TRANSFORMING MOMENTS

BY GCINA MHLOPHE
The story is set in the Eastern Cape, during the 1970s.

It happens at a boarding school.

Later, the speaker finds herself in Tsolo, in the homeland of Transkei.
Opening: The narrator is academically successful and teachers are impressed with her.

Rising action: She has a poor self-image, refuses the advances of an attractive boy and experiences jealousy and hostility at the hands of other girls.

Climax: She is inspired when she sees and imbongi’s brilliant performance.

Falling action: She realises she has found her vocation.

Denouement: She writes her first poem and learns to love herself.
The narrator is the protagonist, intelligent but she lacks confidence and thinks herself ugly.

Father Fikeni makes her realise that she is special.

Belelwa is her friend who defends her against the other girls.

Sizwe is the attractive rugby player who wanted to be her boyfriend.
Themes

Being transformed
Hearing the imbongi and seeing the performance stimulates the narrator's own creativity

Low self-esteem
“Miss ugly top of the class”
Describes her hair like dry grass in winter
Has knock knees

Love
She learns self-love and embraces all her flaws
She realises that all she thought wrong with her qualifies her uniquely to realise her calling
The title is an effective one and points to the main theme – TRANSFORMATION.

It deals with a young woman overcoming her fears and starting to believe in herself.

There are 3 people who facilitate this change: Belelwa, Sizwe, Father Fikeni.