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| Arbeitsblätter SM  Tasks:   1. Write now a characterisation like this of another main character (protagonist) of the book and try to find a quotation that fits. 2. Write a character mindmap of the protagonists.   **Source:**  <https://www.litcharts.com/lit/mother-to-mother/characters/mandisa> |  | **method: Characterisation**  **book: Mother to mother: Mandisa**  “My son killed your daughter. People look at me as though I did it. The generous ones as though I made him do it, as though I could make this child do anything. Starting from when he was less than six years old, even before he lost his first tooth or went to school. Starting, if truth be known, from before he was conceived; when he, with total lack of consideration if not downright malice, seeded himself inside my womb.  But now, people look at me as if I’m the one who woke up one shushu day and said, Boyboy, run out and see whether, somewhere out there, you can find a white girl with nothing better to do than run around Guguletu, where she does not belong.”  The novel’s narrator, Mandisa is also referred to as Molokazana and Nohenhake by her husband China’s family.  Mandisa is the early middle-aged mother of three: Mxolisi, Lunga, and Siziwe. Born in Blouvlei to Mama and Tata, she has one brother Khaya.  Mandisa was a respectful, hardworking child and talented student, whose life was first disrupted by her family’s forced relocation to Guguletu, and then by her surprise pregnancy. Mandisa and her then-boyfriend, China, had purposefully avoided having penetrative sex, but they conceived anyway, and Mandisa has her first son, Mxolisi. Out of duty, Mandisa marries China, and the two are unhappily married for two years. However, one day China leaves for work and never comes back, leaving Mandisa to fend for herself. As she pieces her life back together and starts anew, Mandisa comes to resent Mxolisi for disrupting her life.  Mandisa then conceives a second child with a man named Lungile, who, like China, also leaves her. She then marries a man named Dwadwa, with whom she has her youngest child and only daughter, Siziwe.  Out of all of Mandisa’s children, Mxolisi becomes the biggest troublemaker and the most politically charged. When he gets arrested for stabbing and murdering The Girl—a white college girl who came to Guguletu, earning the attention of an angry mob, of which Mxolisi was a part—Mandisa feels great guilt regarding Mxolisi’s life and crimes. She feels responsible for him and is made to feel responsible for his murder of The Girl by people in her community. The book, which she narrates, is a way for her to come to terms with her son’s actions, and to apologize to The Mother of the Girl for her hand in Mxolisi’s upbringing, while also explaining the factors beyond their control that lead to the tragedy at the novel’s centre. |