

## Chapter 1

### **Comprehension Questions:**

1. This novel has two different story lines within it. Who is the main character of the first story line (Sudan, 2008)?
2. How old is this character?
3. Who is the main character of the second story line (Sudan, 1985)?
4. Where is this character (specifically) when his story begins?
5. What is this character's tribe called?
6. How old is this character?
7. In what way does this character realize he is lucky?
8. Describe this character's family.
9. What does this character look forward to getting when he gets home?
10. What happens that interrupts this character's normal day?
11. Where does this character and the others with him go?
12. What is happening where this character lives?

### **Extension/Discussion Questions:**

1. Based on the first chapter and the title of the novel, where is Nya going? Use evidence from the story to support your answer.

#### **Who are the Dinka?**

The Dinka are one of many tribes that live in Sudan. The tribe's main employment is through cattle herding and the growing of crops, including millet.

The Dinka religion is monotheistic (believes in one god) and their god is called Nhialic.

Upon reaching adulthood, Dinka males are marked with large gashes that form a pattern of scars. Women are also decorated through this process of scarification.

*For more information:*

<http://www.everyculture.com/wc/Rwanda-to-Syria/Dinka.html>

<http://www.wydasudan.org/dinka-tribe/>

## Chapter 2

### Comprehension Questions:

1. What happens to Nya in this chapter?
2. How do the people walking along with Salva choose to divide themselves up?
3. What is the name of Salva's village?
4. What do the soldiers do with the people?
5. What does Salva try to do in the rebel camp?
6. What happens to the men the next morning?
7. Where do the women and children sleep after leaving the rebel camp?
8. What has happened to Salva when he awakes after an itchy night in the hay?

---

*"A soldier  
approached Salva  
and raised his  
gun."*

### Extension/Discussion Questions:

1. Why do you think the other people left Salva behind? How do you feel about this choice?

#### **Language Activity: Why is it called a "Civil" War?**

The word "civil" has many definitions. Look at the following definitions for the word and choose which meaning is used in the term "Civil War." Then discuss how the idea of a "Civil War" could be different if another definition of "civil" were intended for use in the term.

Civil (adj)

1. courteous, polite
2. of the state or nation
3. consisting of citizens
4. showing benevolence

What other terms could be used in place of "Civil War" that would still have the same meaning, showing that the war was taking place between groups within a nation?