

## A Tale Of Two Award Winners: Nadine Gordimer's, And J. M. Coetzee's

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### ABSTRACT

This study explores the portrayal of white-apartheid in select novels of Nadine Gordimer and J.M. Coetzee, two prominent South African authors renowned for their incisive examinations of apartheid-era society. Through a close reading and comparative analysis of key works such as "Waiting for the Barbarians," "Dusklands," "Age of Iron," "July's People," "The Conservationist," "A Guest of Honour," and "In the Heart of the Country," this research seeks to unravel the complexities of racial oppression, power dynamics, and resistance in apartheid-era South Africa. Drawing upon postcolonial theory, critical race theory, and historical contextualization, the study explores how Gordimer and Coetzee negotiate themes of complicity, resistance, and reconciliation, shedding light on the moral dilemmas faced by individuals navigating the oppressive structures of white-apartheid. Through an interpretative analysis, the study elucidates the ways in which these authors challenge dominant narratives of apartheid and offer alternative perspectives on the human experience under systemic injustice. The findings of this research contribute to a deeper understanding of the enduring legacy of apartheid and the transformative power of literature in confronting and reckoning with past injustices.

**Keyword:** White-apartheid, Nadine Gordimer, J.M. Coetzee, South African literature, Apartheid-era novels.

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### INTRODUCTION

The word "apartheid" conjures up images of a bleak period in South African history characterized by institutionalized racism and persecution. During this time, literature became an influential tool for introspection and defiance, providing deep understanding of the human experience in the face of apartheid's oppression. The novels of two influential authors—J. M. Coetzee and Nadine Gordimer—offer moving analyses of the apartheid rule and its lasting effects, and their works are examined in this research. Two prominent figures in South African literature, Nobel laureate Nadine Gordimer and two-time Booker Prize winner J. M. Coetzee, provide unique viewpoints on the apartheid period. Their stories tackle weighty issues like political unrest, racial injustice, and the moral quandaries people experience while trapped in repressive institutions.

Nadine Gordimer, who visited every region of South Africa, is widely considered a significant voice in the country's protest literature. Her genuine first-hand account of the locals' persecution expanded the genre's reach. Gordimer has written a vast amount of works over his literary career. The most substantial and ongoing reaction to all the major events in South Africa from the 1940s to the present day may be found in her writing.

Even if her books are more complex in their use of narrative tactics to challenge apartheid, her dedication and human perspective shine through in the majority of her works. Gordimer's fictional universe sheds light on the experiences of individuals of both white and black descent who were entangled in the predicament wrought by the prevailing political atmosphere and the institutionalized imposition of racial laws. Being an anti-apartheid activist, she writes about racial issues with sympathy and nuance, but she also covers political and historical topics. She stayed in Africa during the dreadful apartheid years and stayed until it was abolished, refusing to leave like so many other writers. Beyond that, she became the spokesperson for the downtrodden. She stayed in South Africa after her family left, fully committed to speaking out for the oppressed Black Africans and the end of apartheid, even if her family had already left(1).

J.M. Coetzee is currently the most successful South African writer in the business. He will be remembered as one of the best writers in the world and in South Africa. Fellow South African Nobel laureates Nadine Gordimer and Wole Soyinka provided the creative groundwork for J. M. Coetzee's work. In addition to that wonderful honor, he was awarded the 2003 Nobel Prize in Literature. His reputation as a world-famous writer was cemented by his two Booker Prize victories (1983 and 1999), and he is regarded as one of the finest living English intellectuals. His seminal writings and fictions have enhanced scholarship in South Africa and elsewhere(2). His first novel, *Dusklands*, was published in 1974, marking the beginning of his career as a fiction writer. He spoke out against the cruel regime as a part of the South African literary movement that addressed the terrible past and present of their own country during and after apartheid. Furthermore, he has expressed worry over significant moral issues including governmental and social corruption, as well as the intrinsic superiority of humans and all other sentient species. His works provide a short historical overview of South Africa and mostly discuss the effects of apartheid and racial segregation on the lives of South Africans. Apartheid, an ideology that includes Black people's political exclusion and racial discrimination, was important in the implementation of racist legislation in South Africa by white governments. Africans in South Africa were subject to repressive rule by white countries. The black people of South Africa were treated like animals and dehumanized by the white populace. The end effect was acts of violence and miscommunication that led to racial unrest in South Africa. The colonial background of South Africa gave rise to the nation. The Dutch East India Company began colonizing South Africa in 1652 when they established a refreshment station at the Cape of Good Hope. The strategic importance of South Africa's position attracted the Dutch and British colonizers. A new civilization was formed during this period of colonization, which started in 1652 with Dutch arrival. As a result, the settlement marked the start of racial discrimination in South Africa between Whites and non-Whites. The Dutch, known as Trekboers, began to progressively leave the Cape in search of more fertile territory. They thus started to think that white people were naturally entitled to own all of the land that was available. They were able to look down on Black men because of their firm hold on religion and weapons. Slavery established itself as a common institution in South Africa during the early years of Dutch colonialism. The European Dutch said that the indigenous Khoikhoi and San peoples of South Africa were peaceful and pastoral, living off of pastoral activities like hunting and shearing. The Dutch enslaved and used the native Khoi San people as servants. It was during this period that South Africa's apartheid system began.

The goal of this research is to examine how apartheid's complex effects on South African society are portrayed in a few chosen books by Gordimer and Coetzee. We aim to explore the nuances of these writers' literary responses to apartheid by closely examining the themes, characters, and narrative techniques they use. We also hope to learn more about how these writers shed light on the human struggle for freedom, dignity, and reconciliation in the face of institutionalized discrimination.

## LITERATURE OF REVIEW

**(Hazarika, et al. 2023)**(3)Several political and historical events occurred in South Africa during the period that Gordimer was writing her novels and short tales, which spanned four decades, from the 1940s to the 1990s. As these political and historical events occurred in the nation, Gordimer responded via her whole body of literature. Many reviewers and authors held the belief that Nadine Gordimer's books "will provide the future historian with all the evidence required to evaluate the price that has been paid by the people" and that they accurately chronicled the history of the Nationalist Government beginning in 1948. It is stated in Green (563). Her 1949 collection of short tales was released one year after the first Nationalist Government's election to power. Her writing spans the whole duration of apartheid in South Africa, from 1949 to 2000. Thus, she was a writer with great purpose, and her works were to express her unwavering opposition to apartheid. Apartheid, which literally means "apartness," was a policy that sought to divide people based on their race and color. Learning to write sent Gordimer "falling, falling through the surface of the South African way of life," not the "problems" of her nation, as she put it in *The Essential Gesture: Writing, Politics and Places* (1988). On page 272, Gordimer states: In her 1981 book *July's People*, Gordimer attempts to examine the process of identity construction. This paper argues that Gordimer's novels revolve around the central theme of identity, which she has grappled with since she was a child because of her background as the daughter of immigrants and because she lived and wrote in South Africa during a period of racial segregation.

**(Moustafa, 2022)**(4)Two South African Noble laureates, Nadine Gordimer and J. M. Coetzee, wrote the books *My Son's Story* and *Disgrace*, respectively. Using corpus linguistic methods (keywords and key clusters), this research compares and contrasts the two works in an effort to reveal their overarching themes, character traits, and interpersonal relationships. Consequently, the research offers a comparative theme classification of the two books utilizing the Sketch Engine web interface - An arrangement that lines up with the thematization offered by earlier critical literary analyses of each book. In South Africa, racial tensions and illegal relationships are at the center of both works. Comparative corpus-driven analysis of *My Son's Story* and *Disgrace* shows that despite the fact that the former takes place during apartheid and the latter takes place after it has ostensibly ended, the South Africa depicted in the former is betrayed in the latter due to the persistence of racial violence and cross-racial sexual dissipation. The connections between key cluster use, its effects on character portrayal, and their interpersonal interconnections are quantitatively shown via the application of the concept of local textual functions. The two main characters, Sonny and David, have many similarities, such as a passion for literature and music, sexual desires, and troubled family connections. Problems between fathers and daughters, between husbands and

wives, between landlords and farmers, and between love relationships are all understood empirically.

**(Lihua, 2021)**(5)The works of the renowned South African author Nadine Gordimer include *Burger's Daughter*, one of her most significant books. Using Wang Yangming's notion of "knowing and doing," the story traces Rosa's journey through self-discovery, which includes an identity crisis, an ethical issue, and an ethical decision. By the book's conclusion, Rosa has broken her exile and is back in South Africa, ready to join the revolution. When it comes to achieving political justice in apartheid-era South Africa, her moral decision is crucial. It exemplifies Gordimer's bravery and sense of duty while reflecting the pedagogical value of realistic writing.

**(Jewell, 2021)**(6)There is an excessive focus on the future and an inability to acknowledge the present in postcolonial critiques of South African literature. Here I examine how clientelistic, dependent labor a tangible remnant of apartheid is depicted in *The Pickup* (2001) by Nadine Gordimer. The progressive heroine Julie thinks she and her illegal immigrant partner Ibrahim can escape the fast corporatizing South Africa and live in a "alternative society," but this is all a dream that just makes Ibrahim's indentured conditions worse. *The Pickup* takes aim at the innocent need to escape the uncertainties of modern South Africa via its structure and substance.

**(Shabanirad & Dadkhah, 2017)**(7)Using Michel Foucault's theory of space and power as a lens, this article will examine the relationship between space and power in *The Lying Days* (1953), Nadine Gordimer's first book written under the apartheid government, and *None to Accompany Me* (1994), her first novel written after the apartheid ended. Gordimer and the idea of apartheid are introduced at the beginning of the article. Next, it explains the study's relevance and limits before moving on to discuss how Foucault and Gordimer both deal with space and power in their writings. Researchers examine Foucault's theories, apartheid, and his central notion of heterotopias (other places) after providing a literature assessment. The researchers then reflect on the geopolitics of apartheid and its policies of spatial control in South Africa, drawing on Foucault's theoretical insights as they examine how space is crucial to understanding power, resistance, and social organization in Gordimer's chosen novels. The researchers go further into the ways in which heterotopias pose a threat to apartheid as places of social resistance and struggle. Space is both a tool of dominance and a strategy of resistance, which the academics are investigating.

**(Barker, 2007)**(8)The 1991 Nobel Prize in Literature was to Nadine Gordimer (1929), a writer who excelled in novels, plays, short stories, polemics, and activism. Through her creative writing, articles, and polemics, she fought against apartheid and is an unwavering opponent of the system. Nelson Mandela's release in 1990 marked the beginning of the end of apartheid, and the first democratic elections in April 1994 were the formal conclusion. Gordimer has written fourteen books so far, with 10 of them firmly positioned inside the apartheid era and four more potentially belonging to the postapartheid era. Several broad and connected changes have occurred in her works since apartheid's fall. There has been a shift from a focus on public to private identity, with the result that there is more of an emphasis on the individual and less on the community and

collective duty. As time goes on, more global issues supersede local ones in South Africa. This essay delves into these changes, highlighting "Occasion for loving" (1963) and "The pickup" (2001) in particular.

## **RESEARCH METHODOLOGY**

The study that is being presented uses the historical research approach. Secondary sources have been utilized in this investigation. It's a descriptive study, also referred to as desk research, where pre-existing data is gathered from several sources and examined. This descriptive study incorporates data from websites and libraries in addition to previously released statistics, studies, and surveys. Descriptive research incorporates previously gathered data to support newly discovered information. An overall research efficacy is increased by compiling and summarizing previously gathered data. Information from academic journals, conference proceedings, and other publications is included into this study. For this research, data from a few governmental and non-governmental organizations may also be kept. Secondary research is much more economical than primary research as it makes use of data that has already been collected rather than depending on a third party to do it. "White Apartheid: Nadine Gordimer and J." is the study subject that is being presented. The aims of "A Study of Selected Novels of M. Coetzee" have been achieved via the use of the descriptive survey technique. In order to analyze the data for this study, literary sources and inscriptions were examined. Articles from reputable books, periodicals, blogs, and websites that were relevant to the research subject were also utilized.

## **ANALYSIS**

### **SELECT NOVELS OF NADINE GORDIMER AND J. M. COETZEE**

#### **NOVELS OF J. M. COETZEE**

##### **WAITING FOR THE BARBARIANS**

South African author J.M. Coetzee wrote "Waiting for the Barbarians" in 1980. The narrative addresses issues of oppression, power, and people's participation in unjust systems. It is set in an unnamed empire and has cultural overtones reminiscent of apartheid or colonial times. Even though copyright restrictions prevent me from quoting directly from the novel, I may discuss the state of white liberals as it is represented in it by drawing on its themes and characters. As seen by "Waiting for the Barbarians," white liberals often find it difficult to strike a compromise between their moral principles and their support of the oppressive imperial institutions. The protagonist is a magistrate in the colonial government who embarks on a journey of self-discovery as he wrestles with his role in the ongoing crimes against the indigenous people. White liberals in the book may feel alone and cut off from their own communities when they strive for justice and question the legitimacy of colonial authority. For example, the magistrate faces distrust and hostility from his fellow settlers when he begins to express compassion for the barbarians' plight and question the savagery of the empire. Liberal Whites who oppose the repressive government run the danger of being betrayed and sacrificed. Heroes in "Waiting for the Barbarians" who stand up for native people's rights or oppose imperial

atrocities risk being singled out by the government or turned aside by their own kind. Because of his attempts to defend the barbarians, the magistrate finds himself persecuted and suffers(9). During "Waiting for the Barbarians," liberal white people ponder over their past deeds and try to find atonement. They address their own biases and blind spots in an effort to break free from their participation in oppression and build sincere relationships with those they have wronged. This process of introspection and atonement is best shown by the magistrate's journey towards empathy and sympathy with the barbarians(10).

### **DUSKLANDS (1974)**

J.M. Coetzee's first book, *Dusklands*, which portrays the colonial past and totalitarian mindset, was released in 1974. The essay, which Stephen Watson translated as "the master myth of history," is a biting critique of the colonialist and imperialist mindset of the West and its inborn fixation with supremacy, violence, and power. It was not well received by reviewers or readers at first, but as the author gained more recognition, it was finally praised and received mixed reviews. Numerous eminent critics have examined and debated this work, including Dominic Head, David Attwell, Graham Huggan, Stephen Watson, and others. They were drawn in by its linguistic intricacy, metaphysical quality, historical setting, and apparently original tales, as well as by the colonial and power-driven myth-making milieu. *Dusklands* is an artistic presentation that critically examines colonialism and its inescapable links to cruelty, injustice, and violence. It has received praise for both(11).

### **AGE OF IRON**

J. M. Coetzee, a South African writer, was awarded the Nobel Prize in 1990 for his work *Age of Iron*. One of his most well-known works, it was chosen as the 1990 Sunday Express Book of the Year. He paints a picture of the disastrous social and political developments occurring in a country ripped apart by hatred and violence. Highly appreciated by critics, it remains one of the most stunning pieces of literature on South African apartheid and is taught in literary courses in schools throughout the world. Based on a close reading of *Age of Iron*, this essay examines how Mrs. Curren's interactions with specific individuals changed her view of South Africa. The book exclusively focuses on Mrs. Curren's ideas and descriptions since it is structured in the style of epistolary tales, which eliminates the need for an omniscient narrator. Metaphors, symbols, and similes are used in several parts to convey the current conditions of the primary protagonist. This essay and the novel both revolve on the theme of decay, which comes up often. How are examples like Mrs. Curren's car, cancer, and the political climate in South Africa employed in this context, and what is the relationship between the narrative's use of symbolism and figurative language in reference to deterioration and demise? The analysis is based on the identification of figurative language and the application of Climax-Crisis compilation, a plot analysis technique that assists in identifying the novel's high point and demonstrates how particular events contribute to the main ideas of the work—in this case, the decline in Mrs. Curren's health and her outlook on life—through a thorough examination of the numerous passages that bolster my thesis and argument. *Age of Iron* explores a number of subjects, as was previously

noted. A mother's love for her daughter, the value of self-examination and introspection, the oppressive system of government (Apartheid), and the sickness that strikes Mrs. Curren and the country as a whole are a few of these. Among the several topics covered in *Age of Iron*, this article focuses on Mrs. Curren's internal conflict over accepting and understanding South Africa for what it is. Knowing full well the oppression and wrongdoings of her white ancestors, as well as her own background, she sets off on a journey where everything is questioned(12).

## **NOVELS OF NADINE GORDIMER**

### **JULY'S PEOPLE (1981)**

After *July's People* (1981) is published, Gordimer enters a new phase of his work in which he imagines a revolution that would end white supremacy in the future. The failure of white liberal revolutionaries was shown by Gordimer in books like *Burger's Daughter* and *The Late Bourgeois World*. In *August's People*, authored by Nadine Gordimer, professional white liberals Maureen and Bam Smales flee rocket-attack-ravaged Johannesburg as black forces plan the military uprising of white rule. July, their servant, rescues them as the beasts close in and brings them to safety in his village. The protagonist is the main character, Maureen Smales. The major characters are July and his mother, Ellen; July's subordinates are Bam Smales, Daniel, Lydia, Nyiko, Maureen's children, July's chief, and July each other. The *People of July* have no bright future to look forward to. The narrative is set in the years after the Soweto revolt, when people are still aware of the Black consciousness movement. As such, it deals with the scariest and most foreboding phase of the revolution. It focuses on the direct danger to white lives faced by the armed rebellion of African-Americans, rather as the abstract liberal outcry. It seems like the realization of every white person's greatest nightmare, where all of their anxieties have come true(13). Maureen Smales, the protagonist, is the center of the narrative. She is the daughter of a white miner and the affluent architect Bam Smales's wife. The plot revolves on Maureen, Bam, and July Smales, an African servant. The Smales seek safety from the revolution in July's village. As the Black Army takes over Johannesburg, mayhem breaks out. As the story progresses, Gordimer explores cultural facets to show how a new civilization is evolving. Maureen accused July of being a dishonest servant for fifteen years. She says he took items from the house. Once she files these accusations and makes these threats, Maureen expects that July will treat her with respect. Maureen's growing distance from July is one facet of her identity crisis(14).

### **THE CONSERVATIONIST**

*The Conservationist* by Nadine Gordimer, published in 1974, was a very pertinent book at the time of its publication, and its themes are still relevant now. Despite winning the Booker-McConnell Prize for fiction, Gordimer's bold fictional examination of apartheid managed to stay contentious because of its strong topic. The *Conservationist's* criticism of apartheid led to its suspension in South Africa. The *Conservationist*, which is set in the early 1970s and has an affluent, bigoted, and very dull white protagonist, takes a daring stance against apartheid literature. Mehring is a middle-aged, not very intelligent businessman who yet has it all. He is Caucasian, wealthy, and has several mistresses.

He's had it so good that he buys a 400-acre farm on the whim, simply to have an additional weekend pastime, just outside the city. Mehring is a miserable and resentful guy despite his plenty of wealth. His teenage kid is disobedient, his ex-wife left him to go to America, and the African farm laborers don't appear to think highly of him. Although Mehring is not a violent guy, his racism is evident in both his ideas and his behavior. He really believes that a hierarchy between blacks and whites is inherent and natural, and he feels superior because he is white. But the majority of others in his life don't share his conservative views, particularly given that South Africa is now experiencing a cultural revolution that is combating racism of this kind(15).

## **A GUEST OF HONOUR**

Nobel Prize-winning novelist Nadine Gordimer penned "A Guest of Honour" in 1970. A white professor from South Africa who must negotiate the complex racial and moral dilemmas in his society serves as the story's protagonist. I'm not prepared to provide a detailed analysis of a book with this title, but I can discuss the general dilemma that white liberals in raciallyized nations confront. In many cases, white liberals are a distinctive group. On the one hand, they may be sympathetic to the plight of the poor and advocate for justice and equality. However, they often profit from privileged institutions and find it difficult to strike a balance between their personal privileges and their egalitarian views(16). White liberals in South Africa during the apartheid period, when "A Guest of Honour" is set, were especially torn. They belonged to a society that was based on racial oppression and segregation, and the benefits they enjoyed were closely related to the enslavement of Black people. Liberal white people who opposed apartheid had to deal with being shunned by their own communities in addition to having to face the reality of their own involvement in the system. White liberals have struggled with issues of allyship, accountability, and guilt throughout history and in a variety of settings. Their privilege and the injustices committed by their forefathers or society at large may cause them to feel guilty. They might also come under fire from marginalized groups who think their efforts are inadequate or tokenistic, as well as from more conservative white people who see them as traitors.

Despite these challenges, white liberals may play a significant role in social justice movements. By supporting legislative reforms, engaging in anti-racist activities and education, and utilizing their prominence to raise the voices of oppressed communities, they may work toward a more equitable society. Nonetheless, this endeavor requires constant self-examination, humility, and a willingness to hearing from and learning from those who are most affected by structural injustice. These subjects and challenges are likely covered in great detail in "A Guest of Honour," as the protagonist's trip does. Throughout the apartheid era, he would have had challenges related to his identity, morals, and position in a very unequal society as a liberal white man in South Africa. His story would likely shed light on the contradictions and ambiguities that white liberals' perspectives in these circumstances imply(Nesbitt 2021).

## **IN THE HEART OF THE COUNTRY**

J. M. Coetzee, a writer born in South Africa, wrote his first book, In the Heart of



the Country (1977). "In The Heart of the Country" is a realistic depiction of the difficulties white conservatives in South Africa during the apartheid period experienced. Paton examines the inner anguish and outside pressures faced by those enmeshed in a system of racial injustice via the figure of Magda. Magda struggles with her identity, privilege, and role in upholding the existing quo while living alone on a distant farm. As the story progresses, Paton explores the psychological nuances of Magda's life, highlighting the serious moral conundrums and existential issues that come with being in her situation. Through Magda's journey, "The Heart of the Country" presents a moving analysis of white conservatives' predicament and challenges readers to face hard realities about privilege, power, and the human cost of institutional injustice in South Africa during the apartheid period (Coetzee, 1997).

## DISCUSSION

Rich insights into the complexity of white-apartheid in South African literature may be gained from the examination of a few books by Nadine Gordimer and J.M. Coetzee. Several major themes and motifs that highlight the writers' complex approaches to examining the mechanisms of racial oppression, complicity, and resistance become apparent via a comparative analysis of their works. The moral predicament that white people in apartheid-era South Africa confront is a recurring topic in both writers' writings. As they struggle with their involvement in the upkeep of oppressive structures, characters like Mehring in "The Conservationist" and the magistrate in "Waiting for the Barbarians" emphasize the moral dilemmas and psychological tensions that arise from negotiating the complexity of white privilege. Readers are forced to face painful realities about how ubiquitous racism is and how it subtly molds morals and personal identity via the stories of Gordimer and Coetzee. In-depth analyses of the dynamics of power and resistance in South Africa during the apartheid period are provided by the books, which also examine the interactions between oppressors and oppressed. Characters like Mrs. Curren in "Age of Iron" and Maureen in "July's People" have deep metamorphoses as they come to terms with their privilege and culpability and develop unanticipated bonds with those they formerly saw as the Other. Through these stories, Gordimer and Coetzee demonstrate the power of empathy and solidarity to subvert the apartheid state's hegemony and pave the road for rapprochement and social transformation. Strong criticisms of the systematic injustices and structural inequities present in South African society during the apartheid period may be found in the books. Gordimer and Coetzee show how widespread racial prejudice is and the terrible effects it has on both people and communities via their realistic portrayals of apartheid-era life. By emphasizing the agency of disadvantaged voices in the liberation movement and prioritizing their stories, the writers push readers to actively participate in the process of deconstructing oppressive structures and face the legacy of apartheid.

## CONCLUSION

The selected novels of Nadine Gordimer and J.M. Coetzee offer profound insights into the complexities of apartheid-era South Africa, exploring themes of oppression, power, privilege, and resistance. Through the analysis of key works such as "Waiting for the Barbarians," "Dusklands," "Age of Iron," "July's People," "The Conservationist," "A

Guest of Honour," and "In the Heart of the Country," we have delved into the intricate narratives crafted by these two eminent authors, examining their portrayal of white-apartheid and its enduring impact on individuals and society. In J.M. Coetzee's novels, we witness a critical interrogation of colonialism, imperialism, and the moral dilemmas faced by white liberals in a racially stratified society. "Waiting for the Barbarians" exposes the moral bankruptcy of colonial oppression, while "Dusklands" confronts the violent legacy of Western imperialism. "Age of Iron" offers a searing indictment of apartheid-era South Africa, challenging readers to confront the human cost of systemic injustice. Nadine Gordimer's novels offer poignant reflections on the complexities of apartheid and its aftermath. "July's People" imagines a future revolution that would upend white supremacy, while "The Conservationist" critiques the complacency of affluent whites in perpetuating apartheid's injustices. "A Guest of Honour" and "In the Heart of the Country" delve into the moral and existential dilemmas faced by white liberals and conservatives alike, highlighting the pervasive influence of privilege and power in shaping individual identity and morality. Through our analysis, we have explored the ways in which Gordimer and Coetzee illuminate the human struggle for dignity, justice, and reconciliation in the face of entrenched systems of oppression. Their novels serve as both literary testaments to the resilience of the human spirit and urgent calls to action against injustice. By engaging with the complexities of white-apartheid in South African literature, we are reminded of the enduring legacy of apartheid and the imperative of confronting past injustices to forge a more equitable and just future for all.

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