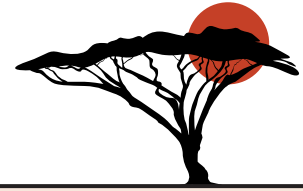




A LONG WALK TO WATER: DISCUSSION GUIDE #2



Chapters 9 – 12

Comprehension:

- What are the visitors to Nya's village trying to do?
- Describe how the Akobo Desert is different from Salva's village, Loun-Ariik.
- How do some members of Salva's group help the men they find collapsed in the desert?
- What does Uncle plan to do once they reach the refugee camp, and what does he say will happen to Salva?
- As Salva's group is roasting a bird in the desert, a few men from the Nuer tribe approach the camp. What do they take and what do they do to Uncle?
- Describe the refugee camp and the people who are there. How is life better for Salva at the camp than it was on his journey?
- After Salva realizes that the woman in the Itang camp is not his mother, what does he begin to think has happened to his family?
- Salva asks the aid workers about the rumors that the camp will close. What does he learn?
- What happens when the Ethiopian soldiers arrive at the camp? Where do Salva and the other refugees go?

Analysis:

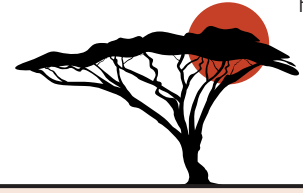
- Nya notices that the work of the visiting men and the villagers "did not sound at all like water." Explain what she means by this. Why is Nya skeptical?
- Why do you think Uncle uses Salva's full name when he encourages him to keep walking through the Akobo Desert?
- Explain how Uncle motivates Salva to keep walking in the desert. How does Salva use the same strategy to survive the time he spends at the camp?

Personal:

- "The clangor of machinery and hammer greeted Nya each time she returned from the pond—unfamiliar noises that mingled with the voices of men shouting and women singing. It was the sound of people working hard together." Describe a time when you have seen or been part of a group that came together to work on a project. What did it sound like? What did the sounds reveal about the nature of the work?



A LONG WALK TO WATER: DISCUSSION GUIDE #2



Chapters 13 – 14

Comprehension:

- What does Nya mean when she says that “you had to have water to find water”?
- How long does it take for the workers to reach the new water in Nya’s village? What does the water look like?
- How do Salva and the other refugees try to escape from the soldiers? About how many refugees die trying to escape?
- Where does Salva walk after crossing the river, and why does he decide to go there? Who walks with him?
- Salva uses his memories to help him lead the boys to the next camp. Who and what does he think about?
- How many boys arrived in Kenya? How long did it take them to get there?
- Describe the camp at Kakuma. Why do Salva and other boys leave?
- Why does Salva want to work at Ifo?
- Who is Michael? How does he help Salva?
- Where are some of the refugees being sent? Where does Salva learn he is going?

Analysis:

- Salva waits for years at the camp at Ifo with no sign of change or what the future might bring. The author explains, “It was hard to keep hope alive when there was so little to feed it.” Explain what this means.
- Michael tells Salva that Salva’s name is finally on the list of people being sent to America. Why do you think Salva tells himself that Michael is wrong?
- Why does Nya frown at the water that comes from the borehole? Why do you think she reacts this way?

Personal:

- Think of someone from history, a book, or your own life who is a good leader. What makes this person a good leader? How are they similar to Salva? How are they different?