

# Discussion Questions on *Tsoti*

<https://tsotsi1.wordpress.com/discussion-questions/>

## CHAPTER 1

- Identify why Tsotsi is silent for most of the chapter and how this contributes to the atmosphere.
- Compare the four gang members and describe what their niche is within the group.

## CHAPTER 2

- Explain why Boston asks Tsotsi Questions.
- Identify what Tsotsi's reaction to Boston's questions reveals about his character.

## CHAPTER 3

- Assess the significance of Tsotsi's three rules.
- What is Tsotsi trying to run from throughout the Chapter? Select a character trait this reveals about him.

## CHAPTER 4

- Explain why Tsotsi waits for the store to be empty before buying milk. Discuss what internal conflict he is facing.
- Discuss the significance of Tsotsi caring for the baby.

## CHAPTER 5

- Compare Tsotsi making the “kill decisions” at the beginning of the book in chapter one to now. What has changed and how does this reveal his overall change of character?
- Identify how the dynamic of the group has changed.

## CHAPTER 6

- Describe what connection Tsotsi makes with Morris and identify how that influences his view of Morris.
- Identify the atmosphere and explain how it develops Tsotsi's internal conflict.

## CHAPTER 7

- Compare Tsotsi's feelings towards Morris to his feelings towards Gumboot who he stalked only twenty-four hours earlier.
- Explain the role of the motif of light and dark throughout the time Tsotsi stalks Morris.

## **CHAPTER 8**

- When Tsotsi first sees the baby he wants to run away but instead “he took a deep breath, held it in, and went to work”. Analyse the significance of this and what it reveals about his change in character.
- Assess what internal conflict Miriam is faced with. Discuss why this is significant and how it effects her first confrontation with Tsotsi and the baby.
- Discuss what is Fugard foreshadowing by giving the description of the church.

## **CHAPTER 9**

- Analyse why Tsotsi would “have no use for memories” and, in a relatively short period of time after losing his mother make the choice to become a Tsotsi.
- Assess the impact of watching his father cripple and kill the dog in front of him as a child.

## **CHAPTER 10**

- Describe the significance of Tsotsi “ending it” and how this reinforces the theme of redemption and how it is a step towards Tsotsi becoming redeemed.
- Explain the significance of Tsotsi telling Miriam the baby’s name is David. What does this reveal about Tsotsi’s character?
- Assess why Tsotsi doesn’t want to give David to Miriam.
- Explain why Tsotsi races to the pipes and reflect on how we all may have a moment of realization when we see something from our past, just as Tsotsi has once he arrives at the pipes.

## **CHAPTER 11**

- Differentiate Tsotsi’s feelings towards Boston and his questions at the beginning of the book to now. Describe how this affects both Boston and Tsotsi’s character and their relationship.
- What does god mean to Tsotsi? Describe how the concept of god would be so new to him and how it may help him become redeemed.
- Interpret what Boston means by “we are all sick of life” and how, even in present day, this effects South Africans.

## **CHAPTER 12**

- Tsotsi’s relationship with Miriam starts aggressively but over the course of the book he comes to appreciate her. Although he never says thank you to Miriam, in what way does their relationship change to let us know she is appreciated.
- Identify what Miriam indirectly teaches Tsotsi about life? Identify the belief she leaves him with?
- Explain the significance of Tsotsi calling himself David Mondo. How has he been redeemed?