

Chapter 7

Comprehension Questions:

1. Why is Nya worried about her little sister, Akeer?
2. What choice is Nya's family faced with?
3. What does Salva think has happened to Marial?
4. What obstacle does the group need to cross to get to Ethiopia?
5. How does the group overcome this obstacle?
6. How does Salva help in this task?

Chapter 8

Comprehension Questions:

1. What choice does Nya's family make about Akeer's illness?
2. What is the family told to do to keep Akeer from getting sick again?
3. Why will this be difficult while the family is at the lake camp?
4. Where does Salva's group stop on their journey across the Nile?
5. What does Uncle share with Salva?
6. What does Salva remember his father bringing as a treat from the marketplace? What was special about the way this treat was transported?
7. What happens after all the fishermen go into their tents?
8. What warning are the travelers given about the next part of their journey?

Extension/Discussion Questions:

1. Salva is not sure if the fishermen share with Uncle because he has a gun or because he seems to be the leader of the group. Which do you feel is more likely? Explain.

Research Opportunity: Waterborne Diseases

According to the World Health Organization, waterborne diseases are the leading cause of death around the world.

Choose one of the suggested waterborne diseases and research the following:

- What are the symptoms?
- How wide-spread is this disease?
- How is it treated?
- How deadly is it?
- How can it be avoided?

Suggested diseases:

Cholera

Typhoid

Guinea Worm

Dysentery

Chapter 9

Comprehension Questions:

1. Who shows up in Nya's village and what do they talk about with the chief?
2. How long does Uncle say it will take to cross the desert?
3. What happens toward the end of their first day in the desert that makes it hard for Salva to continue?
4. How does Uncle keep Salva going?
5. What does the group find on the second day of their journey across the desert?

Extension/Discussion Questions:

1. When one of the women in the group gives water to one of the men they find in the desert, someone else tells her that she will die if she shares her water. Which do you feel is making a better decision: the woman who shares her water with another or the man who keeps his for himself to better insure his own survival? Explain.

Quick Research: How Long Can He Last?

Ask students to find answers for the following:

- How long can a human being go without water?
- What are the symptoms of dehydration?
- How does dehydration affect the body?

Chapter 10

Comprehension Questions:

1. What do the men who visit the village say they will find between the two trees where the village usually gathers around a big fire?
2. What happens to the men that are given water by women in the group?
3. What does Salva ask Uncle on their third day in the desert? What is Uncle's response?
4. What else does Uncle tell Salva that upsets him?
5. What gives Salva a little hope that he might see his family again someday?
6. What does the group find by a small muddy pool of water?
7. What happens as the group is gathered around the muddy pool of water?

“Three shots rang out. Then the men ran away.”

Extension/Discussion Questions:

1. Salva wonders if he would have shared his water with those men if he were older and stronger, or would he have kept his water for himself? Based on what you know about Salva, which do you think he would have done. Explain using details from the story to support your answer.
2. For the first time on his journey, Salva sees a benefit to being the smallest of the group. How might things have been different for Salva if he had been bigger and older?