

**ENGLISH  
FIRST**

**ADDITIONAL  
LANGUAGE**

**Grade 10**

**Literature  
Module:  
Mhudi**

**RESOURCE PACK**



# MHUDI

SOL T PLAATJE  
1876-1932

Mhudi's narrative in conjunction with Plaatjie's other narratives spread throughout the text, is much more than a story of tribal wars. It is an allegory of the possibility of ethnic and racial unity, and of gender equality.' Phaswane Mpe (1996)

**Mhudi:**

**Sol Plaatjie**

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**Mhudi**

**Ra-Thasa**

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**Chriet**

**Mnzilikazi**

**Umnandi**  
**(The Sweet One)**

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**Chief Tauana**  
**(Lion's son)**

# **Chief Moroka (Rainmaker)**

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# **De Villiers**

# Hannetjie

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# Loss and Renewal

**LOVE**

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**Value of  
Traditional Life**



**Different**

**Types of Power**

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**Patriarchy/**

**Role of Women**

# Prophecy

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# Friendship despite Difference

**errie**

**power**

**Zulu**

**Kingsdom**

**Kings Shaka**

**Three Boeers**

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**Three**

**Matabelle**

**Voortrekkers**

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**The Great  
Trek**

**British**

**Three**

**Barolons**

**Kunana**

**Mashonaland**



**Transvaal**

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**Cape  
colony**

**criticisms**

**namata**

**massacre**

# Resource 1: Shaka Zulu, African emperor



Caroline Woods / Shutterstock

King Shaka was a powerful king, who ruled the Zulu kingdom (in Natal) during the 1800s. Mzilikazi was a fierce leader, who swore allegiance to King Shaka. However, Mzilikazi decided that he was tired of being controlled by King Shaka, so he decided to break free from the Zulu king's rule, and start his own empire.

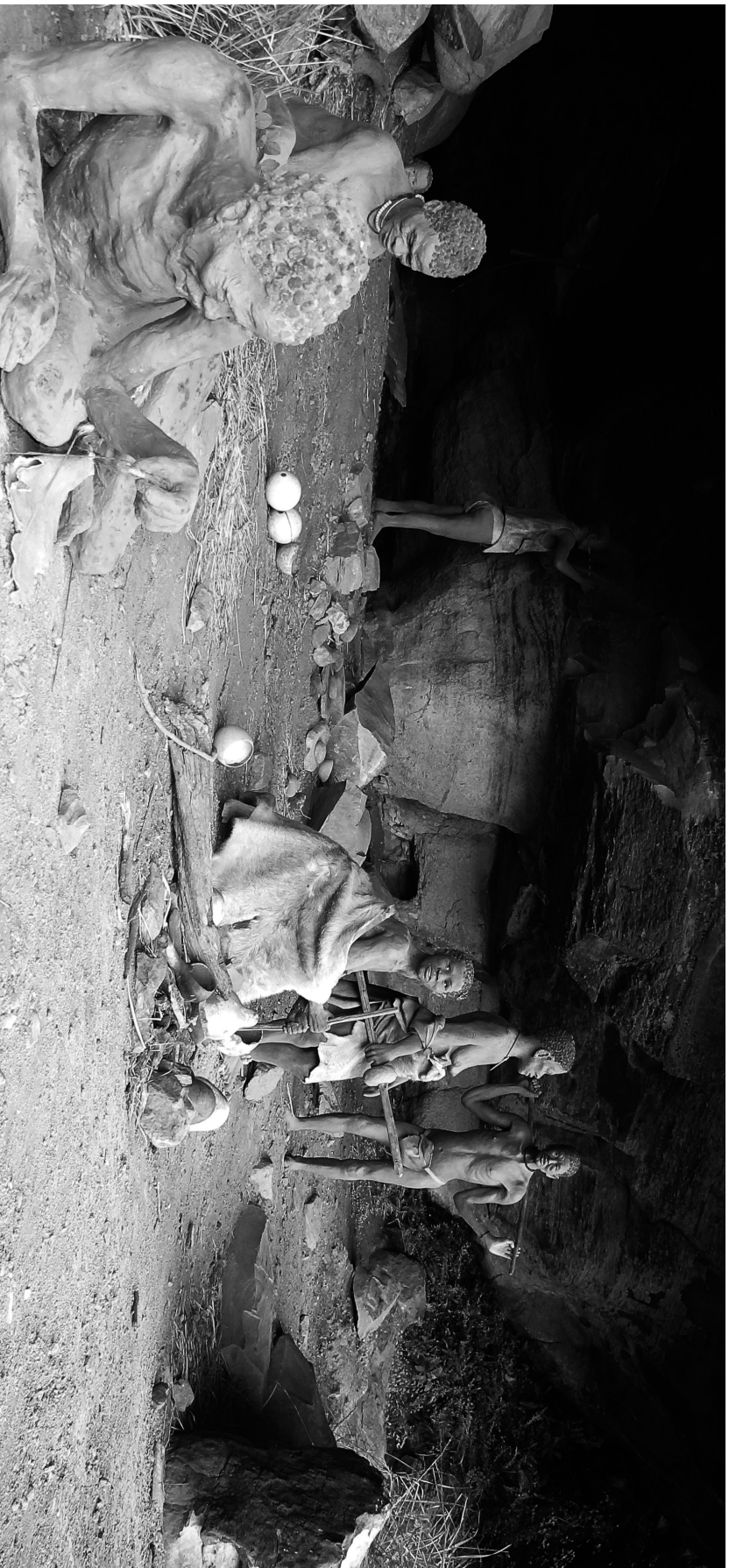
## Resource 2: British soldiers



Shutterstock

The above picture is of British soldiers as in the time 'Mhudi' was set (in the 1800s). The British held most of the power in the Cape Colony and parts of Natal at this time. They were ruthless and killed many of the indigenous people of South Africa, as well as other settlers like the Boers. They fought against the Matabele and Zulu tribes. In 'Mhudi', the British are referred to as 'Red Devils'. This is because the coats on these uniforms is bright red.

## Resource 3



Victoria Field / Shutterstock

This is a picture of a display in a famous history museum. The display is intended to give the viewer a glimpse into the life of the San people. The San and the Khoi people were the first group of people to live on South African soil. Both tribes inhabited South African land many years before the Bantu people arrived in Southern Africa, and thousands of years before foreign settlers arrived, and colonised the land. The San were hunter gatherers, which meant they gathered their fruits and vegetables, and hunted for their meat (they did not keep herds of animals; unlike the Khoi people, who did). The British settlers enslaved, killed and segregated both the Khoi and San people. Today, there are very few Khoi and San tribes left in South Africa.

# Resource 4



Lefteris Papaulakis / Shutterstock

The above image is picture of a stamp, which has images of the Voortrekkers on it. The Voortrekkers (Afrikaans people), were living under British rule in the Cape Colony. The Voortrekkers no longer wanted to live under British rule, so they decided to trek (walk a long way) inland to a place where they could be self-governed. In 'Mhudi', we learn that the Barolong people become friends with the Voortrekkers. The above image shows the wagons which the Voortrekkers used as transport, and it also indicates that the women and children played a big role in the trek inland.

## Resource 5

# SMASH THE PATRIARCHY

Shutterstock

In 'Mhudi', a major theme that runs through the story is 'Patriarchy / Role of Women'. In the story, the women in the Barolong tribe are the homemakers whose job it is to have children, be good wives, cook and clean. Women are seen as weak and timid. Men get to make all the important decisions, lead the tribe and fight in battles.



## Resource 6



Peter Bernik / Shutterstock

In today's South Africa, many people are friends with those who are different to them. When we make friends with people who are different to us in some way or another, it is important to be aware of these differences, learn about these differences, and love these differences. When we are friends with people who are different to us, we are exposed to a different way of thinking, we are made aware of the ways in which society treats different types of people and we are exposed to different perspectives and ideas. It is important not to ignore what is different about our friends, but rather embrace and learn from these differences. Being friends with different types of people does not only apply to race. We can be friends with people from different ages, cultures, religions, political parties, social economic backgrounds, genders, sexualities etc.

## Resource 7



Shutterstock

Having power means you have the ability to influence people (or make people) do what you want them to do. Some people use positions of power to make a positive impact in society, while others use their power for their own agendas. There are many different types of power in the world. One type of power is the power that a leader (king, queen, president, chief etc.) has over the people under their rule. In 'Mhudi', the reader is exposed to different leaders, and the different ways that these leaders use their positions of power. The reader learns of King Mzilikazi, who is extremely powerful and the way he gets this power is by putting other people down. He does this by belittling people, putting fear into people and even killing people. He does whatever he can to hold power, and gain even more power. The illustration above shows one man, who holds all of the power. The other men look defeated, tired and downtrodden. They have lost hope of getting up because they know the man in charge, will put them back down. This is a leader who uses his position of power to put others down in order to make further gains for himself.

# Themes

THEME 1:	LOSS AND RENEWAL
EXPLANATION OF THEME:	<p>Loss means to lose something important to you. Often, the term 'loss' is used when somebody has died. For example, my family lost my grandfather. That means that my grandfather died. My family suffered the 'loss' of my grandfather.</p> <p>Loss does not always refer to death. It can refer to the loss of something important to you. For example, your relationship can come to an end – and you suffer from a feeling of loss, because your partner is no longer in your life.</p> <p>Renewal is when you get something new, to replace something old, or something that has been lost.</p> <p>When we suffer from loss in life, sometimes we will be given new things that bring us happiness and joy. The feelings of sadness can be replaced with other feelings. The sadness does not completely go away, but when you are happy, you do not think about those feelings of sadness as much, or the feelings of happiness are stronger than the feelings of sadness.</p> <p>For example, if your relationship comes to an end, you are left feeling very sad, because you have suffered a loss. However, maybe one day, a new person will come into your life that will bring you even more love, joy and happiness. This will be a form of renewal, because your feelings of sadness, have now been replaced with feelings of happiness and love.</p> <p>If somebody in your family dies, you suffer an extreme loss. You are very sad and have a lot of grief. Maybe one day you will have a child, and that child will bring you so much happiness and love. Your feelings of sadness will be renewed with feelings of love and happiness. The sadness will not completely go away, but the feelings of love and happiness, will be stronger than the feelings of sadness.</p>
DISCUSSION QUESTION/S:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Have you ever suffered a loss?</li> <li>• How did you feel after suffering a loss?</li> </ul>
THEME 2:	LOVE
EXPLANATION OF THEME:	<p>To love is to care for someone or something very, very much. There are different kinds of love that a person can feel.</p> <p>For example, I love my family and friends, but that type of love is different to the romantic love I feel for my partner. The people I love</p>

<b>THEME 2:</b>	<b>LOVE (continued)</b>
	<p>are the people who I can count on to get me through hard times. The people I love can count on me to get them through hard times.</p> <p>I also love my animals, but I do not love them as much as I love the people in my life. However, some people might love their animals more than they love the people in their lives. Everybody is different.</p> <p>I love doing different activities. I love to paint and I love to read. I love swimming and going to the beach. However, I do not love these things as much as I love my friends and my family. They are not as important as the love that I feel for the people in my life.</p> <p>Other people might love things and money more than anything.</p> <p>Some people might love having power. Many people love having power, and would never give that power away. For example, throughout history, we have seen different leaders and groups of people who have done anything to keep their power.</p> <p>When you love someone / something very much, you find it difficult to think about your life without that person / thing.</p>
DISCUSSION QUESTION/S:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• What or who do you love most in the world?</li> <li>• How do you feel when you think about not having that person or thing in your life?</li> <li>• Have you ever lost somebody that you loved very much?</li> <li>• Have you ever counted on somebody that you love to help get you through a difficult time?</li> </ul>
<b>THEME 3:</b>	<b>VALUE OF TRADITIONAL LIFE</b>
EXPLANATION OF THEME:	<p>When you value something, it means that thing is very important to you.</p> <p>A tradition is a belief / way of doing something that is passed down from generation to generation.</p> <p>To value traditional life, means that you feel strongly that those traditions from your family or culture are very important.</p> <p>Some of these traditions may be from many years ago, but you still believe in them, and you still find them important. In fact, the fact that they have been passed down for hundreds of years might make them even more important to you. For example, your culture may believe that it is important to praise the spirits. People from other cultures may not find this important. Every culture has traditions that are important to them.</p>

<b>THEME 3:</b>	<b>VALUE OF TRADITIONAL LIFE (continued)</b>
	<p>Sometimes, people from the Western world, believe that African traditions are not something to be valued. Western ideas try to take away value from the traditional way of life. People from the west, often want other cultures and traditions to think the same as they do – they want to try and change traditional values to be more like theirs.</p> <p>It is important to note, that some traditional ways of life, can be problematic (cause problems), and it is therefore important to question / criticise the ways that some things are done. Examples of problematic things could include the way women are treated, unfair attitudes towards gay / lesbian people, and believing that you are better than people from other cultures / tribes / race. We need to remember that just because something has been done for a long time doesn't always mean it is right.</p>
DISCUSSION QUESTION/S:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Can you think of one cultural tradition that has been passed down within your family?</li> <li>• Is there a tradition from your family / culture that you love and want to pass down to future generations?</li> <li>• Can you think of something from the traditional way of life in your culture that might be problematic (cause problems)?</li> </ul>
<b>THEME 4:</b>	<b>DIFFERENT TYPES OF POWER</b>
EXPLANATION OF THEME:	<p>To have power means that you are able to influence (or make) people to do things that you want them to do. There are different ways to gain power in society. One way to have power is to treat others kindly and with respect. When people respect you, they want to listen to you. You have power to influence their thoughts and actions because they care about you and want to please you. On the other hand, power can also be gained through fear. If people fear you, they will do what you say because they are scared of what might happen if they do not listen. In this situation, though, people might start to hate you.</p> <p>They could work to overthrow (take away) your power.</p> <p>The leaders of countries, royal families and chiefs have power because they are in charge of many people, in charge of making rules, and are in charge of a lot of money. These leaders have the power to influence many people and decisions. Some leaders use their power to help people and do good things. Other leaders use their power to do bad or cruel things. Some leaders try to take control of all the power, and take advantage of people that do not have as much power as they do. There are many different types of power and power relations in the world.</p>

<b>THEME 4:</b>	<b>DIFFERENT TYPES OF POWER (continued)</b>
	<p>People who have received certain advantages in life (money, education, university education etc.) have power in society. They have more opportunities than people who did not receive these advantages. These advantages put them ahead in life. They are able to get better jobs, and thus better able to provide for their children.</p> <p>Certain groups of people have been given power through systems and societies which have favoured them and given them advantages. This is true in the power relations between men and women. Throughout history, men have unfairly been seen as superior to women. The power relations between men and women will be discussed further in a different theme.</p> <p>Another such power system is white supremacy. In South Africa, and all over the world, 'people of colour' (people who are not white) have been oppressed by white people. White people discriminated against people of colour (especially black people) from the time they arrived in the Cape in 1652. People of colour were oppressed first by the Dutch, then by the British and then by white South Africans.</p> <p>People of colour were oppressed in many ways. During Apartheid, laws were put in place to give white people power and advantages. People of colour had their land stolen and their rights taken away. Because of these past injustices, white people in South Africa still have many more opportunities than many people of colour.</p> <p>We must question power in our society. We must be critical about who has power and why they have it.</p>
DISCUSSION QUESTION/S:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Can you think of an example of a person, or group of people who took advantage of their power?</li> <li>• Do you believe that the leaders of countries should hold all the power? Do you believe that people should listen to whatever the leaders say?</li> </ul>
<b>THEME 5:</b>	<b>PATRIARCHY/ROLE OF WOMEN</b>
EXPLANATION OF THEME:	<p>'Patriarchy' is the system in society which gives men more power, opportunities and freedom than women have. Men have created most of the social and power structures in the world. Patriarchy exists in most places in the world. It is not as strong as it used to be, because women have been fighting very hard to be treated as equals. There are also many men who have broken the tradition of patriarchy. They support the independence and freedom of women. For example, in the past women were not allowed to work, have bank accounts, choose who</p>

<b>THEME 5:</b>	<b>PATRIARCHY/ROLE OF WOMEN (continued)</b>
	<p>they married or even vote. Now, women can do all those things in many countries.</p> <p>However, we still see that men have more power in almost every country in the world. Some traditions and religions still teach that women are supposed to be mothers and wives only. These traditions and religions teach that women should not have jobs away from the home. Some people believe that women are inferior to men and must take orders from them. Even in many progressive societies, women are not supposed to have strong opinions, and are criticised for being too outspoken.</p> <p>In societies where women have gained more legal rights, they still face unequal treatment and discrimination. There are more men in government, more men who own businesses and more men who are rich in every country in the world.</p> <p>Another important way in which men have more freedom than women is when it comes to sex. Women are judged more harshly for having sex before marriage than men are. In some cultures, they are even judged for talking to men they are not married to. When it comes to sex and relationships, there is one set of expectations for men, and a harsher set of expectations for women. This is called a double standard.</p>
DISCUSSION QUESTION/S:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Do you think that girls and boys should be treated as equals? Why or why not?</li> <li>• Have you ever been treated differently from someone else because of your sex? How did it feel?</li> <li>• Have you ever treated a girl or a woman differently from the way you would have treated her if she were a boy or a man? Why? How do you think this made her feel?</li> <li>• Are there any traditions in your culture that place men or boys at a higher level than women or girls? Do you think these are right or wrong? Why or why not?</li> </ul>

The following themes will NOT be given to learners, as there is not enough time in the lesson to analyse all 7 themes. They are here for your reference, so that you can summarise and explain them at the end of the lesson

<b>THEME 6:</b>	<b>PROPHECY</b>
EXPLANATION OF THEME:	Prophecy is when somebody can see what is going to happen in the future, or thinks they know what will happen in the future.

<b>THEME 6:</b>	<b>PROPHECY (continued)</b>
	<p>Prophecies are usually made by religious people or people who believe that they can speak to spirits, or by people who believe they can see into the future. For example, a Sangoma is able to speak to spirits, and ask the spirits what will happen in the future.</p> <p>Sometimes prophecies are made when a person has a ‘feeling’ about something. A person can feel in their body that something is not right, or they can feel that something is right. People can use these feelings to make predictions about the good or bad things that will happen in the future. For example, if you meet a person and get a bad feeling about them, you may predict that they will do something bad in the future.</p>
DISCUSSION QUESTION/S:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Do you believe that people can predict what is going to happen in the future?</li> <li>• Have you ever had a bad feeling about something and then something bad happened?</li> </ul>
<b>THEME 7:</b>	<b>FRIENDSHIP DESPITE DIFFERENCE</b>
EXPLANATION OF THEME:	<p>In the world, there are people from many different races, cultures, religions, sexual orientations (gay, straight, transgender) and ages. There are also many people who have different incomes (they earn different amounts of money), have different interests and different jobs.</p> <p>Even though people are different from one another, they can still be friends.</p> <p>For example, a straight man can be friends with a gay man. A black man can be friends with a white woman. An old person can be friends with a young person.</p> <p>It is important to remember that there is no one ‘normal’ type of person. Everybody is different, and we must accept these differences and embrace (love) them. People must be proud of who they are, and love what makes them different from the next person. If you are friends with someone who is different from you, you must not pretend these differences don’t exist. You must love what is different about that person, as well as love what is different about you.</p>
DISCUSSION QUESTION/S:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Do you believe people who are different can be friends?</li> <li>• Do you believe that homosexual (gay) people can be friends with heterosexual (straight) people? Why or why not?</li> </ul>