



EFFINGHAM SECONDARY SCHOOL
DRAMATIC ARTS



GRADE : 11

Read *Sophtatown* and Answer the following questions in relation to the play:

FAHFEE : My uncle has been here since 1924. He knows nothing else and now they want to move him to this Meadowlands. Ons dak nie. Ons pola hier! 1

JAKES : And what do you do when the policemen come?

FAHFEE : Die G-men? 5

JAKES : Ja.

FAHFEE : We've got a plan.

JAKES : But you hardly know what it is!

FAHFEE : When the time is right, we'll hear.

JAKES : It sounds very unsatisfactory to me. 10

FAHFEE : I don't care! I'd rather die than move from this place. They can kill us one by one, but we won't move. We'll sit down in the streets and wait for the bullets. There's going to be a war. Petitions, letters, committees – it's rubbish! I'm telling you, its rubbish. There must be blood . Then things will happen. 15

MINGUS : (*To RUTH in a moment of great anger.*) And it will be your blood!

RUTH : Jakes, please – I can't stand this.

MINGUS : (*To Ruth*) Ja, just run back to Yeoville.

FAHFEE : What am I going to do in this Meadowlands? How am I going to put bread in my mouth? What's going to happen to my business with the Chinaman, the Gong? Where's he gonna be when they move Sophia? And the Indians? And the caureds? Where's the jazz? Where's the life? Where's the situations? Where's the teachers? Where's the life? Where's the Fahfee? Where's the life? It's just dust and blood and dust! **20**

MINGUS : Go back to Yeoville!

(Change of lights. The cast sing 'Meadowlands' in a slow and melancholy waltz time. Then the rhythm changes to an up-tempo jive and they launch into a lively dance.)

- 1.1 How did Sophiatown, the place get its name?
- 1.2 Identify and discuss a major theme highlighted in this extract.
- 1.3 The relationship between Jakes and Ruth is a complicated one. Discuss the relationship by drawing on the play as a whole.
- 1.4 Discuss what life was like living in Sophiatown in the 1950's. Make reference to the type of people that lived there and describe at least **TWO** social problems that people were faced with.
- 1.5 Sophiatown can be described as a 'township musical'. Do you agree with this statement? Justify your answer.
- 1.6 Discuss the intention (IDEA) that the Junction Avenue Theatre Company had behind the creation of the play.
- 1.7 If you were an actor taking on the role of Fahfee in lines 20-25 (What am I going to do in this Meadowlands?...), Describe how you would make use of the following:
 - 1.7.1 Emphasis
 - 1.7.2 Gesture
 - 1.7.3 Facial expression