Characters

The Legae Family

Mmapula  matriarch of the Legae family; wife of Dipuo and mother to the Legae siblings

Dipuo  patriarch of the Legae family; husband to Mmapula, father to the Legae siblings

Modiri  eldest of the Legae adult brothers and of all the siblings; runs his own small transport business, predominantly responsible for the family’s cattle

Keitumetse  eldest of the Legae sisters; mother to Lorato; deceased

Khumo  third of the Legae siblings and second eldest sister; mother to Boipelo, Tshepo, and Thabo; live-in partner of Mosimanegape

Moagi  fourth of the Legae siblings and second eldest brother; a soldier; father of Kopano

Kelebogile  fifth of the Legae siblings and third of the sisters; employed at a local NGO; mother of Tefo

Kagiso  sixth of the Legae siblings and third of the brothers; preacher, driver, and shop owner

Oratile  seventh of the Legae siblings and youngest of the sisters; mother of Lesego and Kenosi

Tuelo  youngest of the Legae brothers and of all the siblings

Lorato  eldest granddaughter of Mmapula and Dipuo; only daughter of Keitumetse

Boipelo  eldest daughter of Khumo and Mosimanegape; older sister of Tshepo and Thabo

Tshepo  second eldest daughter of Khumo and Mosimanegape; younger sister of Boipelo

Kgosiemang  eldest son of Khumo and Mosimanegape; in his mid-teens
Lesego  eldest daughter of Oratile; in her early teens
Letlhogonolo  second eldest son of Khumo and Mosimanegape
Kopano  only son of Moagi; in his early teens
Tefo  only son of Kelebogile; in late primary school
Mompati  second-youngest son of Khumo and Mosimanegape; in late primary school
Thabo  youngest son of Khumo and Mosimanegape; younger brother of Boipelo and Tshepo
Kenosi  youngest daughter of Oratile; in late primary school
Mosimanegape  live-in partner of Khumo; father to Boipelo, Tshepo, Kgosiemang, Letlhogonolo, Mompati, and Thabo

Neighbours and Friends

Rra Ditau  neighbour of the Legaes and builder; married to Mma Ditau, a distant maternal relative of Mmapula
Pono  young woman; neighbour to the author and the Legaes
Mpho  Pono’s older sister; resident in Maropeng
Lesedi  friend of the Legaes; cousin (mother’s sister’s child, ngwana a mmangwane) to Tumi
Tumi  cousin (mother’s sister’s child) to Lesedi
Bonolo  young man from Dithaba; moved to stay with the Legaes
Mma Dineo  distant relative of Mmapula’s; grandmother to three boys involved in the first formal fostering arrangement made in Dithaba
Mmabontle  staff member from the local orphan care project; daughter of Tharo’s grandfather
Tharo  young man from Dithaba initiated into the Matsosangwao mophato; grandson of Mmabontle’s father

Key NGO and Government Figures

Thapelo  founder and coordinator of national non-governmental organisation specialising in retreats for orphaned youth
Tsholo  coordinator of local non-governmental orphan care project
Tumelo  village social worker for Dithaba