

Table of Contents

INTRODUCTION:

A “Scrupulously Personal Approach”: Introducing Nadine Gordimer’s Conception of Writing

- 11 _____ Searching for Truth: “The Final Word of Words”
- 14 _____ Gordimer’s Stories: A Survey of Critical Perspectives
- 21 _____ Rereading Gordimer’s Stories: A Focus on Recurrence
- 27 _____ A Note on the Stories Discussed in This Book
- 28 _____ A “Natural Writer”: A Biographical Note about Gordimer

CHAPTER ONE

“Not just a Flash-in-the-Pan”: The Evolution of Nadine Gordimer’s Short Stories

- 35 _____ “Being Here”: Gordimer’s “Existential Position” as a Writer
- 36 _____ Gordimer’s Literary Influences
- 41 _____ The Short Story in the 1950s: Literary Realism and African Modernism
- 43 _____ The Late 1940s and the 1950s: Beginnings as a Published Writer
- 47 _____ The 1950s: Working with Editors
- 49 _____ From 1952 to 1965: Working with *The New Yorker*
- 52 _____ The Late 1960s: “The Short Story in South Africa”
- 56 _____ The Evolution of Gordimer’s Stories in the 1960s
- 60 _____ The 1970s: Gordimer’s Introduction to *Selected Stories* (1975)
- 64 _____ The Late 1970s and the 1980s: Gordimer’s Conception of the Writer
- 69 _____ Post-apartheid Stories: Some Features of Gordimer’s Late Style
- 73 _____ Conclusion: Gordimer’s “Modernist Realism or Realist Modernism”

CHAPTER TWO

Mism meetings and Failures of Communication: Interracial Relationships

- 77 _____ Focusing on the Experiential Truth about Life under Apartheid
- 79 _____ Liberal Humanism and Interracial Communication

- 80 _____ The Late 1940s and the 1950s: Criticising Well-Intentioned Passivity
- 88 _____ The 1960s: Exploring the Crisis of Liberal Humanist Beliefs
- 97 _____ The Late 1960s and the 1970s: Scrutinising the Attitudes of White South Africans
- 100 _____ The 1970s and the 1980s: Gordimer's Radicalization
- 108 _____ Storytelling after Apartheid: "Mission Statement"
- 112 _____ Conclusion: Challenging the System

CHAPTER THREE

"Offering One's Self": Political Commitment

- 115 _____ "How To Offer One's Self": Gordimer's Political Commitment as a Writer
- 117 _____ The 1950s: Liberal Humanism in Gordimer's Early Stories
- 126 _____ The 1960s: "The Things That Politics Do to People"
- 136 _____ The 1970s: Black Consciousness and the Political Commitment of White South Africans
- 142 _____ The 1980s: Examining an Emerging Political Reality
- 144 _____ The 1980s: Exploring More Radical Politics
- 151 _____ The Early 1990s: Social Privilege and Political Activism
- 154 _____ The Late 1980s and the 1990s: Domesticity and the Birth of Political Consciousness
- 159 _____ Storytelling after Apartheid: The Primacy of the Political
- 160 _____ Storytelling after Apartheid: Scrutinising the Attitudes of White South Africans
- 162 _____ Conclusion: Politics and Self-fulfilment

CHAPTER FOUR

"Only One Generation Away from That": Jewishness and the Immigrant Experience

- 165 _____ Gordimer and Jewishness: Distance and Proximity
- 166 _____ Gordimer's Jewish Origins
- 169 _____ Critical Perspectives on Jewishness in Gordimer's Works
- 172 _____ The Late 1940s and the 1950s: Exploring the Social Background of South African Jews
- 180 _____ The 1960s: Jewishness and Memory

- 190 _____ The Kafka Connection: “Letter from His Father” (1983)
- 200 _____ The 1980s and the 1990s: Exploring the Father’s Jewish Origins
- 205 _____ The 2000s: “The Past is a Foreign Country”
- 206 _____ The 2000s: Conflicting Identities in Post-apartheid South Africa
- 211 _____ Jewishness in Gordimer’s Prose: A “Hieroglyph To Be Decoded”

CHAPTER FIVE

**“The Way Human Beings Use Power in Their Relationships”:
Relationships between Women and Men**

- 213 _____ Power in Human Relationships
- 215 _____ Feminist Perspectives on Gordimer’s Works
- 220 _____ The 1950s: Women in the Patriarchal Order
- 226 _____ The 1960s and the 1970s: Relationships of Power and Domination
- 233 _____ The 1970s: Exploring the Connections between Racism and Sexism
- 237 _____ The 1980s: Arguing for a More Socially Inclusive Perception
- 239 _____ The 1990s and the 2000s: Private Lives, Global Contexts
- 241 _____ The 1990s and the 2000s: Personal Ties and Private Ambitions
- 244 _____ The 2000s: Marriage Crises under the New Dispensation
- 247 _____ Conclusion: Criticising the Culture of Entitlement

CHAPTER SIX

**“The Way Human Beings Use Power in Their Relationships”:
Relationships between Parents and Children**

- 249 _____ Inspired by the “Amazing Wilderness” of Human Motivations
- 251 _____ Leaving the Mother’s House
- 253 _____ The 1950s: Close Dependencies in Child-Parent Stories
- 257 _____ The 1950s and the 1960s: Ideological Conditioning in Families
- 260 _____ The 1950s and the 1960s: Children Trying to Emerge from the Shadow
of Their Parents
- 266 _____ The Late 1970s and the 1980s: Exploring Father-Son Relationships
- 269 _____ The Late 1980s: A Father-Son Relationship in the Context of the Late
Apartheid
- 272 _____ The Late 1980s: Personal Conflicts and Political Tensions
- 275 _____ The 1990s and the 2000s: “Individuals Recreating Themselves”

- 278 _____ The 1990s and the 2000s: Relationships between Parents and Adult Children
- 281 _____ Conclusion: Relationships of Power and Domination

CHAPTER SEVEN

“An Exploration of Self and of the World”: Social and Environmental Issues

- 283 _____ “Being Here”: The Writer’s Place in the World
- 284 _____ Approaches to Ecocriticism: Huggan, Tiffin, Buell, and Caminero-Santangelo
- 286 _____ The 1950s: Exposing the Delusions of “a Third” Way
- 290 _____ The Late 1950s: The Colonial Notion of Nature as Wilderness
- 293 _____ The 1960s: Analysing a Postcolonial Narrative of Development
- 297 _____ From the 1970s to the 2000s: Exploring Attitudes to Animals
- 309 _____ The Late 1990s and the 2000s: Fables for Our Times
- 313 _____ The Late 1990s and the 2000s: Poverty and Environmental Issues
- 316 _____ The 2000s: Writing in the Apocalyptic Mode
- 318 _____ Conclusion: Environmentalism in the Context of Social Justice

CONCLUSION

“An Exploration of Life”: Final Remarks on Nadine Gordimer’s Conception of Writing

- 325 _____ Bibliography
- 337 _____ Index
- 345 _____ Streszczenie