



**The Catholic High School of Baltimore
Summer Reading List**

Teacher's Name: Mrs. Karen Mitchell

School Year: 2019-2020 **Grade Level:** 12

Course No.: 142 **Course Name:** World Literature

Academic Level (Honors/AP/CP1/CP2/CPA): Honors

Novel:

No. 1 Ladies Detective Agency Alexander McCall Smith

Assignment:

Please answer each question in 1-3 complete sentences.

1. In the novel's opening, Mma Ramotswe states that she loves Africa "for all its trials." What does she mean?
2. Notice when Mr. Smith uses the name "Precious" to refer to the novel's protagonist and when he uses the more formal "Mma Ramotswe." What does this tell the reader about the character herself?
3. Early in the text, Mma Ramotswe asks herself, "What would Solomon have done?" Who was Solomon, and why does the author reference him in the book?
4. How does the author humanize Mma Ramotswe?
5. What is the quality or characteristic that Mma Ramotswe values above all else?
6. How are women in the story depicted as far more intelligent than they are credited?
7. The cousin who comes to take care of Precious was abandoned by her husband because she was barren. How does this character rise above her station and the quiet contempt with which she is treated? Why do you think she is never named?
8. Precious Ramotswe wins the art contest sponsored by The Museum in Gaborone but feels compelled to tell the Minister that a mistake has been made on the label of the picture. How does this incident illustrate her role as a "moral compass" in the novel?
9. After her cousin marries and Precious Ramotswe turns 16, she goes to live with them. She solves her first case while working for the bus company. Describe the case and the personal qualities Precious employs to solve it.

10. Why does Precious follow Note Mokoti off the bus when he departs? Does she know the kind of man he is before she marries him? Why does she go against her father's wishes and marry Note? What causes this apparent rebellion on her part?
11. After her father dies, Precious Ramotswe sets up the Detective Agency. Why does she choose to pursue this type of business?
12. What clues aid Precious Ramotswe in finding out what happened to Mma Malatsi's missing husband?
13. Does Nandira Patel actually outsmart Mma Ramotswe? How?
14. Mma Pekwane approaches Mma Ramotswe because she believes her husband has stolen a car and she wants it returned to its rightful owner without her husband knowing. How does Madam Ramotswe's solution to this problem display her ingenuity and respect for an individual's privacy?
15. Why do you believe Mma Ramotswe is, initially, and throughout most of the novel, opposed to marrying again?
16. Who are some of the other main characters in the story that share Mma Ramotswe's personal values system?
17. How does Mma Ramotswe achieve fame, recognition, and respect within her community in Gaborone?
18. How is Mma Ramotswe an independent woman? Cite examples.

Criteria:

- Type your answers.
- Use MLA format for the heading.
- There will be a discussion, activities, and a test during the first few weeks of school. You will need a copy of the novel.

Please email me a copy no later than the first full day of school, or you may print a copy and bring with you on the first day of school. Please email me over the summer if you have questions. My email address is kmitchell@thecatholichighschool.org.