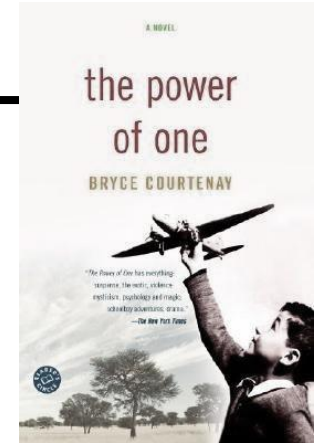


THE POWER OF ONE

By Bryce Courtenay

Each group has been assigned a character. Work with your group to identify the major events and personality traits that define your assigned character. Then, each group will present their character to the class, allowing us to completely fill in this study guide.



PISSKOP / PEEKAY

ROLE: Protagonist

BASIC CHARACTERISTICS: At the opening of the story he is a five year old English boy who is entering an all Afrikaan (Dutch) boarding school.

IMPORTANT TO REMEMBER: Pisskop / Peekay is white. The English are in power in South Africa, which is why the Afrikaan boys at the school do not like him. They call him roinek.

EVENTS: Goes to boarding school. Hated by Judge and jury who pee on him (how he gets the name Pisskop). Wets his bed. Nanny takes him to healer (Inkosi Inkosikazi) who gives him chicken. Names chicken Granpa Chook. Granpa Chook killed by Judge.

QUOTATION THAT HELPS US KNOW THE CHARACTER: Peekay says, "The camouflage was intact and I'd moved up into the next evolutionary stage. From knowing how to hide my brains I had learned how to use them. Granpa Chook and I were one step further away from the sea" (40). This quote shows that Peekay has to learn to hide who is in order to survive, but in learning how to hide, he has also started to learn who he is.

JUDGE / JAPPIE BOTHA

ROLE: Senior boy at the boarding school who leads the bullying against Pisskop

BASIC CHARACTERISTICS: _____

IMPORTANT TO REMEMBER: Judge is white. He is Afrikaans (Dutch) and hates the English in power in South Africa.

EVENTS: _____

QUOTATION THAT HELPS US KNOW THE CHARACTER: _____



THE JURY / STORMTROOPERS

ROLE: The group of younger Afrikaan boys that do whatever Judge tells them to do.

BASIC CHARACTERISTICS: _____

IMPORTANT TO REMEMBER: The jury is white. They are Afrikaans (Dutch) and hate the English in power.

EVENTS: _____

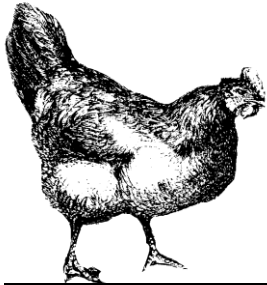
QUOTATION THAT HELPS US KNOW THE CHARACTER: _____

OTHER CHARACTERS:

Mevrou – Afrikaan house mother at the school.

Miss du Plessis – Teacher

Pik Botha – conductor on the train.



NANNY

ROLE: The Zulu nanny who helps raise Pisskop / Peekay.

BASIC CHARACTERISTICS: _____

IMPORTANT TO REMEMBER: Nanny is black African and has a son about the same age as Peekay.

EVENTS: _____

QUOTATION THAT HELPS US KNOW THE CHARACTER: _____

MOM

ROLE: Peekay's mom has had a nervous breakdown at the opening of the store and is staying in a home to help her recover.

BASIC CHARACTERISTICS: _____

IMPORTANT TO REMEMBER: Mom returns and is very religious.

EVENTS: _____

QUOTATION THAT HELPS US KNOW THE CHARACTER: _____

GRANPA CHOOK

ROLE: The chicken given to Peekay by Inkosi-Inkosikazi.

BASIC CHARACTERISTICS: _____

IMPORTANT TO REMEMBER: Granpa Chook is allowed to stay at the school because he eats the bugs in the kitchen.

EVENTS: _____

QUOTATION THAT HELPS US KNOW THE CHARACTER: _____

INKOSI - INKOSIKAZI

ROLE: The Zulu medicine name who teaches Peekay not only to stop bed wetting but also introduces him to the spiritual world of the night country.

BASIC CHARACTERISTICS: _____

IMPORTANT TO REMEMBER: Gives Peekay Granpa Chook.

EVENTS: _____

QUOTATION THAT HELPS US KNOW THE CHARACTER: _____

HENRY CROWN

ROLE: The Jewish shop owner who gives Peekay a sense of dignity by giving him the nickname Peekay (rather than Pisskop).

HOPPIE GROENEWALD

ROLE: The Afrikaaner guard on the train that introduces Peekay to boxing.

BASIC CHARACTERISTICS: _____

IMPORTANT TO REMEMBER: He is neither all good or all bad (like the earlier characters). He is a flawed character, a racist who helps out Peekay.

EVENTS: _____

QUOTATION THAT HELPS US KNOW THE CHARACTER: _____