

SKIN

Version One – First Draft (In this early version, we have just seen Elise (Sandra's one friend) punished for fetching her porridge when no one would serve Sandra at breakfast. That is why she is late arriving to class.	Version Two – Final Draft (Anything in orange is an addition to the shooting script added to the final production script.)
<p>INT. CLASS ROOM - DAY</p> <p>The teacher MISS LUDIK stands at the top of the class. Her beehive towers over her round face.</p> <p style="text-align: center;">MISS LUDIK</p> <p>Ja, students! New books, new pens. So, crack your books open and write the date neatly in the top right hand corner.</p> <p>Elise walks in, heads down.</p> <p style="text-align: center;">MISS LUDIK (CONT'D)</p> <p>This is not a good way to start the term, Elise. Go and sit down.</p> <p>Elise walks to her seat which is alongside Sandra.</p> <p style="text-align: center;">MISS LUDIK (CONT'D)</p> <p>So, students... history. Our history. In the early days of our country the land was composed of vast plains, not farms and cities like it is today. And on these vast plains were wild animals and savage <i>natives</i> who were always wanting to take the land away from the Boers.</p> <p>She looks around the class. Sandra sticks out - the only black face in a sea of white ones.</p> <p style="text-align: center;">MISS LUDIK (CONT'D)</p> <p>We are going to learn about the wars between the Boers and the natives because they couldn't get along and live peacefully side by side.</p> <p>(Looking around the class)</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Why do you think that was the case, students?</p> <p>DAWIE, a boy with very blue eyes puts up his hand.</p> <p style="text-align: center;">MISS LUDIK (cont'd)</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Ja, Dawie?</p> <p style="text-align: center;">DAWIE</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Because the natives were Kaffirs.</p> <p style="text-align: center;">MISS LUDIK</p> <p>Dawie, we're not going to use that word in this class room, okay?</p> <p>ANNIE, an angelic looking girl with blonde hair and blue eyes, puts up her hand.</p> <p style="text-align: center;">MISS LUDIK (cont'd)</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Ja, Annie.</p>	<p>INT. SCHOOL/CLASS ROOM - LATER</p> <p>MISS LUDIK, 30s, with a towering beehive, blinks at the sight of Sandra sitting in the front row. Elize is the only child near her.</p> <p style="text-align: center;">MISS LUDIK</p> <p>Now, in the early days, our country was vast plains. Miss Ludik turns to the blackboard where she rudely sketches ANIMALS and WARRIORS.</p> <p style="text-align: center;">MISS LUDIK (CONT'D)</p> <p>And on these plains were wild animals and savage natives who were always wanting to take our land. There were many wars between them. Why do you think that was, students?</p> <p>Miss Ludik sees Sandra put her hand up but points to DAWIE, a boy with piercing blue eyes, already a bully at nine.</p> <p style="text-align: center;">MISS LUDIK (CONT'D)</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Ja, Dawie?</p> <p style="text-align: center;">DAWIE</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Because they were kaffirs, Mevrou.</p> <p style="text-align: center;">The children laugh - including Sandra.</p> <p style="text-align: center;">MISS LUDIK</p> <p>Dawie, that's a bad word. We don't use that language in the classroom.</p> <p>Sandra still has her hand up but when ANNIE, angelic, puts up her arm, Miss Ludik chooses her.</p> <p style="text-align: center;">MISS LUDIK (CONT'D)</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Ja, Annie.</p> <p style="text-align: center;">ANNIE</p> <p>They couldn't live together because they were different.</p> <p style="text-align: center;">MISS LUDIK</p> <p>That's right, Annie! Good. Because they were different.</p> <p>Miss Ludik holds up two placards: one depicts a black man working in the fields, and the other a white doctor. She circulates through the rows, giving each student, especially Sandra, a closer look at the cards.</p> <p style="text-align: center;">MISS LUDIK (CONT'D)</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Even today we learn that everything about the</p>

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<p>ANNIE They couldn't live together because they were different.</p> <p>MISS LUDIK That's right! Good answer. Because they were <i>different</i>. Now what was and still is that difference? Their skin. What does their skin look like? (pointing with her stick) Jackie?</p> <p>JACKIE Dark skin.</p> <p>MISS LUDIK That's right! Dark skin. What about their hair?</p> <p>KATIE, another blonde angel sticks up her hand.</p> <p>MISS LUDIK (cont'd) Ja, Katie?</p> <p>KATIE It's crinkly hair.</p> <p>MISS LUDIK Ja. Kroes hair, not so. So, that's how the government can check if some-one is black. They do the pencil test by putting a pencil into the hair of a black person, to see if it sticks or not.</p> <p>Dawie sits behind Sandra. He picks up a pencil and indicates to the kids around him that he intends to try the pencil test on Sandra. She stares forwards unsuspecting. Dawie places the pencil carefully into her hair. It sticks. The children behind start snickering.</p> <p>MISS LUDIK (cont'd) Concentrate please, students. Dawie, what's the joke back there?</p> <p>DAWIE Nothing, Miss Ludick.</p> <p>Sandra puts her hand to her head and draws the pencil out. She turns, very confused. Dawie glares at her and the other kids cover their mouths, laughing.</p>	<p>Bantus is different. What sort of jobs do they do?</p> <p>SPOTTY BOY (raising his hand) They work in the mielie fields!</p> <p>FAT GIRL And in the mines.</p> <p>A bespectacled boy, KOBUS, sticks up his hand.</p> <p>KOBUS My father says he doesn't let them drive the tractors because they have monkey hands. Like Sandra!</p> <p>The other children erupt with laughter. Sandra looks around, thinking them stupid. Miss Ludik also smirks.</p>
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