

BOPHIRIMA

POEMS

A collection of education, love, motherhood and home

by Moshopane.O

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Moshopane Oupa

Moshopane Oupa was born on 12 October 2009 in the small town of Bloemhof. He began his schooling at Tshenolo Primary School and is currently a learner at Gaopalelwe Secondary School, where he is part of the 2023–2027 school journey.

Moshopane is committed to poetry because he believes that words can preserve memory, express emotion, teach important values and give ordinary experiences a lasting voice. His poems draw inspiration from education, love, motherhood, faith, perseverance and the familiar landscapes of Bloemhof. Through writing, he continues to develop his voice, honour the people and places that shaped him, and encourage young readers to see beauty and possibility in their own lives.

GLOSSARY OF WORDS USED IN THIS BOOK

WORD / TERM	MEANING IN THIS BOOK
Academic regalia	Special clothing worn at a graduation ceremony.
Aural	Related to hearing or learning through listening.
Anchor	Something that provides stability, safety or emotional support.
Eternal	Lasting forever; without an end.
Kinaesthetic	Learning through movement, touch and practical activity.
Regalia	Formal or ceremonial clothing, especially for graduation.
Rebuke	A serious correction or expression of disapproval.
Reproach	Blame, shame or strong criticism for something wrong.
Righteousness	Moral goodness and the practice of what is right.
Vaal River	The river named in the poem “Bloemhof” and “Vaal River Evening”.

FIGURES OF SPEECH AND HOW THEY WERE USED IN THIS BOOK

Examples below show how poetic devices create images, emotion and meaning in the collection.

DEVICE	MEANING	EXAMPLE FROM THE BOOK	HOW IT IS USED
Simile	A comparison using “like” or “as”.	“You flutter like a butterfly in flight” (Love).	Love is presented as light, graceful and free.
Metaphor	A direct comparison that says one thing is another.	“Knowledge is power” (Education).	Learning is described as a force that gives people ability and influence.
Metaphor	A direct comparison that gives an idea a new identity.	“You are my anchor in the storm” (Mother).	The mother is shown as a source of stability during difficulty.
Personification	Giving human actions or feelings to something non-human.	“The night held my worries” (First Light).	The night is described as if it can hold and carry emotions.
Personification	Giving human qualities to nature or an object.	“The Vaal keeps on moving” (Vaal River Evening).	The river becomes an active presence and a symbol of continuity.
Imagery	Descriptive language that helps the reader see, hear or feel a scene.	“Dust on the roads, peace in the air” (Bloemhof).	The reader can picture and feel the quiet small-town setting.
Symbolism	Using an object, place or image to represent a deeper idea.	The “lamp” in “Her Lamp”.	The lamp symbolises guidance, goodness and the mother’s teaching.
Alliteration	Repetition of the same beginning consonant sound.	“Fields of maize and skies so wide” (Bloemhof).	The repeated sounds create musical rhythm and emphasis.
Hyperbole	Deliberate exaggeration used for emphasis.	“No dream is too distant” (The Open Book).	The line encourages confidence and makes possibility feel unlimited.
Repetition	Repeating a word or phrase for emphasis or rhythm.	“Knowledge” repeated in Education.	The repetition reinforces the central value of learning.

LEARNING

Education

—

Success, you are number one,
Mastering the basics at the top.
Changing the world for tomorrow,
Tomorrow, through the use of knowledge.

Knowledge is power,
Knowledge builds the future,
A better future for all,

Tomorrow might be the day you've waited for.
Failing is not shameful,
It is just the First Attempt In Learning.

Aural, visual, kinaesthetic,
Reading and writing learners,
Hard work brings results,
We all want to wear academic regalia.

SUMMARY: *Education gives people knowledge, confidence and the power to build a better future.*

THE HEART

Love

—

You are untouchable, yet feelable,
You live in everyone's heart,
You flutter like a butterfly in flight,
Gentle, free, and full of art.

Sometimes you make us happy,
Sometimes you make us angry and aggressive,
Sometimes you leave us feeling blue,
You are a mystery — so expressive.

Truly, you are our responsibility,
To us, the people of this lovable earth.
Where hate divides families,
You teach us love's true worth.

A false love falls apart like dry leaves in the wind,
But true love never dies,
It burns like an eternal flame,
Bright as the morning skies.

SUMMARY: *Love is powerful and complicated, but true love remains faithful, healing and enduring.*

ROOTS

Mother

—

You are the pillar of my life,
And I am the fruit of your vows.
Without you, I am nothing
But a shadow without light.

In you I trust, in you I believe,
You are my blood and my living memory.
You once taught me that,
“Righteousness exalts a nation,
But sin is a reproach to any people.”

To me, you are like the broad back of an elephant,
And I climb onto you whenever I am in danger.
You are an excellent rebuker,
Your words are a lamp to my feet.

From you, I have learned many things:
Culture, Christian faith, peace, and love.
All these I learnt from you,
You are my anchor in the storm.

SUMMARY: *A mother provides protection, wisdom, faith and guidance through every storm of life.*

HOME

Bloemhof

—

In Bloemhof where the Vaal River flows,
The wind is soft, the sunset glows,
Dust on the roads, peace in the air,
A small town with love to share.

Church bells ring on Sunday light,
Children play till falling night,
Everyone knows everyone's name,
Life is simple, never the same.

Fields of maize and skies so wide,
Hope and struggle side by side,
No big buildings, no city rush,
Just quiet hearts in evening hush.

Bloemhof, you hold us tight,
With your stars so calm and bright,
Far from noise, you make us whole,
A home that lives inside the soul.

SUMMARY: *Bloemhof is celebrated as a peaceful hometown filled with community, nature and belonging.*

NEW HORIZONS

The Open Book

—

A page is a door,
And a word is a key.
The more that we learn,
The more we can see.

The classroom is waiting,
The questions are bright.
Each curious mind
Can turn on a light.

No dream is too distant,
No road is too long.
Knowledge gives courage,
And courage grows strong.

SUMMARY: *Learning opens doors, grows courage and helps people imagine possibilities beyond the present.*

The Library Door

—

The library door
Swings open so wide,
And countless brave voices
Are waiting inside.

A poet, a painter,
A thinker, a friend—
Each book is a journey
That does not quite end.

I enter as one person,
Then leave changed somehow;
The future feels closer,
More possible now.

SUMMARY: *Books transform the reader by offering new voices, journeys and ways of understanding the world.*

Tomorrow’s Hands

Tomorrow is shaped
By the work we begin.
It lives in the choices
We carry within.

A pencil, a promise,
A heart that will try—
Can build up a future
As wide as the sky.

We are not too small
To make change come true.
The world is still waiting
For what we will do.

SUMMARY: *The future is shaped by the choices, effort and courage we show today.*

First Light

When morning unfolds
Its gold at the door,
I rise with a question
And wonder for more.

The night held my worries,
The dawn holds a plan.
I learn from the silence
And do what I can.

Each day is a beginning,
Each breath is a start.
The sun writes a lesson
Across every heart.

SUMMARY: *Each morning offers a fresh beginning and the chance to turn worries into hope.*

The Quiet Scholar

I carry my books
Like seeds in my hand.
I water them daily
To understand.

No trumpet announces
The hours I spend,
But patience and effort
Become my best friend.

The quietest footsteps
May travel the farthest;
The mind that keeps growing
Will rise from the hardest.

SUMMARY: *Patient, consistent study may be quiet, but it creates strength and lasting achievement.*

A Teacher’s Chalk

—

A white line of chalk
Crosses a dark board,
And suddenly worlds
Are opened with words.

A teacher gives shape
To questions unseen,
And turns little sparks
Into visions and dreams.

The lesson may finish,
The bell may ring clear,
But wisdom keeps walking
For many a year.

SUMMARY: *A teacher’s lesson can continue guiding a learner long after the classroom bell rings.*

The Examination

—

The paper looks solemn,
The minutes move fast.
I breathe through the pressure
And learn from the past.

I am more than a number,
More than a grade;
Each honest attempt
Is a promise I’ve made.

If failure should visit,
I’ll greet it and say:
“You taught me the pathway
To try one more day.”

SUMMARY: *An examination measures effort, but failure can also teach resilience and the courage to try again.*

A Hand to Hold

Love is a hand
That reaches through rain,
The voice that says softly,
“Try once again.”

It does not demand
That the sorrow depart;
It sits in the darkness
And listens to heart.

Where kindness is planted,
The lonely can see:
The world still has room
For you and for me.

SUMMARY: *Kindness and companionship help people endure pain and remind them that they are not alone.*

Letters to the Moon

I send you my wishes
On wings made of light,
To travel through silence
And brighten the night.

The moon keeps my secrets,
The stars guard each line,
And somewhere beyond them
Your heartbeat meets mine.

Though distance may stretch us,
Though seasons may roam,
True love finds a pathway
And calls it a home.

SUMMARY: *Love can cross distance and keep two hearts connected through hope and imagination.*

The Bridge

—

Between you and anger
There lives a small bridge;
It is built from forgiveness,
Not pride on a ridge.

Cross over with patience,
Put harsh words aside.
The heart that says sorry
Lets healing abide.

Two shores may be broken,
Two stories may bend,
But love can still build them
Back into a friend.

SUMMARY: *Forgiveness and patience can rebuild relationships that have been damaged by anger.*

When Hearts Heal

Some wounds have no colour,
Some tears make no sound.
Yet time, like a gardener,
Can soften the ground.

A smile may return slowly,
A song may begin;
The heart is a window
That opens again.

Do not rush the sunrise,
Let tenderness start—
The gentlest of mercies
Can mend a brave heart.

SUMMARY: *Healing takes time, but gentleness and mercy can help a wounded heart open again.*

The Flame

A true love is a flame
That survives every wind,
It warms without burning,
It mends what has thinned.

It grows through the seasons,
Through laughter and pain,
And shines in the darkness
Again and again.

Guard it with truth,
Let compassion be near;
The brightest of fires
Are fed without fear.

SUMMARY: *True love survives hardship when it is protected by truth, compassion and commitment.*

Mother’s Apron

—

Your apron held stories
Of bread, soap, and rain,
Of hands that kept giving
Through worry and pain.

You stitched up the mornings,
You seasoned the night,
And made even little
Things somehow feel right.

Now when I feel helpless,
Your lessons appear:
Be gentle, work bravely,
And never live fear.

SUMMARY: *A mother’s everyday care leaves behind practical lessons, comfort and memories that last.*

Her Lamp

My mother’s small lamp
Still glows in my mind,
A faithful reminder
To seek and to find.

She taught me that goodness
Is stronger than shame,
And truth is a river
That honours its name.

When storms cross my pathway
And shadows grow long,
Her voice is the compass
That leads me back strong.

SUMMARY: *A mother’s guidance becomes a lasting light that leads her child toward goodness and truth.*

The Village Drum

At dusk the drum answers
The call of the land,
Its rhythm joins elders,
And children who stand.

It carries our stories
Through dust and through rain,
It gathers our laughter,
It remembers our pain.

A people who listen
Will never lose track
Of all that their ancestors
Carefully packed.

SUMMARY: *The village drum preserves history, culture, shared memory and the strength of community.*

Vaal River Evening

The Vaal keeps on moving
Beneath copper skies,
While birds fold their journeys
And daylight grows wise.

The reeds hold the breeze
In a whispering line,
And stars find the water
Before they can shine.

I sit by the river
And breathe with its flow;
It teaches the heart
That stillness can grow.

SUMMARY: *The Vaal River teaches calmness, continuity and the quiet growth found in stillness.*

Dust Road

The dust road remembers
The soles of our feet,
The bicycles, children,
The vendors we meet.

It rises in summer
And settles at night,
Yet carries us homeward
By ordinary light.

No road is unworthy
Because it is small;
The road to a dream
Must begin somewhere, after all.

SUMMARY: *Even an ordinary road can carry meaningful memories and lead someone toward a greater dream.*

Small-Town Sky

—

Our small-town sky
Has room for a dream,
Wide enough for courage
To rise like a stream.

No towers conceal it,
No traffic can claim
The quiet blue ceiling
Above every name.

Here hope grows slowly,
But deeply and true;
The sky keeps reminding me
I can grow too.

SUMMARY: *The open sky of a small town represents freedom, hope and the possibility of personal growth.*

Home Inside Me

I carry my home
In the shape of a song,
In the smell of the rain,
In the place I belong.

I carry the voices
That taught me to stand,
The river, the church bell,
The warmth of the land.

Wherever I travel,
Through joy or through strife,
Bloemhof walks beside me,
A heartbeat for life.

SUMMARY: *Home is carried in memory, voice, landscape and the people who shape a person's identity.*

The Future We Wear

—

One day we will gather
In gowns dark and bright,
With names called by voices
And faces alight.

But long before honours
Are placed in our hands,
We rise from the mornings
And keep to our plans.

The future we wear then
Is sewn from today:
From work, hope, and courage
That never gives way.

SUMMARY: *Achievement is made from daily discipline, hope and courage long before success is celebrated.*