

## 3. Leseverstehen

## New, Multiracial Beginning in Story of "Madam &amp; Eve" John Murphy (Baltimore Sun)

- 1 JOHANNESBURG, South Africa – The doorbell rings at the home of Madam Gwen, but Eve, the black maid, refuses to answer it.
- Madam reluctantly pulls herself up from the sofa and opens the door. "I don't think I've ever seen you answer the door before," says the startled<sup>1</sup> visitor, a neighbor.
- "I wouldn't let Eve have time off to see her Uncle Joe, so now she's getting back at me," says Madam.
- "By making you answer the door?"
- 10 "Forget about the door. She's protesting by not doing her work. She's on a go-slow."
- "A go-slow? How slow is she going to go?"
- Eve enters from the kitchen, walking at an exaggeratedly slow pace as if her feet are stuck in glue. She delivers tea to a displeased Madam and her guest.
- 15 "Well, at least she made you tea," says the visitor.
- "I asked her last night," Madam says wryly<sup>2</sup>.
- So goes the first episode of "Madam & Eve," a popular South African sitcom to hit television screens.
- 20 Based on a popular comic strip of the same name, "Madam & Eve" explores the awkward relationship between a wealthy white woman and her black maid as they try to make their way in post-apartheid South Africa.
- Signs of political and social change are everywhere in the new South Africa, but there are few places like television to understand how South Africans see themselves – or would like to see themselves.
- 25 Under Apartheid, a show such as "Madam & Eve" would have had no chance of getting on the air.
- 30 But since the democratic elections in 1994, television producers are turning to multiracial sitcoms as an entertaining way to deal with the country's uncomfortable past and perhaps show a path to the future.
- South Africans want to look at South African life comically. They like to laugh at themselves. But behind the laughter, "Madam & Eve" delivers its share of social commentary. Sitcoms are allowed to play with cultural stereotypes, such as the rich madam, the poor maid, the old racist Afrikaner and the Zulu grandmother, freeing the show's writers and
- 40 viewers to explore the contradictions and complexities of South Africa today.
- What sets South African television apart from its American and British counterparts is that by law, all shows must include as many of the country's 11 official languages as possible.
- 45 To an outsider, it makes for strange, often confusing, viewing. In "Madam & Eve," for instance, Eve speaks Zulu with the family's black gardener but will talk with the Madam in English. Sometimes viewers are provided subtitles; other times, viewers are expected to understand the conversation within context or with repetition.
- Some critics view the visual humor – the funny faces, the objects falling on peoples' heads and toes as a way of reaching across a multilingual audience.
- 55 Fearing that it would be a dangerous, perhaps revolutionary technology, television was banned by Apartheid leaders until 1976, when the first government-owned station, the South African Broadcasting Corp., went on the air with tightly controlled news, sports and entertainment programs.
- 60 Early on, a black person could not appear in the same frame as a white person. Half of the programs were in English and half were in Afrikaans. Native African languages were rarely heard. But over the years, the restrictions were relaxed somewhat as the government launched two more stations broadcasting in black tribal languages.
- 65 In 1994, South African television was liberated from its Apartheid restrictions. Viewers now have their choice of the state-run South African Broadcasting Corp.'s three channels with programming in all 11 languages, independent e-TV<sup>3</sup> and several pay channels with home grown shows. American, British and other foreign imports make up nearly half of all shows on television. Audiences, however, still prefer anything made in South Africa, because the shows reflect their own experiences.
- 70

<sup>1</sup> startled – here: confused, surprised

<sup>2</sup> wryly – showing that you are both amused and disappointed or annoyed

<sup>3</sup> e-TV – South Africa's biggest independent TV channel

Adapted from: John Murphy, <http://articles.latimes.com/2001/mar/07/entertainment/ka-34178>, The Baltimore Sun, March 07, 2001

"Madam & Eve" is based around the theme of a middle-class white woman and her black maid. Theirs is a relationship of friendly quarrelling.

► Tick the correct box **and** give evidence from the text.

1. The introductory scene of *Madam & Eve* is funny because ...

- a)  the maid is on strike.
- b)  a stranger opens the door.
- c)  Madam treats her guest rudely.

Evidence from the text: \_\_\_\_\_

2 p

2. The storyline of *Madam & Eve* was invented for a TV series. 2 p  
This statement is ...  true  false  
Evidence from the text: \_\_\_\_\_
3. TV is seen as a good way to reflect on South African identity. 2 p  
This statement is ...  true  false  
Evidence from the text: \_\_\_\_\_
4. Today's South African TV productions ... 2 p  
a)  limit satirical programmes.  
b)  treat Apartheid with humor.  
c)  favour sensitive over funny broadcasts.  
Evidence from the text: \_\_\_\_\_
5. Shows like *Madam & Eve* work with clichés to help understand South Africa. 2 p  
This statement is ...  true  false  
Evidence from the text: \_\_\_\_\_
6. South African TV must represent several African languages. 2 p  
This statement is ...  true  false  
Evidence from the text: \_\_\_\_\_
7. During Apartheid, watching TV was restricted because of ... 2 p  
a)  poor financial resources.  
b)  outdated technical equipment.  
c)  concerns about bad influences.  
Evidence from the text: \_\_\_\_\_
8. Discrimination on TV showed in the underrepresentation of ... 2 p  
a)  black people.  
b)  African languages.  
c)  native programmes.  
Evidence from the text: \_\_\_\_\_
9. Today, South African viewers give priority to international TV imports. 2 p  
This statement is ...  true  false  
Evidence from the text: \_\_\_\_\_

## weiter Prüfungsteil: Wortschatz – Schreiben

### The Gun“

#### Wortschatz

##### A South African experience“

*Michelle Faul and her mixed-race family experienced racist incidents in South Africa in the early 60s, forcing them to leave the country for England. Today Michelle Faul is Chief Africa correspondent for The Associated Press“. She looks back at what life was like in South Africa during Apartheid.*

► Fill in suitable words or tick the correct box.

1. My widowed mother had driven us from our \_\_\_\_\_ in Zimbabwe, which was then called Rhodesia, to visit family in her native South Africa.
2. There was racism in Rhodesia, too, but it was nothing like the laws in South Africa that made blacks subhuman because they had to ...  
a)  suffer      b)  hurt      c)  experience      d)  feel  
in the most horrible ways.
3. We did not take the train because halfway through the trip, passengers would have to get out of the Rhodesian Railway compartment and \_\_\_\_\_ to old and run-down black-only South African carriages.
4. The car trip presented its own challenges. Hotels \_\_\_\_\_ only whites and everywhere you could see signs declaring places and facilities "for whites only".
5. Only whites were allowed inside the stores. So we had to carry piles of food and drinks from home because our mother \_\_\_\_\_ to go to the back door of shops.
6. Being white meant you could live where you wanted. However, ...  
a)  circles of      b)  crowds of      c)  cliques of      d)  clouds of  
blacks were caged in townships, if they could get jobs in the city.
7. If they didn't get jobs, their urban shacks – poor homes – were \_\_\_\_\_ so that black South Africans had nowhere to live. They were then moved by force to unproductive "homelands".
8. My experience was more of absurd trivialities of Apartheid, rather than brutal ...  
a)  attack      b)  strike      c)  violence      d)  storm  
used to uphold it.
9. If you were white, you had ...  
a)  access to      b)  entrance to      c)  arrival to      d)  reception to  
jobs denied to blacks.

## Schreiben

Read the tasks carefully.  
Make sure to write about **all** the aspects presented in each task.

**Describe** Williams' behaviour towards Esi and his parents and how it compares to that of Boss Mackay. **8 p**

**Explain** how Williams' behaviour is reflected in the language he uses and the reaction it causes in Esi. **10 p**

You have a choice here. Choose **one** of the following tasks.

a) Esi's mother tolerates Williams' behaviour and states: "What else can you do?" **12 p**  
**Comment** on this statement and remember that this story is set during the Apartheid regime.

**or**

b) Esi cannot accept his mother's attitude. When Williams calls Esi again and bosses him around, Esi cannot control himself any longer. **Write down** how the story goes on. **12 p**

Include the following aspects:

- ▶ Esi's reaction
- ▶ Williams' reaction
- ▶ the consequences for everybody

## Useful words - year 10

own opinion

Englisch

Deutsch

Zustimmen

These are many reasons for ...	Es gibt viele Gründe für ...
There is no doubt about it that ...	Es gibt keinen Zweifel daran, dass ...
I simply must agree with that.	Ich stimme dem unbedingt zu.
I am of the same opinion.	Ich bin derselben Ansicht.
I am of the same opinion as the author.	Ich bin derselben Meinung wie der Autor.
I completely/absolutely agree with the author.	Ich stimme dem Autor absolut zu.

Teilweise zustimmen

It is only partly true that...	Es stimmt nur bedingt, dass ...
I can agree with that only with reservations.	Dem kann ich nur unter Vorbehalt zustimmen.
That seems obvious, but ...	Das liegt scheinbar auf der Hand, aber ...
That is not necessarily so.	Das ist nicht unbedingt der Fall.
It is not as simple as it seems.	Es ist nicht so einfach wie es scheint.
Under certain circumstances ...	Unter gewissen Umständen ...

Widersprechen

There is more to it than that.	Man muss mehr berücksichtigen als das.
The problem is that ...	Das Problem ist, dass ...
I (very much) doubt whether ...	Ich bezweifle (sehr), dass ...
This is in complete contradiction to ...	Das steht völlig im Widerspruch zu ...
What is even worse, ...	Was sogar noch schlimmer ist, ...
I am of a different opinion because ...	Ich bin anderer Meinung, weil ...
I cannot share this / that / the view.	Ich kann diese Auffassung nicht teilen.
I cannot agree with this idea.	Ich kann diesem Gedanken nicht zustimmen.
What I object to is ...	Wo ich widersprechen muss, ist ...
Unlike the author I think ...	Im Gegensatz zum Autor denke ich ...

Englisch

Deutsch

Meinung äußern (allgemein)

It seems to me that ...	Mir scheint, dass ...
In my opinion, ...	Meiner Meinung nach ...
I am of the opinion that ... / I take the view that ...	Ich bin der Meinung, dass ...
My personal view is that ...	Meine Meinung dazu ist, dass ...
In my experience ...	Mehrer Erfahrung nach ...
As far as I understand / can see, ...	Soweit ich das beurteilen kann, ...
As I see it, ... / From my point of view ...	So wie ich das sehe, ...
As far as I know ... / From what I know ...	Soweit ich weiß, ...
I might be wrong but ...	Vielleicht liege ich falsch aber ...
If I am not mistaken ...	Wenn ich mich nicht täusche ...
I believe one can (safely) say ...	Ich glaube, man kann (mit Sicherheit) sagen ...
It is claimed that ...	Wie behauptet wird, ...
I must admit that ...	Ich muss zugeben, dass ...
I cannot deny that ...	Ich kann nicht leugnen, dass ...
I can imagine that ...	Ich kann mir vorstellen, dass ...
I think/believe/suppose ...	Ich denke/glaube/nehme an ...
Personally, I think ...	Ich persönlich denke ...
That is why I think ...	Deshalb denke ich ...
I am sure/certain/convinced that ...	Ich bin mir sicher, dass ...
I am not sure/certain, but ...	Ich bin mir nicht sicher aber ...
I am not sure, because I don't know the situation exactly.	Ich bin mir nicht ganz sicher, weil ich den Sachverhalt nicht genau kenne.
I am not convinced that ...	Ich bin nicht davon überzeugt, dass ...
I have read that ...	Wie ich gelesen habe ...
I am of mixed opinions (about / on) ...	Ich bin geteilter Meinung (über) ...
I am of mixed opinions about / on this.	Ich habe eine geteilte Meinung dazu.
I have no opinion in this matter.	Ich habe dazu keine Meinung.
It is obvious that ...	Es ist offensichtlich, dass ...
It is certain that ...	Es ist sicher, dass ...
One can say that ...	Man kann sagen, dass ...
It is clear that ...	Es ist klar, dass ...
There is no doubt that ...	Es gibt keinen Zweifel daran, dass ...

10. The only black professionals were teachers, like my mother, lawyers like Mandela and nurses and doctors, who could only \_\_\_\_\_ black patients.
11. My mother spoke English. But to guarantee white superiority even at school, black learners should be taught to speak Afrikaans, the \_\_\_\_\_ of the Apartheid regime.
12. Today, South Africa is a democratic country where everybody has the right to ...  
 a)  choose      b)  elect      c)  vote      d)  select  
 so that their voices may be heard.
13. It is a tribute to Mandela's efforts that today, I and others forgive but do not ...  
 a)  forget.      b)  lose.      c)  remember.      d)  suppress.

gesamt 12 p

**The gun** by Beverley Naidoo

<sup>1</sup> *Esi and his parents are faithful and valued employees at the Mackay game farm<sup>1</sup> at the time of the South African Apartheid regime. When their boss Mackay has to leave one day, he asks his future son-in-law Williams to take charge until Mackay's return.*

Early the following afternoon, there was the familiar sound of Mackay's Land Rover entering the camp.

<sup>5</sup> Esi saw immediately that it was being driven by the young man Williams – and he was alone. When he jumped down from the driver's seat, he was carrying Mackay's gun. Although he could only be a few years older than Esi, there was something in his manner that reminded Esi of the sneering<sup>2</sup> officer in the Mapoteng<sup>3</sup> attack. His bush-green eyes narrowed on their target. "What're you staring at? You've seen me before, haven't you? Go get your boss-boy<sup>4</sup> for me. Be quick about it, jong<sup>5</sup>!" Esi could feel his face going hot, but he turned rapidly and sprinted off. Even Mackay never spoke to him like that, always

<sup>10</sup> calling him by his name.

Esi accompanied his father as he walked forward to greet the white man. He wanted to see how Papa would react.

"You remember me? ... Boss Williams. Boss Mackay has asked me to come and look after his place, so we better get on, you and me. I don't want any trouble from the other boys either, OK?" He turned to Esi.

"You can get my bags out the back and carry them to my room." Papa simply gave a little nod. It was impossible to tell what

<sup>15</sup> he was thinking. His lined face remained quite passive as father and son carried the young white man's cases.

Before long it was clear that Williams assumed Esi to be his personal servant. Up till now Esi had taken instructions either from his father or Mackay, who had known him since he was little. But this man's manner was different. He didn't seem to care at all who Esi was. It was as if he was just a thing to be used.

Much of the time Williams would sit on the veranda outside Mackay's room, legs stretched out on a stool, a can of beer at his

<sup>20</sup> side, while cleaning or playing with Mackay's gun.

"Hey, come clean my boots!"

"You can wash the truck now!"

"Make my bed properly, jong! Don't just pull the sheets up like that!"

"Do you call these boots clean? If you were in the army I'd donder<sup>6</sup> you! Do them again!"

<sup>25</sup> "Go call the girl! I want her to do my washing this morning."

At the last order, Esi had to fight to control himself. Who did this man think he was? Didn't he know that "the girl" was Esi's own mother, old enough to be the white man's mother? When Esi found her, busy collecting wild spinach, his anger spilled out. She tried to calm him. His temper would get him into trouble. He should try to be like his father.

"Papa just lets them push him around. I don't want to be like that!"

<sup>30</sup> "Ha! What else can you do my young man?"

And with that his mother began walking slowly, steadily, toward the camp to collect the dirty washing.

<sup>1</sup> game farm – a farm with wild animals

<sup>2</sup> sneering – unpleasant, arrogant

<sup>3</sup> Mapoteng – a South African village

<sup>4</sup> boss-boy – insulting expression for an adult man who is in charge of something

<sup>5</sup> jong – expression from Afrikaans meaning 'boy'

<sup>6</sup> donder – expression from Afrikaans meaning 'hit' or 'bully'

Adapted from: Beverley Naidoo, *The Gun*, in: *Out of Bounds*, Penguin Random House Children's Books, 2001