

**ENGLISH  
FIRST**

**ADDITIONAL  
LANGUAGE**

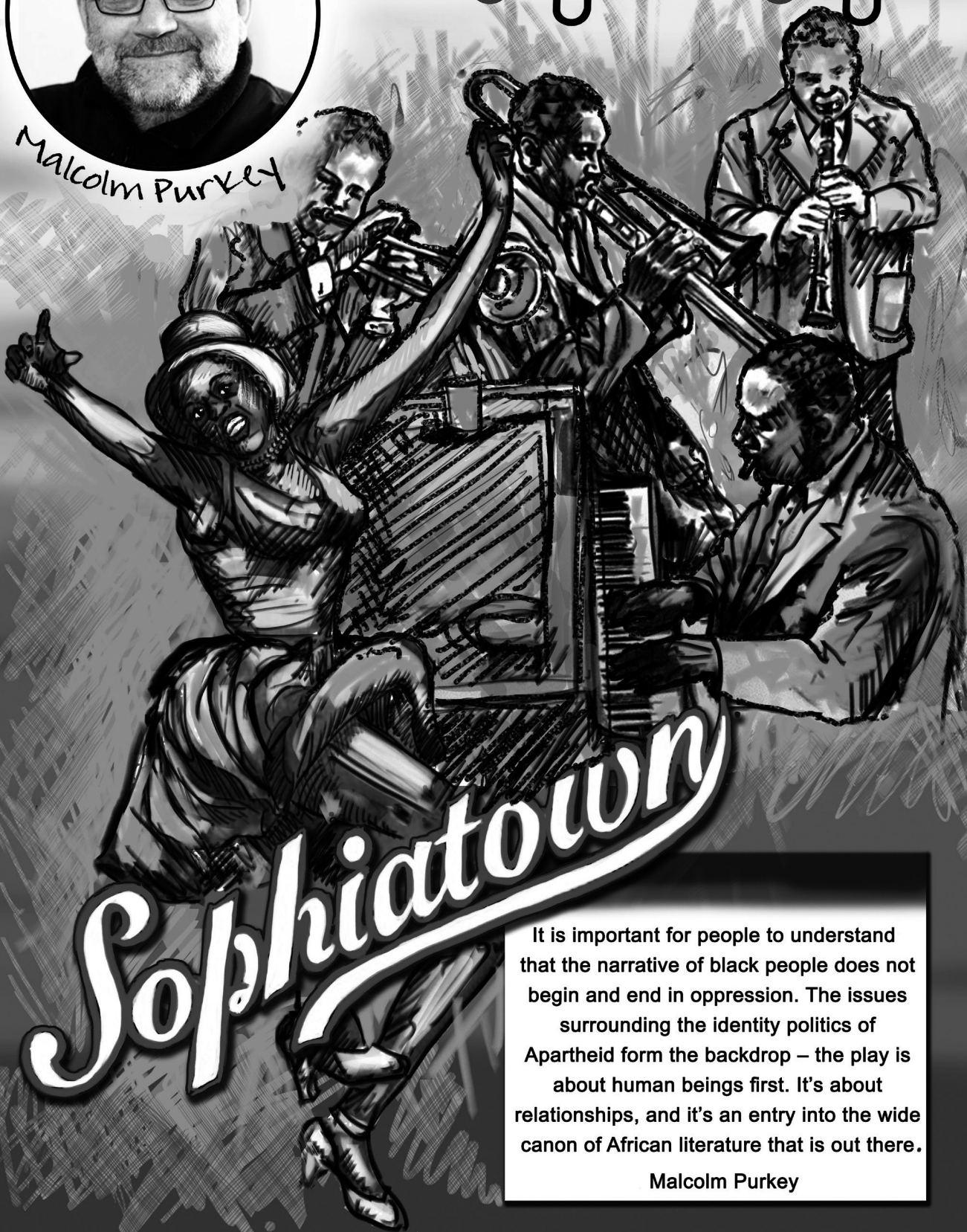
**Grade 11**

**Literature  
Module:  
Sophiatown**

**RESOURCE PACK**



Malcolm Purkey



# Sophiatown

It is important for people to understand that the narrative of black people does not begin and end in oppression. The issues surrounding the identity politics of Apartheid form the backdrop – the play is about human beings first. It's about relationships, and it's an entry into the wide canon of African literature that is out there.

Malcolm Purkey

**SOPHIAATOWN:  
Junction Avenue  
Theatre Company**

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**Jakes**

**Minibus**

**Mr Fathfee**

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Manariti

**Princesses**

**Ruth**

# Charlize

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# Defiance and Resistance

**Identity**

**Memory**

**and Loss**



**Segregation,  
Diversity and  
Reconciliation**

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**Violence**



## Resource 2: Segregation



Maarten/Shutterstock

Public spaces were segregated according to race.

## Resource 3: Segregation



Tom Wurl/Shutterstock

Separate entrances for people of different races.

## Resource 3: Racial classification

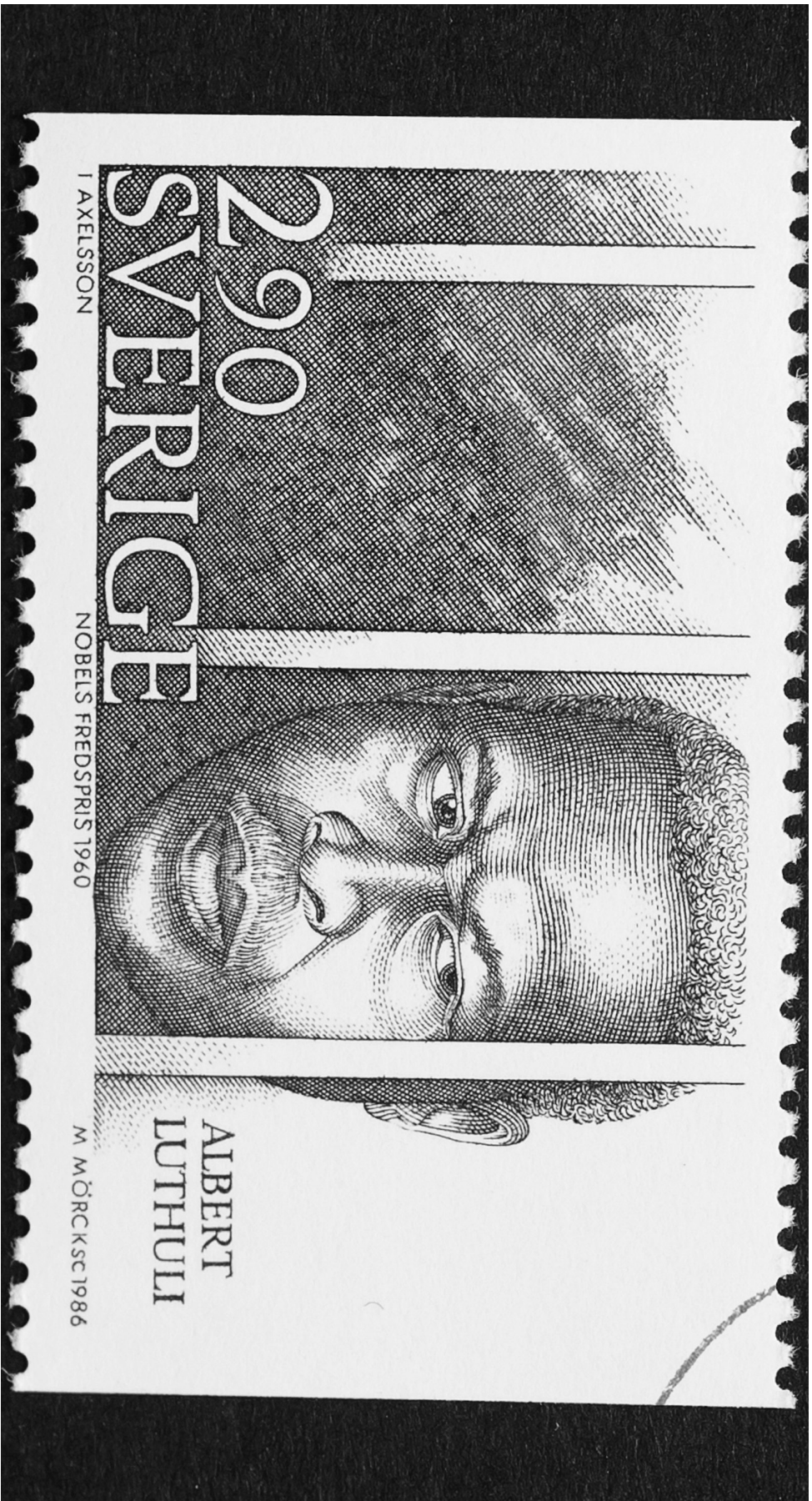
**'A white person is one who in appearance is, or who is generally accepted as, a white person, but does not include a person who, although in appearance obviously a white person, is generally accepted as a coloured person. A native is a person who is in fact or is generally accepted as a member of any aboriginal race or tribe of Africa. A coloured person is a person who is not a white person nor a native.'**

*[From the Population Registration Act, 1950]*

denisnail/Shutterstock

Racial Classification according to the Population Registration Act 1950.

## Resource 4: Albert Luthuli



Catwalker/Shutterstock

Inkosi Albert John Luthuli (1898–1967), also known by his Zulu name Mvumbi, was a South African teacher, activist, Nobel Peace Prize winner and politician. He is one of the leaders mentioned by Jakes in the opening scene of Sophiatown.

## Resource 5: Nelson Mandela



Catwalker/Shutterstock

Nelson Rolihlala Mandela (1918 – 2013) was a South African anti-Apartheid revolutionary, politician and philanthropist, who served as President of South Africa from 1994 to 1999. Madiba is one of the two leaders mentioned by Jakes in the opening scene.

## Resource 6: Jazz musician



Geoff Goldswain/Shutterstock

Music, particularly jazz, was a big part of 1950s life in Sophiatown.



# Resource 7: Classified advertisement

## CLASSIFIEDS

**MORTGAGE SOLUTIONS!**  
We provide complete Property Management, Leasing and Real Estate Services for Residential and Commercial Properties.

**3BR - Single Family \$32,900**  
Single Family - 3 Bedroom / 1 1/2 Bath. Property has been COMPLETELY RENOVATED!!!

**RENT to OWN**  
If you cannot qualify for a traditional mortgage through the banks, NO PROBLEM!

### BUSINESS

**MORTGAGE SOLUTIONS!**  
We provide complete Property Management, Leasing and Real Estate Services for Residential and Commercial Properties.

**ATTENTION: HOME OWNER**  
2 bedrooms Property has been completely renovated and is currently occupied!! Both tenants are currently on leases and each unit is rented at \$400

**EXCELLENT INVESTMENT**  
2 Family (DUPLEX) - Both units have 2 bedrooms and 1 bath. Property has been completely renovated and is currently occupied!! Both tenants are currently on leases and each unit is rented at \$400 and \$450.

**COMMERCIAL LOANS**  
We will consider applications on the following property types:  
• Multi-family construction  
• Retail Centres  
• Office  
• Mixed Use

**NO MONEY DOWN**  
We help home buyers to purchase their home with ZERO money down, call us today to put together a proposal for an offer on your property.

**OFFICE AVAILABLE**  
3 individual enclosed office space cubicles (with desks) at a great location, use of Boardrooms and general facilities. General Parking nearby. **275\$ each**  
Location: Downtown

**LOOKING FOR INVESTORS**

**GARDEN MAINTENANCE**  
Experienced in maintenance work such as, lawn mowing/trim clean, trimming, garden, pruning of plants, hedges, planting, and other maintenance and installation. Location: West River RD.

**Are you looking for a realtor?**  
Maybe you just have some questions Maybe you don't know what you want yet...

**STUDENT LOANS**  
Do you need a Student Loan? We provide all kinds of options to assist you financially. CALL US TODAY

**★ MORTGAGE EXPERT ★**  
Residential & Commercial, Specialize in Residential Real Estate Finance & All Commercial Mortgages

**NEED A SMALL LOAN**  
Do you need a loan? Do you need some cash fast? CALL US QUICKLY

**BOOKKEEPING SERVICES**  
-Accounts Payable  
-Accounts Receivable  
-Bank Credit Card Reconciliations  
Flexible rates starting at \$18 per hour.

**CAREERS**  
**GENERAL HELP WANTED**  
Seeking someone for general help, eg, filing, organizing, errands, answering emails. Must know how to type. \$10 per hour to start  
★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★

**WEEKEND RECEPTION**  
We are seeking a general office assistant for Sunday afternoons between the hours of 11:30am to 5:00pm. \$12/H

**NEW AD**  
**GENERAL MANAGER**  
a non-profit social enterprise is seeking a full-time General Manager with business experience to lead and manage, the focus of the work will be on sales, marketing, \$60,000 per annum

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**PT Sales assistant**  
We are looking for high energy, career oriented sales assistant who thrives in a fast paced environment. You must be able to multi task constantly \$12/H

**SENIOR ADVISOR ASSISTANT**  
A well-established independent wealth management organization is seeking a qualified Senior Advisor Assistant to join their team. \$40,000 to \$60,000 per annum based on relevant experience.

**RECEPTIONIST WANTED**  
Our Clinic is looking for a Receptionist that is looking to grow with our centre. This position is open for a driven, passionate and self motivated person.

**★ CALL NOW ★**

**Sales Assistant**  
We currently have an excellent opportunity in our sales office, for more information about the company. See our website or send resume.

**Word Processing Specialist**  
Our client is seeking a talented and experienced Word Processing Specialist to join their team for a short-term project. a strong background in computer programs in general. \$15/H

### EDUCATION

**TUTORS NEEDED**  
We are looking for: highly skilled, motivated and dynamic individuals who have strong communication skills. Candidate must possess a

**TUTORS NEEDED**  
We are looking for: highly skilled, motivated and dynamic individuals who have strong communication skills. Candidate must possess a love for teaching. \$12/h B.A. is a must.

**DANCE CLASSES**  
We offers an opportunity for private dance lessons. Students can register for classes and learn based on their specific needs and

**Medical Assistant Training**  
Online Classes We want you to be successful. Just click the link and learn today.  
★ ★ ★

**ENGLISH CLASSES**  
English as a Second Language / Accent Reduction Instructor Lesson fees are: \$25/hr per person; \$20/hr per person for two students.

### SERVICES

**GARDEN MAINTENANCE**  
Experienced in maintenance work such as, lawn mowing/trim clean, trimming, garden, pruning of plants, hedges, planting, and other maintenance and installation. Location: West River RD.

**Are you looking for a realtor?**  
Maybe you just have some questions Maybe you don't know what you want yet...

**STUDENT LOANS**  
Do you need a Student Loan? We provide all kinds of options to assist you financially. CALL US TODAY

**★ MORTGAGE EXPERT ★**  
Residential & Commercial, Specialize in Residential Real Estate Finance & All Commercial Mortgages

**NEED A SMALL LOAN**  
Do you need a loan? Do you need some cash fast? CALL US QUICKLY

**BOOKKEEPING SERVICES**  
-Accounts Payable

**LOOKING FOR INVESTORS**  
Looking for additional investors. Investments are primarily focused in Real Estate Market.

**We BUY HOUSES**  
HOUSES WANTED!!!!... Need to sell your house??...Have you been thinking of selling your house soon??

**Free Property Seminar**  
Topic covered: Buying procedures, tax issues, and property values. Seating is limited, so please REGISTER NOW!!!

### REAL ESTATE

**Home Inspection Service**  
5% off if you are a first time home buyer, Certified and Licensed home inspector. Call Now for 280\$

**MORTGAGE SOLUTIONS!**  
We provide complete Property Management, Leasing and Real Estate Services for Residential and Commercial Properties.

**3BR - Single Family \$32,900**  
Single Family - 3 Bedroom / 1 1/2 Bath. Property has been COMPLETELY RENOVATED!!!

**RENT to OWN**  
If you cannot qualify for a traditional mortgage through the banks, NO PROBLEM!

**TWO BEDROOM for 850\$**  
Beautiful 2 bed/2 bath open floor concept condo comes with a lovely kitchen, charming living room w/ fireplace and balcony.

**HOUSE FOR SALE**  
2 bed/2 bath open floor concept condo comes with a lovely kitchen, charming living room w/ fireplace. Now only **Sale for 280000\$**  
★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★

**RENOVATED 1 BEDROOM**  
This great corner unit has just finished being renovated including new paint, flooring and appliances.  
★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★  
Only for 580\$

**GARDEN MAINTENANCE**  
Experienced in maintenance work such as, lawn mowing/trim clean,

Feng Yu/Shutterstock

Jakes put an advertisement in the classified section of the newspaper.  
“Wanted: One Jewish girl to live in Sophiatown for study purposes.”

## Resource 8: Typewriter



Bondit/Shutterstock

Jakes is a writer and journalist and uses a typewriter, which is a symbol of the power of words. It also reminds us that we must remember and record our history.

## Resource 9: Bathhtub



Stocksolutions/Shutterstock

The bathtub was brought for Ruth to use. However, Ruth does not want to be seen as different so she refuses to use it. The bath tub ends up being used by Mamariti to brew beer. The bathtub symbolises white privilege.

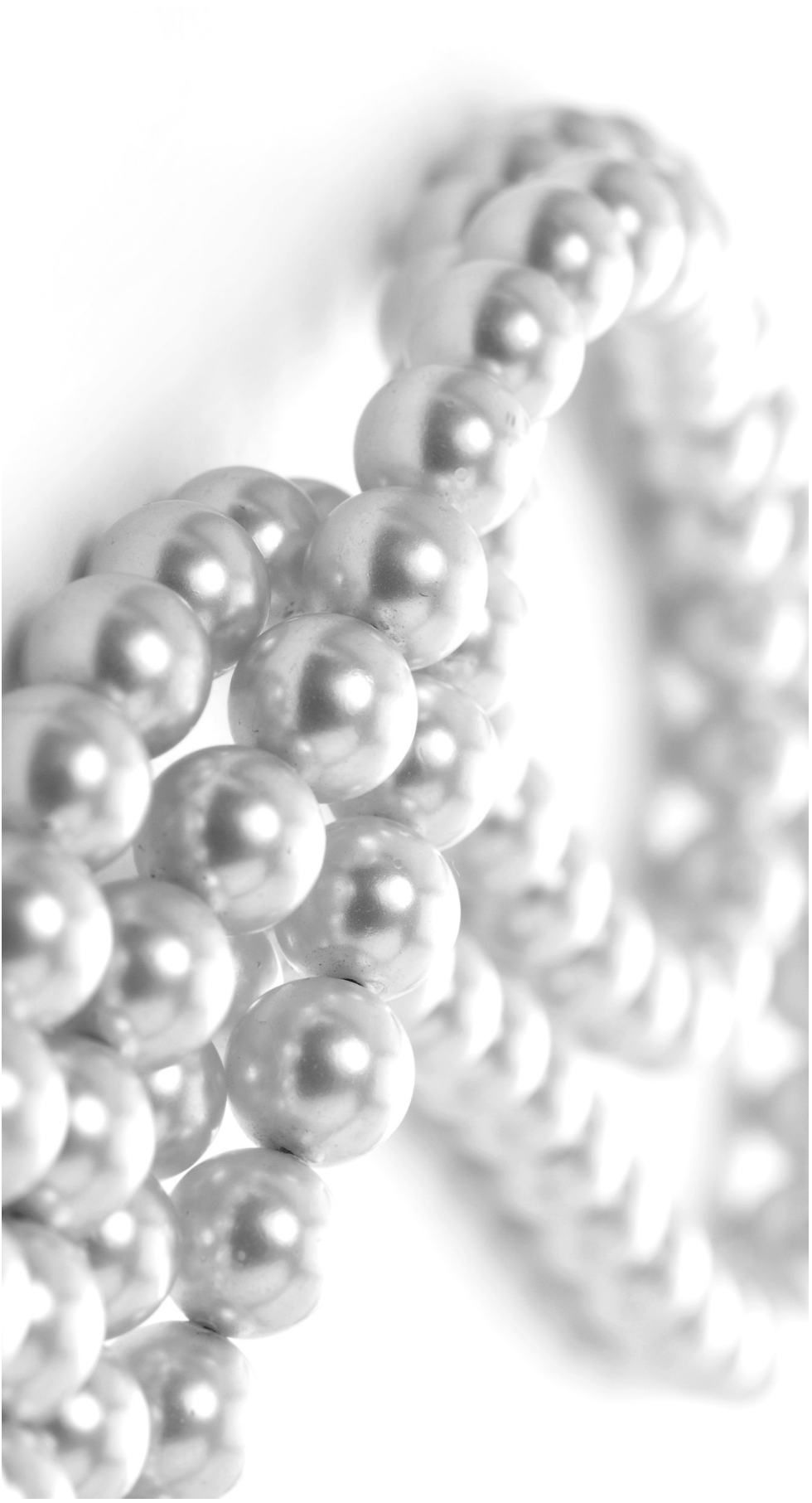
## Resource 10: Black and white hands



WAH/OME Studio/Shutterstock

*In the play, we see people from different backgrounds learning to be friends.*

## Resource 11: String of pearls



D71NAMI7S/Shutterstock

Mingus steals a set of pearls for Ruth, and this makes Princess very jealous. At first, Ruth refuses to accept the stolen goods but then she changes her mind. Ruth takes the pearls because she wants to fit in. She does not want to be seen as a snob.

## Resource 12: Bulldozer destroying house



Bogdanhoda/Shutterstock

The houses in Sophiatown were destroyed three days earlier than the official notice had said they would be.

## Resource 13: Destroyed house



Osh/Shutterstock

The houses in Sophiatown were destroyed to make way for a white suburb called Triomf, Afrikaans for 'triumph'.

# Resource 14: Sophiatown party



[http://www.baha.co.za/search/preview/126\\_23](http://www.baha.co.za/search/preview/126_23)

Sophiatown residents enjoyed life and socialising.



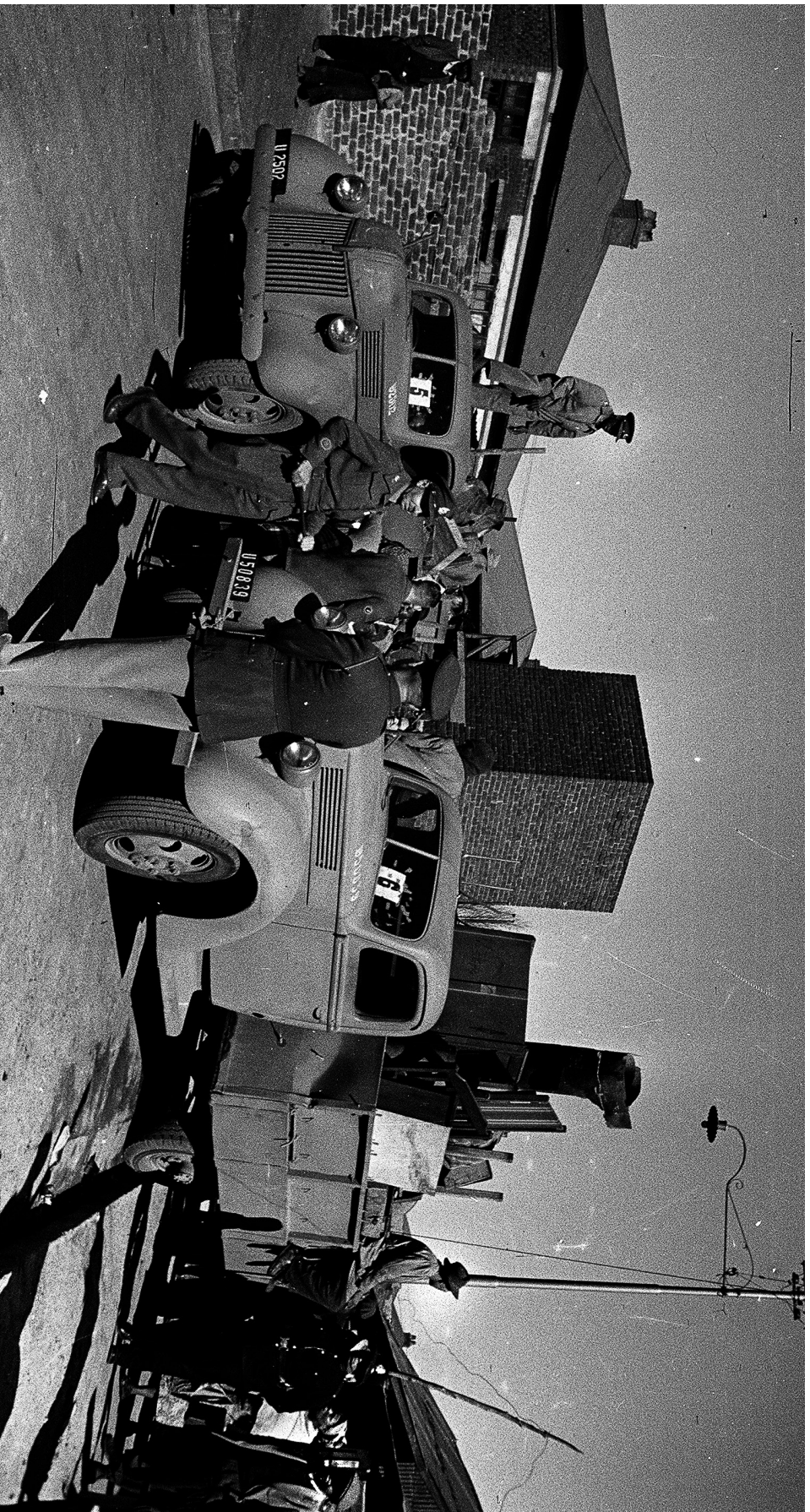
## Resource 15: The Americans



[http://www.baha.co.za/search/preview/43\\_577](http://www.baha.co.za/search/preview/43_577)

'The Americans' – the Reef's most notorious gang:  
During the week they robbed businesses,  
disguised as employees in dustcoats.  
During the weekends, they lazed around the  
locations dressed in flashy American clothes.

## Resource 16: The move to Meadowlands



dm2000022214/Shutterstock

“You are hereby required, in terms of the Native Resettlement Act, to vacate the premises in which you are residing.”

# Themes

<b>THEME 1</b>	<b>Defiance and Resistance</b>
EXPLANATION OF THEME:	<p>Defiance is the open disobedience and bold resistance to fight or maintain a cause. It is a peaceful or violent challenge of the laws imposed by one part of society against another.</p> <p>Resistance is the refusal to comply (do what someone tells you to) with rules in order to maintain (not change) your current existence or to survive.</p> <p>Often people in a community join together to oppose unjust actions by others, such as forced removals, and in this way, unite for a common cause. This can be at the expense of their freedom.</p>
DISCUSSION QUESTION/S:	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1 Have you ever refused to do something because you felt strongly that it was the wrong thing to do?</li> <li>2 Why is it important for people to fight for things they believe in?</li> </ol>
<b>THEME 2</b>	<b>Identity</b>
EXPLANATION OF THEME:	<p>Identity is the complex question about who we are. Each person has a unique identity based on many different parts of themselves: language, race, religion, gender, sexuality, family, culture, age, etc.</p> <p>How we feel about our own identity may be different to how other people perceive (think about) us. It can be hurtful and oppressive (harsh) when other people try to determine (decide) our identity for us.</p> <p>The qualities, beliefs, personality, looks and experiences that make us individuals may lead to conflict with others. We are born into some groups (such as race) and we can choose to belong to some groups (such as religion).</p> <p>Apartheid laws made race the most important part of people's identity and used this to segregate them.</p>
DISCUSSION QUESTION/S:	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1 Which groups do you choose to belong to? Why?</li> <li>2 Which groups is your group prejudiced against? Why?</li> <li>3 Do you have friends from other social groups? Why or why not?</li> </ol>

<b>THEME 3:</b>	<b>Memory and Loss</b>
EXPLANATION OF THEME:	<p>Memory is the ability to recall and keep in your mind (remember) an event or a person.</p> <p>Loss is no longer having something.</p> <p>Books, music, poetry and drama record memories so they are not lost. Memory is a powerful weapon as it keeps people and places alive in our minds. Keeping the memory of Sophiatown alive is a kind of weapon against Apartheid. A diverse, mixed neighbourhood like Sophiatown was meant to be destroyed and gone forever.</p> <p>However, as long as we remember what happened, some part of Sophiatown still exists.</p>
DISCUSSION QUESTION/S:	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1 What things have you lost in the past?</li> <li>2 How do you remember the people you have lost?</li> </ol>
<b>THEME 4</b>	<b>Segregation, Diversity and Reconciliation</b>
EXPLANATION OF THEME:	<p>Diversity is when a group of people is made up of members with identifiable differences in their cultural backgrounds or lifestyles. Experiencing these differences teaches us important things about ourselves and the world, and gives us the opportunity to understand, know and love people who are different from us.</p> <p>Segregation is the enforced separation of racial groups in a community. Forced segregation was the law in South Africa during Apartheid. Segregation takes away the chance of friendship across cultures, making it difficult to reconcile with (understand and accept) people of different colours and cultures.</p> <p>Reconciliation is being friendly with someone again after an argument, dispute or conflict.</p> <p>The Apartheid government destroyed mixed race areas such as Sophiatown and District Six because they threatened the ideas of racial hierarchy (the idea that some races are better than others). Diversity was not celebrated but was rather a point of conflict. There was no hope of reconciliation between the races.</p>
DISCUSSION QUESTION/S:	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1 Have you had an experience of racial (or any other kind) of segregation?</li> <li>2 How do you feel about people in your community who speak different languages?</li> </ol>

THEME 5	Violence
EXPLANATION OF THEME:	<p>Violence is the unlawful use of force. It can be physical (beating), emotional or psychological (not physical but in the mind). Physical violence is harm that is felt on the body, such as a hitting or kicking. Emotional or psychological abuse is anything that lessens someone's sense of identity, dignity and self-worth, such as deliberately saying something that upsets someone else and how they feel about themselves. It can cause anxiety or depression.</p> <p>Violence exists in society. The play, 'Sophiatown', talks about people being forcibly removed from their homes. This is an example of the violence people of colour experienced during colonisation and Apartheid. The constant violent oppression made violence a regular part of society. Violence is commonplace in today's society as well, in the form of a variety of different crimes.</p> <p>Patriarchy is a system which gives men more power in society than women. Men are often taught that they are entitled to do whatever they want. They are taught that they are in charge of women. This means that men often feel entitled to abuse women. Violence against women is an especially big problem in South Africa today.</p>
DISCUSSION QUESTION/S	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1 What examples of emotional violence can you think of?</li> <li>2 Have you, or anyone you know, been a victim of violence?</li> <li>3 Do you think it is ever justified to use violence against someone? Why or why not?</li> </ol>