

QUARTER 4 : LEARNING TO DO

Week 6 : Analyzing Results

I. OBJECTIVES

A. Listening

1. Listen for positive qualities of a job applicant
2. Synthesize information in a completed grid

B. Grammar

1. Classify and organize pieces of information by analyzing the rules in changing direct to reported speech
2. Use direct and indirect speech in the following: alternatives and Yes – No question

C. Reading

Extract and organize information given in a selection

D. Vocabulary

Get meaning of words through context

E. Writing

1. Use appropriate connector as a cohesive device to connect ideas
2. Accomplish a bio-data sheet

F. Literature

1. Note the brutal effects of anger in riots and mob rule
2. Determine the character of a person by noting what he says and does

II. SUBJECT MATTER

Listening: "Look Into the World of Work", *English II, SEDP*, pp. 272-274

Direct and Reported Speech, *English II, SEDP*, pp. 274-279

"The Word From Our Local Employees", *English II, SEDP*, pp. 290-294

Filling up of Bio-Data Form, *English II, SEDP*, pp. 295-296

"Riot" by Casey Motsisi, *Meeting My Needs II*, pp. 261-267

III. PROCEDURE

Day 1 - Listening

A. Previewing

Lesson 6 aims to develop competencies that will lead to the student's learning to analyze the results of whatever activities or decisions they make or even other people's. The daily lesson provides activities that will improve their skills in oral discussion through correct grammar structure, reading comprehension and practical and formal composition to meet their needs in everyday life situations.

B. Task 1 – Pre-listening

Read the advertisement carefully and answer the questions that follow.

WANTED: Part-time Delivery Boys

1. Male, 14-16 years old
2. At least 2nd year high school
3. At least 6 months experience in related jobs
4. Fair knowledge of oral and written English
5. Good moral character and family background
6. Can ride a bike

ATTRACTIVE salary and benefits to qualified applicants
APPLY at: The Personnel Department
Masuerte Supermarket
2410-2432 Libertad Street
Pasay City, 9:00-12:00 noon, Monday to Friday
BRING: Biodata, 2 x 2 ID pictures, references

1. What position is being advertised?
2. What is a part-time job?
3. What qualifications should applicants have?
4. How should interested parties apply?
5. What should applicants present when they apply?

Task 2 – Listening Proper

Listening Proper to accompany text

Listen to the first part of the recording. You will hear the Personnel Manager of Masuerte Supermarket talking to his secretary about the kind of person he wishes to hire for the job of a delivery boy. Then fill-in a grid on your paper with the details of his ideal candidate as shown in the grid that follows. Do not worry if you do not get all the information the first time as you will hear the tape again.

IDEAL QUALITIES	WHAT HE WANTS	WHAT HE DOES NOT WANT
Sex Age Education Salary Attitude to Overtime Work Accent Behavior Other Qualities		

Motive Questions:

First reading of the listening text

Answering questions on the text

Second reading of the listening text

Discussion of the answers

Task 3 - Post-listening

Oral Interaction/Role Playing/Group Work

Group 1 – A 2nd year high school applies as a service crew to Jollibee

Group 2 – An over-age dropout applies as a sales representative

Group 3 – A canteen manager interviews canteen helper applicants

Group 4 – Write a wanted ad for a gasoline boy

Group 5 – Write tips on how to prepare for an interview

C. Closure

Does each task give you an idea or tips on how to apply for a job?

D. Assignment

Make a Wanted AD for a tutor in a subject you have difficulty.

Be able to explain your work in front of the class.

Day 2 – Grammar

A. Recapitulation

Yesterday's lesson gave you ideas on how to synthesize information in a classified ad. Through group work you were able to analyze the possible results of applying for a job. Today, through oral communication, you will learn when it is proper to use direct and reported speech, its forms and changes that take place when changing direct to reported speech or vice versa.

B. Task 1 – Tuning In-Game on Sentence Reporting by Groups

Each group picks out a piece of paper in a box. A member reads the sentence written in it, then quotes it. The highest pointer among the groups wins the game.

Task 2 – Presentation of the lesson

Compare the two sets of sentences below.

{ Allan: You seem floating in the air, why? Arlene:
{ Well, I'm now working at Shakey's.

{ Allan asked Arlene why she seemed to be floating in the air. Arlene said that
{ she was already working at Shakey's.

Task 3 – Practice

Change the following statements to reported speech.

1. June says, "I'm enjoying my work as a messenger."
2. Lanie replies, "Mother wants me to be there, too."
3. Mrs. Reyes asked, "have you worked before?"
4. Do your parents know of your application?" she asked.
5. "Do you have references?" She wanted to know.

Task 4 – Oral Interaction

Read Tina's job interview on p. 282 of *English II, SEDP*. Change the Yes-No questions to indirect speech. Work in groups.

C. Closure

What can you say about the presentation of each group? Did everyone presented his or her role-play according to the idea of the selection?

D. Assignment

Tell what you would like to be when you grow up. Choose a partner. Report what each of you said about what you wanted to be when you grow up.

Day 3

A. Recapitulation

The lesson yesterday taught you the difference between direct speech and reported speech. You also learned the changes that take place when changing direct speech to reported speech. The changes are in form, punctuation, verb tense, pronoun and adverb.

B. Task 1 – Pre-reading

Motivation

1. Read the title and tell what you think the selection is all about.
2. Read the subtitle. What does it say about the selection? Do you think it is an appropriate subtitle? Why or why not?
3. Skim through the article very quickly and enumerate what employers usually tell job applicants today.

Vocabulary

Go over the selection and list down words or phrases you do not understand. Then read the selection and learn the meanings of these words or phrases through context. List down the clues that help you guess the meanings.

WORD OR PHRASE	CLUE	MEANING

Task 2 – Reading Proper – "The Word from Our Local Employers"

**The Word from Our Local Employers (Or,
What They Tell Job Applicants Today)**

Jesus B. Natanauan

1. In these times of economic crisis, we often hear and read about retrenchments, lay-offs, and even shutdowns in various offices and factories. And yet, oddly enough, we also see a lot of advertisements in newspapers for positions ranging from clerks and mechanics to programmers, accountants, and managers.

2. On some occasions, too, we even come across "how-to-do-it" articles that give tips or suggestions on what steps to take in applying for a job, such as knowing first of all "what kind of job you want," submitting "neatly prepared summary of your qualifications, experience, education . . ." and keeping yourself "calm and collected" during the job interview.

3. What we hardly know or read about, however, are the responses of employers to the anxious job hunters who write to them. (Job applicants write to prospective employers as they please and not only in answer to Help Wanted ads.) These responses may come from industrial or commercial corporations, government firms and offices, or private utility or service companies.

4. What usually do these employers tell job applicants nowadays? Do their letter-replies bring only disappointments to the recipients, or is it a promise of hope or the glad tidings of a brand-new job that they survey? Here is a sampling of such letters.

5. "I am very sorry but our company has no opening for this position right now," wrote a marketing manager of a big Makati department store to an aspirant for an illustrator's job. "I suggest," he added, "you apply for a job abroad where your background is in demand." In one other instance, the personnel officer of an insurance firm told another applicant: "We regret that there is no possibility of recruitment in our company at the present time." And he ended with these words that have now become less reassuring: "Rest assured that we will keep your letter in our active files for future consideration."

6. Advertising agencies, too, are not much different. Replied one, "We have just recently employed three new artists and have gone on a freeze from increasing manpower." And another, "We regret that, at present, we are not hiring additional artists for our Art Department."

7. Even big hospitals seem to be in this retrenchment thing, as seen in this reply: "Unfortunately, however, our Department presently has no need for a nutritionist. Nevertheless, we plan to keep your letter in our files and contact you as soon as we have a need for one." One big international bank which placed an ad for a few openings, had this to say to an accounting graduate: "We regret to advise you that a review of our staffing needs has shown that the Bank does not have any opening for which your candidacy may be considered. Thank you for your interest in our organization." And that's what you'll mostly get: TYs for answering their ads.

8. Most personnel officers or whoever compose these letters in fact always strive to be nice to job applicants. There is always the gentle assurance to them that their letters will be kept in active file and they will be informed if there is an opening at some future time. But these assurances are in truth nothing more than mere politeness. Applicants I have talked to, and there are not just a few of them, swear that the first negative reply they get from the personnel or office manager is almost always the last. "We never hear from them again," they say.

9. There are also letter-replies which, although couched in polite language and do not reject the applicant outright, are nevertheless, discouraging. A large manufacturer of fertilizers, not quite impressed with the applicant's credentials, said so and added: "Nevertheless, if you feel otherwise and wouldn't mind the expense of traveling to Bataan, you may come for a pre-interview any time, from Monday to Friday." But this one is even more forbidding: "To allow you to pursue the remote chance of being hired, we invite you to visit us for the standard preliminary screening we give to our applicants."

10. Are there no responses that say something more promising? Yes, there are. Some employers give job applicants a glimmer of hope. But they are careful not to promise anything that would raise such hope unduly. A biscuit and coffee maker in Makati is one such employer. He wrote: "However, we wish you to understand that this answer to your letter is not a commitment for the company to employ you. Your employment will depend on the result of the interview." And from a government office came this one: "Your acceptance," it said, "will depend on our evaluation of your credentials, your performance in the written tests and the interview, and the availability of the position after the processing of your application papers."

11. Other employers try to give some encouraging words even if it's clear that prospects are dim. They probably do this so the person at the receiving end would not feel too dejected. This was what a top marketing official of a big food firm did. After informing the young undergraduate he couldn't possibly be hired, this executive was still solicitous. "For whatever it is worth," he wrote, "I am sending xerox copies of your letter to our advertising and designing agencies." And from the industrial relations manager of an oil firm, this: "At the moment, the prospects are not encouraging, but send back the accomplished form nonetheless and we will try hard to find a place for you."

12. After softly refusing an applicant's request for accommodation, some office managers give advice instead. Listen to this one from a personnel director, again a kindly lady: "We should also advise you to finish your schooling not only because of the stiff competition you face from college graduates but also for the refinement of your craft." This one made a counterproposal. Having told the job hunter that he would be hired "the moment the need arises," the lady executive assistant then suggested: "You could also try to contribute feature articles to our DEPTH news service for which we pay P250 per article if accepted."

13. Naturally, there are always some lucky souls who receive from employers the glad tidings of their acceptance to good-paying jobs in an office or a factory. (Such as, "You passed written tests and interview stop See Mr. Navoa Personnel Office Monday 3 P.M. re orientation: or "You are to report to the Personnel Officer on the above date and receive instructions regarding your assignment.")

14. But to many others, it appears that the usual reply in this period of economic recovery still is, "Unfortunately, the positions we advertised have already been filled" or "I regret that we are not able to give you more encouraging news."

15. There are employers, however, who do not express any regret to job applicants. Neither do they offer them any promise, advice, or encouragement. These are the employers who never answer the letters of application that land on their desks. Either they have no patience to deal with them, or they simply don't give a damn to the plight of the jobless.

16. To the job applicant then, I would like to offer this bit of unsolicited advice. Try praying. I know a lot of people find it really hard to believe in the power of prayer. They will probably mock and may even scorn this 'novel' formula. But don't be ashamed. Try it, and you may yet receive a pleasant surprise.

Comprehending the Selection

Discussion of the Text

Substitute a word in the selection which has the same meaning as the italicized word or words. The paragraph where the word can be found has been indicated.

- A. 1. In these times of economic crisis, we often hear and read about *reduction of expenses*. (P-1)
2. Job applicants write to *likely-to-become* employers. (P-3)
3. The marketing manager of a big department store wrote politely to *one who seeks a position*, (P-5)
4. Many companies have gone on a *suspension* of their hiring activities. (P-6)
5. Acceptance depends on the evaluation of the applicant's *letters and certificates*. (P-10)
6. Some employers try to give encouraging words so that the applicant would not feel too *discouraged*. (P-11)
- B. Pick those statements which you think the author would agree with. Write their number on your paper.
1. Nowadays, the prospects of getting jobs are more discouraging than encouraging.
2. Employers who answer letters of application are concerned employers.
3. Job applicants who pray have better chances of landing jobs than those who do not pray.

Task 3 – Oral Interaction/Role-Playing

The class is grouped into six. Each group acts out the meaning of the statements in Exercise C of the book.

What do the following statements from employers express? Classify them according to the words inside the box. Write your answers on a piece of paper.

acceptance	encouragement
advice	promise
discouragement	regret

- _____ 1. “At the moment, the prospects are not very encouraging, but send back the accomplished form nonetheless and we will try hard to find a place for you.”
- _____ 2. “You could try to contribute feature articles to our magazine for which we pay P250 per article if accepted.”
- _____ 3. “You are to report to the Personnel Officer and receive instructions regarding your assignment.”
- _____ 4. “We invite you to visit us for the standard preliminary screening we give to our applicants.”
- _____ 5. “Your acceptance will depend on our evaluation of your credentials, your performance in the written tests and the interview, and the availability of the position after the processing of your application papers.”

Two sentences or ideas can be linked together with the use of cohesive devices. Rewrite the sentences using the appropriate linker. You may have more than one answer for each number.

although	but	however	nevertheless	too
and	either-or	neither-nor	such as	yet

1. a. Today we often hear and read about retrenchments and lay-offs.
b. We also see a lot of advertisements for various positions.
2. a. Some articles give tips on what steps to take in applying for a job.
b. Examples of these suggestions are "know first what kind of job you want, submit a neatly prepared biodata, and keep calm and collected during the interview."
3. a. We often hear and read about how to apply for a job.
b. We hardly hear and read what employers tell job applicants.
4. a. Vacancies are rare in advertising agencies.
b. There are good opportunities in advertising agencies.
5. a. Our company has no need for a nutritionist.
b. We plan to keep your letter in our files and contact you should a suitable opening develop.
6. a. Most personnel officers give gentle assurances to job applicants.
b. These assurances are in truth nothing more than mere politeness.
7. a. Some employers give applicants a promise of hope,
b. They are careful not to commit themselves.

A. Closure

What can you say about the presentation of each group? Did everyone present his or her role-play according to the idea of the selection?

B. Assignment

1. Cut out a classified ad from any daily newspaper. Look up the difficult words in the dictionary. Be sure that you are qualified in the position mentioned.
2. Bring a bio-data form.

Day 4

A. Recapitulation

The lesson in reading gave you the knowledge in making use of the context to determine the meaning of unfamiliar words. It also taught you how to extract information given in the selection and organize them for a definite purpose.

B. Task 1 – Pre-writing Activity

Rewrite the sentences on page 295, *English II, SEDP*, using appropriate linkers. You may have more than one answer for each number.

Task 2 – Oral Interaction

Here are some basic information about Liza. Group yourselves by five and discuss among yourselves how the given information will appear in a biodata form. Write it neatly on one whole sheet of pad paper.

Liza Ladiana	January 28, 1972
Single	Mandaluyong, Metro Manila
Female	45 Pasong Tirad
Filipino	Liliw, Laguna
19 years old	

1978 – 1984, Liliw Elementry School Grade 6
1984 – 1988, Liliw High School 4th year
1988 – to the present, University of the Philippines, 4th year BSEEd
Excellent – English and Filipino
Mrs. Lydia Javier, Principal, Liliw Elementary School
Mrs. Maria Orosa, Guidance Counselor, Liliw High School
Mr. Narciso Diaz, Dean, College of Education, University of the Philippines
Summer 1987 – Salesclerk, Masagana Superstore
Summer 1987 – 1988 – Typist, A & G Enterprises
Summer 1989 – to the present – Server, Cindy's Hamburger

BIODATA			
Name _____	_____		Sex _____
Civil Status _____	Nationality _____		
Age _____	Birthdate _____	Birthplace _____	
Address _____			
Tel. No. _____			
Education:			
	Year	School	Level

Language(s) Spoken _____			

Work Experience			
	Year	School	Level

References			
	Name	Office	Position

Write your own biodata using the same form.

Task 3 – Writing Activity

Write your own biodata in the form that I asked you to bring. Filling all the blanks

C. Closure

The proper way of filling up a biodata form will give you an edge over the others. In applying for a position, it is important also that you know your interest and your ability and whether you are really capable of the job you are applying for.

D. Assignment

Submit your biodata

Day 5 – Literature

A. Recapitulation

You learned the different information needed in a biodata form. This is the first step in applying for a job. It is also worthwhile mentioning that neatness and accuracy in filing up the form is a must for its content and how you write it reflect your personality.

B. Task 1 – Getting Ready

Act out the meaning of the following expressions:

1. Policemen during rallies
2. Attending protest rallies
3. A person who has a hang-over
4. The difference between a melee and a riot.

Task 2 – Comprehension Check

Task 3 – Oral Interaction/Group Discussion

1. Write a letter to Maria giving her an advice.
2. A slogan, which explains the meaning of the text.
3. Point out the elements of a short story in the selection.
4. A song, which gives the moral lesson of the story.
5. Draw a scene in a riot.

C. Closure

1. What are the qualities of a job applicant?
2. In applying for a job, what information about you is usually asked by the would-be employer?
3. In what way is the knowledge of direct and reported speech important to the applicant?

D. Assignment

1. What things must you learn first about something (e.g. machine) before you can define or tell how that something functions?
2. In describing an object, what grammatical structures are used?

Before You Read

1. Form groups and share your opinion about
 1. Policemen during rallies
 2. Attending protest rallies
 3. Racial discrimination
2. Vocabulary
 1. When do we say that people are *subhuman*.
 2. What does the policeman mean when he calls Ma-Sello's son *cheeky*?
 3. When does a person get a *hangover*? What does he feel when he has one?
 4. What is a *melee*? Does it differ from a riot? How?

Riot

Casey Motsisi

In some protest rallies, people allow their emotion to rule over their reason, and they resort to violence to settle differences. When that happens, they do not care who gets hurt. Read the selection to find out how different groups of people reacted in a riot.

Maria Mbatha looked at the clock on the kitchen dresser. The clock had stopped. But she knew instinctively that it was very late a* night and her eyes were heavy with sleep. She yawned as she continued to rack the young boy she was carrying in her arms to sleep.

But the boy kept staring unblinkingly into the dim-lit room with big, sleepless eyes. They both listened to the noisy silence of the room.

"Ma," the young boy said softly.

"Yes, my son." Her mind was still blank.

"Ma, I want water."

"Water." She repeated the word like a child learning a new word at school.

"Ma, I want water, water, water," he rattled.



"Shut up, you're making noise. Why don't you wait for your mother to come and give you water?"

"I want water. I want water. Put me down. I want water."

The palm of her hand came down hard on the young boy's buttocks. He did not cry. He started kicking his feet up and down.

"I want water. Put me down. I want water. . . "

"Next time I will make you feel the *sjambok*, ** Boetikie," she vowed after the young boy's fist had caught her smartly on the chin.

Maria, still holding the young boy in one hand, stood up and gave him a mug full of water. "You just wet the blankets tonight and see what happens to you tomorrow!" she said as she watched him gulp the water greedily.

"Ma, I'm hungry," Boetikie said after finishing the water.

"You must be mad! You had food during the day. You think I'm here to work for you as if you were a European?" she carried him over to the bed and tucked him in.

"I don't want to sleep. I want food. I'm hungry."

"Shut up now! Don't act like a lunatic! One of these days I will kill you. Boetikie, God in heaven hear me!"

Boetikie pulled the blankets up and covered his head. Maria stood look at the covered heap for a while. She shook her head and went outside.

Outside, Western Township lay sleeping restlessly under an overcast sky. Usually, on this late hour on Sundays Western Township like most African townships, would be alive with drunken revelers staggering home from shebeens and "midnight parties."

But tonight, like the past few Sundays, Western was quiet. Yet one could not miss the undercurrent of restlessness that throbbed through the belly of the township. "When will it ever end? I hate this boycott," Maria cursed and went back into the room.

Boetikie was snoring nasally. She felt relieved that he was asleep. How this child gets on my nerves! But there was no anger or bitterness in her thoughts. Boetikie was all she had in the world. Her husband had been killed during a faction fight between "Russians" and "Civil Guards" in neighboring Newclare.

Nana, their only daughter, was married and was now staying in Port Elizabeth. Boetikie was Nana's child but Maria had to look after him because the man who married Nana did not want the child to live with them.

Maria went to the stove and pulled out the ash-tin. There was a bottle in it. She took it out, poured some of the liquid into a glass and gulped it down. Her face contorted into a mask of agony as the brandy burned her throat and warmed her stomach. She sat on a chair and placed the brandy on the table. She stared at the half-empty bottle, hating it and loving it at the same time. She wondered what her husband would have said if he had caught her drinking.

Maria squeezed her head with both hands. Her head was busting with pain. She felt as though parts of it were falling away in pieces. She seized the bottle and poured herself another shot.

After gulping it down she felt the pain filtering out of her head, leaving a delicious sensation that was a mixture of dare and bravado.

Suddenly the world became a wonderful and beautiful thing and she began to mumble a song. She was now falling with the world she had hated so passionately a few hours ago. She

thought of the long walk she would have to make the following day to fetch the bundle of laundry in town. For tomorrow would be Monday – "Washing Day." Although she was not feeling tired, she told herself that she would not go to town. "To hell with the boycott, and the washing!"

It felt comforting to be able to say that. It made her feel like a person, a human being who has a right to live her own life the way she wanted to live it.

"Azikhwelwa!" she shouted. "We won't board the buses," she interpreted for herself. Just like at the meetings. She laughed and poured herself another shot.

Then another. And yet another. After a while followed blissful unconsciousness. She fell asleep on the table, holding the bottle in one hand and the glass in the other.

A slight breeze trickled through a crack in one of the panes of the window behind Maria's back. The flame of the cigarette-high candle that was stuck in a saucer flickered for a moment, as if struggling to hold its own against the breeze. But the breeze licked off the wick and muffled it in its coldness. The room was now in semi-darkness.

Maria's body rose and fell rhythmically with her heavy breathing. As it rose, it seemed to swell with all the praise and joy that had filled the bride years as when she had her husband and the crowing glory she felt when she gave birth to their only child, Nana. She had seen her grow into a fine woman.

And as it fell, it was as if all her forty-five years of frustration were weighing heavily down on her plump body, battling to drain the life off her.

Maria slept, her mind steeped in the uncaring abandon of the drunk.

Peaceful. No thoughts; no dreams; no hopes nor fears of tomorrow. Bottle kind of peace, but peace all the same. And the township also slept, nestled uneasily between the inflammable Sophiatown to the north and the lusty Newclare to the south. On the east was Coronationville, prim and pretentious. And on the west, Nature, grim and sad, licked at the scars and *dongras** inflicted on her by man with the sharp spades of civilization.

Morning crept stealthily into Maria's room, like a policeman stalking a dangerous, armed *tsotsi*** Maria felt the nursemaid of the mind silently drawing the curtains of sleep away from her eyes. Slowly, she drifted back into wakefulness, but her eyes refused to open. Her head throbbed with a clanging pain.

She knew the pain. A hangover. A hangover coupled with the effects of drinking heavily on an empty stomach. She rubbed her eyes and realized that the door was slightly open. She remembered that she had not locked it last night. The thought she had slept without locking the door sent a shiver of fright through her spine.

Then she felt someone shaking her rudely by the shoulder.

"Come on, woman, don't waste my time. I'm arresting you."***

She looked up. Beside her stood a khaki-clad, hefty man. The Law! And in one hand The Law held a bottle of brandy and in the other The Law held a glass. Maria recognized them as her own.

Maria stood up. She was an inch or two taller than The Law. She looked at The Law, feeling sick and scared; cringing and confused.

"Come woman. Let's go," The Law commanded authoritatively.

'Please, father policeman," Maria pleaded. "Don't arrest me. I have to go to work... and I... please, father policeman...."

But Maria knew that it was no use trying to plead with The Law. She had always regarded the police as subhumans, people without compassion and feeling, people who only found untold joy out of arresting, bullying, and manhandling others.

She heard other policemen shouting and cursing outside. The police were everywhere. It was a raid.

She heard a woman protesting and recognized the voice. It was Ma-Sello, her next-door neighbor. "Don't hit my son like that! I will bring you before the court!"

"He has no pass and he's cheeky. These "educated" *tsotsis!* He says I have no right to ask him for a pass when he's in bed. Who does he think he is? I'll knock the "education" out of his head. I vow by my mother!"

Maria has resigned herself to the worst. She could not believe her ears, therefore, when the policeman gave her back the bottle of brandy and told her to hide it. "Quickly, woman. Hide it before I change my mind."

Maria snatched the bottle and shoved it into the ash-tin of the stove. "I don't know when I'll become a Sergeant, doing such stupid things," she heard him mumble as he went out of the house. He banged the door so hard the house rattled with the impact.

The noise woke up Boetikie with a start. Maria, although she could not say why was crying softly.

"Ma, you're crying."

"Yes, my son," she sniffed.

"Why, Ma?"

"Oh, sheddup!"

When Maria came back from town in the afternoon, carrying a bundle of soiled washing on her head, she was still bitter at the experience she had had at the bus stop. Because she was tired from walking all the way to town, she had boarder the Coronationville bus as these buses were not affected by the fare increase which had sparked off the bus boycott. A young colored boy had constantly bumped her and called her all sorts of names to unsettle her. But Maria had managed to keep cool.

She met Ma-Sello outside. "Ma-Sello, did you send Boetikie to the shop?" she asked.

"No," said Ma-Sello. "but I saw him running with Ma-Bahto's son towards Sophiatown. There's a fight on there, you know. The people are stoning the buses and trams and cars. I understand that one of the buses from town – and it was empty, mark you – ran over an old man who was crossing the main road. That's why the people are stoning the buses."

Ma-Sello had hardly finished narrating before Maria was dashing off in the direction of Sophiatown. Fear exploded in every pore of her body. She stumbled, fell, and scrambled to her feet again, all the while calling Boetikie's name.

A few yards away from the trellis that divided Sophiatown from Western Township she realized the full impact of the riot. There was screaming and shouting. People of all shapes and sizes were scampering up and down the street.

And the police, from nearby Newlands Police Station, fired their gun and pistols above the heads of the milling mob.

Maria had seen Sophiatown many a time in an ugly mood. But today Sophiatown looked like a city at war. There were people lying wounded or dead along the tram rails and the main street. Bricks, hats, sticks lay littered in the streets. Dust and gun smoke drifted in the air.

A policeman, leading two children, a boy and a girl, by the hands suddenly emerged from the melee and crossed over into Western Township through an opening of the trellis.

Maria realized that the boy was Boetikie. With a shout of joy and relief, she ran towards the policeman. "Save my child, save my child!" she shouted hysterically.

Just at the moment a group of women and *young tsotsi* on the Sophiatown side, who had been witnessing the little war from a safe distance, noticed the isolation of the three figures from the main confusion.

"What are you doing to our children, you government dog?" one of the women shrieked, as they rushed to him. In a moment the women were upon him, clawing at him, tearing his khaki uniform and battering at him with stones held firmly in their hands. He fell beneath them and the battering soon ceased. The assailants stepped back, panting, withdrew some more, then turned to hurry off in different directions.

As Maria pulled Boetikie away she saw the face of the policeman. Something knotted inside her as if to squeeze all the water from her system and bring it out silently through her eyes.

When she reached home the shooting had lulled. A spasmodic 'boom' here and there after long intervals was all that broke the quiet.

That night, Maria and Boetikie went to bed without having supper. She did not feel hungry and even Boetikie had not asked for food. It took her a long time to fall asleep. She just lay in the darkness of the locked and bolted room and listened to the whine of ambulances that made the dark room even more foreboding.

And she thought of a policeman whose body was perhaps still lying cold and stoned and punctured along the trellis. She cocked and wept.

...Only that same morning that policeman had been alive. That same policeman had been in the room asking her to hide the bottle of brandy. If he had arrested her, she thought, then she would not be remembering his young, pinkish face lying dead and uncared for along the trellis that divides Western Township from Sophiatown... "I don't know when I'll become a Sergeant, doing such stupid things."

He would never be a Sergeant now.

Answer the following questions:

1. Pick out the details which show how difficult life had become for Maria. Where in the story is it mentioned that life was once a joyful adventure for her?
2. How did the bus boycott compound Maria's problem?
3. How did Maria's problems affect her attitude towards life? How did she try to find some sort of escape from them?
4. What incident marked the beginning of a change in Maria's attitude from one of hatred to one of love?
5. Who are the protagonists in this story?
6. What was ironic about the policeman's death? Wherein lies its tragedy? How did this affect Maria?
7. What blinds people in a riot? How did the riot start? How did it end? Where lies the senselessness of a riot?
8. What is implied in these lines –
 - a. "I don't know when I'll become a Sergeant doing such stupid things."
 - b. Something knotted inside her as if to squeeze all the water from her system and bring it out silently through her eyes.
 - c. If he had arrested her, she thought, then she would not be remembering his young, pinkish face lying dead and uncared for along the trellis...