

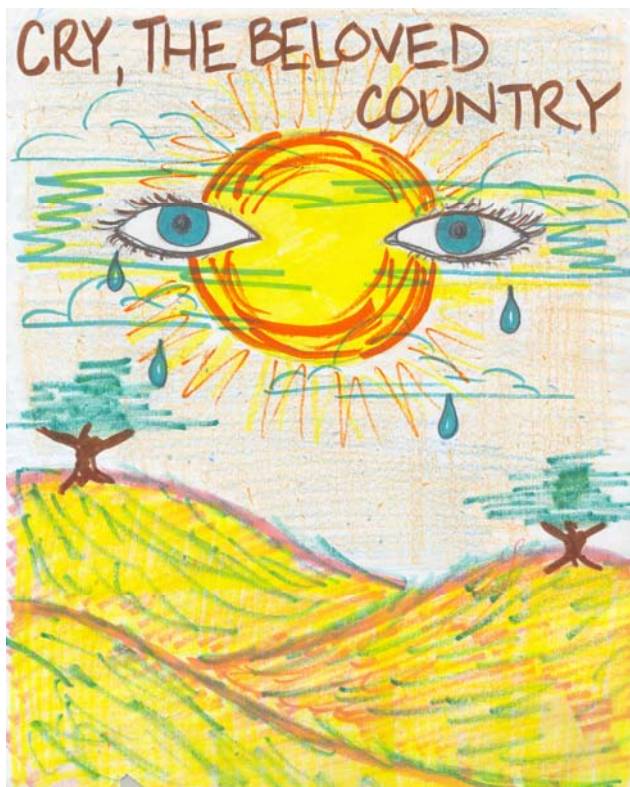
5:11a Cry, the Beloved Country Chap. 1-4



5:11b Cry, the Beloved Country Chap. 1-4

Themes in Chapters 1-4

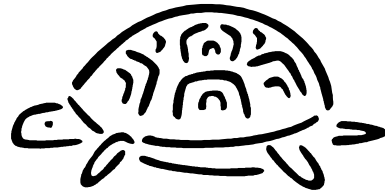
- deterioration of the native way (lush, green valley slowing deteriorating): “But the rich green hills break down. They fall to the valley below, and falling, change their nature” (33; ch. 1).
- deterioration both in landscape and in population, as most of its young people have traveled to the corrupt city of Johannesburg. Ex. their son, Absalom. Then again, the village/tribal culture is dead/dying.
- A country hurting though loved and influenced by many cultures. Note these words in chap. 1:



- Ixopo, Umzimkulu (Zulu)
- Carisbrooke (English)
- Drakensberg (German)
- Kloof (Afrikaans, which is the Dutch-Boer culture that has emerged) (note the glossary in the back of the book!

5:11c Cry, the Beloved Country Chap. 1-4

Interesting note: Surprisingly, perhaps, Alan Paton wrote the poetic Chapter 1 first and was influenced by the intercalary (“in-between the chapter”) chapters in John Steinbeck’s *The Grapes of Wrath* that seemingly randomly describe, for instance, a turtle slowly walking on a dusty highway. The reader soon realizes the metaphorical connection to the Joad family, traveling with their whole possessions on the back of their Model T Ford.



Be forewarned that in *Cry, the Beloved Country*, chapters 9 and 12 are intercalary chapters that interrupt the main narrative to give the reader a wider sense of the desolation, corruption, and injustice in all of South Africa. When you get to these chapters, you need not worry about the names of characters. Just take in the description.

5:11d Cry, the Beloved Country Chap. 1-4

Stephen Kumalo's character:

- kindness (treatment of girl in chap. 2)
- emotions overtake him (outburst at wife in chap. 2); BUT we see his basic goodness (contrition after his outburst, quick to apologize)
- his provincialism (fear and awe of Johannesburg)



Theophilus Msimangu's character:

- like Stephen Kumalo but as a city priest understands the politics and social problems of the city and thinks like a city dweller