

Punctuation exercise

Add punctuation to the following text:

From far off she could see cars arriving and people waiting at the gate She was sent to an office run by a black girl wearing a wig She spoke Afrikaans and some English Sit down she said to Poppie She read the letter Actually I must give this letter to the clerk who collects the tax but he isn't here today his car broke down

Must I come again Poppie asked The way is long there are no buses I know nothing of a tax What tax

You pay a rand its a kind of tax the girl explained then when they divide up the land one day you have claim to a plot

Poppie was suspicious Whose land will be divided

Nobodys land said the girl. The camps where the cattle and sheep graze will be made smaller then they divide up the land and the tax is kind of your deposit

The black girl was very helpful

Tomorrow morning I'm going to Sterkspruit she said I'll pay your rand leave your pass book and the money with me You can stand at the gate of your ilali and as I pass I'll give you back your pass book with the stamp inside You can trust me. I'll write out your receipt right now This is an office this its not a bribery-place.

And the rand is all I pay Poppie asked

Next year another rand and the next year as well then you can claim the land

(Taken from *Die Swerfjare van Poppie Nongena*, 1985, pg. 286, by Elsa Joubert.)