






Solam Mkhabela– Photography course facilitator
Claire Benit-Gbaffou – Workshop facilitator
Wits November 2011

Natal & Saunders Street Portrait

Wits students photographs
commented by Yeoville residents

**During a workshop 19 November 2011,
residents were asked to choose, amongst 50
pictures (using stickers) :**

- The two pictures they liked the best 
- The two pictures they disliked the most 
- The two pictures that they thought capture the best Saunders-Natal street 'as it is' 

**PLEASE ADD YOUR OWN
COMMENTS UNDER THE
PICTURES!**



Picture 1 – Liphosa

“This building looks too old, old fashioned. And with the laundry and the metal structure... it is not well maintained.”

Box for Dots

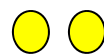




Picture 2 – Liphosa

“The bricks are dark and the tree is dried out and won’t give good shade”

Box for Dots



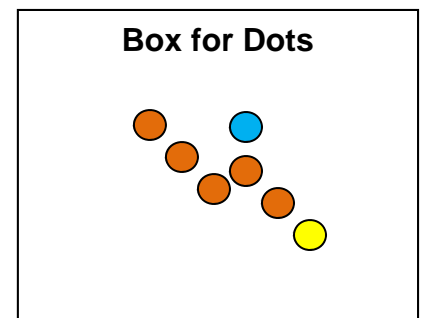


Picture 3 – Zhang

“The house is clean. The wall is nice. There are two palms which give nice shade.”

“I like this yard. It is something else.”

“It looks ordinarily suburban, like in Bez Valley. It is not about this street, it is not about Yeoville.”



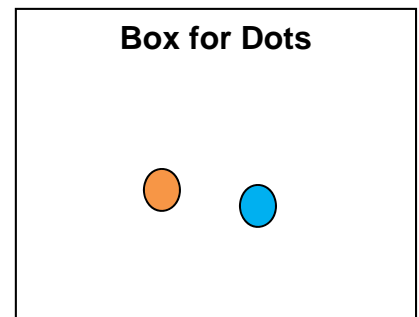


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Picture 4 - Vawda

“I like this building. The trees are beautiful, and look at this curve on the street!”

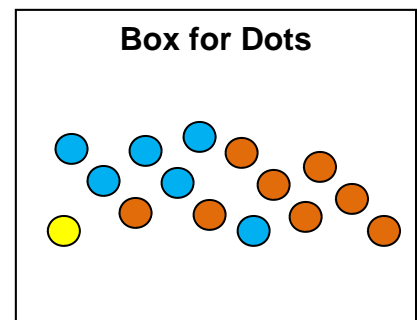




Picture 5 – James

“I like it because of the Telkom tower. It represents Jo’burg. Where ever you are coming from, that is a sign that you are in Jozi.”

“You can see at a distance, the street is nice, the buildings well painted. You can see far, even the sky. You can see it is near. You can’t get lost.”





Picture 6 – James

A - The building has got no light, there is no electricity, there is too much crime. Yeah, we all have a problem with the whole building.

Q- We've been in that building.

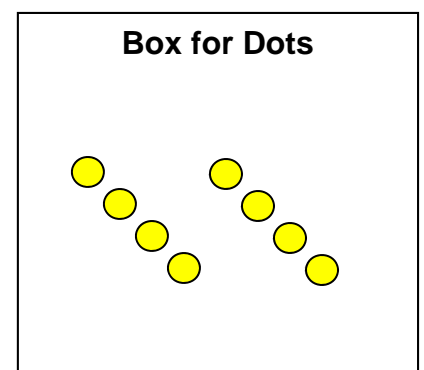
A -You've been there?

Q - We met really nice people there, but we also didn't like the building...

A - Yah, it is a bit dodgy.

Q -Have you been there?

A- No, I know these buildings are harsh, dangerous.



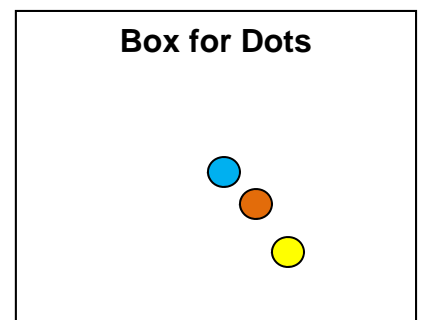


Picture 7 – James

A- “This building is not good, look at all the washing. You’ve got a place where you put the laundry, on the rooftop or in the yard. Not in full view, not in front...

Q- What if the rooftop is not safe, what if people steal clothing from there?

A- They’d have to make a plan. We are trying to protect our properties, it must be in order.”

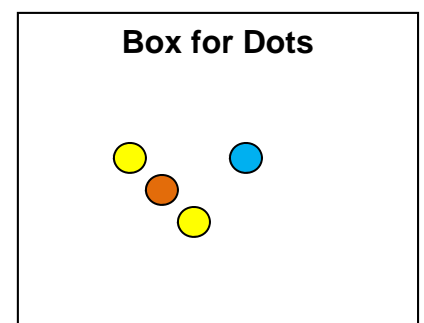




Picture 8 - Ranchod

“The place seems to be neglected. It shows that little care is being given to small children. From outside it doesn’t really look like a nursery.”

“I know the place. I work there.”





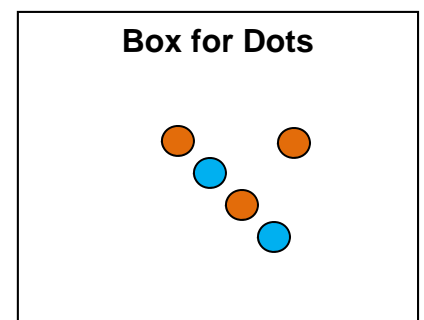
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Picture 9 – James

“The lights bring out the city life. I got aroused by lights, bright things.”

“In other places there are only houses, you don’t see so many lights. I like the buildings in Yeoville.”

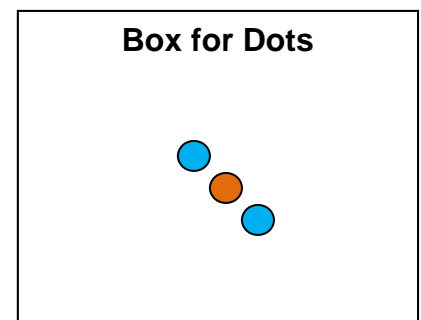




Picture 10 – Patterson

“They are upgrading it and the area. The area went downhill for years but is now starting to get better.”

“It shows projects, places being fixed, not being left out. Most buildings here are about to collapse on you!”





Picture 11 – James

No comment from the community so far

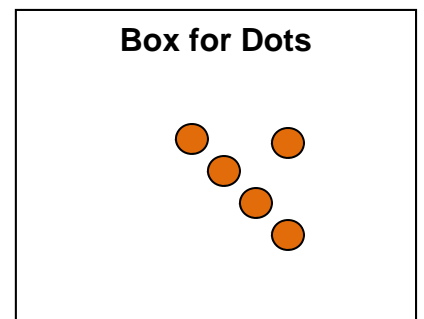
Box for Dots

A large, empty rectangular box with a thin black border, intended for community comments or feedback.



Photo 14- James

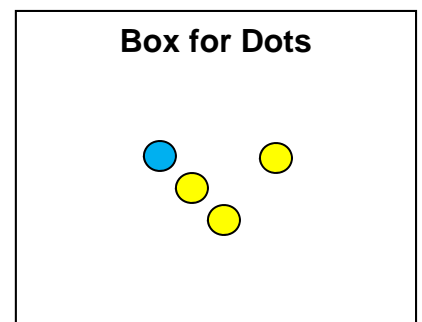
No comment from community so far.





Picture 13 – James

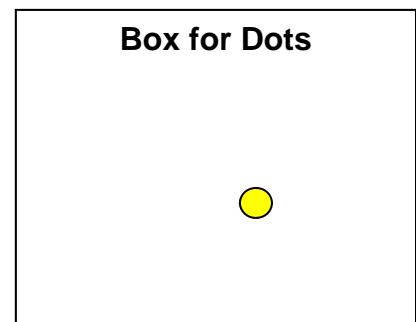
No comment from community so far





Picture 14 – James

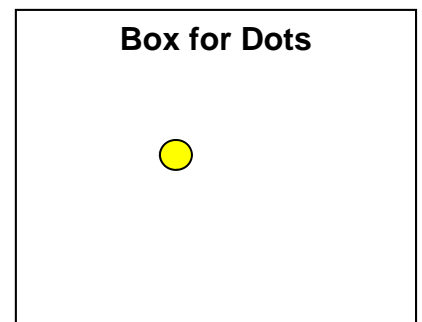
No comment from the community so far





Picture 15 – Ranchod

“Too close. Confusing. Strange angle. What did he want to show?”



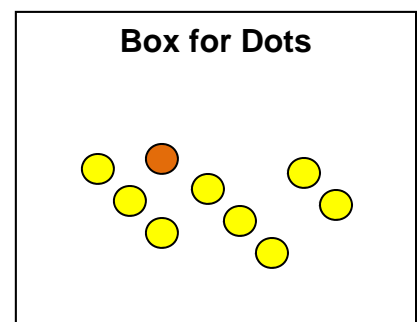


Picture 16 – Patterson

“The window is broken with feet protruding. It shows the character and bad attitude of the person. He is a careless unemployed male. He probably drinks and is prone to violence. He can’t afford to fix his window. It shows poverty.”

“You ask yourself what the guy is up to, upstairs, he has his legs over the window, what the hell is he doing? It is just on point, something that people normally don’t see, but there is the photographer able to just quickly capture it, it says a lot, also on the broken window.”

“A strange, awkward view. Another strange thing.”

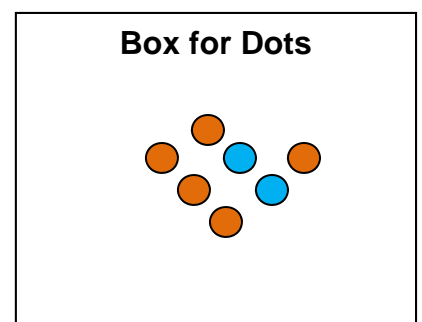




Picture 17 – James

“Rare sighting. Beauty and light in the night time.”

“I fell in love with the picture, I loved the lights protruding through the windows. How can I put it, it is so quiet... There is no one on the picture, but it does speak to you.”



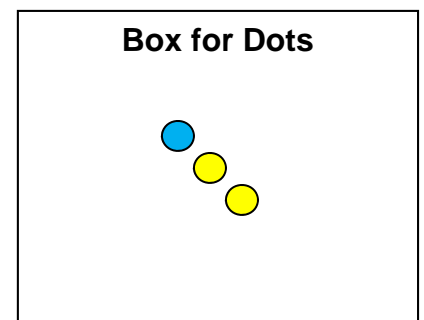


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Picture 18 – James

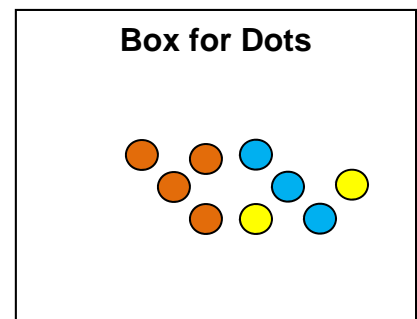
“Good angle. The water tower is an icon of Yeoville. And the tank coming out of the rooftops, surrounded by green foliage... This is Yeoville!”





Picture 19 – James

“It’s fine, but it’s not really safe. The gates are short. The thieves and robbers can jump in there and rob. And this building on the other side is an abandoned building.”

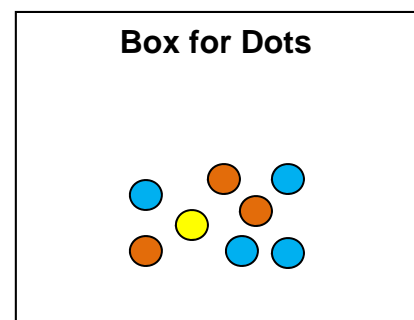




Picture 20 – James

“I like it because of the tower. The tower has changed. It used to have a ball, now it has 8ta. It gives me memories of the World Cup, but now it keeps changing.”

“You can see the difference between the big satellite and the small satellites, that was cleverly shot, there is a story behind this.”





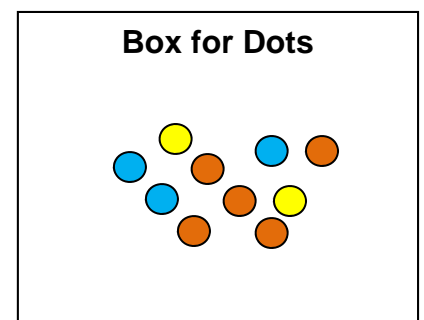
Picture 21 – Liphosa

A- “The place being depicted is very dull, too neutral, too quiet. Look at the street now, how busy it is!

Q – “Maybe because it is dawn on this picture. Look at the cleaners, they are starting their work day...

A - Oh, I see, it is early morning... but it still gives a bad image of the place”

“They are trying. Picking up things, going to the scrap yard... And doing something for the area!”





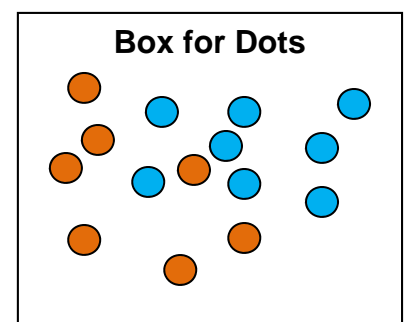
Picture 22 – Hart

“The lady is cleaning. She is doing her job. People are selling things, but they are still clean. I live on this street, I would show people this photo proudly to show where I live.”

“People are relaxing there. They can do their trading, the tree is providing shadow...”

“She is working hard for very little money. This is a last resort job. She is very brave. These women are on the treadmill of life and they can’t afford to get off. They get a really raw deal for only R2000 a month. The attitude towards these women is bad. They are looked down upon. It is a contradiction, they clean, but are seen as rubbish.”

“Look how colourful she is, that picture is so colourful... Any job, no matter how horrible it might seem, it seems beautiful. I feel like helping her.”



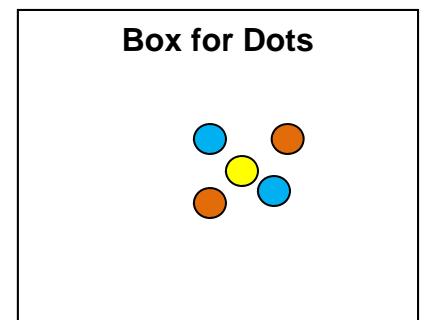


Picture 23 – Rebecca McNally

“The man pushing the ice cream cart clutters up the street. He causes litter with the papers and holds up traffic.”

“Even during hard times, people hustle for greener pastures. They are not ashamed of what they are doing. It represents reality.”

“No need to be ashamed at what you do. You can be amazed that the money that comes from ice-cream.”



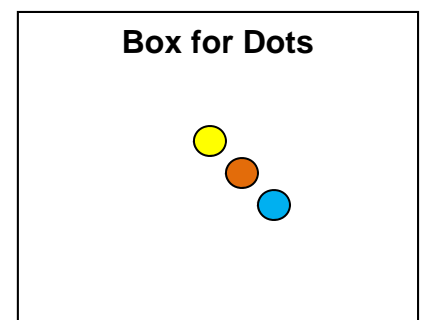


Picture 24 – Zhang

“The house and fence look very attractive. I would like to own a house like this”

“At least it is not like Sandton, you can talk to people in the street, there are not high walls”

“It is not orderly, look at the truck parked inside. And the grass is all dry, it does not look tidy”



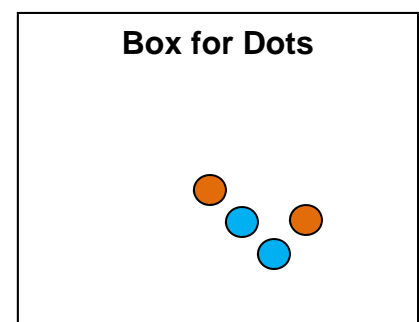


Picture 25 – Walele

“Things are clean and working. The people in the photograph are emptying rubbish. The street looks colourful and smart.”

“Everyone’s active, Everyone’s on something.”

“I like the men at work along the street. These guys jumping, they are dynamic.”

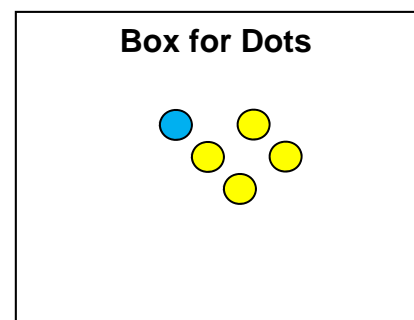




Picture 26 – Ranchod

- A . I don't like them, they look like tsotsis
- B . I like it, it is my style, tsotsi style !

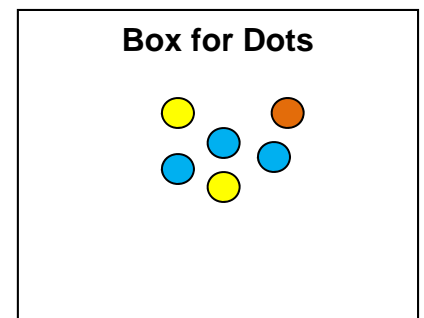
“There is a lot of smoke and it affects people's lungs. The food that is being sold there is open and exposed to germs. You see, it's not healthy.”





Picture 27 - James

- A . I don't like them, they look like tsotsis
- B . I like it, it is my style, tsotsi style!



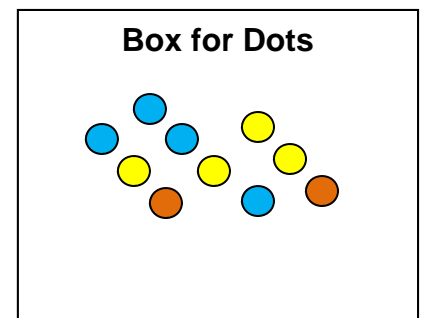


Picture 28 – Patterson

“Spaza shops are good because we can buy there anytime; even when Shoprite has closed...It’s also very safe because we don’t have to walk long distances to Rocky Street at night.”

“It’s not in the context of the street... where is this?... it looks like the township not this street”

“This shows the small businesses, the salon and spaza. Small entrepreneurs are struggling, building and growing their businesses. They are small now. In twenty years they may have broken through and you’ll see a big store in that position!”



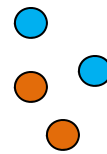


Picture 29 – James

“You can see that this tuck-shop is operating late at night. It is also clean.

It is good for the people, latecomers from work they get helped. It is also good because it gives light in the street, you can see far, you can relax.”

Box for Dots





Picture 30 – Dyer

A- “No offense to Dyer, I do not get the point of this photo. The topic is the street, why did she photograph the inside of a flat?”

Q- But it is a view from the street, it is a spaza in a garage...

A- Ohhhh! It is outside! I thought it was inside! The street is inside out .”

Box for Dots

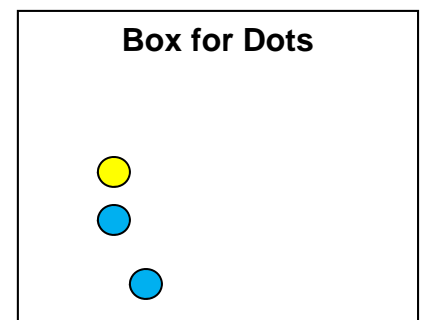




Picture 31- Dyer

“I like it, You can get everything from there, without going a long way to the shops, it is helping us.”

“Here in Yeoville we don’t like going to groceries, we just like buying the smaller things, we use the shops regularly, like I can get an onion for R1 and it’s enough.”





Picture 32 – Dyer

A- “Selling in front of the building, to the outside world it is not a good image of the area. It can attract criminals to come into that house, posing as if they want to buy. Is this a business or a residential area anyway?”

Q – But don’t you buy from them?

A- Yes, but you don’t know if the goods are not expired.

Q – Then why do you buy?

A – If the shops are closed, if I am in a hurry, sometimes there are situations where shops are too far...

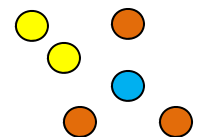
B- They don’t even have a license. If the metro cops come you’ll see them run away. Spaza shops are OK, what is bad is that this is so temporary, on the buckets in front of the garage...

A -And they make the place dirty. And some sell dagga.

Q- Why don’t you tell the police then?

A –I don’t know for sure, but how could they survive by just selling sweets?”

Box for Dots





Picture 33 – Zhang

“Hey! Yo yo yo. If you are walking there, they are just disturbing. There is a market now but people are still selling in the street. It is understandable because they’re trying to get money. It is because we are overpopulated now in Yeoville, there is no money”

“The spazas are useful. And the house is looking good.”

Box for Dots





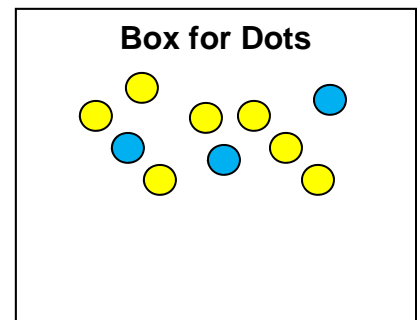
Picture 34 – Hart

A: “These are dirty children... No food, bad conditions...”

B: But kids need security, dirt is good for kids, they have their own boundaries.

A: Look at the leaking pipe... Dirty water, dirt are not good for kids - when they get sick you have to take them to the clinic, you wait in long queues and the nurses tell you to come back the next day”

“It reminds me of growing up poor in inner Harare. Black communities don’t have much but are wealthier in this area. Which is why my children live here – although Yeoville kids are a bit delinquent, they all carry knives. Police do nothing. The youth are misguided and because of this are showing support for Julius Malema.”





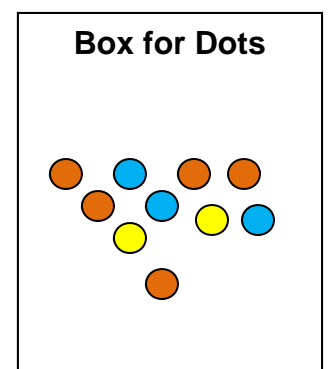
Picture 35 – James

“I like the Telkom tower. It represents everything about Jozi. It also gives me memories of the 2010 world cup.”

“Reminds me of my sons growing up. There is a sense of freedom. A great city scape.”

“To be able to see the tower from the street is fascinating to me. It is an ordinary street which I know, now linked to the center. I can put it as the wall paper on my computer!”

“Taxis are using this street, shoo! It is dangerous for the kid.”

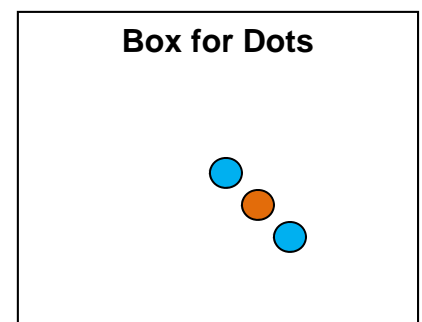




Picture 36 – Ranchod

“Kids are playing even though they don’t have a facility for soccer. They do what they enjoy wherever they are.”

“They play next to the garages, it is an open space whereby they can play without disturbances.”





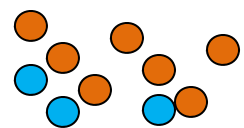
Picture 37 – James

“The boys are socialising. The ball brings them together. They now know each other. Now they are like brothers. It’s more than *nxaa* (nice) my brother.

The disc brings people together...maybe some of them are from Zimbabwe and others are from South Africa, but they are together like brothers. I like togetherness man. That’s what I like.”

“I knows these boys. They all live in the building. I live on the second floor. Once they kicked their ball high and broke my window. I sometimes buy them ice creams. They keep an eye on my car if I park in the front of the building.”

Box for Dots



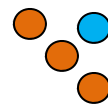


Picture 38 – Tweedy

“It gives a sense of friendship, it gives a communal feel.

Children always play in the street, this is what you see everyday, and this photo gives a feel of that. Photographer got it spot on!”

Box for Dots

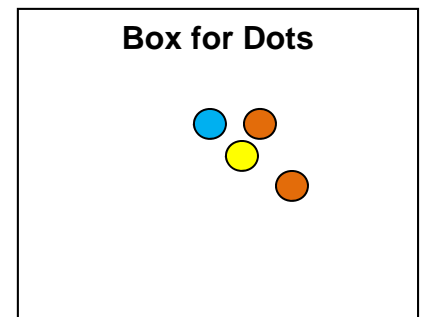




Picture 39 – Tweedy

“To me they seem like it is a matter of unemployment.”

“That is what we do there after school, we like sitting there and chatting, and watching cars crossing. It is what we do regularly.”

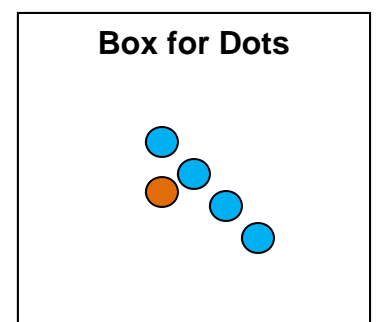




Picture 40 – Hart

“People sitting on the corner doing nothing. They are gambling. Teaching children bad habits. These people are loitering. They should go and sit in the park.”

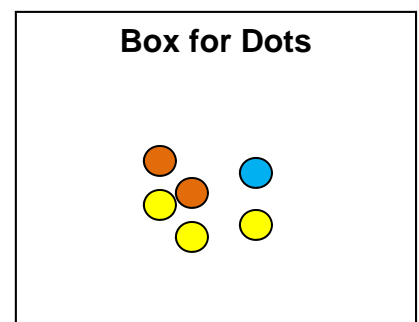
“You can even relax no matter how old you are. Share something – even gossiping! And play *muchaina* – it means interpreting Lotto numbers that people dream.”





Picture 41 – James

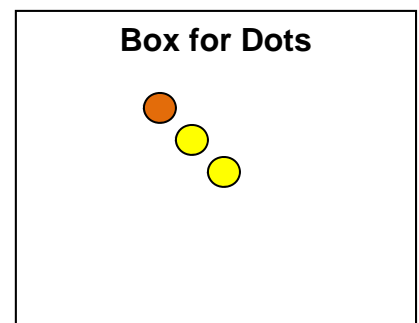
“They are happy, it shows happiness”





Picture 42 – Lu

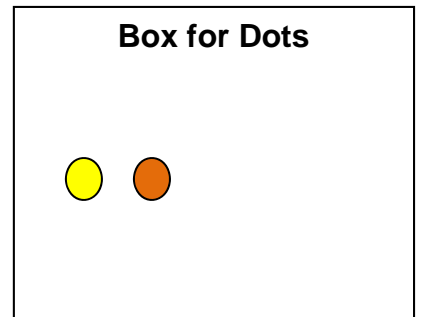
“To me they seem like it is a matter of unemployment. These guys look like they are smoking or something”





Picture 43 – James

No comments from community so far





Picture 44 – James

“Young girls dancing provocatively in the hair salon is bad, because afterwards they go and dance in the bars. They should be focusing on their school work and behaving like children”

A: “Look at these people! They should be at school

Q: But it is after school...

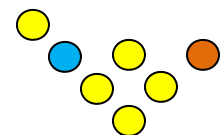
A: Then they should be home

Q: What if there is no space at home? And anyway, what is wrong with having some fun with your friends after school?... you’ve never done that?

A: Look at the way they are dressed, the mini-skirt, jiving kwasa-kwasa... in our culture they have to wear decent clothes. This is getting out of hand. “

“They are teenagers, expressing themselves. They are free, they’re happy, they are enjoying the place...”

Box for Dots





Picture 45 – James

“Schoolgirls in uniform. Dressing inappropriately. The girl’s skirt is too short. They are dressing provocatively. They are buying something like alcohol. The eye is looking at the girl’s bum. The photo shows temptation. There is a child watching them, being corrupted. People should be at least 25 before they should be able to act so irresponsibly!”

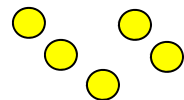
A: “What was that? A mistake? A bum!

Q: If you know the story about it, it makes a difference

A: I don’t know the story about it

Q: Alistair took the photo and the girls really wanted their picture taken, so they were posing.”

Box for Dots



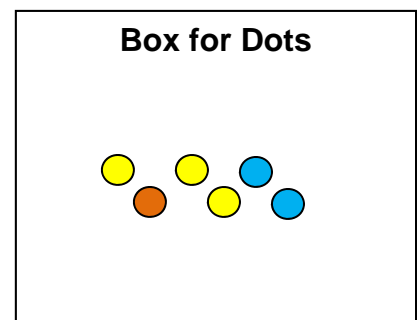


Picture 46 – Ranchod

“It looks clear, no problem, nothing to disturb people. This lady holding her keys on a string...”

“I like this one, nice and clean, quiet... makes me think of Yeoville 10 years ago. This represents Yeoville to me.”

“It is not nice, the place looks neglected, sad. The paving looks poor, the grass is dry...”



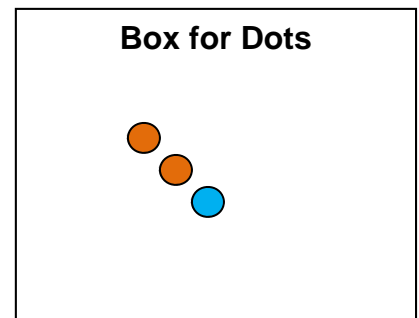


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Picture 47- James

“When you walk that street in the night, you see the light on that tower, it is like you are in another country, like overseas, like on TV.”

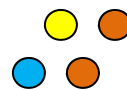




Picture 48 – Zhang

“On my street, when I pass there and I see that, I remember back when I was born, where I was growing up. It looks like my father’s house in Zimbabwe, a big, old fashioned house.”

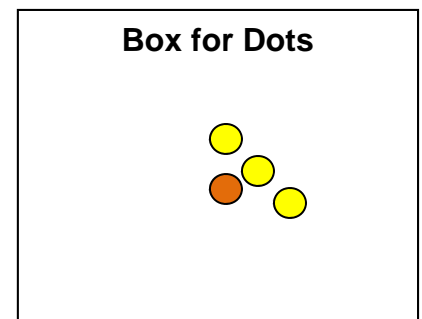
Box for Dots





Picture 49 – James

“It looks like in a squatter camp, like Diepsloot. Before, Yeoville was not like this before...”





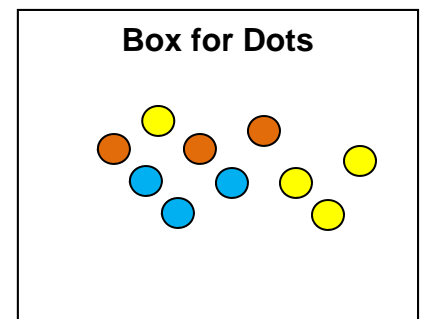
Picture 50 – James

“People carrying goods, it shows how they are suffering. They are carrying a bed, moving to another flat. It happens every month end...

The building is falling apart, look under the window there.”

“It is not looking nice, it shows the black people, how can i explain this... we are overpopulated now”

“It depicts the reality of life in Yeoville. There is the taxi, the public transport we use the most; there are people moving, as we do often, there is this lady sitting outside the store trying to make business, with her kid... it is depictive of Yeoville society.”





Picture 51 – Dyer

“We were worried because my sister lives on number 50, like on the picture.

She saw the posters and said, what is going on? We were worried the house was going to be auctioned. She was working today, so she sent me to find out. Now I can tell her, just relax, my sister, no problem...

Yoh! We were worried. Because you don't know! Outside they just sell your house... so now I am happy!”

Box for Dots