



# A LONG WALK TO WATER: POST-READING RESPONSE PROMPTS

After you finish reading *A Long Walk to Water*, choose five of the following prompts to respond to.

A.	The title of the novel is <i>A Long Walk to Water</i> . The “long walk” represents the journeys taken by both Nya and Salva. Provide an alternate title for the novel and explain what it represents from the book.
B.	The author alternates between telling the story of Nya’s life in 2008 and the story of Salva’s life in 1985. What impact does this narrative technique have on the story?
C.	Describe Salva. Explain what kind of person he is and how his character traits help him throughout the story.
D.	How is hope important to Salva? How does he remain hopeful throughout the novel? Explain your answer giving specific examples from the text.
E.	Salva is a member of the Dinka tribe. Other Sudanese tribes include the Nuer and the Atuot. How does this tribal system appear in Salva’s story?
F.	Given the role that the tribal system plays in Sudan, what is surprising to Nya about Salva’s work? What does Salva’s work show about him?
G.	Describe Uncle Jewiir. How does he have a lasting effect on Salva?
H.	Throughout the novel, Salva faces different conflicts. Many of them are external conflicts, such as the physical difficulties of walking through the desert. Others are internal conflicts, such as Salva worrying about his family. Explain two external conflicts and two internal conflicts. Do you think that some of these conflicts are more difficult for Salva to overcome than others?
I.	Compare and contrast Salva’s life in Sudan with his life in Rochester. How does his time in Rochester have an impact on him?
J.	What does Salva do when he returns to Sudan at the end of the novel? Why do you think he does this?
K.	The novel ends with a note from Salva that reads, “To young people, I would like to say: Stay calm when things are hard or not going right with you. You will get through it when you persevere instead of quitting. Quitting leads to much less happiness in life than perseverance and hope.” What does Salva mean by this? How has he found happiness through perseverance?
L.	<i>A Long Walk to Water</i> is based on the true story of Salva Dut. Does knowing that this story is based in reality change your opinion of the book? Why or why not? Given that the events in the book are true, which parts of the story surprised you the most?