

*Out of Bounds*

Beverley Naidoo

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Racism is the theme of this collection of the seven stories. These short stories cover through the years 1948 to 2000 in South Africa. For more than fifty years, the races are all forced to follow the government's rules on segregation. The laws and rule enforcements has affected everyone inhabiting the area. Young people, teenagers, are the main subjects of these stories. These seven stories each describe a different decade. With each decade, young people are faced with danger and destruction threatening to create more damage than already present. *Out of Bounds* tells of seven different young individuals' own fight for survival during these prejudiced times.

*Out of Bounds* is a historical fiction book pointed towards students of junior high. The thought provoking tales are set simply, providing for easy comprehension. Each character is given a distinct, notable personality. Though their names may be extremely foreign for some readers, the identifiable traits set each person apart. While this collection of short stories seems like a fairly simple, straightforward read, there are moving messages on and between the pages.

As each chapter develops, the reader learns of that year's new government laws regarding the segregation of Whites, Blacks, Indians, and 'Coloreds.' After the major, shocking events each protagonist endures, the reader easily picks up on the prejudices and racism that occurs. However, also after each chapter, some main points of the subject remain hidden, leaving the reader an unanswered question sometimes without a correct answer. This aspect of the book drew me deep into the book. Often times, I found myself rereading some passages to hopefully better understand the situations. On the whole, I found *Out of Bounds* a very satisfying read; much like a book I would enjoy borrowing from the library.