up a betting system to make money on the boxing matches. The boys later band together to start the "Bank" to lend money to their classmates and make an even larger profit.

Further, the boys share common interests. They are both highly intelligent, intellectually curious, and absorb knowledge seemingly without effort. Peekay and Morrie delight in questioning what they have read; in one memorable scene, they band together to grill an especially dogmatic history instructor.

Finally, the boys have a common goal. They care deeply for their country and are truly committed to helping end apartheid and the mistreatment of blacks. The school they start for their black countrymen shows their determination to end racism. As Peekay says, "I was a child of Africa, a white child to be sure, but nevertheless Africa's child. The black breasts that had suckled me and the dark hands that had bathed and rocked me had left me with a burden of obligation to resist the white power that would be the ultimate gift from those who now trained me." (p. 373)]

Questions 9 and 10 Critical Level

9. What picture of South Africa in the 1930s and 1940s emerges from this novel?

(The author shows a country in great turmoil. One of the legacies of the Boer War is a seething intolerance by Afrikaners toward their countrymen of British heritage. World War II extends the hatred and rage. Near the end of the war, Doc acknowledges the rancor: "The years of hate are nearly over. It is soon time to love again, time to climb high with the sun on the back until a person can reach up and touch nearly the sky." (p. 282)

The novel also portrays the great chasm between black and white and a country seared by racism. Resisting his mother's attempts to convert him to her brand of fundamentalism, Peekay questions Pastor Mulvery about apartheid, the institutional system of racism. He asks: "If nobody is dirty and nobody works in heaven and black and white are equal, then why can't they [black people] live in the same place as us?" The Pastor lays the blame for racism on the Lord: "Because they are black and it wouldn't be right, that's all. The Lord knows more about such things than we do, man. We mustn't question the wisdom of the Lord. When you are born again you'll understand His infinite wisdom and you won't ask such silly questions" (p. 267). But Peekay is not satisfied with the Pastor's answer. When Geel Piet is shoved out of the boxing picture, Peekay says, "The photograph captured the exact moment when I understood with conviction that racism is a primary force of

evil designed to destroy good men." (p. 275)

But there is also generosity, love, and courage in South Africa during this time. People like Hopple Groenewald [the train conductor], Miss Bornstein [Peekay's teacher], Doc [the piano teacher and botanist], and Miss Boxall [the librarian] give unstintingly of their time and expertise. Doc loves Peekay as a father would a son; Peekay returns his devotion. Peekay and many others stand up with great bravery against oppression.)

10. How does Courtenay's characterization descend into caricature?

(In many scenes, Morris Levy is a caricature of the overly-intelligent, guilt-ridden, money-making Jewish person. Morris says, "I'm a Jew. People expect Jews to be good with money. So what do Jews do? They oblige" [p. 345]. Later he comments, "But guilty so it hurts inside, that's different. Jews are expert at soul guilt" [p. 463]. Gideon Mandoma, the young Zulu chieftain who boxes with Peekay, is a caricature of African tradition. "I do not come from a nation of slaves," he says in Chapter Twenty-two, "but I have been made a slave. I come from a people who are brave men, but I am made to weep. I, who am to become a great chief, have become what no man ought to be, a man without rights and without a future" [p. 464].

Questions 11 and 12 Creative Level

11. Morris and Peekay start a school for young black African males. When the school is raided by the police and closed down, the boys go underground and continue their efforts as a correspondence school called "Miss Bornstein's Famous Correspondence School." What do you think should be taught at this school? Design a one-year curriculum, a list of subjects, books, and assignments for the students. Be ready to explain why each item on your curriculum is important.
12. Peekay adopts his name as a sign of independence, an acknowledgment that he has achieved the "power of one" and thrown off the torture of the first boarding school. "Peekay" is his only name, and readers never learn what name he was given at birth. Decide on a first and last name for Peekay. Explain the reasons for the name you give him.

LITERARY TERMS AND APPLICATIONS

For a better understanding of Bryce Courtenay's style, present the following terms and applications in his novel:

Setting is the time and place where the events take place. The setting of a story may be stated outright, or readers may have to infer it from details in the story. Writers give clues to the setting in the characters' speech, clothing, or means of transportation. *The Power of One* is set in South Africa from the 1930s to the 1950s.

The action focuses on several specific places within South Africa: Peekay's first boarding school, the family's home, the Prince of Wales school, and the mines. The first boarding school is a dreadful place, filled with violence, torture, and deprivation. Courtenay's description of the grounds serves as a metaphor for the entire place: "After a while we left the mango tree, and skirting the edge of the playground we made our way to the side

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looked out onto a rundown citrus orchard of old, almost leafless grapefruit trees. Half a dozen cassia trees had seeded themselves over the years, and their bright yellow blossoms brought the dying orchard back to life. The ground was covered with khakiweed and blackjack that reached to my shoulder" (p. 22).

The family's home is a small house in a provincial village. "A low stone wall marked the front garden and steps led up to the stoep, which ran the full width of the house. The place was only dimly lit by a distant street lamp so that further details were impossible to make out in the ghoulish darkness" (pp. 132-133).

The Prince of Wales school is set in a luxurious section of Johannesburg, as Peekay sees when he approaches it for the first time: ". . . we passed an emerald-green cricket pitch with a rotating hose chit-chit-chittering a jet of water in a large circle around the pitch. On the far boundary, neatly enclosed by a white picket fence, stood a small white pavilion, behind it grew another row of giant oaks, and behind them rose several sets of rugby posts. Still further, the neo-Gothic clock tower of the main school rose above the trees. It seemed the perfect place for a posh school" (p. 314).

The copper mines of Northern Rhodesia are a hellish place, as brutal as the first boarding school. "It's gut-wrenching work laying charges and working ore through the bars, sometimes as many as forty or fifty blasts a night until a powder headache caused by the sweet, sticky-smelling gelignite sticks threatens to tear your head off your shoulders" (p. 502).

Imagery is a word or phrase that appeals to one or more of our five senses: sight, hearing, taste, touch, or smell. Courtenay uses images to paint vivid word-pictures of life in South Africa. For example, the following image of Rasputin's stew appeals to taste, sight, and smell: "The flowers were a nice homely touch, and the stew in a large pot on his single electric burner smelled wonderful. Rasputin poured it straight from the pot into the bowls, and the delicious broth came steaming up at me. He dipped into the pot with a fork, stabbing chunks of pink rabbit meat and placing them in my bowl" (p. 508).

Characterization is the different ways an author tells readers about characters. Sometimes, writers tell about characters directly. Other times, writers let readers reach their own decisions by showing the comments, thoughts, and actions of the other characters. The characters who emerge in *The Power of One* are unique and unforgettable. They include the kindly boxer Hoppie, the erudite Doc, the shrewd Geel Piet, and the gentle giant Rasputin.

ACROSS THE CURRICULUM

Art

1. In 1951, Peekay wins the South African featherweight boxing title. Create an award for this great achievement. The award might be a medal, citation, or belt, for example.
2. On page 409, the author describes the crystal cave: "The torch showed a huge chamber, from the ceiling and the floor of which grew stalactites and stalagmites. The roof of the cave must have been at least forty feet high, and the snowy white calcareous structures falling from it,

some of which had reached the ground, looked like an illustration from a fairy tale." Read the rest of the description. Then work with a group to create a picture of the glorious crystal cave.

3. Working with a partner, create a newspaper advertisement of Peekay's fight with Gideon. The advertisement should include the date, time, and importance of the fight.

Music

1. Peekay and Doc derive great pleasure from their music. On an instrument of your choice, perform a classical selection that you like for the class. Explain why you enjoy the music.
2. Doc teaches Peekay about many famous classical composers. Select one composer mentioned in the novel and report on his music. As you present your findings to the class, be sure to include an excerpt from the composer's famous work. Use a record, tape, or CD of the music.

History/Social Studies

1. *The Power of One* opens with South Africa struggling with the aftermath of the Boer War. Find out more about this conflict. Focus on the reasons for the war, the participants, dates, and outcome. Share your findings in a multimedia oral report. Try to include some of the following elements in your report: pictures, posters, diagrams, maps, photographs, and music.
2. During the course of the novel, South Africa is caught up in World War II. The boys talk about Hitler and his relentless march across the globe. Prepare a time line showing the major events in World War II. Include at least ten events.
3. Peekay and Morrie challenge their teacher about the Charge of the Light Brigade. Morrie claims that "The Charge of the Light Brigade is celebrated not because it was the most obviously stupid, most spectacularly stupid, most stupendously stupid sacrifice of men until the brilliant British generals finally topped it for sheer cold-blooded slaughter in the trenches in Flanders and on the cliffs above Gallipoli" (p. 380). Research the Charge of the Light Brigade. Include in your research Tennyson's poem of the same name. Present your discoveries in a report or poster.

Science and Health

1. Doc is fascinated by cacti; he has made these plants his life's work. Use the novel to find out more about these plants. Then create a cactus garden of your own.
2. Explain the difference between stalactites and stalagmites and describe how each is formed.
3. Trace the process of removing copper ore from the mines, as described in *The Power of One*. Find out if the same process is followed in copper mines today.

Language Arts

1. Peekay, Miss Boxall, and Doc write letters from the prisoners to their families. The prisoners are very careful not to tell their families how much they are suffering because of racism. Their families, in turn, minimize their hardship, especially their poverty. Working with a partner, write a series of letters between the prisoners and their families. Study the letters in the novel for tone, con-

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their families. Study the letters in the novel for tone, content, and form, before you write. A sample letter appears on page 320 of the novel.

2. *The Power of One* includes several words that have entered English from Yiddish, such as *goy*. Yiddish has been an important source for English words. Use a dictionary to find the definition of these English words from Yiddish: *nosh*, *boychik*, *klutz*, *noodge*, *schlemiel*, *shnorer*, *yenta*, *zayde*, *blintzes*, *borscht*, *challah*, *hamantash*, *knish*, *matzoth*, *mensch*, *meshugge*, *chutzpah*, and *kibitzer*. See how many other Yiddish/English words you can find.
3. List five ways that people can overcome prejudice and racism. See how many of these suggestions can be implemented today in your neighborhood.
4. Explain how you could harness "the power of one" in your own life. Give specific examples to make your point.

Drama

1. Working with a small group of friends, role-play Peekay's interview with the Rhodes committee.
2. Imagine that Hoppie attended Peekay's triumphant South African schools featherweight fight. Create a reunion scene between the two old friends after Peekay's victory.

STUDENT INVOLVEMENT ACTIVITIES

1. Explain the significance of the following quotation from the novel: "It was perhaps the greatest single moment in my life. The People wanted to know. This was not a fight between black and white, it was a testing of the spirit, the spirit of Africa itself" (p. 444).
2. Start an Earl of Sandwich fund in your school to help needy people at home and abroad.
3. Write a speech to convince the South African authorities to start a school for black citizens.
4. Writing as Peekay, complete at least three diary entries explaining how you feel about your Nanny, your mother, and your life in the first boarding school. Cite specific examples from the novel to make your point.
5. Deliver a tribute to Doc in the form of a funeral oration. You can read your tribute to a small group of classmates and add their comments to your revision.
6. Imagine that you could meet Bryce Courtenay for fifteen minutes and interview him. Write ten questions that you would like to ask him about *The Power of One* and/or her own experiences in South Africa. Then trade papers with a classmate and answer each other's questions. Talk with your partner about each other's answers, taking turns explaining why you answered as you did.
7. Write a brief autobiography of your very early years modeled on the opening chapters of *The Power of One*.
8. Write a critical review of *The Power of One* to be printed in a newspaper. In your review, analyze the novel based on such elements as characterization, setting, plot, theme, and mood. Cite specific examples and quotations from the novel to support your opinion.
9. *The Power of One* has been made into a movie starring Stephen Dorff, Armin Mueller-Stahl, Morgan Freeman, and John Gielgud. Get a copy of the movie and view it. Write an essay comparing and contrasting the book and movie. Show how they are similar and different.

10. Take the novel ten years in the future and write a scene showing what has happened to Peekay, Morrie, and their country. Include specific information and be sure that each character's actions are in keeping with his or her character as established in the novel. If you wish, work with a small group of classmates to act out your scene for the class.

ALTERNATE ASSESSMENT

1. List three scenes that show how Peekay has achieved "the power of one."
2. Describe the major scenes in the plot, especially those that show Peekay's character and his motivations. Describe each scene in detail and explain why it is important to the plot.
3. Write a song or poem about "the power of one." Your writing should be inspiring and uplifting in tone.
4. Make a character chart that traces the relationship of each character to Peekay. Include his mother, Nanny, grandfather, Inkosi-Inkosikazi, Dee, Dum, Mrs. Boxall, Miss Bornstein, Mr. Bornstein, Captain Smit, Lieutenant Borman, Klipkop, Mr. Nguni, Mandoma, Sinjun, Doc, Morrie, the Judge, Hoppie, Geel Piet, Rasputin, and Granpa Chook.

BRYCE COURTNEY'S OTHER PUBLISHED WORKS

The Eleven Powers (documentary) (1986)
Tandia (1990)
The Pitch (essays) (1992)
April Fool's Day (biography) (in press)

RELATED READING

William H. Armstrong's *Sounder*
Clayton Bess's *Story for a Black Night*
Dianne Case's *Love, David*
Charles Dickens' *David Copperfield* and *Nicholas Nickleby*
F. Scott Fitzgerald's *The Great Gatsby*
Sheila Gordon's *The Middle of Somewhere: A Story of South Africa* and *Waiting for the Rain*
Ernest Hemingway's *The Old Man and the Sea*
James Joyce's *The Portrait of the Artist as a Young Man*
Lois Lowry's *The Giver*
Gary Paulsen's *Dogsong*
Alan Paton's *Cry, the Beloved Country*
Mark Twain's *The Adventures of Huckleberry Finn*

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THE POWER OF ONE

VOCABULARY TEST

Using the vocabulary words that follow, complete each sentence. You will have answers left over.

accolades	contrite	faculties	independence	pavilion
avarice	conviction	fortitude	infinite	persevere
botanical	dormitory	gorge	nurturing	rations
brash	embossed	illustration	obligation	ruthlessly
complicated	esoteric	incongruous	ordeal	sinewy

1. Only a chosen few understood the _____ material that Peekay was studying in school.
2. Doc's hard body was thin and _____, his muscles developed by years of hiking through the steep hills.
3. Since Doc was so strong, the snowy white hair on his head looked _____ and out of place.
4. The title of the book was _____ in its spine, cut into the leather.
5. After Peekay's jaw was broken, his mother felt terrible about his suffering and long _____ while he healed.
6. During the boxing match, the Judge _____ pummeled Peekay until the boy was dizzy with pain.
7. Doc's _____ collection was filled with interesting plants, especially different cacti.
8. Morrie was considered far too _____ and outspoken to be one of Sinjun's boys.
9. The Headmaster was convinced that the greatest success in life comes to the people who _____, not to those who give up easily.
10. Toward the end of his school career, Peekay felt that he had given up his individuality for the glittering prizes and the _____ of his schoolmates.
11. Peekay realized the world was a _____ place where people were concerned.
12. Mrs. Boxall demanded that Peekay exercise his critical _____ in everything he did.
13. In each person burns a flame of _____ that must never be allowed to go out.
14. The Pastor told Peekay not to question the _____ of the Lord.
15. Peekay understood with _____ that racism was a force for evil.
16. The _____ looked out onto a rundown citrus grove.
17. A small white _____ was neatly enclosed by a white picket fence.
18. Peekay nodded and tried to look _____.
19. The roof of the cave looked like an _____ from a fairy tale.
20. Peekay felt an _____ to resist apartheid.

THE POWER OF ONE

COMPREHENSION TEST A

Part I: Matching (30 points)

Match the following descriptions with each character from the novel. Choose your answers from the list below. Each answer will be used only once.

- | | | |
|-------------------------|----------------------|-------------------|
| A. Peekay | F. Peekay's mother | K. Nanny |
| B. Peekay's grandfather | G. Inkosi-Inkosikazi | L. Granpa Chook |
| C. Dum | H. Mrs. Boxall | M. Miss Bornstein |
| D. Sinjun | I. Geel Piet | N. Lt. Borman |
| E. Morrie | J. Mr. Nguni | O. Mandoma |

- _____ 1. the vicious racist who beats Geel Piet to death
- _____ 2. the Zulu leader who organizes the support for the Tadpole Angel
- _____ 3. Peekay's beloved chicken
- _____ 4. Gideon's mother
- _____ 5. the teacher Peekay showers with roses
- _____ 6. Zulu chieftain who Peekay boxes
- _____ 7. the librarian who runs the Earl of Sandwich fund
- _____ 8. suffers a severe nervous breakdown at the beginning of the story
- _____ 9. headmaster of the Prince of Wales school
- _____ 10. Zulu witch doctor who cures Peekay's "night water"
- _____ 11. a widower who raises roses
- _____ 12. prisoner who teaches Peekay how to box
- _____ 13. called "Pisskop" in the beginning of the novel
- _____ 14. hires the top South African boxing trainer for Peekay
- _____ 15. a servant for Peekay's family

Part II: True/False (20 points)

In the space provided, write T if the statement is true or F if any part of the statement is false.

- _____ 1. Peekay becomes a close friend of the Judge at his first boarding school.
- _____ 2. Inkosi-Inkosikazi and Peekay have a huge boxing match and Peekay is the victor.
- _____ 3. The "power of one" is the flame of independence that must never be allowed to go out.
- _____ 4. Hoppie buys Peekay several dinners and trades the child's ill-fitting sneakers for well-fitting shoes.
- _____ 5. Hoppie wins his boxing match against Jackhammer Smit of the Murchinson Consolidated Mines.
- _____ 6. Peekay's mother is not a very religious woman, although her father is a pastor.
- _____ 7. Doc is arrested in 1941 for being an unregistered alien.
- _____ 8. Doc and Miss Boxall get married after the war and live together happily until Doc's death in the crystal cave.
- _____ 9. Geel Piet runs away from prison during the big concert.
- _____ 10. The Prince of Wales school is very luxurious and offers an excellent education.

THE POWER OF ONE

Part III: Multiple Choice (20 points)

Select the best answer for each question. Write your answer in the space provided.

- _____ 1. As a tribute to Geel Piet, Doc a. buries him in the crystal cave. b. plays a very special piece of music. c. assaults Borman and Klipkop. d. starts the Sandwich fund.
- _____ 2. Peekay is able to attend the Prince of Wales school because a. Doc leaves him an inheritance. b. Morris pays the tuition. c. he wins a scholarship. d. he starts the Bank.
- _____ 3. Lieutenant Borman a. dies in battle. b. is promoted to major. c. helps pay for school clothing. d. died of rectal cancer.
- _____ 4. Morris Solomon Levy is best described as a. intelligent and sensitive b. a Nazi. c. poor and generous. d. strong and athletic.
- _____ 5. "Sinjun's People" are a. a group of elite students. b. losing boxers. c. prisoners with special privileges. d. black Africans.
- _____ 6. The "Tadpole Angel" is a. Doc. b. a type of South African chicken. c. a Zulu warrior. d. Peekay.
- _____ 7. In 1951, Peekay wins a. a draft deferment. b. a Rhodes scholarship. c. the South African schools featherweight title d. an Oxford fellowship.
- _____ 8. After graduating from the Prince of Wales school, Peekay a. becomes a professional boxer. b. returns to his family's farm. c. goes to work in the copper mines. d. goes directly to college.
- _____ 9. Peekay's life is saved by a. Doc. b. Rasputin. c. the Tadpole Angel. d. his father.
- _____ 10. At the end of the novel, Peekay loses his childhood hate by a. carving a symbol in his arm. b. killing Rasputin. c. visiting Granpa Chook. d. beating the Judge, Jaapie Botha.

Part IV: Essay (30 points)

Choose two of the following and answer in essay form.

1. Define the "power of one" and explain how Peekay obtains it.
2. Analyze how *The Power of One* is the story of Peekay's spiritual influence on others.
3. Trace the steps Peekay takes to become a winning boxer.

THE POWER OF ONE

COMPREHENSION TEST B

Part I: Multiple Choice (20 points)

Select the best answer for each question. Write your answer in the space provided.

- _____ 1. At his first boarding school, Peekay is tormented by
 - a. Morrie Levy.
 - b. Granpa Chook.
 - c. Jaapie Botha.
 - d. Rasputin.

- _____ 2. Inkosi-Inkosikazi is
 - a. Peekay's Zulu Nanny.
 - b. a boxing teacher.
 - c. a witch doctor.
 - d. a famous South African boxer.

- _____ 3. the flame of independence that must never be allowed to go out is called
 - a. the power of one.
 - b. the Crystal Cave.
 - c. the Tadpole Angel.
 - d. the Judge.

- _____ 4. Hoppie buys Peekay
 - a. his first boxing gloves.
 - b. several dinners.
 - c. his textbooks for the Prince of Wales school.
 - d. his clothing for school.

- _____ 5. Hoppie wins his boxing match against
 - a. Gideon Mandoma.
 - b. Jackhammer Smit.
 - c. Piet Murchinson.
 - d. Peekay.

- _____ 6. Peekay's mother is best described as
 - a. interested in rights for black Africans.
 - b. warm and loving.
 - c. a very religious woman.
 - d. well educated and intelligent.

- _____ 7. In 1941, Doc is arrested for
 - a. removing native plants.
 - b. mining without a license.
 - c. being an unregistered alien.
 - d. disturbing the peace.

- _____ 8. After his death, Doc leaves Peekay
 - a. a great deal of money.
 - b. a note and his gold pocket watch.
 - c. his home.
 - d. many debts.

- _____ 9. Geel Piet does not attend the big concert because he
 - a. has had a serious fight with Doc.
 - b. does not like classical music.
 - c. is training for the boxing match.
 - d. has been murdered.

- _____ 10. The Prince of Wales school is
 - a. poor and badly run.
 - b. located in England.
 - c. luxurious and offers an excellent education.
 - d. run by a Nazi.

THE POWER OF ONE

Part II: Matching (30 points)

Identify the settings that fit the following descriptions. Choose your answers from the list below. Each answer will be used only once. You will have answers left over.

- | | | |
|-----------------------|----------------------------|---------------------|
| A. Johannesburg | F. Prince of Wales school | K. Holland |
| B. Harry Crown's shop | G. copper mines | L. crystal cave |
| C. mental institution | H. New Orleans | M. railroad |
| D. Boarder's Bank | I. South Africa | N. Barberton prison |
| E. Germany | J. Apostolic Faith Mission | O. the Congo |

- _____ 1. where Peekay eats a stew
- _____ 2. where Mevrouw Hettie dies
- _____ 3. where Peekay meets Morris Levy
- _____ 4. where Doc goes to die
- _____ 5. where Peekay's mother goes in the beginning of the story
- _____ 6. where Pastor Mulvery wants to take Peekay
- _____ 7. where Geel Piet works
- _____ 8. where Doc was born and raised
- _____ 9. the novel's setting
- _____ 10. where Peekay gets delicious red and green candies

Part III: True/False (20 points)

Write **T** if the statement is true or **F** if the statement is false. Write your answer in the space provided.

- _____ 1. As a tribute to Geel Piet, Doc buries him in the crystal cave and starts the Sandwich fund.
- _____ 2. Peekay is able to attend the Prince of Wales school because Doc leaves him an inheritance.
- _____ 3. Lieutenant Borman helps pay for Peekay's school clothing.
- _____ 4. Morris Solomon Levy is best described as intelligent and sensitive.
- _____ 5. "Sinjun's People" are a group of elite scholars at the Prince of Wales school.
- _____ 6. The "Tadpole Angel" is what the black prisoners and Zulu tribesmen call Peekay.
- _____ 7. In 1951, Peekay wins the South African school featherweight title.
- _____ 8. After graduating from the Prince of Wales school, Peekay returns to his family's farm.
- _____ 9. Peekay's life is saved by his father, Rasputin.
- _____ 10. At the end of the novel, Peekay loses his childhood hate by beating the Judge, Jaapie Botha.

Part IV: Essay (40 points)

Answer one of the following questions in an essay of at least 250 words. Try to include specific details from the book in your answer.

- 1. Compare and contrast Morris and Peekay.
- 2. Explain how Doc functions as a father-figure to Peekay.
- 3. Trace how Peekay grows up and changes as a result of his experiences.

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ANSWER KEY

VOCABULARY TEST

- | | |
|----------------|------------------|
| 1. esoteric | 11. complicated |
| 2. sinewy | 12. faculties |
| 3. incongruous | 13. independence |
| 4. embossed | 14. infinite |
| 5. ordeal | 15. conviction |
| 6. ruthlessly | 16. dormitory |
| 7. botanical | 17. pavilion |
| 8. brash | 18. contrite |
| 9. persevere | 19. illustration |
| 10. accolades | 20. obligation |

COMPREHENSION TEST A

Part I: Matching (30 points)

- | | | |
|------|-------|-------|
| 1. N | 6. O | 11. B |
| 2. J | 7. H | 12. I |
| 3. L | 8. F | 13. A |
| 4. K | 9. D | 14. E |
| 5. M | 10. G | 15. C |

Part II: True/False (20 points)

- | | |
|------|-------|
| 1. F | 6. F |
| 2. F | 7. T |
| 3. T | 8. F |
| 4. T | 9. F |
| 5. T | 10. T |

Part III: Multiple Choice (20 points)

- | | |
|------|-------|
| 1. b | 6. d |
| 2. c | 7. c |
| 3. d | 8. c |
| 4. a | 9. b |
| 5. a | 10. d |

Part IV: Essay (30 points)

Answers will vary.

COMPREHENSION TEST B

Part I: Multiple Choice (20 points)

- | | |
|------|-------|
| 1. c | 6. c |
| 2. d | 7. c |
| 3. a | 8. b |
| 4. b | 9. d |
| 5. b | 10. c |

Part II: True/False (20 points)

- | | |
|------|-------|
| 1. F | 6. T |
| 2. F | 7. T |
| 3. F | 8. F |
| 4. T | 9. F |
| 5. T | 10. T |

Part III: Matching (20 points)

- | | |
|------|-------|
| 1. G | 6. J |
| 2. M | 7. N |
| 3. F | 8. E |
| 4. L | 9. I |
| 5. C | 10. B |

Part IV: Essay (40 points)

Answers will vary.

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TEACHER'S NOTES



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