

SOULBUDDYZ II RADIO SERIES – 26 EPISODES

MESSAGES/THEMES:

MAIN MESSAGES

- Environment
- Substance Abuse
- HIV and AIDS

MINOR MESSAGES

- Racism and Xenophobia
- Justice
- Learning Difficulties

CHARACTERS

Child Characters

*****ALL THE CHILD CHARACTERS ARE IN GRADE 7. PHUMLANI AND AMANI GO TO A PRIMARY SCHOOL IN TOWN, PINETOWN PRIMARY. NOMSA, MPHO, DUMA, SANDILE, MIHLOTI GO TO SCHOOL IN THE TOWNSHIP AT NOKENG PRIMARY.**

1. Phumlani: 11 years old. Has been attending a town school for 6 months. Phumlani is an only child– his mother has a fairly good job with the government. The boy lives with his extended family in the township. He likes to play soccer. Very good player. We know he's around from sound of bouncing soccer ball. Has leadership qualities, quite adventurous. "Leader" of group (he's the "glue" that keeps the group together) He can be a bit arrogant, thinks he knows more than he actually does. He does not know much about environmental issues. But knows a lot about soccer, can rattle off soccer stars names (pretends to be soccer commentator – "here comes Phumlani, he passes the ball to Duma – LA DUMA!!!"). Likes calling others "lighties" because he sees himself as knowing more...
[elements of discrimination through Phumlani's character]

2. Duma: Duma is a 12 year old boy who goes to school in the township. He is Phumlani's cousin. Duma has a light complexion, green eyes and light silky hair – his father was white and his mother is black (his father died of lung cancer, shortly after marrying his mother in 1995).[racism through Duma's character]Likes playing soccer. Often competes with Phumlani (whom he looks up to) , the two cousins are more like brothers. They both live with their Gogo in the township. Duma's mother is staying in another city where she works as a secretary. Duma is the "joker" in the group, he likes telling jokes and sometimes playing practical jokes on the other characters. He does not know a lot about environmental issues, he often makes fun of Nomsa about her love of nature, but he really admires Nomsa, and enjoys helping her in the garden. Duma is sensitive, and gets hurt when people are prejudice against him. He is energetic and friendly.

3. Nomsa: 11-year-old girl. Nomsa lives with her parents. Her mother is an alcoholic and her stepfather is a "positive figure". Strong leadership qualities. Likes to work in the

garden. Gets buddies to recycle and to be enthusiastic about food garden at school. Nomsa competes with Phumlani to lead the buddyz. She is energetic and talkative. Quite smart. She is strict, empathetic, and very tidy and neat (the opposite of her mother). She is the same age as Mpho, the two are especially close and share a lot with each other.

[substance abuse through Nomsa's character]

- 4. Mpho:** Mpho is an 11-year-old girl who is sexually abused by her father. She lives in a nearby rural village. Mpho wakes up early in the morning and walks a long distance to school (along a main road, so it's fairly safe for her to walk). This means Mpho has less time for homework.

We hear how Mpho and her mother cope/deal with having to go through the justice system to make sure that Mpho's father is jailed for raping her. Mpho is very close to her mother, who takes good care of her. At the beginning of the drama she suffers from nightmares and is a bit withdrawn (talking mainly to Nomsa), she sometimes becomes a bit aggressive, snapping at her friends for no good reason. But with the help of counselling, her mother and her friends, she overcomes her emotional stress.

[abuse and justice through Mpho's character]

- 5. Mihloti:** Mihloti is 10 years old. Her mother passed away because of HIV/AIDS and her father is still alive but sick. Mihloti's father lost his good job (as a car mechanic) and Mihloti had to drop out of town school to the township school. She is discriminated against because of her parents' HIV/AIDS status. She has a sibling, a younger brother, Mandla (4), that she has to take care of and has to be absent from school when her father gets too sick. Mihloti likes to read and write short funny stories (teacher asks Mihloti to help Sandile with reading). She reads and tells stories to her little brother Mandla. She is mature for her age and quite responsible. She knows a lot about HIV.

[Mandla qualifies for a child support grant (kids under 7 qualify NB*** PLEASE NOTE THAT THE QUALIFYING AGE FOR THE CHILD SUPPORT GRANT MIGHT CHANGE TO INCLUDE KIDS WHO ARE 14 AND UNDER, SOULCITY WILL KEEP US POSTED ON THIS. BUT FOR NOW, WE'LL STICK WITH KIDS UNDER 7). HIV/AIDS through Mihloti's character]

- 6. Sandile:** Is a 13-year-old boy who lives in a nearby informal settlement with his father and mother. He goes to a township school. He has learning difficulties, finds reading quite hard. Other buddies like to tease him and say he has a crush on Mihloti, he denies this. The teasing gets worse when the class teacher asks Mihloti, who is very good at reading to help Sandile improve his reading. He is good at making things, e.g. wire/can cars. He is friendly and nice. He loves nature, and is often on Nomsa's side when the buddies tease her about her passion for green issues.

[Learning difficulties through Sandile's character]

- 7. Amani (means "freedom" in Kiswahili) :**A 'foreign' boy who goes to a town school with Phumlani. His father is a Professor at a University. Amani likes to recite short Kiswahili raps (if writers don't have access to kiSwahili translators/phrase books, write Amani's kiSwahili raps in English, and Soulcity will translate). He teaches Phumlani a bit of Swahili rap (originally from Kenya). More cautious/careful than Phumlani. He does not like fighting. He speaks a local language, but he is not very good at it he makes mistakes, and Phumlani helps him. He speaks local language with an accent. Speech is mixed with English.

[Xenophobia through Amani's character] Other Kiswahili names that writers can choose from are: Zawadi (Gift), Bahati (luck), Meno (Peace), Marafik (friendly).

8. Mandla – Mihloti's 4 year old baby brother. He is sweet and playful. Likes being read to or told stories to by Mihloti.

Adult Characters

1. Nomsa's Mother/MamakaNomsa– early thirties. Alcoholic. Discriminates against Duma because of mixed parentage. Stays at home, cooks and cleans when she is not too drunk. Is quite sweet when not drunk, but turns to monster after consuming too much alcohol. She has Std. 6 (now grade 8) education.

2. Nomsa's Father/Bab'Khumalo – early thirties. "role model" type father. Works at post office as administrator. Doesn't drink. Is friendly with a good sense of humour.

3. Mpho's Mother – mid thirties. Has a small spaza shop at home. Is very supportive through her daughter's abuse case. Very strong, strict, yet loving and supportive. Likes to listen to gospel music. She's independent.

4. Mpho's Grandmother – Mid-sixties. At first she is shocked that Mpho and her mother are pressing charges against her son, Mpho's father. But eventually she supports them for doing the right thing.

5. Mihloti's Father – Forty. Has AIDS. Occasionally gets too sick to work. He is a car mechanic who now works from his garage at home (lost good mechanic job after falling sick). Friendly well known, and well loved in the community. He has known his HIV status for the past 3 years. Likes working in the garden, as he has a rural background. Helps buddies with food garden at school.

6. Sandile's Mother – Early forties. Housewife. Makes plastic mats and hats. Helps Sandile improve his reading.

7. Sandile's Father – Mid-forties. Works in a factory. He is referred to But we never hear him.

8. Teacher 1 – 27. male life orientation (guidance) teacher. Works as counsellor. Soccer coach. Is mature, wise, compassionate and helpful. Has a car that he takes to Mihloti's father for fixing (when he is not too ill).

10. Teacher 2 – Female teacher 50 years old. Nokeng Primary class teacher. All the buddies are in the same grade, Grade 7. Strict but loving, competent and concerned. She teaches languages as well as nature studies (helps the buddies in their food garden).

11. Duma and Phumlani's Gogo – mid 60s. Is religious, strict, but sometimes spoils the boys. She cares deeply for children and the community.

STORY ARCS 26 EPISODES

MAIN STORY ARCS

1)THE GREEN/ENVIRONMENT STORY:

The environment arch unfolds through 2 stories.

GREEN/ENVIRONMENT STORY A) Nomsa gets buddies to stop littering and start improving the environment. This story runs through all 26 episodes. It starts with Nomsa bugging everyone to recycle their litter especially cooldrink cans. Sandile hears on the radio about a re-cycling and re-using competition, the team that collects the most cans, and comes up with the most innovative plan for re-using, gets free tickets to the BP Top 8 soccer final, and wins two computers for it's school! Nomsa, Duma, Mpho, Mihloti and Sandile from Nokeng Primary team up with Phumlani and Amani from Pinetown Primary for the competition. At first, the buddies argue about what they should make for the competition. They finally agree to make a fancy car out of cans (Sandile, the artist, is very good at making toy cars). Nomsa is VERY excited about the competition and she starts collecting her cans right away. The others, however, drag their feet. Nomsa, panics when the competition's cut off date draws near and the other buddies have collected close to ZERO cans! Sandile comes up with an idea, they should do a "clean up Saturday" at the squatter camp, where he lives. That way they'll collect lots of cans FAST. The buddies collect the cans, and make a really impressive car, with Sandile being the chief engineer! Mihloti's father allows the buddies to use his garage as a workshop, because since his illness, he does not use it to fix cars much anymore. BUT one day when Phumlani and Duma's Gogo comes to clean (the community occasionally helps Mihloti's family with cleaning and some food.), she sees the car covered in plastic, thinks its junk, and throws it away. The buddies panic when they don't find the car, on the morning of the competition deadline!!! Duma and Phumlani ask Gogo if she didn't come across it during her cleaning, Gogo, casually mentions that she did come across "some funny plastic with some cans or something" and she threw it in the bin! The buddies rush to salvage their precious creation, and LUCKILY it's still in the bin! They make it for the competition JUST in time. The buddies have (of course) collected the most cans, AND their toy car wins the re-using competition!!

GREEN/ENVIRONMENT STORY B – the second environment story starts from about half-way through the series, and is linked to Mihloti's HIV/AIDS story. The buddies come up with the idea to start a food garden at their school after Mihloti's collapse because of hunger. The incident reveals that there are many other children who do not have enough to eat at home, and rely mainly on the government's school feeding scheme. When Mihloti's father hears about the plan to start a food garden at Nokeng Primary, he becomes enthusiastic and eager to help, he grew up in the rural areas and has a lot of farming know-how. The school kicks off the gardening project which proves to be extremely successful. Mihloti's father also decides to convert part of his flower garden into a vegetable garden (at first Mihloti does not see the value of plucking out their precious flowers to plant cabbage! But is soon convinced).

2) SUBSTANCE ABUSE STORY:

Substance abuse is dealt with through 3 stories throughout the 26 episodes.

SUBSTANCE ABUSE STORY A) First with Nomsa's alcoholic and abusive mother. She gets drunk every day, and becomes extremely abusive. Especially to Duma, who she swears at about being mixed race. This embarrasses Nomsa and hurts Duma deeply. The final straw comes when Nomsa's mother uses the electricity money for alcohol. Their electricity is cut, and the family gets

forced to use candles and a primus stove. Nomsa's mother nearly burns the house down, when she passes out and knocks over the primus stove. Nomsa becomes quiet and withdrawn for a short while after that incident. The life orientation teacher notices the change in Nomsa, and offers help. He lets Nomsa know that it is not her fault that her mother is an alcoholic. Through counselling Nomsa learns that she can survive and triumph even though her mother is an alcoholic. The arch ends with Nomsa's father convincing Nomsa's mother to go for help. (to and NGO like SANCA).

SUBSTANCE ABUSE STORY B) Phumlani and Amani decide to experiment with drinking. Phumlani convinces Amani to steal liquor from his father's liquor cabinet, so they can drink and be "cool" during an upcoming school trip. But what happens is anything BUT cool. Phumlani drinks too much, vomits, passes out, and wakes up in hospital because of alcohol poisoning. The school disciplines Phumlani, Amani and the other drinking boys, they have to write a long essay about the dangers of alcohol (get info from library and SANCA). Gogo finds out and disciplines him, he has to do special household chores, and he can't hang out with the buddies for TWO whole weeks!!! He learns the lesson that abusing alcohol is NOT cool.

SUBSTANCE ABUSE STORY C) Mpho tries cigarettes. She hears from an older cousin that smoking helps with stress. She steals some cigarettes from her mother's spaza and tries smoking (one day whilst walking home with Nomsa). She coughs terribly, and the buddies bombard her with facts about why smoking is NOT cool. Duma tells her that his father died of lung cancer. And Nomsa reads her facts from a book about all the illnesses that can result from smoking. Mpho and Nomsa decide to beat stress by listening to music and playing soccer instead (Phumlani gets a tape/radio for his birthday, which the buddies take everywhere!)

3)HIV AIDS

The Story of Mhloti and her father who has AIDS runs from about episode 7 – when she joins the township school as her sick father can no longer afford the fees for the school in town. The story continues through the series. Mhloti faces prejudice at school because of her father's HIV status. The buddies help to counter the prejudice. They welcome Mhloti into the group, and help to look after her father. The community (especially Phumlani and Duma's Gogo) help the family with cleaning and some food. The school also starts a community food garden to help families like Mhloti's that are struggling with enough food. Mhloti's father, who grew up in the rural areas and knows a lot about growing food, starts a food garden in their backyard, he also helps in Nokeng Primary's food garden. The life orientation teacher advises Mhloti's father to apply for a child care grant, because Mandla is under 7 and qualifies to receive money from the government (because their parent is unable to work).

MINOR STORY ARCHS

1)RACISM AND XENOPHOBIA

This story runs mainly through the first twelve episodes. This is when Amani and Duma encounter prejudice –

A) Amani from the anti-foreigner bullies at school, the bullies do all sorts of things to harass Amani and Phumlani. The climax happens when they try to break Amani's leg during soccer practice (by tackling him hard!) the couch sees the bullying, and the bullies get into serious trouble. They are suspended from soccer, and they get into trouble with the headmaster. This gives the message that bullying and xenophobia are serious offences.

B) Duma suffers racism from Nomsa's alcoholic mother. Nomsa's mother always insults Duma because his father was a white man and his mother is black. This hurts Duma deeply. Gogo

explains to Duma that he is a human being created in God's image. She tells him that what Nomsa's mother is doing is wrong, it is the attitude of racist apartheid South Africa, when people were segregated and mistreated. Gogo, and the buddies support Duma emotionally, and encourage him to ignore the racists.

2) JUSTICE (DEALING WITH ABUSE)

Mpho's rape court case against her father, will run through from about episode five, until it gets resolved towards the end of the series (her father goes to jail). A social worker helps Mpho through the court case. She explains what courts are and how the justice system will work to help Mpho. She explains that Mpho will not have to face her father in court, but she will give evidence from a separate room. She also helps Mpho deal with the emotional stress and nightmares she gets from the fear of the case. Mpho discusses her fears mainly with her mother and Nomsa. The arch ends with Mpho giving evidence, and her father going to jail for raping her. Mpho's rape happened about six months before the series starts. By the time Buddyz II starts, her family has reported her father, (he was arrested and released on bail) – he goes through trial and gets sentenced to many years in jail. The buddies know about Mpho's rape, but they keep it within the group, and will give their support during the court case. Mpho talks mainly to Nomsa about her feelings and fears.

3) LEARNING DISABILITIES

This is dealt with in the middle of the series over four or five episodes. Sandile struggles to read. The teacher visits his home to encourage his parents (especially his mother who stays home) to help him with his homework. She also asks Mihloti, who is very good at reading to help him. Sandile is very determined to improve his reading. We see him progress with the help of his mother and Mihloti. At the end of the arch, Sandile writes and reads (very well) a short essay for the class.

EPISODES

EPISODE 1

(This episode deals with the focus areas of racism and alcohol abuse. The episode must clearly highlight that Nomsa's mother is shouting mostly because she is drunk. The episode also touches on symptoms of sexual abuse – nightmares, feeling scared.)

CHARACTERS: Phumlani, Duma, Phumlani and Duma's Gogo, Mpho, Mpho's mother, Nomsa, Nomsa's mother

SCENE 1

Phumlani's Home. Early morning. - It's established that Phumlani and Dumi are cousins. They live with Duma's granny. Granny wakes them both up quite early (Phumlani has to catch early bus to Pinetown Primary school in town). Phumlani envies the fact that Duma goes to school "just around the corner", sometimes the bus trips into town are tiring. Duma is grumpy, when Phumlani asks why, he relates an incident where Nomsa's mother (Nomsa is a fellow buddy) who gets drunk often, insulted him about his skin colour (Duma has a black mother and a white father). He doesn't understand why some people are so mean to him. He tells Phumlani how confused and scared he feels when someone insults him because of how he looks. He can't help it that his father was a white

man (he died of lung cancer soon after he married Duma's mother), and that his mother is black.

SCENE 2

At Mpho's home. Early Morning. - Mpho is having a bad nightmare. Her mother wakes her up, she mustn't be late for school. She was having a nightmare about her father. Her mother is worried about Mpho's nightmares. She tries to reassure her daughter. They have an appointment with the court appointed social worker who will be preparing them for the upcoming rape case against Mpho's father. Mpho's mother is very protective and loving towards her daughter.

SCENE 3

Nokeng Higher Primary. Lunchtime. - The buddies are hanging out at their favourite spot, beneath a huge tree, especially picked by Nomsa. She tries to convince the buddies that the tree has feelings. And tells the buddies exactly how useful trees are (providing shade, fruit, stop soil erosion etc) She tells Duma off for throwing his sweet wrapper on the ground – littering is NOT cool! She especially discourages it around their special tree! Sandile agrees with Nomsa, he lives in a squatter camp, and he can't stand it when people throw their garbage all over the place!! After a small argument, Duma concedes and apologises for littering, he promises to help Nomsa later in removing weeds from her spinach patch at home, just to show how sorry he is. Mpho is very quiet. When the buddies ask her if something is wrong, she says "no everything's fine".

SCENE 4

Nomsa's place. After school. - Nomsa and Duma are working in Nomsa's small spinach garden. Nomsa's mother arrives and begins to shout at them. It's established that Nomsa's mother is an alcoholic. We hear her shouting at Nomsa and Duma. It is in her abusive speech that we are reminded that Duma is a different child. Her insults must indicate that Duma is born of a white man and a black woman (soft hair, green eyes).

She is very drunk, can hardly stand. She makes racist remarks to Duma. She also insults Nomsa about being a "stupid girl" who has befriended this "mixed up" child. Nomsa is mortified, she tries to make her mother stop the insults, but her mother is too drunk to care.

EPISODE 2

(This episode deals with the focus areas of racist and xenophobic discrimination)

In this episode we have to establish Amani's character as an African child who is not South African by birth. The episode has to highlight the discrimination he experiences from his peers as a result of him being different from them. The discrimination must be from a child's perspective and must highlight stereotypes against African people who are not of South African origin.

CHARCTERS: Amani, Phumlani, Bullies 1 and 2, Nomsa, Sandile, Duma, Mpho, Mpho's mother, social worker

SCENE 1

The story opens in a bus. Morning - We hear sounds of swearing. There's pushing and shoving. Child's 1 and 2 voices can be heard passing xenophobic remarks to Amani. Amani tries to stand up to the bullies, but he is outnumbered/over powered. School bell rings [Cliffhanger]

SCENE 2

Township Street. Morning. – Nomsa and Duma walk to school. Nomsa apologises for her mother's behaviour. She hates it that her mother drinks and is abusive.

Sandile joins Nomsa and Duma, and continue the walk to school- they all go to Nokeng Higher Primary. Nomsa complains about the amount of litter on the pavement. She is concerned that one day the earth will be a huge rubbish dump. Duma doesn't mind, he can use the empty cans as soccer balls (as they walk he's busy kicking a can, this annoys Nomsa). Again Duma and Nomsa argue about Duma's insensitivity to nature. Sandile mentions that he heard about a groovy recycling/re-using competition on radio: the youth group that collects the most cans (for re-cycling), and makes something interesting with some of the cans (i.e. re-use the cans) will win tickets to the BP Top8 final, the school/s to which the group that wins belong will win two computers. Another prerequisite for the competition is that there must be girls and boys in the group.

The buddyz, especially Nomsa, think this is a great idea! They want to be part of the competition! Nomsa advises Duma that instead of kicking the can, he can collect it for their re-cycling/re-using competition!!!

SCENE 3

In the bus. Morning. - Phumlani comes to Amani's defense (Against the bullies). This establishes the beginning of a friendship between Amani and Phumlani. Phumlani suggests they should hang together (Phumlani is also an outsider because he has only been at the school for 6 months), so that they can stand up to bullies. Amani says so many students are anti foreigner they'll spend all their time trying to "sort out" bullies, maybe they should just tell a teacher? Phumlani is against this, he says they must find a way to deal with the bullies without involving "the establishment". They must try to avoid the bullies.

SCENE 4

Nokeng Primary. Lunch time. – the buddyz chill under their tree. They discuss the re-cycling/re-using competition. They argue about what they should make.

SCENE 5

Pinetown Primary. Lunchtime. - Amani and Phumlani are hanging out together. Phumlani is curious about where Amani comes from. Is it a lot like SA? Is soccer as popular in Kenya as in SA? (bounces soccer ball) What languages do the people speak? Amani teaches Phumlani a short Swahili rap. Phumlani says Amani's raps are very "cool"!

SCENE 6

Mpho's house. Afternoon. - A social worker comes to prepare Mpho and her mother for the court case. She re-assures them that everything will be OK. She explains that Mpho will not actually need to go into the court and face her father, her testimony will be on camera, in a separate room. Mpho is scared because she does not know a lot about court, she has never actually been to a court (she has seen it on TV). The social worker, tries to explain what a court is, and who the lawyers and judges are. She tries to give Mpho as much information as possible, so that she feels ready and able to face the ordeal. This process will take about three months, until Mpho's court case, when she is much more confident.

EPISODE 3

(This episode deals with alcohol abuse, cigarette smoking and racism/xenophobia)

CHARACTERS: Phumlani, Duma, Nomsa, Mpho, Nomsa's father, Nomsa's mother, Amani

SCENE 1

Phumlani's Place. Early morning. - Duma tells Phumlani about the incident with Nomsa's mother. Phumlani tells Duma not to worry. They chit chat about a lot of things – soccer, there will be a tournament between their schools and Phumlani is worried that Duma's school will beat his because their team is full of white people. Duma argues that their school will not lose just because their team has white members. Duma also tells Phumlani about the recycling/reusing competition. Phumlani is excited about this he suggests that he and Amani be involved! Because the prize includes two computers, one can go to Nokeng, and the other to Pinetown Primary! Duma thinks this is a great idea, he will suggest it to the rest of the buddies.

SCENE 2

Nomsa's House. Morning. - Nomsa's father tries to talk to Nomsa's mother about her drinking. She thinks he is making a mountain out of a mole hill. A little drink now and then doesn't hurt!

SCENE 3

Bus stop. After school. - Phumlani and Amani are waiting for the bus to go home. They're joking around and teasing each other. The two bullies appear again. One kicks sand on Amani's shoes. Amani threatens to report the bullies to the teachers. One of the bullies comments that teachers cannot protect him outside school gates! Phumlani tries to fight, but Amani stops him. The bullies warn that "the foreigner" has not seen the last of them!!

SCENE 4

Township Street. Afternoon. - Mpho and Nomsa walk home from

school. Mpho tells Nomsa about her nightmares, and how scared she is about the court case. Nomsa does not feel like going home just yet, she offers to walk Mpho home part of the way. Mpho complains about how long the walk to her home is. She has less time to do her homework because she leaves home early and gets back late (just before sunset). And then, to Nomsa's shock and horror, Mpho reveals that she has stolen a packet of cigarettes from her mother's spaza, she has heard from an older cousin that smoking takes away all problems. Nomsa is shocked. Mpho lights up, she's attacked by a coughing fit!

EPISODE 4

(This episode focuses on environment and alcohol abuse)

CHARACTERS: Nomsa, Duma, Mpho, Mpho's mother, Nomsa's mother, Nomsa's father

SCENE 1

Nomsa's house. Afternoon. - Nomsa and Duma are working in Nomsa spinach patch. She tells Duma about Mpho's hilarious coughing fit! Duma can't believe his ears...Nomsa says after nearly coughing her lungs out, she doesn't think Mpho will try smoking again! Duma says he will tell Mpho about his father's death from lung cancer. The two friends resolve to let Mpho know just how dangerous and UNCOOL (it smells bad!) smoking is. Nomsa's father comes back from work. He apologises on behalf of Nomsa's mother to Duma. He explains to the kids that his wife's behaviour is not excusable. He promises to continue talking to her and trying to get her help with her drinking problem.

SCENE 2

Mpho house. Evening. - Mpho tells her mother she is scared to go to sleep. She is scared she'll get nightmares. Her mother comforts her. She tells Mpho that she will always be there to love and support her.

SCENE 3

Phumlani's house. Early Evening. Phumlani tells Duma about the bullies. Duma says that's how some of the kids at school treat him sometimes, they call him all sorts of names because he is mixed race. Duma says he understands how Amani must feel.

SCENE 4

Nomsa's house. Early Evening. - Nomsa's mother is drunk and abusive. She tries to send Nomsa for more beer, Nomsa refuses saying it's late and anyway, her mother should not be sending her to buy alcohol, she is underage, and it is illegal for kids under 18 to purchase alcohol. Nomsa's mother becomes vicious and grabs Nomsa. She wrenches Nomsa's wrist watch from her and throws it against the wall.

Nomsa's stepfather arrives, he tries to protect Nomsa against her

mother's abuse. The father tries to be the voice of reason, but his intervention only makes things worse. Nomsa's mother is out of control.

Nomsa escapes to her room. Alone in her room, Nomsa wishes her mother would stop drinking. She feels pain and sadness because of her mother's behaviour.

Nomsa's father and mother continue fighting. Especially about Nomsa's broken watch.

EPISODE 5

(This episode introduces the focus area of learning difficulties, some symptoms of sexual abuse, highlights acceptance and promotes multi-lingualism)

CHARACTERS: Class teacher, Mpho, Sandile, Nomsa, Duma, Amani, Phumlani.

SCENE 1

Nokeng classroom. Mid - day. - The teacher asks about homework. Mpho and Sandile have not done homework. Establish Sandile and his problem (learning difficulty) but it does not need to be identified as such in this episode.

SCENE 2

Nokeng Schoolyard. Lunch time. – Nomsa and Mpho are chilling under their favourite tree talking. Nomsa enquires why Mpho had not done homework . Mpho talks about her problems and that she is still getting nightmares, and terrified about going to court. Nomsa comforts her friend.

SCENE 3

Pinetown Primary schoolyard. Lunchtime. – Amani and Phumlani are chatting. Amani tells Phumlani more about Kenya, that they eat something like “pap and vleis”, and the meat is called “nyama choma”. He tells Phumlani that his father is a professor, and has come to South Africa to teach African Literature at the University. Phumlani remembers the re-cycling/re-using competition and tells Amani about it. Amani thinks this is great, he thinks it's important to keep the environment clean by re-cycling. Amani teaches Phumlani a rhyme about re-cycling. Phumlani translates it to Zulu, or Sotho.

SCENE 4

Nokeng. Lunch time. - Duma and Sandile find Mpho and Nomsa chatting under tree. They discuss the re-cycling/re-using competition, Duma tells them about Phumlani's idea to form one group from Nokeng Primary and Pinetown Primary, and then splitting the prize (i.e. one computer goes to Nokeng, and the other goes to Pinetown.) Buddys think this is a great idea, the more hands the better! They start to discuss what they will make for the recycling competition. Sandile says they should make a car, Duma says no a plane, Nomsa says definitely a “can tv”! They can't agree, they argue. They decide to play soccer because they can't reach

consensus! (Duma has borrowed Phumlani's soccer ball for the day.) They tease Mpho saying she can't run because of all the cigarette smoke that pollutes her lungs. Mpho confesses that her experiment with cigarettes is over! Duma becomes serious and tells the buddies about his father's death from lung cancer. The buddies make a promise to each other never to start smoking. Mpho says from now on she will listen to music, and sing along/dance along to get rid of stress! And play soccer ofcourse!!! The buddies say this is a great idea. They each have radios at home, and the stations play nice dancing music in the afternoons.

EPISODE 6

(The episode highlights symptoms of learning difficulty and it's possible solutions. It also deals with sexual abuse)

CHARACTERS: Class teacher, Sandile, Sandile's mother, Mpho, Mpho's mother, social worker, Amani, Phumlani, Bully 1 and 2.

SCENE 1

Nokeng Primary Class. Morning. -The teacher is busy with a reading exercise. Sandile struggles to read. The kids in class laugh. The teacher immediately tells them to stop.

SCENE 2

Nokeng Primary. Morning. - The teacher talks to Sandile after class. She suspects that he has a learning difficulty and decides to go and speak to Sandile's parents. It is in the same scene that we establish that Sandile lives in an informal settlement outside the township.

SCENE 3

Pinetown Primary. After school. – Amani and Phumlani kick a soccer ball around. The bullies arrive, they insult Amani about being “foreign” and demand that Phumlani hand over his soccer ball. If he is going to hang around with foreigners, they will make school hell for him. The boys bolt into the nearest classroom. The bullies threaten to get them later.

SCENE4

Sandile's home. Afternoon - The teacher speaks to his mother about possible solutions to help Sandile – (a) The teacher is going to find ways of teaching and testing Sandile differently. (b) She is going to identify a child in class that can assist with reading. (b) Encourages his mother to help with homework .

SCENE 5

Mpho's house. Afternoon. – the social worker visits Mpho's home. She chats briefly about the tragedy of Mpho being raped by her father. Mpho's mother explains that Mpho's nightmares are continuing. The social worker vows to support and help Mpho and her mother. She asks to talk to Mpho (who is reading in the bedroom). She reassures Mpho about the coming court proceedings. She explains what a court is to Mpho, and who the lawyers and judge are. She does this to reduce Mpho's sense of panic about going through a process

she knows little about.

EPISODE 7

(The episode is about the stigma suffered by children who are affected by HIV/AIDS)

CHARACTERS: Mihloti (Mihloti appears for the first time here), Mihloti's father, Sandile, Duma, Nomsa, Phumlani, Amani

SCENE 1

Nokeng class. Morning. - Mihloti is introduced to her new class. The teacher asks her to say something to the class. Other classmates laugh at her "model C" accent (she introduces herself in English) Teacher tells them to "be quiet!"
Bell rings.

SCENE 2

Nokeng School Yard. Lunch. - Sandile introduces himself to Mihloti at playground. Duma comes to tell Sandile about Phumlani's party. Sandile invites Mihloti to come along. Mihloti realises that the Phumlani who is having a birthday party goes to her previous school and might know about her father's HIV status and her mother's death. She evades the idea of going.

SCENE 3

Nokeng school yard. Lunch. - The buddies spot Sandile talking to Mihloti. When he comes to join them, under the tree. They joke that he must have a crush on her.

SCENE 4

Mihloti's house. Afternoon. - Mihloti is at home looking after her father, he is not feeling too well. She tells him about seeing Phumlani's cousin, and about being invited to the party.

SCENE 5

Pinetown Primary. After school. - Phumlani reminds Amani about his birthday party, Amani has got his overnight bag, he is ready to party!

EPISODE 8

(The episode is on HIV/AIDS)

CHARACTERS: Duma, Phumlani, Amani, Nomsa, Mpho, Mihloti, Mihloti's father. Mandla

SCENE 1

Duma and Phumlani's place. Afternoon. - It is the day of the

birthday party. Sandile, Duma, Phumlani and Amani are talking about Mihloti not coming to the party. Phumlani realises he knows Mihloti from school but does not say anything about Mihloti's family situation.

SCENE 2

Mihloti's home. Afternoon. – Her father is particularly sick today. Mihloti is taking care of him while she silently thinks about the party that she could have gone to.

SCENE 3

Duma and Phumlani's house. Late afternoon. - The party is in full swing. The buddies have a dancing competition. Mpho wins hands down! Phumlani's mother (who has nice job in govt!) has bought him a radio/cd player, the buddies play it loud and enjoy themselves.

SCENE 4

Nokeng schoolyard. Afternoon. – The buddies are under their tree. They discuss Phumlani's great party. Nomsa encourages everyone to start taking the re-cycling/re-using project seriously. She has collected 50 cans so far. It turns out she's the only one who's collected anything! She is unimpressed! The buddies also talk about Mihloti being absent from school. Sandile and Nomsa decide to go look for her at her place.

EPISODE 9

(The episode deals with the focus areas of HIV/AIDS and sexual abuse- but mostly highlighting talking about things that are bothering you inside)

CHARACTERS: Sandile, Nomsa, Mihloti, Mihloti's father, Mandla, Duma, Mpho, Sandile's mother, Class teacher

SCENE 1

Mihloti's home. Afternoon. - Sandile and Nomsa arrive and speak to Mihloti. They ask her why she didn't come to school and the party. Mihloti, is uncomfortable, she quickly tells them that her father is not well. When they ask what is wrong with him, she tells a half truth saying, he caught the flu. Mandla asks for food while Nomsa and Sandile are still there. The Father coughs and calls for water. Mpho rushes to help and tells Mandla that he will get food later.

(This obviates Mihloti's struggle to Nomsa and Sandile)

SCENE 2

Township street. Afternoon. - Nomsa and Sandile are walking back from Mihloti's place. They are expressing worry about her.

Something doesn't seem quite right at Mhloti's house.

SCENE 3

Sandile's home. Late afternoon. – Sandile's mother is helping him to read. He is struggling, but trying hard. His mother is encouraging him, and correcting him, when needed.

SCENE 4

Nokeng class. Morning. - Mhloti is absent again. The teacher asks if anyone knows about her whereabouts.

SCENE 5

Nokeng School yard, under tree. Lunch time. - Sandile talks to Nomsa about Mhloti's situation. Duma and Mpho join them and they all talk about Mhloti.

Mpho and Nomsa decide to go somewhere together. They walk away. Mpho talks about her abuse case – the court date is drawing nearer and Mpho is scared. Nomsa asks how Mpho feels about talking to a counsellor about her situation. Mpho says it helps to talk. Bell rings.

(Nomsa wonders what it is like to talk to someone you don't know about your problems)

EPISODE 10

(Episode is on HIV/AIDS, alcohol abuse and Environmental care)

CHARACTERS: Nomsa, Nomsa's mother, Duma, Mhloti, Mhloti's father, class teacher, Sandile,

SCENE 1

Township street. Afternoon. - Duma and Nomsa are walking home. Nomsa's mother comes across drunk – starts embarrassing her. Talking and singing (racial slurs) loudly.

SCENE 2

Mhloti's home. Afternoon. - Mhloti and her father talk about the HIV/AIDS situation. Mhloti expresses her fears about how children will react when they find out. She is also worried about missing school days, she will fall behind. Her father consoles her. He decides to write a letter to her class-teacher explaining why Mhloti is sometimes absent.

SCENE 3

Sandile's home. Early Evening. – By candle light Sandile and his mother practice reading. Sandile's reading is improving, but he's still struggling.

SCENE 4

Nokeng Primary. Morning. - Next morning at school. Mihloti gives a letter to her class teacher.

SCENE 5

Nokeng Primary. Lunchtime, buddies are under their tree –

Buddyz decide that they will make tin and wire car for the re-cycling competition. Sandile will teach the buddies how to make the car. The buddies are thrilled!

EPISODE 11

(Episode highlights HIV/AIDS discrimination, with a sub-theme of environment)

CHARACTERS: Class teacher, life orientation teacher, Mihloti, child 1, Amani, Phumlani, Duma

SCENE 1

Nokeng Primary. Morning. - Mihloti's teacher approaches life-orientation teacher on how to help Mihloti – they're on the school veranda. Life-orientation teacher wishes to help Mihloti's family. They discuss suggesting that Mihloti's father apply for a child support grant. Life orientation teacher says he will write a letter to him, urging him to apply. While the teachers are talking they are overheard by some children in the same class as Mihloti.

SCENE 2

Nokeng classroom. Day. - A child has written a note about Mihloti and it is being passed around the class. All this happens while Mihloti is answering a question/reads. The teacher notices the noise and shuffling caused by the note. She asks what that is about – one child stands up and says Mihloti must not come to school because her father has AIDS.

Bell rings

SCENE 3

Pinetown Primary. Lunch. - Amani and Phumlani are talking about the recycling competition. They are excited to be part of buddies team. They count the cans they've collected so far, twenty five! They will have to hook up with Sandile who will teach them to make can-and-wire cars!

SCENE 4

Township street. Afternoon. - After school Mihloti walks home alone and crying.

EPISODE 12

(Episode is mainly on HIV/AIDS – highlighting facts and discarding misconceptions while promoting acceptance – the sub-theme is environment)

CHARACTERS: Mihloti, Nomsa, Sandile, Amani, Phumlani, Bullies, Mihloti's father

SCENE 1

Township street. Afternoon. - While walking to school, Buddyz talk about what happened to Mihloti in class. They are worried about her because, she rushed home alone. And she looked upset. The Buddyz start talking about HIV/AIDS – some of them are well informed about the facts (like how HIV gets passed on, how to stay healthy etc.). This leads to the Buddyz deciding

to get Mihloti to join them for the re-cycling/re-using competition, so they decide to go to her place.

SCENE 2

Mihloti's place. Afternoon. – Mihloti tells her father about what happened at school. Buddyz arrive at Mihloti's place and she chases them away thinking that they have come to laugh at her/taunt her.

SCENE 3

Pinetown Primary. Afternoon. - It is soccer practice. The bullies decide to tackle/kick Amani. A scuffle breaks out. The coach overhears the bullies insulting Amani about being a "foreigner".

SCENE 4

Pinetown Primary. Afternoon. The coach is furious with bullies, they could have broken Amani's leg!!! They get suspended from soccer for the term, and have to go and see the headmaster!!!!

SCENE 5

Phumlani and Duma's home. Evening – Duma tells Phumlani about what happened in class, the kids saying Mihloti must not come to school because she will bring AIDS. Phumlani says when Mihloti was at his town school, some of the kids would talk behind her back saying she should leave because she's bringing AIDS to the school. Phumlani says Mihloti seemed like a very nice person, and he was sorry that some of the kids were saying such mean things behind her back. Phumlani tells Duma about the incident with the bullies – their suspension from soccer, and getting into trouble with the headmaster.

EPISODE 13

(This episode is about experimenting with alcohol with a sub-theme abuse- encouraging family support)

CHARACTERS: Nomsa, Duma, Mpho, Amani, Phumlani, Mpho's mother, Mpho's grandmother.

SCENE 1

Township Street. Morning. - Nomsa, Duma and Mpho are walking to school. They see Mihloti approaching. They decide to talk to her and explain that they had gone to her house to ask that they be her friend and they want to offer her their support.

SCENE 2

Pinetown Primary. Morning. - Amani and Phumlani are at school. Amani expresses how glad he feels that the whole mess with the bullies has been sorted out. They won't bother him again!!! The friends start talking about an upcoming school trip. Phumlani tells Amani about the last trip when some boys brought and drank alcohol. Phumlani tries to convince Amani to bring alcohol. At first Amani is reluctant, but Phumlani finally persuades him. Amani's father keeps gin in a locked cupboard, they will drink half, and replace the other half with water. Amani's father will NEVER find out that his alcohol is missing. Amani reluctantly agrees.

SCENE 3

Mpho's mother's spaza. Day. - Mpho's mother-in-law tries to convince Mpho's mother to withdraw the charge of rape against Mpho's father. She claims that the case is disgracing the family. Mpho's mother is not convinced and maintains that she is going to carry on with the case.

SCENE 4

Nokeng Primary. Day –The class teacher talks to the class about what they said about Mhloti the day before. She is firm, saying she will not tolerate any discrimination in her class. If she hears of anyone harassing Mhloti, they will get into serious trouble.

SCENE 5

Sandile's home. Afternoon. Sandile's mother helps him to read. His reading has improved greatly. Sandile's mother is very proud of her son. She wishes she could have gone further with her education, but there was no money to continue at her home. She wants Sandile to be educated, and grow up to be a leader one day.

SCENE 6

Amani's house. Afternoon. - Amani and Phumlani stock up on liquor for the class trip, and sample some.

EPISODE 14

The theme for this episode is HIV/AIDS- encouraging helping those affected, and alcohol abuse)

CHARACTERS: Nomsa, Nomsa's mother, Sandile, Duma, Mhloti, Mhloti's father

SCENE 1

Nokeng Primary, under buddies tree. Lunch. - The Buddyz are discussing the collection of cans for the re-cycling competition. Nomsa has collected quite a few cans, but the rest of the buddies are not as committed. Nomsa gets quite upset saying the buddies are not serious about winning this competition, at this rate the buddies will definitely NOT win the competition!!!! She has heard on the radio that some teams have collected as many as 300 hundred cans, but the buddies only have about seventy! And she collected nearly ALL of them!! Sandile comes with a solution, he suggests to the buddies that they have a "clean-up Saturday" at his squatter camp. They can collect cans for the competition, plastics for his mother to make mats and hats with, and improve Sandile's area! The buddies agree that this is a GREAT idea! In no time, they will have LOTS of cans. The buddies decide to go to Mhloti's place to tell her about the great idea (she is absent from school again, taking care of her father).

SCENE 2

Township street. Afternoon. On the way Nomsa is telling Duma about her mother's drinking problem. She's afraid her stepfather might leave them if her mother carries on fighting with him.

SCENE 3

Mhloti's place. Afternoon. The Buddyz tell Mhloti about their clean up idea, to catch up with the leading team's can collection. Mhloti thinks this is a great idea. Mhloti's father overhears the buddies talking, He suggests that the buddies use his garage to store their cans, he is not using it much anymore. Amani and Phumlani arrive and join the buddies. Phumlani's brought his radio, the buddies sing along and have fun. They plan the clean up campaign.

They decide to start their clean up campaign at Mihloti's house. They agree to help their friend clean the house once a week, so that Mihloti does not have to miss school so often.

SCENE 4

Nomsa's house. Early evening. Nomsa's mother is drunk. She starts to shout at Nomsa telling her that she must help out more around the house instead of hanging around with friends all day. Nomsa tells her mother that she needs to stop drinking because she is destroying the family. They quarrel, and Nomsa's mother breaks some plates in a fit of rage.

EPISODE 15

(The focus is for this episode is on the environment- recycling and using the environment to support people)

CHARACTERS: Nomsa, Sandile, Mihloti, Duma, Amani, Phumlani, Sandile's mother.

SCENE 1

Squatter settlement. Saturday morning. – The buddies meet outside Sandile's home. Sandile's mother gives them big plastic bags to collect cans and plastics. Nomsa allocates duties to the buddies: Phumlani and Amani will collect cans, Sandile plastics, Mpho and Mihloti all other rubbish to be thrown away. She advises buddies to cover their hands in plastic, so that they're protected from broken glass and sharp opened cans. Sandile's mother tells the buddies, that she is going to encourage some of her friends to join the clean up campaign. "It is time everybody did their bit to keep the neighbourhood clean!"

SCENE 2

Squatter settlement. Saturday afternoon. – The buddies have been collecting cans plastics and rubbish all they. They are tired, but very happy with the number of cans collected - 200! Sandile's mother congratulates them, and then tells them to wash their hands so she can give them some jam sandwiches.

SCENE 3

Nokeng Primary Assembly. Morning. – The buddies congratulate themselves on a job (can collecting!) well done over the weekend. They will surely win the competition. Mihloti faints at the school and there's commotion.

SCENE 4

Nokeng Primary. Morning. Class teacher and life orientation teacher talk to Mihloti. They find out that Mihloti has not eaten in a while. Her father is not working, so there isn't enough food at home. Life orientation/guidance teacher offers to take Mihloti home.

SCENE 5

Nokeng Classroom. Day. - The teacher talks to pupils about how they can help each other. One child proposes sharing lunch. Nomsa proposes making a food garden because they have one at home and it helps with the food. The teacher promises to inform the principal and other staff about the idea.

SCENE 6

On the street. Afternoon. - Mpho and Nomsa are walking home. Mpho informs Nomsa that she asked her counsellor (*who is helping her with the rape case*) about who Nomsa can speak to

regarding her mother's drinking problem. The counsellor suggested that Nomsa talk to the Life Orientation teacher. But Nomsa says she is ashamed of her mother's drinking problem, she does not want to discuss it with the teacher.

SCENE 7

Duma and Phumlani's home – late afternoon. Duma is helping Gogo wash the dishes. He tells her about all the exciting things that the buddies have been up to – the clean up campaign, getting ready to make their wire car etc! He also tells Gogo that they have started helping Mhloti clean her house because she had been missing a lot of school because of household chores. Gogo decides to visit Mhloti's home, and offer her help. When Gogo asks about Nomsa's spinach patch, Duma confides in Gogo about the problems he's been having especially with Nomsa's mother and her racial slurs. Gogo is very concerned about this. She sits Duma down and tells him that no matter what, he will always be her "precious Duma". She explains that what Nomsa's mother is doing is wrong. She is behaving the way people were in apartheid days. She further explains that Duma's mother and father loved each other, that's why they married.

(Racism must be highlighted through Duma. His character must express how it feels to be discriminated against. It must highlight the freedoms outlined in the constitution (particularly association- on the basis that his parents liked each other even though they were from different race groups- that's how he came about- and that he has the right to choose who he wants to be friends with)

EPISODE 16

(The episode deals with the issue of grants as part of the solution to dealing with the problem of poverty that is sometimes brought along by being affected by HIV/AIDS. It also deals with the effects of alcohol overdose)

CHARACTERS: Mhloti's father, social welfare person, Mhloti, Nomsa, Mpho, Phumlani, Amani, Mandla.

SCENE 1

Mhloti's home. Late afternoon. The life orientation teacher takes Mhloti home. He explains that she fainted at school because she is not eating enough. Mhloti's father explains that the family is struggling financially, they don't have enough to eat. The teacher asks if Mhloti's father has applied for a child support grant for Mandla as he had suggested earlier in a letter (kids who are seven and under qualify. NB*** PLEASE NOTE THAT THE QUALIFYING AGE FOR THE CHILD SUPPORT GRANT MIGHT CHANGE TO INCLUDE KIDS WHO ARE 14 AND UNDER, SOULCITY WILL KEEP US POSTED ON THIS. BUT FOR NOW, WE'LL STICK WITH KIDS UNDER 7). Mhloti's father explains that he had not applied yet because his health was bad, but he will go the following day. He thanks the teacher for his care and support. The teacher also tells Mhloti's father about the brilliant buddyz idea to start a food garden at the school. Mhloti's father offers his help as he has a lot of know-how because he grew up in the rural areas. In fact he will convert part of his flower garden into a food garden!

SCENE 2

Department of Social Welfare. Morning. - Mhloti's father has come to apply for the Child Care grant. We hear him speaking to the official at the Department of Social Welfare.

(The episode must highlight the basic requirements to be fulfilled when applying for this grant. i.e. That the parent must bring his/her i.d. Or passport, and a document identifying the child, a birth certificate, clinic card or baptism card)

Mandla is 4 years of age and he qualifies for the grant. Mihloti's father has not brought the child's birth certificate with him. The official advises him of alternative ways, using the clinic and/or baptism card when the birth certificate is not available.

SCENE 3

Nokeng, under tree. Lunch time – Buddyz compare how many cans they have collected. After doing the calculations they work out that they now have close to 400 cans! (Nomsa has ofcourse collected most!and is QUITE pleased.) They are excited about starting to make their can-and-wire car that afternoon.

SCENE 4

Pinetown Primary. Lunchtime – Amani and Phumlani talk about how relieved they are that the bullies no longer bother them. Amani tells Phumlani, that he is happy in SA, but sometimes he gets homesick, and misses his friends in Nairobi. Amani teaches Phumlani a kiSwahili rap, that reminds him of home (Nairobi).

SCENE 5

Mihloti's place. Afternoon. – Sandile teaches the buddies how to make a can-and-wire car (he makes a miniature demo first, before making the bigger car for the competition.). Amani picks up the skill quickly. The others struggle. Mandla joins in playing with making the can-and-wire car. The buddies have Phumlani's radio on and sing along as they work.

EPISODE 17

(The episode highlights solutions to learning difficulties and experimenting with alcohol)

CHARACTERS: Sandile, Mihloti, Amani, Phumlani, Child 1 & 2 who encourage Phumlani to drink, Teacher

SCENE 1

Nokeng Primary classroom. Morning. - The teacher hands homework books to children. She congratulates Sandile on the improvement of his schoolwork and Mihloti on the excellent work she always does. She asks to speak to them after school. She then announces that the school has decided to go with the idea of the vegetable garden proposed by Nomsa – applause for Nomsa.

SCENE 2

Inside Bus. Morning. - There is tension among the Pinetown Primary boys as they are worried about getting caught while drinking on the bus (*with other boys*). – Phumlani offers to start drinking first because he is not "chicken".

SCENE 3

Nokeng Primary. Lunch. - It's after school as the teacher is speaking to Sandile and Mihloti about pairing them to do schoolwork together (*to help Sandile with his learning difficulty*). Sandile leaves and the teacher asks Mihloti how are things at home. Mihloti answers that it is hard to cope, food is a problem.

SCENE 4

Nokeng Primary. Lunch. - Mihloti and Sandile discuss how they are going to assist each other.

SCENE 5

Inside Bus. Afternoon. - Phumlani and Amani lead the 'show' as there is a competition about who is drinking the most. Phumlani starts to get sick.

EPISODE 18

(Episode deals with alcohol abuse and HIV/AIDS)

CHARACTERS: Amani, Phumlani, Child 1 in bus encourages Phumlani to drink, Gogo, Mihloti, Mandla, Doctor, Mpho, Mpho's mother

SCENE 1

Inside bus. Afternoon. someone is vomiting Phumlani is the one who is sick and is still vomiting . Bus stops and he's rushed to a nearby clinic. Someone comments "how uncool".

SCENE 2

Mihloti's home. Afternoon. – Mandla complains to Mihloti that he is hungry. Mihloti makes him some bread and jam, and reassures him that soon, they will get the grant and things should become easier. Duma and Phumlani's Gogo arrive to help with the cleaning and cooking. She has brought some spinach to transplant into Mihloti's father's vegetable patch. Mihloti's father is feeling a bit better, he joins the fun in transplanting Gogo's spinach. They have to convert part of the flower garden into a vegetable patch. Mihloti is not to happy about this because she loves flowers, but she sees the value of a vegetable patch. Mihloti's father advises that they must first prepare the soil, by loosening and watering it. Then they plant the spinach, and put some cut grass around its (mulching) so that the water does not escape the ground.) They have a good time working in the garden.

SCENE 3

At the clinic. Afternoon. – Phumlani has passed out and has been seen by the doctor. The doctor asks Amani about the alcohol poisoning symptoms that he has found on Phumlani. Amani admits they experimented with the alcohol. Doctor tells him about dangers of drinking. He explains that "trying" alcohol can lead to alcohol abuse in later life. The doctor also explains that alcohol abuse can lead to permanent brain damage, bad skin, throat cancer, TB, heart failure, liver and kidney failure, and ALL KINDS of other ailments.

(Scriptwriters must find the relevant facts on the dangers of alcohol and these must be clearly communicated by the doctor. Please refer to information given by SANCA)

SCENE 4

Phumlani and Duma's home. Late afternoon. – Phumlani's grandmother has heard about the drinking. She is very disappointed in her grandson. She disciplines him by making him do extra chores around the house for a week, and he can't see buddies for 2 whole weeks!!!! She reinforces doctor's message about WHY alcohol abuse is so disastrous!

SCENE 5

Mpho's home – early evening Mpho is in her bedroom listening to gospel music. Her mother arrives. She tells her mother how scared she is to be going to court soon. Her mother tries to comfort her saying everything will be OK. She will not have to face her father in court, she will testify from a different room.

EPISODE 19

(The episode deals with the sexual abuse court case.)

CHARACTERS: Mpho, Mpho's mother, Social worker, Phumlani, Duma, Phumlani and Duma's Gogo, Nomsa

SCENE 1

Court. Morning. – Mpho, her mother and councillor are talking before getting inside the court-room. Mpho is encouraged to tell the truth and she promises to. The scene must end with Mpho as she is about to tell the truth.

SCENE 2

Phumlani and Duma's place. Morning. Phumlani's sharing how embarrassing experimenting with alcohol was. Gogo has given him extra chores to discipline him. The school has given him and Amani a task to find out information about alcohol and its effect on the body. Phumlani has to write a long essay on this and present it to the school.

SCENE 3

Inside court. Mid morning. – Mpho tells the court (from a separate room, and with the help of the court appointed social worker) what happened.

SCENE 4

Phumlani and Duma's home. Afternoon. - Gogo comes to check if Phumlani has carried out his chores: taken out trash? Washed the dishes? Swept the stoep? Phumlani gets cracking with the chores.

SCENE 5

Mpho's home – late afternoon. Mpho is feeling very sad and emotional after the court appearance. Her mother comforts her, and tells her that the nightmare will soon be over. The judgement is due out in a few days, and they can put the whole matter behind them.

SCENE 6

Mpho's home. Afternoon – Nomsa, Phumlani, and Duma come to find out how Mpho is feeling. She says she is OK, but nervous about the ruling, and sentencing in a few days. The buddies reassure her saying everything will be OK, they will always love and support her, AND they will be "soulbuddyz for life!"

EPISODE 20

(Episode deals with sex abuse court case)

CHARACTERS: Mpho, Nomsa, Mhloti, Mhloti's father, Phumlani, Amani, social welfare officer

SCENE 1

Outside the court: It is the day of the abuse hearing a court ruling has been made. There are voices of singing and celebrating the court's decision – a verdict of guilty for Mpho's father. Mpho is with her mother and the person who had been counselling her throughout the case. The councillor and Mpho's mother reassure Mpho that she did the right thing by telling the truth.

(The episode must establish that the father has been found guilty, and will go to jail)

SCENE 2

Mihloti's home. Morning. Mihloti's father is feeling better (starting to do light exercise by working in the vegetable patch and eating fresh spinach has helped him), he has prepared breakfast for Mihloti and Mandla bread and tomatoes from the garden! He thanks Mihloti for looking after him and cooking for the family when he was very sick, now that he is feeling better he will cook Mihloti and Mandla gourmet meals with spinach and potatoes from their garden. He also tells Mihloti and Mandla that he is preparing to go back to the social Welfare office to arrange the child care grant. He has got Mandla's clinic card, and is hoping that the process won't be too long.

SCENE 3

Pinetown. Morning. Amani tells Phumlani that he also got disciplined at home. He is not allowed to go anywhere except school for 2 whole weeks. They complain that they can't even help the Buddyz with the can and wire car.

SCENE 4

Social Welfare office. Day. – Mihloti's father talks to the official about the grant. He fills out the necessary forms, he has got Mandla's ID (clinic card) . The official tells him that the grant should be processed in a few week's time (month end).

SCENE 5

Mpho's home – afternoon.– Nomsa visits Mpho. Nomsa asks Mpho how the case went. Mpho explains that her father will serve time in jail. She is very sad about what has happened, but she is relieved that she does not have to live in fear any more.

EPISODE 21

(The episode deals with care for the environment, the sex abuse court case, and HIV/AIDS)

CHARACTERS: Phumlani and Duma's Gogo, Nomsa, Duma, Mpho, Mpho's mother, Sandile

SCENE 1

Nokeng schoolyard. Morning. - There's a buzz as Buddyz are busy preparing to plant. Phumlani's Gogo and Mihloti's father are sharing gardening tips with them. Nomsa suggests the idea of using dirty water for watering the plants. And she shares her wealth of gardening knowledge with them as they work. (E.g. every year they must plant something different, so as to nourish the soil.) Mihloti's father thanks Gogo for the spinach she planted at his house, it is growing nicely, and he has added tomatoes, onions, AND mielies!!!

(Highlight that soapy water will not damage the plants)

There is excitement as planting takes place – singing and whistling.

SCENE 2

Nokeng Primary. Morning. - Mihloti's father has decided to go to the school to thank the life orientation teacher for the advice. He also explains the process he experienced when applying for a child's grant.

SCENE 3

Mihloti's place. Afternoon. - The Buddyz are meeting to discuss the developments of the competition. They miss Phumlani and Amani who can't be with them because they are grounded. Mihloti's father tells them about the idea to improve their can-and-wire car by adding certain features – a hooter, he donates some headlights from his workshop...

(The scriptwriters can creatively think of an idea on how the car can be improved)

SCENE 4

Mpho place. Early evening. – Mpho and her mother are talking. Mpho no longer experiences nightmares. She will continue with counselling, but she feels much better. Her mother reassures her that she loves her and will support her through anything.

EPISODE 22

(The episode deals with alcohol abuse and the sex abuse court case)

CHARACTER: Mpho, Nomsa, Nomsa's mother, Phumlani, Duma, Mihloti, Sandile, Mihloti's father

SCENE 1

Mpho's place. Day. - Mpho's granny comes to commend her daughter in law and grandchild for the courage to continue with the charges. She expresses that she is sorry that she did not believe Mpho and her mother when she heard about the abuse – she could not believe that her son, who was brought up in a proper way, did such a despicable thing, She also expresses admiration for her daughter in law who has managed to survive without the man.

Mpho comes in while her granny and her mother are talking and announces that she is leaving to join the buddyz finish up their competition car.

SCENE 2

Phumlani and Duma's place. Day. – Phumlani and Duma are talking about experimenting with alcohol. Phumlani tells Duma that he still has to go to the library to find out the information as per the school's punishment (the effects of alcohol abuse on the body). He already has some information (pamphlets) from SANCA. Phumlani explains that he will join the Buddyz later for the car-making.

SCENE 3

Mihloti's home – interior afternoon. Mihloti and Sandile practice reading as they wait for Nomsa, and Mpho to join them in the car making.

SCENE 4

Nomsa's home. Afternoon. – Nomsa and Mpho arrive at Nomsa's home. Nomsa tries to make some tea and an afternoon sandwich, but realises there is no electricity. She calls out to her mother. She eventually finds her passed out in her vegetable patch. When she wakes up, Nomsa's mother is confused and disoriented. When Nomsa asks about the electricity, her mother drunkenly answers that the buggers switched the electricity off, because she was late in paying. Nomsa is surprised because she was there when her father gave her mother money to go and pay the electricity bill. Nomsa's mother confesses that she bought some "drinks" with the money

because Nomsa's father won't give her money to "quench her thirst". Nomsa and Mpho leave and go to Mhloti's house for car-making.

SCENE 5

Nomsa's place – late afternoon. Nomsa's mother wakes up. She's in a grumpy mood wondering where "that good-for-nothing child" Nomsa is. She complains that she has to do everything around the house. She decides to put the primus stove on to cook the evening meal. She drinks as she does this. When the primus stove fire is on, she decides to take another "little nap" she is extremely drunk.

SCENE 6

Nomsa's place – late afternoon. Nomsa's father arrives home and finds the kitchen curtains on fire. Nomsa's mother dosed off, knocking the primus stove over, causing the fire. There is panic as he tries to call the fire brigade. Nomsa arrives. She goes to collect sand to put on the fire.

EPISODE 23

(The episode deals with alcohol abuse and taking care of the environment)

CHARACTERS: Nomsa, Duma, Mhloti, Mpho, Phumlani, Amani, Sandile, Phumlani and Duma's Gogo, Nomsa's father

SCENE 1

Nomsa's place. Morning. – Nomsa and her stepfather express relief that the fire was not serious. They arrived just in time and the fire brigade came quickly, so it's only the curtain that is burnt, and the walls that are blackened. Nomsa expresses her appreciation for her step father sticking with the family even though her mother is an alcoholic. Her father stresses that he regards Nomsa as his daughter and will never leave her on account of her mother's drinking problem. He promises to try to convince her mother to do something about alcoholism – to seek help.

SCENE 2

Nokeng, Day – The class had to prepare an essay on any topic, and read it to the class. Sandile has prepared his essay on "My good friend Mhloti". Sandile has prepared his essay on how Mhloti has helped him improve his reading, as well as helped him understand the importance of caring for people who are ill with AIDS. Sandile reads his essay VERY WELL. The class applauds.

SCENE 3

Nokeng. Lunchtime – the buddies and a few other students are tending to the school's food garden. They are singing and having fun. However Nomsa is uncharacteristically quiet. The Life Orientation teacher notices that she looks down, he calls her aside. Nomsa explains about her mother's drinking problem. The teacher explains to Nomsa that her mother's drinking is not her fault or her problem. Only her mother can help herself. Nomsa cries, and thanks the teacher for his advice. The teacher says Nomsa can come and talk to him about any problems she's having, he also suggests that she call ALTEEN, an NGO that helps children whose parents abuse alcohol. Nomsa thanks him saying she will talk to him if she feels down.

SCENE 4

Mihloti's place. Afternoon. - The Buddyz, except for Nomsa, are meeting – Phumlani and Amani are also there, they have served their punishment and are allowed to see buddyz after school again. Excitement as their car takes shape!! It's starting to look REALLY nice. The buddyz regret that Nomsa is not with them, they express how sorry they are that Nomsa's mother has a drinking problem, she could have burnt the house down when she blacked out with the primus stove on! The buddyz hear an announcement on the radio, reminding them that the closing date is nearing!

Phumlani and Duma's Gogo arrives to help the family with cleaning up.

EPISODE 24

(The episode deals with racism/xenophobia)

CHARACTERS: Duma, Phumlani, Amani, Mpho, Nomsa, Nomsa's mother, Nomsa's father, extra child 1 and 2 voices for the soccer pitch.

SCENE 1

Sports ground. Afternoon. - Phumlani's town school vs. Township school in a soccer game. Crowd goes wild. One of the spectators from Nokeng Primary makes a comments like: "White people can't play soccer, they can only play rugby. Soccer is a township culture, we are going to beat them!".

SCENE 2

Sports ground. Afternoon, Half time. – Racist comments continue as the teams walk to the dressing room. Phumlani gets angry and comes to his team's defence.

SCENE 3

Nomsa's home. Afternoon. Nomsa's father is talking to Nomsa's mother about how her drinking affects Nomsa.

SCENE 4

Back to the soccer field. Afternoon. – A goal has been scored!! Mpho makes a racist comment and Duma responds aggressively (calling her to order). Argument ensues - that Duma is standing up for whites because he thinks he's one of them. (This must be specifically making reference to Duma's appearance. Sandile intervenes and tries to neutralise the situation...

Another goal is scored!!!

EPISODE 25

(The episode deals with environmental care, alcohol abuse and the sex abuse court case)

CHARACTERS: Nomsa, Mpho, Class teacher, Phumlani and Duma's Gogo, Mihloti, Mihloti's father

SCENE 1

Nokeng. Morning Assembly. – A teacher congratulates students on their successful food garden. The school will enjoy a special lunch of potatoes, spinach and carrots, all from the

school's very own food garden! The teacher thanks local shop-owners for donating bread and parents for their volunteer services to cook, Duma's Gogo and Mihloti's father for their special dedication. The Buddyz are thanked for the initiative of vegetable garden project!

SCENE 2

Nokeng. Morning, just after assembly. – Buddyz are excited about eating food that they have helped to plant!!

SCENE 3

Nokeng Primary. Afternoon. - Excitement as children get their first meal.

SCENE 4

Street. Afternoon. Nomsa and Mpho are walking to Mihloti's house. Nomsa tells Mpho that her mother has promised to seek help for her drinking. She talks about how the life orientation teacher helped her know that she must not blame herself or feel shame because of her mother's drinking. She has her own life to live, and she plans to live it happily!!! Mpho also shares with Nomsa that she is so relieved that the whole court nightmare is over. She sleeps well and her mother is being very supportive.

SCENE 5

Mihloti's house – exterior afternoon. The buddyz are outside putting the finishing touches on their car. Mihloti's father donates some paint from his workshop. They paint the car and admire how beautiful it looks. They also comment that the cans they have collected have almost filled up the garage!!! They will surely win the re-cycling/re-using competition!!!! Phumlani and Duma's Gogo arrives to do the cleaning.

Mihloti's father arrives he has been to fetch the grant for Mandla, things are looking up. He promises to cook a nice spinach, tomatoes and potatoes lunch for the hard working buddies, with the veggies from the garden!!!

STING

SCENE 6

Mihloti's house – morning. It is the due date for the buddies to take their cans, and their car to the BP TOP 8 competition!! But there's a problem, the car which they had wrapped up nicely in plastic is missing! Where could it be?! Has someone stolen their precious car?! The buddies are frantic trying to think of all the places the car could be. They decide to split up and search for the car. Duma and Phumlani will go and ask Gogo if she has no idea what could have happened to the car.

SCENE 7

Street – Day. Nomsa, Mpho and Amani walk the street looking for their precious car.

EPISODE 26

(The episode deals with environmental care)

CHARACTERS: Nomsa, Sandile, Duma, Amani, Mihloti, Mihloti's father, Phumlani and Duma's Gogo, Mpho

SCENE 1

Duma and Phumlani's home – Day. Phumlani and Duma look everywhere for the car. They ask Gogo if she hasn't come across it during her cleaning at Mihloti's house? Gogo can't remember seeing any car. The only thing she threw out is a big plastic bag, with some funny looking cans inside. Phumlani and Duma realise that she's referring to their precious car!! They rush to save it before the garbage people take it away with the trash!

SCENE 2

Mihloti's garage – Day. Mihloti, Nomsa, Amani and Sandile are looking all over the garage for the car, opening boxes, checking in plastic bags etc. There is an announcement on the radio reminding contestants that it is the last day to submit can collections, and artistic creations for the re-cycling/re-using competition.

Phumlani and Duma arrive just as the garbage truck is pulling up outside Mihloti's place. They run to the bin and rescue the car before the garbage people take it! They rejoice!

STING

SCENE 3

Mihloti's house. Afternoon. The buddies rush to submit their entry. Mihloti's father drives them to the garage.

A DAY PASSES

SCENE 4

Mihloti's house. Day. The buddies anxiously await the competition results.

SCENE 5

Mihloti's home. Late afternoon. The episode ends with an announcement of the winners of the competition – Buddyz have won and are going to the BP Top 8!!!!