

II. Analysis

► 1. Analyse to what extent parents assume responsibility for their children's well-being. Deal with *The Second Hut* and Farook's parents in *A Pair of Jeans*.

Tipp:
 Fertige zunächst eine **Stichwortliste** an und überlege, welche Punkte du in deinem Text bearbeiten willst.

The Second Hut

Major Carruthers and his wife	Van Heerden and his wife
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Major Carruthers <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Feels guilty about the situation of his sons. - Makes sure that his children receive a good education although he cannot pay the fees. - The relationship between him and his sons is rather cool. • His wife <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Is ill because she does not want to live in Africa. - Therefore, she does not care for her children, at all. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Van Heerden <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Is proud of his capacity for making kids. - Sees his kids as puppies and toys - Makes sure that his children have a place to live and something to eat, but not more. • His wife <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Cares for her children instinctively.

A Pair of Jeans

Farook's mother	Farook's father
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Knew Miriam before Farook and considered her the perfect daughter-in-law - Proposes the engagement of Farook and Miriam - After having seen Miriam in Jeans, she does not think so anymore - Does not directly agree with her husband due to her own interests rather than due to those of her son. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Decides that Farook will not marry Miriam, but then leaves it all to his wife.

Tipp:
 Schreibe nun einen Einleitungssatz, in dem du die Thematik einführest. Danach kannst du direkt mit der Analyse beginnen.



Both short stories, *The Second Hut* and *A Pair of Jeans*, tell the story of two families who treat their children very differently.

In *The Second Hut*, Major Carruthers wants to make sure that his sons receive a good education and sends them to a boarding school although he cannot pay the fees. He also tries not to show them how difficult their situation actually is, lying about their mothers' state of health and their financial situation. His wife, in contrast, does not care about her children at all. She only lies in bed and leaves it all to her husband.

As for Van Heerden, he sees his children rather like puppies and is proud rather of his capacity for making kids than of his family itself. Just like his wife, he cares for the children rather instinctively and makes sure that their basic physical needs are satisfied.

Farook's parents in *A Pair of Jeans* take a lot of responsibility for their son's well-being. As far as his future wife Miriam is concerned, it was Farook's mother who knew her first and who chose her for Farook. She also proposed the engagement to Farook and Miriam. It is not clear, however, whether she did it all for Farook only, because she herself also likes Miriam's family, especially her mother.

After seeing Miriam in their pair of jeans, Farook's parents quickly decide that the marriage should be canceled without talking to Farook first.

Therefore, they can be said to take almost too much care of their son and to act out of personal interest to a certain extent.

► 2. “...each slow difficult word was a nail in the coffin of his pride as a man.” (Text 2, l. 51f.) Analyse how personal failure affects John (*A Meeting in the Dark*) and Parvez (*My Son the Fanatic*).

Tipp:

Fertige zunächst eine **Stichwortliste** an und überlege, welche Punkte du in deinem Text bearbeiten willst.

A Meeting in the Dark

- John fails to rebel against his father and is always afraid of him.
- He does not dare to take responsibility for Wamuhu and her unborn child because he is afraid of the consequences for himself.

My Son the Fanatic

- Parvez works all night and sleeps all day. So he does not have time for his family.
- He wants his son to live a life that he himself would consider as good.
- He provides his son with materialistic goods but does not really know him.

Tipp:

Schreibe nun einen Einleitungssatz, in dem du die Thematik einführest. Danach kannst du direkt mit der Analyse beginnen.

Both short stories, *A Meeting in the Dark* and *My Son the Fanatic*, tell the story of a man who is affected by personal failure which, in effect, also has consequences for the people around him.

In *A Meeting the Dark*, John fails to rebel against his strict and dominating father and is afraid of living a life according to his own ideas and beliefs. Since he is afraid of the consequences for himself, he does not dare to marry Wamuhu and to take responsibility for his unborn child. He thinks about what his father might say and that he might forbid him to go to college. As a consequence, he is afraid and confused and cannot even say if he loves Wamuhu or not. Instead, he blames her for his failure and tries to give her money in order to hide their relationship from his father. When she does not accept the money, John's frustration leads to violence and he kills Wamuhu.

Parvez in *My Son the Fanatic*, works as a taxi driver. He works all night and therefore does not have much time for his family. Parvez leads a Western life-style and wants to give his son the possibility of living an even better life. He provides him with everything he needs and pays for his education. Ali, however, prefers a traditional and religious life and rather hates his father for his ideas. Parvez, in turn, gets angry and frustrated and – just like John – reacts violently beating up his son.