

In differences he  
sees between the  
countryside



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In the Imposter by Damon Galgut, Adam first starts a journey of his life without his job by moving into Gavin's second house and Galgut uses the weeds in his backyard to help the reader better understand the clutter and many rising problems that Adam possesses. Adam is then approached by Canning, a childhood friend who he does not remember. When Adam exchanges numbers with Canning, they meet up several times and progressively become friends. During these journeys, Adam describes how he sees the landscapes and the differences he sees between the countryside and New Hope. The description of the the landscape in New Hope, the countryside, and Adam's backyard symbolizes Adam's disoriented character, the corruption and new found hope of society.

Damon Galgut compares the differences between the landscape in the countryside and Canning's house in New Hope, to illustrate that there is still hope for South Africa post-apartheid. As Canning drives Adam to his house, Adam notices the "ruined-looking countryside". He describes how the landscape used to be lively and filled with animals, and "now those animals are scattering fossilized bones and the landscaped itself is like a fossil of that time". The destruction of the land not only symbolizes the corruption of society post apartheid but also the lack of money society has to fix their infrastructure. On the other hand, when Canning and Adam reach New Hope, Adam describes how pure the land looks; "The road climbs into the cool green, the high mountain walls narrowing on either side".

This displays that although New Hope goes through the same issues as the countryside, New Hope is still able to succeed. Therefore, the countryside could eventually attain success. Adam also notices how much wealthier

people are in New Hope. He sees that the neighbor's cottage is filled with lively animals and "the cluster of rondawels in the same faux-African style" that Canning has. This proves that although times are hard, people are still able to find a job and make a lot of money. Damon Galgut chooses the landscape to describe the potential hope South Africa has post apartheid because acquiring lots of land represents wealth in South African society. The description of the messy weeds in Adam's house in the countryside symbolize Adam's messy character. When Adam tells Gavin all of the bad news, he offers Adam his other house that he owns in the countryside.

Adam agrees and keeps postponing his task of cleaning the weeds; "He doesn't go home and tackle the weeds after all. Somehow that mission got sidetracked" (56). This shows that he is not an organized person and does not approach his problems directly. For example, since he just got fired from his job and has no money to pay his rent, he just lives his life sad and does nothing to try to find another job. Adam's excuse for this is that he "is not after money.

I'm after something else... Beauty with a capital B" (22). The importance of Beauty he explains is the sole reason of why he does poetry. In reality, he just uses poetry to backup a reason as to why he does not make an effort to try to find a stable job to make money to be an independent person. It is not until the last scene in the book where he clears the weeds, but still sees the new weeds sprouting; "When he pulls himself together he goes out into the yard with his gloves and pick... By nightfall he's done... All he can see... is the fresh round of green shoots starting to poke their heads above the surface" (190). Before this scene, Adam's thoughts are jumbled because of <https://assignbuster.com/in-differences-he-sees-between-the-countryside/>

his obsession with Baby. That's why Adam cleaning the weeds symbolizes how he wants to get rid of these thoughts, but the small weeds he sees growing are a symbol that shows he only cleared them temporarily. Therefore, the thoughts are still there, he's just distracting himself from thinking about the obsession he has with Baby.

The weeds in his backyard convey imagery to deeper understand how muddled Adam's thoughts and life are. The reader must understand the differences in the landscape descriptions that occur accordingly to accommodate to the changes of the character's emotion and the society. Throughout the book, the weeds barely change as a result of Adam's lack of growth as a person. Then, the poor and destroyed setting of the countryside shows how corrupt society is post apartheid, while the descriptions of the landscapes changes in New Hope to clean and pristine to display how successful the people are even though the society is still corrupt. It also symbolizes how the landscape has to do with wealth.

The connections amongst the landscape, the character's emotions, and the society show how the landscape is an important aspect of not only the story but also South Africa's society.