

Before-reading questions

- 1 **Example answer:** It is a transgender or non-binary person who does not identify as a man or a woman.
- 2 *Reader's own answer.*
- 3 **Example answer:** People in the 1950s may have been racist and unkind to black people.

During-reading questions

CHAPTER ONE

- 1 Amma did not expect to be allowed in the theatre because of the way she looked.
- 2 You have to fight for what you believe in.
- 3 It is about women fighters in the 18th and 19th centuries who protect the King.

CHAPTER TWO

- 1 Her "squad".
- 2 It means that Nenet's parents have decided who she will marry.
- 3 **Example answer:** A hero is an ordinary person who does good things, but a superhero has special powers.

CHAPTER THREE

- 1 They meet when Dominique helps Nzinga pick up her stuff at Victoria station.
- 2 Nzinga speaks to Amma, Dominique and their friends as if she is better than them. Amma does not like how she speaks to them.
- 3 **Example answer:** Nzinga saw the letters first and hid them from Dominique.

CHAPTER FOUR

- 1 It means that Carole is going to sleep at her friend's house that night.
- 2 She knows her mother will be angry at her for lying, and she is scared that people will tell her that what happened was her fault.

- 3 She copied how her new friends spoke, what they ate and where they shopped. She also stopped wearing a lot of make-up and false nails and straightened her curly hair.

CHAPTER FIVE

- 1 She asks Carole if she has been having sex with more than one man.
- 2 She is marrying someone for love like her mother wanted.
- 3 She would like to have both Kofi and Omofe in her life. She cannot because only men are allowed more than one partner.

CHAPTER SIX

- 1 LaTisha tells them her father died of a heart attack.
- 2 She wants to show Carole that she has changed, too.
- 3 Jordan needs LaTisha's father in his life.

CHAPTER SEVEN

- 1 Shirley does not want to upset Amma by telling her how she really feels (that at first she thinks it is quite disgusting).
- 2 She is afraid of being rejected for being too old and too bitter.
- 3 Shirley feels used.

CHAPTER EIGHT

- 1 In Barbados.
- 2 The policeman tells them to leave and never come back.
- 3 She does not feel guilty. She says that she deserved Lennox.

CHAPTER NINE

- 1 They did not tell her that they loved her.
- 2 Bummi.
- 3 **Example answer:** She only wants to teach white children.

CHAPTER TEN

- 1 Megan doesn't like to wear dresses.
- 2 **Example answer:** To learn about what she really wants in life.
- 3 **Example answer:** They might not consider themselves to be a man or a woman. They might see themselves as "other".

CHAPTER ELEVEN

- 1 Her husband, Slim.
- 2 Slim thought that life was easier for black people in Britain than in America, so he did not want to hear his children complain about bullies.
- 3 Ma and Pa.

CHAPTER TWELVE

- 1 **Example answer:** Grace is half-black.
- 2 So that the child can inherit the farm and keep it in the family.
- 3 **Example answer:** Flossie is glad that Grace has finally taken an interest in Hattie.

CHAPTER THIRTEEN

- 1 Roland wants Yazz to tell him she is proud of him.
- 2 No, she is not. When Carole did not say thank you to Shirley, she felt used. And when Carole does say thank you, it makes Shirley cry.
- 3 Women are learning about their place in society and how they can make changes.

CHAPTER FOURTEEN

- 1 Penelope had a health scare and thought she might die.
- 2 Barbara.
- 3 Penelope feels happy.

After-reading questions

- 1 *Reader's own answer.*

- 2 Yazz, Dominique, Shirley and Winsome are directly connected to Amma. Yazz is Amma's daughter. Dominique and Shirley are two of Amma's best friends. Winsome is Shirley's mother, and Amma has visited her home in Barbados twice.
- 3 *Reader's own answer.*
- 4 **Example answer:** Penelope might regret or feel embarrassed about her previous feelings towards black people.

Exercises

CHAPTER ONE

- 1 Amma and Dominique met at an ¹ **audition** and quickly became friends. ² **Eventually**, they started their own theatre company, but things were difficult at first. Amma was often late to their meetings, and Dominique was slow to deliver her ³ **scripts**. Even after they started working well together, the company still did not make a lot of money. Amma could not afford to pay rent, so she lived in a ⁴ **squat** in an old office building. Amma is a ⁵ **feminist**, and she wanted her daughter, Yazz, to be one, too. Yazz does not call herself a feminist. She prefers to call herself a ⁶ **humanitarian**.

CHAPTER TWO

- 2 **Who spoke?**

- 1 Mum/Amma
- 2 Yazz
- 3 Nenet
- 4 Waris
- 5 Yazz
- 6 Nenet

Who/What are they talking about?

- Yazz's father, Roland Waris thinking she is ugly without make-up an Egyptian song her hijab Courtney's privilege paying people to write her essays

CHAPTER THREE

- 3 1 The bag had been dropped by Nzinga.
- 2 Amma's friends had been spoken down to by Nzinga.
- 3 Dominique had been renamed by Nzinga.
- 4 All the chores had been done by Nzinga.

CHAPTER FOUR

- 4 1 false 2 false
- 3 true 4 false
- 5 true

CHAPTER FIVE

- 5 a 2 b 4 c 1 d 5 e 6 f 3

CHAPTER SIX

- 6 1 LaTisha had been living a happy life before Daddy left.
- 2 When she was a child, LaTisha would go to the museum on weekends.
- 3 LaTisha told people that her father had died of a heart attack.
- 4 LaTisha should not have had a party.
- 5 LaTisha wished that she could meet Carole one day.

CHAPTERS SEVEN AND EIGHT

- 7 1 What do the other teachers in the staffroom do to Shirley?
- 2 What did Shirley and Lennox do when they first met?
- 3 Why didn't Shirley get a job at a private school for girls?
- 4 Does Amma help Shirley take care of Karen and Rachel often?
- 5 How many times has Amma come to visit?
- 6 What did Clovis tell Winsome about England when she arrived?
- 7 What did someone in Plymouth paint on Winsome's door?
- 8 Did Lennox tell Winsome why he stopped sleeping with her?

CHAPTER NINE

- 8 1 Penelope's parents were boring, **although** her family history was quite interesting.
- 2 Her parents would not comfort her, **so** she ran to her room.
- 3 Penelope and Giles got divorced **because** he did not want her to get a job.
- 4 Penelope and Phillip still lived in the same house **despite being** separated.
- 5 Penelope thinks it is OK to hit children, **but** Craig says it is child abuse.

CHAPTER TEN

- 9 1 Mum 2 GG
- 3 Megan 4 Bibi
- 5 Morgan 6 Yazz

CHAPTER ELEVEN

- 10 1 a/e 2 c 3 b 4 a/e 5 d

CHAPTER TWELVE

- 11 1 b 2 e 3 d 4 a 5 f 6 c

CHAPTER THIRTEEN

- 12 1 Roland doesn't like Sylvester, **does he?**
- 2 Amma's lesbian friends still follow her around, **don't they?**
- 3 Roland and Yazz are proud of Amma, **aren't they?**
- 4 Shirley will continue to teach at Carole's old school, **won't she?**
- 5 Dominique had flown from America to England, **hadn't she?**
- 6 Feminism is a good thing, **isn't it?**

CHAPTER FOURTEEN

- 13 1 Penelope gets on a train heading up **North**.
- 2 After a **health scare**, Penelope started thinking about her birth parents again.
- 3 Sarah convinced Penelope to take a **DNA** test.

- 4 Penelope discovered that while 17% of her was British, 13% was **African**.
- 5 Penelope had been named **Barbara** by Hattie before she was taken away.
- 6 Penelope and Hattie both **cry** when they see each other.

Project work

Reader's own answers.

Essay questions

Reader's own answers.