

Book brief

- 1** This story is about a South African teenager called Riri.
- 2** Her days are busy and full of fun, especially with her Italian friend, Claudia.
- 3** She loves animals and dreams of working with them one day.
- 4** A competition gives her the chance to make her dream come true.
- 5** Main themes include nature, friendship and traditions.

Grace Lani

Riri:
My South Africa

Contents

14	Before you read
16	Chapter 1 <i>A Competition</i>
30	Activities
32	Chapter 2 <i>My Italian Friend</i>
44	Activities
46	Chapter 3 <i>Hairstyles and Parties!</i>
56	Activities
58	Chapter 4 <i>A Dream Come True!</i>
70	Activities
72	Test Yourself
73	Syllabus



Before you read

Reading · A2 Key

- 1 Choose the best words (A, B or C) to complete the text below.

This story is about a South African girl (1) _____ Riri.

South Africa is the southernmost country in the continent of Africa and (2) _____ sixty million people live there. Its largest city is Johannesburg, often known as 'The City of Gold' as it's famous (3) _____ its gold and diamonds.

In South Africa, there is a (4) _____ variety of different cultures, languages and religions. If you visit this country, you can try different kinds of food from these various cultures. They eat a lot of meat and really like having a 'braai', which is a special kind of barbecue.

(5) _____ of different sports are also played in South Africa. The most popular are football, rugby and cricket. South Africa is also a (6) _____ beautiful country, with wonderful beaches, mountains, forests and desert areas.

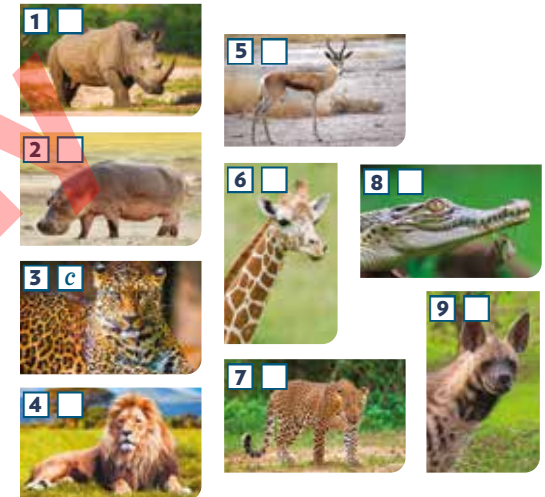
- | | | |
|----------|--------|----------|
| 1 A name | B who | C called |
| 2 A over | B more | C a |
| 3 A with | B for | C of |
| 4 A wide | B lot | C high |
| 5 A Many | B Lots | C Some |
| 6 A most | B lot | C very |



Vocabulary

- 2 Here are just some of the animals you can find in South Africa. Match the photos to the correct name.

- a giraffe
- b cheetah
- c leopard
- d gazelle
- e hyena
- f hippopotamus (hippo)
- g crocodile
- h rhinoceros (rhino)
- i lion



Writing and Speaking

21st
Century
Skills

- 3 A Write a short paragraph about your country like the text in exercise 1.
- 3 B Discuss with a partner about your country and South Africa. How are they the same and in what ways are the two countries different?

Listening

- 2 4 Listen to the start of Chapter 1 and decide if the sentences are true (T) or false (F).

- 1 People in South Africa don't usually have short names.
- 2 Riri always has a lot to do every day.
- 3 She never gets up early in the morning.
- 4 School starts at a quarter past seven.
- 5 Each lesson is usually less than an hour long.
- 6 Riri stays in the same classroom for all her lessons.

T	F
☐	☐
☐	☐
☐	☐
☐	☐
☐	☐
☐	☐

Chapter 1

A Competition

▶ 2 Hi, my name's Rirhandzu!

Actually, my full name's Rirhandzu Tlangelani Xiluva Chauke. Are you maybe thinking that it's a bit too long? Well, in South Africa, names are often long because they have a special, important meaning. Take my name for example: 'Rirhandzu' means 'love', 'Tlangelani' means to 'celebrate or rejoice', and 'Xiluva' means 'beautiful flower'. Anyway, everyone calls me Riri, which is short for Rirhandzu. Chauke is my surname.



Just another five minutes please!

My days are busy and full of fun, but the worst moment for me is the morning because I have to get up at 6 o'clock. I just love sleeping late! 😊

All students like me must arrive at school on time. The bell rings at 7.45 a.m. and the teacher for the first hour immediately calls out our names to see if we're all there. Then we start our lessons, which are about 50 minutes long. Sometimes they can be a bit longer if we have to do Cycle Tests, which are class tests on all our different subjects. These tests are really difficult and we need to study hard for them! Every time we change subject, we also change classroom and classmates, so there's never a boring moment! ■

▶ 3 There are lots of different subjects; some we have to do, others we can choose to do or not do. We study English, maths, Afrikaans, biology, law, physics, geography, music, history, drama* and art. There are lots of rules* that we must follow and we also have to wear a uniform. Here I am getting ready for school!

So many buttons!



drama the theatre and actors
rules what you can and can't do

We must all study four subjects: Afrikaans, English, maths and life orientation, which is a kind of Civic Education. From **grade** 10 to 12 of High School, we choose what other subjects we want to study among art, physics, chemistry, history and science.

School System

In South Africa, most children go to Kindergarten, known as Grade 0, before starting Elementary School (grades 1-6). All students must then go to Secondary School up to Grade 9 because all children in South Africa have to go to school from the age of 5 or 6 until they are 15 years old.

Grades 10-12:

This part of High School is known as 'Further Education and Training' or FET. Students don't have to do these three years, so usually only students who want to continue their studies, for example at a university, stay at school until they're 18 years old. At the end of Grade 12, there are exams for the National Senior Certificate. This School Leaving Exam is called the "Matric".

Here I am during my art lesson.



Art is cool! I love it!



The last year of High School is called Matric, like the name of the School Leaving Exam. We have a month's holiday from school every three months, so it's not that bad. We start in January and finish at the end of March. Then we stop for the month of April and start again in May until the end of July. July is a hard month for us because it's full of exams on all our subjects! Then it's holiday time again in August and we can relax a bit before starting again in September. The school year finishes with the final exams in November. So, as you can see, April, August and December are the three months when we're on

holiday, which is great because we get a break from all that studying and best of all, one of these breaks is in summer, my favourite **season**.

We don't just have to pass all our exams to get into the following year, but we also have to do ten hours of useful work without getting paid for it. This is part of a school project called Community Service. There are lots of activities to choose from, like dog sitter, babysitter, or helping people in need to do their shopping etc. I love animals so I always choose to take dogs for a walk, when asked to do this kind of service.

Seasons

South Africa is in the southern hemisphere, so the seasons are as follows: spring is from September to November, summer from December to February, autumn from March to May and winter from June to August. For most of the country, the rainy season is from September to the end of April, while the drier season is usually from the end of April to August. However, in Cape Town for example, the summer months are usually warm and dry.

As I said before, I really love animals and at the moment, I'm trying for a place on a school project. If I win the competition, I'll be able to get a job helping the guides at the **Pilanesberg National Park** during the school holidays. We've already done lots of different tests. There's still a long way to go before they decide who to choose, but so far so good!

The next part of the competition is to write an article* about an animal. There are ten of us left now, but in the end, they'll choose just three winners. The three winners will then do a course that is divided into study and practice. The course will be about zoology* and different environments* in South Africa. Then, there's the practical side where they'll actually spend a few days at the National Park. This course will prepare them for the job helping in the park during the holidays.

If I win, I'd like to work on the National Park's project called 'Get to know the Gazelle' because this is my favourite animal. Why do I love gazelles so much? It's a long story, I'll tell you all about it in the next chapter. All I can say is that I'm really happy to have got so far up to now, but I'm also really scared* that

article a piece of writing, usually for a newspaper

zoology the study of animals

environment how and where a person or animal lives and what is around them

scared afraid

Grammar

1 Choose A, B or C to make true sentences about Riri.

- 1 Riri _____ getting up early for school.
A doesn't mind B hates C loves
- 2 She _____ wear a uniform at school.
A must B needn't C doesn't
- 3 Her school holidays are _____ April, August and December.
A at B on C in
- 4 Her _____ season is summer.
A preferred B favourite C best
- 5 She _____ to work with the guides in a national park.
A would B will C wants
- 6 She _____ in Pretoria with her mum, dad and little sister.
A leaves B lives C goes



Writing and Speaking

21st
Century
Skills

2 A Write six sentences about yourself, like the ones in exercise 1.

2 B Work with a partner and answer these questions.

- 1 How many of your sentences in exercise 2a are the same as your partner's?
- 2 How many of your sentences are the same as the ones about Riri in exercise 1?
- 3 Riri loves animals, especially gazelles. What about you?
- 4 Do you think it's a good idea to wear a uniform at school? Why / Why not?
- 5 Do you have to do Community Service like Riri? How important do you think this kind of service is? Why?
- 6 Riri loves art. What's your best and worst subject at school? Why?
- 7 There's a big garden in Riri's school. What's your school like?

Vocabulary

3 Here are some words you'll find in Chapter 2. Match the words to the correct definition.

- | | |
|-------------------------------------|---|
| 1 ☐ abroad | a kill a wild animal for sport or food |
| 2 ☐ poaching | b want to know something |
| 3 ☐ hunt | c come or bring together |
| 4 ☐ leap | d an animal that kills other animals |
| 5 ☐ predator | e in or to a foreign country |
| 6 ☐ wonder | f jump high or a long way |
| 7 ☐ unite | g taking or killing wild animals on land that doesn't belong to you |

Listening • A2 Key

4 Listen to the start of Chapter 2 and choose the correct answer A, B or C.

1 Where did Riri and Claudia first meet?



2 What's their favourite subject?



3 What does Claudia want to become?



4 Which animal is Riri writing about in her article?



5 Where do rich people keep their pets?

