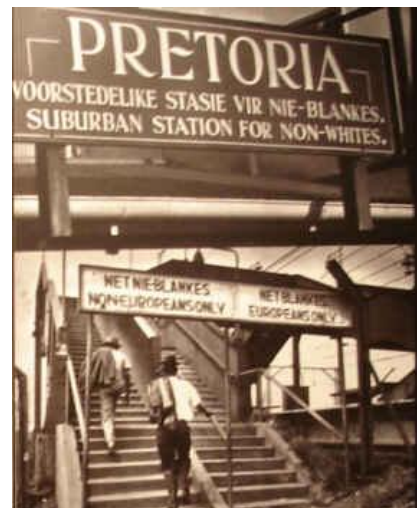


SOUTH AFRICA IN THE PAST

TASK: With your teammates, you're continuing your research on South Africa. On-line, you come across a series of documents and share your impressions.

- The Apartheid era:

Observe and react to these two pictures



The next documents are about the Soweto Riots. You exchange your impressions with the others.

- Fighting for black identity: the Soweto riots



Youth day poster showing Hector Pieterse's death

Now, you've come across these two texts:

2 Soweto riots

The youth rebellion began in June 1976 when the Soweto school children started protesting against the decision of the apartheid government to teach them in Afrikaans, the language of the ruling Whites, and not in English. The initial battles left more than 400 dead and many more were arrested or sent to the homelands (poor territories for Blacks). The fight continued until the mid-1980s.

It was a "time of fire" as Grace called it, when she and Dumi¹ had marched in the streets with thousands of other schoolchildren. They were protesting that their schools taught them only what the white government wanted them to know.

On the banner that Dumi and his friends carried, they had written: "BLACKS ARE NOT DUST-BINS²."

Everything went all right until the police saw the schoolchildren marching, and then the trouble started. The police aimed their guns and began to shoot with real bullets, killing whoever was in the way.

It was terrible. The police shot tear gas too, making everyone's eyes burn.

People were screaming, bleeding³, falling. More police came in great steel⁴ tanks, and more in helicopters, firing from above. A little girl standing near Grace, about eight years old, raised her fist⁵, and next thing she was lying dead.

People became fighting mad, throwing stones at the police, burning down schools and government offices. Smoke and flames were everywhere.

But the police kept shooting, until hundreds were dead. Hundreds were hurt and hundreds were arrested. Dumi was one of those arrested.

When he came out of prison, he said that the police had beaten him up badly, but he would go on fighting even if they killed him.

Beverley Naidoo, *Journey to Jo'burg*, 1985

1. Grace's brother 2. *poubelles*
3. were bleeding: *saignaient* 4. *en acier* 5. *poing*

In Beverley Naidoo's text, find information about:

Name of the characters	
The event they took part in	
The aim of their protest	
The police's reactions	

Now, with your group, you discuss the questions you would have asked if you had interviewed the children after the riots.

Prepare 5 questions to find out about the event and their reactions:

1. _____

2. _____

3. _____

4. _____

5. _____

