

The No.1 Ladies' Detective Agency

1. How did you feel about the simplicity of the events and thinking? Can we learn from that?
2. Mma Ramotswe purchases a manual on how to be a detective. It advises one to pay attention to hunches. The manual says: "Hunches are another form of knowledge"
 - a. How does intuition help Mma Ramotswe solve her cases?
3. Author's choice of point of view? How does his law background influence point of view?
 - a. Smith has both taught and written about criminal law. In what ways does his book draw upon this knowledge?
 - b. How are lawyers and the police characterized in the novel?
4. Significance of the setting – Botswana and Africa.
5. Significance of culture
 - a. How characters address each other in personal relationships, as co-workers & colleagues, clients, authority figures?
 - b. Tensions between modern and traditional values?
6. "Humanity at the core" – Reflect on the ways in which we're dealing with humans and issues of humanity.
7. Observations on human behaviour: "It was curious how some people had a highly developed sense of guilt, she thought, while others had none. Some people would agonize over minor slips or mistakes on their part, while others would feel quite unmoved by their own gross acts of betrayal or dishonesty".
8. Mma Ramotswe's "humorous" assessments of the failings of men.
9. Is there a difference between the forms of deceit Mma. Ramotswe uses and lying? How does she justify her deceit?
10. Significance of tea