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1. Serote was born in Old Sophiatown in 1944. His boyhood was spent in Alexandra, "his mother" for whom he wrote his beautiful poem of that name. Later he went to school in Leribe, Lesotho, and Soweto. Poetry was his love.

Cartoon: Serote composing a poem

2. Poetry was one love, justice was another. In 1969 he was detained under the Terrorism Act, and later released without charge. In 1972 he published Yakhal' Inkomo and in 1974 Tsetlo. Douglas Livingstone said of his poetry, and the poetry of other Black poets, that their devotion to parents, family, friends, enriched English literature.

Cartoon: Serote watching a mother and her child or children passing by.

3. In 1974 Serote went to Columbia University to study drama, and gained his degree in 1976. Meanwhile he had published his third collection, No Baby Must Weep. In 1977 he arrived in Botswana, and settled in Kanye with his wife and child. There he is writing a part-biographical prose work. His fourth collection, Behold Mama, Flowers, will be published soon. His passport has expired and he hopes to get a United Nations document. He retains a deep faith in life.

The vast calm of the sky
 And the deep pulse of the sea
 These tie us,
 Are but a navel cord,
 We are led to eternity
 Our mother.....

Cartoon: Serote on the seashore