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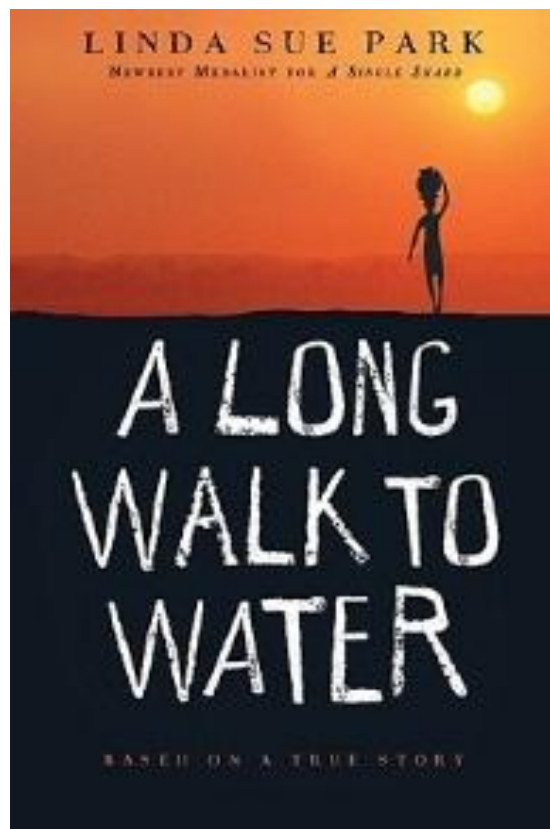
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ELA Teacher _____

A Long Walk to Water

By Linda Sue Park

VOCABULARY & QUESTION PACKET



CHAPTER 1

Vocabulary/Definition/Content

- **thorn** n. a sharp pointed spine or prickle on a plant or branch *“Heat, and time. And thorns.”*
- **droned** v. to talk in a dull, monotonous manner *“The teacher droned on with a lesson about the Arabic language.”*
- **responsibilities** n. duties, obligations *“Their responsibilities depended on how old they were...”*
- **dress** v. to prepare for cooking *“Others helped clean and dress the animal.”*
panic n. sudden overwhelming fear *“Salva covered his head with his hands, but kept looking from side to side in a panic.”*
- **bush** n. a large uncleared area thickly covered with mixed plant growth, trees, etc., as a jungle. *“Stay away from the villages - run into the bush.”*
- **rebels** n. one who opposes by force an existing government or ruling authority *“He knew the rebels from the southern part of Sudan, where his family lived, were fighting against the government, which was based in the north.”*
- **independence** n. freedom *“They began fighting for independence from the north.”*

Question/Predict/Evaluate

1. Why does the author use different styles of print and different time periods in the same chapter? What can be learned from this style of writing?

2. Describe Salva as a student, his school and what he learns. Can you make any connections?

CHAPTER 1 (continued)

3. Describe Salva’s family and home life. Is it anything like your own?

4. What are the issues for which the rebels are fighting the government? What does it mean for Sudan to become Muslim?

5. Why does the teacher urge them to “run into the bush?”

6. What are you wondering about as this chapter ends?

CHAPTER 2

Vocabulary/Definition/Content

- **shrouded** v. covered, concealed “*He couldn’t see the school building; it was shrouded by smoke and dust.*”
- **relief** n. the easing of a burden or distress, such as pain, anxiety “*Relief flooded through him.*”
- **model** n. example “*His father always told him to act like a man - to follow the models of his older brothers...*”
- **terror** n. sheer fright “*...this thought strengthened him enough to keep him from collapsing in terror.*”
- **mortars** n. a portable, muzzle loading cannon used to fire shells “*The village men were forced to carry supplies: guns and mortars...*”

Question/Predict/Evaluate

2008

1. How does Nya spend her time?

1985

2. What is happening around Salva as he runs away from the school?

3. What three questions occupy Salva’s thoughts?

CHAPTER 2 (continued)

4. When they organize by village, what does Salva discover?

5. Describe the rebels. How does their appearance and actions affect the people?

6. Does Salva consider himself a man? Do the rebels consider Salva a man?

7. Why does the group leave the rebels? Why do they leave Salva in the barn the next morning?

8. Can you imagine how Salva is feeling at the end of this chapter? Where is he?

CHAPTER 3

Vocabulary/Definition/Content

- **gourd** n. the hard-shelled fruit of any of various plants, whose dried shell is used for bowls and other utensils. *“Nya took the hollowed gourd that was tied to the handle of the plastic can.”*
- **tribe** n. any group of people united by ties of descent from a common ancestor, community of customs and traditions, adherence to the same leaders, etc. *“He could tell by her clothing that she was not Dinka, not of his tribe.”*
- **artillery** n. large-caliber weapons, such as cannon, howitzers, and missile launchers, that are operated by crews. *“During the daytime Salva could hear the distant booming of artillery...”*
- **sympathy** n. the act or power of sharing the feelings of another *“She shook her head in sympathy.”*

Question/Predict/Evaluate

2008

1. In each of the chapters so far, the author tells Nya’s story first. Why do you think she does this?

2. What has been the purpose of Nya’s journey every day?

CHAPTER 3 (continued)

1985

3. What is Salva's situation? Why doesn't he return to his school?

4. How does the woman from the Jur-chol tribe help him? What is the history between the Nuers and the Dinka tribe? Why is Salva insulted to be called an orphan?

5. Why must the old woman move on? Couldn't she take Salva along?

6. How do tribes tell themselves apart from one another?

7. Salva's hopes rise and then fall. Do you think finding other Dinkas will be the answer he is looking for?

CHAPTER 4

Vocabulary/Definition/Content

- **scanned** v. compassionate, caring “*Salva held his breath as he scanned the faces, one by one.*”
- **doubt** n. uncertainty “*Salva saw the doubt on the people’s faces.*”
- **daze** n. a stunned or bewildered condition “*...today, shuffling along in a daze, he found he had fallen a little behind.*”
- **feast** v. eat well or richly “*Honey! This night, they would feast!*”

Question/Predict/Evaluate

2008

1. What additional information did you learn about Nya in this chapter?

1985

2. Why doesn't the group want Salva along? Why is he ultimately taken along by the man and woman?

3. What does it mean they are “walking to nowhere”? How do they survive?

CHAPTER 4 (continued)

4. Why do the boys, Buksa and Salva, fall behind? What have they discovered?

5. Can an entire group of people exist on this?

6. What questions would you like answered in the next chapter?

CHAPTER 5

Vocabulary/Definition/Content

- **gingerly** adv. with great care or caution *“It was worth it, Salva thought, as he touched his eye gingerly.”*
- **honeycomb** n. a structure of rows of hexagonal wax cells, formed by bees in their hive for the storage of honey, pollen, and their eggs. *“Nothing had ever tasted so good as those pieces of honeycomb dripping with rich luscious gold sweetness.”*
- **accent** n. mode of pronunciation, as pitch or tone, emphasis pattern, or intonation, characteristic of the speech of a particular person, group, or locality *“The boy spoke Dinka but with a different accent, which meant that he was not from the area around Salva’s village.”*
- **strides** n. a long step in walking *“When they walked side by sides, their strides were exactly the same length.”*
- **inhabited** v. occupied, live in *“Their region was inhabited by large herds of antelope, wildebeest, gnus...”*

Question/Predict/Evaluate

2008

1. Explain how water dictates Nya’s life.

1985

2. How was the honey worth it for Salva and the others in his group? What was the cost?

CHAPTER 5 (continued)

3. What do Salva and Marial have in common? What does it mean that Salva “heard that sigh all the way to his heart?”

4. Why is Salva dismayed that they are walking to Ethiopia, east? How are the boys good for each other?

5. Describe the Atuot people. Would you fear them?

6. Salva is amazed at the end of this chapter. Predict the cause of his speechlessness.

CHAPTER 6

Vocabulary/Definition/Content

- **makeshift** adv. done or made using whatever is available, temporary
“They had no house and had to sleep in makeshift shelters.”
- **solemn** adj. serious *“His face became very solemn when Salva told him that he had not seen nor heard a single word of his family in all that time.”*
- **rebelled** v. to reject or fight against. *“After so many weeks of near-starvation, his stomach rebelled mightily...”*
- **nausea** n. stomach sickness *“At one point Salva found himself in a line of half a dozen people, all in an identical pose - bent over, holding their stomachs, and waiting for the next wave of nausea.”*
- **exhausted** adj. completely worn out *“For ten hours they walked, and near dawn the next morning, everyone was exhausted.”*
- **wailing** n. a long, loud, high-pitched cry, as of grief or pain *“As he opened his eyes, he heard wailing.”*

Question/Predict/Evaluate

2008

1. Nya and her mother think differently about the camp. Explain. Would Nya and Salva have been friends if they knew each other in the same time?

1985

2. Finally, something good happens for Salva. Explain. How does this make a difference for the group?

CHAPTER 6 (continued)

3. Why does everyone in the group become nauseous? Could they have avoided this problem?

4. List all the elements working against their survival.

5. What does it mean: “A cold fist seemed to grip Salva’s heart?” What has happened?

6. If you had to choose to be Nya or Salva, explain whose shoes you would rather walk in. Why?

CHAPTER 7

Vocabulary/Definition/Content

- **steady** adj. firm, even, regular *“Uncle spoke to him all morning in a steady, low voice.”*
- **reeds** n. the stalks of various tall perennial grasses *“Salva staggered forward with another load of reeds in his arms.”*
- **papyrus** n. a tall, aquatic plant native to the Nile valley *“Some people were cutting down the tall papyrus grass by the water’s edge.”*
- **prow** n. the bow or front part of a boat *“Salva watched, fascinated, as little by little the curve of a prow and low sides grew from the piles of reeds.”*

Question/Predict/Evaluate

2008

1. What is wrong with Akeer? What are her symptoms? What is the choice facing the family? What would you do?

1985

2. How do they know a lion took Marial? How is it possible that no one heard anything?

CHAPTER 7 (continued)

3. How does the loss of his friend affect Salva? How does uncle soothe him?

4. What changes as the group approaches the Nile? How do they get across?

5. What is the secret of making the canoes?

6. What would you like to learn in the next chapter?

CHAPTER 8

Vocabulary/Definition/Content

- **monotonous** adj. boring, repetitive *“The scenery and motion were so monotonous that Salva might have slept...”*
- **gauge** v. measure *“He kept himself awake by counting the strokes of Uncle’s paddle and trying to gauge how far the canoe traveled with every twenty strokes.”*
- **mangoes** n. the oblong, sweet fruit of a tropical tree *“As a special treat, his father sometimes bought mangoes.”*
- **ferried** v. transported, carried *“So Salva’s father ferried the mangoes home by wedging them into the spokes of his bicycle wheels.”*
- **desperate** adj. extreme *“...Salva slapped and waved at them in desperate frustration all night long.”*

Question/Predict/Evaluate

2008

1. Explain how Akeer’s laugh “was like music.” What caused her illness? Is the solution within the means of the family?

1985

2. What wonders were found on the island?

CHAPTER 8 (continued)

3. How do the villagers get food without any money?

4. Why don't they become nauseous again with this food?

5. Describe Salva's good memories.

6. What do the fishermen know about the night that the travelers do not? How are they affected?

7. Of all the elements Salva has faced, which do you think is the worst? How could the Akobo desert that lies ahead be the worst?

CHAPTER 9

Vocabulary/Definition/Content

- **relentless** adj. severe, harsh
- **eternal** adj. never ending
- **relief** n. the easing of a burden or distress, such as pain, anxiety, or oppression. *“The sun was relentless and eternal: there was neither wisp of cloud nor whiff of breeze for relief.”*
- **arid** adj. without moisture *“Each minute of walking in that arid heat felt like an hour.”*
- **parched** adj. dried out by heat or excessive exposure to sunlight *“His lips became cracked and parched.”*
- **sobs** n. loud weeping *“Salva lifted his head, the sobs interrupted by surprise.”*
- **tamarind** n. the fruit of a tropical Asian evergreen tree *“He took out a tamarind and handed it to Salva.”*

Question/Predict/Evaluate

2008

1. How does the village chief welcome strangers? What do you think they want?

1985

2. How is the Akobo the worst element yet for the villagers to survive?

CHAPTER 9 (continued)

3. How does uncle encourage Salva to keep walking? What might have happened to Salva without his uncle? How could you apply Uncle’s strategy in your own life?

4. What do they find when they reach other people in the desert?

5. What is the choice faced here? Would you give water to the men? What is the right thing to do?

6. Will some have to die for the others to survive?

CHAPTER 10

Vocabulary/Definition/Content

- **translated** v. to turn from one language into another or from a foreign language into one's own *"The friend answered in the same language, but as he walked back toward the group, he translated for the chief..."*
- **revived** v. to restore to life *"Like a miracle, the small amounts of water revived them."*
- **vultures** n. any of various large birds of prey *"Vultures would find the bodies and strip them of their rotting flesh until only the bones remained."*
- **corpses** n. dead bodies *"He felt sick at the thought of those men - first dying in such a horrible way, and then having even their corpses ravaged."*
- **refugee** camp n. shelter for persons displaced by war or political oppression or for religious beliefs *"By the end of the day, they would be out of the desert, and after that, it would not be far to the Itang refugee camp in Ethiopia."*

Question/Predict/Evaluate

2008

1. What do the two strangers want from Nya's chief? If they find water, how will it change lives?

1985

2. Did Salva give his water to the men? Did anyone? What were the results? Who was right?

CHAPTER 10 (continued)

3. What happened to the village of Lou Ariik?

4. What will happen when the group reaches Ethiopia? What are uncle's plans?

5. What are the chances that Salva will ever find his family?

6. Where did the six men come from? Why did they single out uncle? What does it mean, "There was something evil in their laughter."

7. What does the ending of this chapter mean for Salva?

CHAPTER 11

Vocabulary/Definition/Content

- **scythed** v. cut down *“The long grass had to be scythed and hoed under.”*
- **mourn** v. to feel or express sorrow or grief *“Out of respect for him, the group walked no more that day, but took time to mourn the man who had been their leader.”*
- **numbness** n. loss of feeling *“Despite the numbness in his heart, Salva was amazed to find himself walking faster and more boldly than he had before.”*
- **grudgingly** adv. reluctantly, unwillingly *“It seemed that they had all forgotten that, for Salva now had to beg for scraps, which were given grudgingly.”*
- **emaciated** adj. to make or become extremely thin, especially as a result of starvation *“It did not seem as if the camp could possibly hold any more, but still they kept coming: long lines of people, some emaciated...”*

Question/Predict/Evaluate

2008

1. What will it mean if water is not found in the land between the trees?

1985

2. What happened to uncle? How does this affect Salva? How does the group attitude change?

CHAPTER 11 (*continued*)

3. What are the positive and negative aspects of the refugee camp? Is Salva happy to finally quit walking?

4. What does the orange scarf mean to Salva?

5. How would you like this chapter to end for Salva?

CHAPTER 12

Vocabulary/Definition/Content

- **despair** n. hopelessness *“He felt as though he were standing on the edge of a giant hole - a hole filled with the black despair of nothingness.”*
- **scavenging** v. to search for food *“Some preferred to spend their time scavenging for food, or for items that could be traded for food.”*
- **chaos** n. a state of utter confusion and disorder *“The chaos was immediate.”*
- **surge** n. a strong, wavelike, forward movement, rush, or sweep *“Salva was caught up in the surge at once.”*
- **merciless** adj. cruel, pitiless *“Swollen by the rains, the Gilo’s current would be merciless.”*

Question/Predict/Evaluate

2008

1. What is the red, iron giraffe? What part do the villagers play in the progress?

1985

2. How does it feel to Salva to be without a family? What has he lost?

3. What does Salva decide to do to survive?

CHAPTER 12 (continued)

4. How does school look in the refugee camp? Why does he go?

1991

5. How have things changed in the camp in six years? Why is it closing?

6. What is the purpose of any government? What will be the outcome of the government's actions?

CHAPTER 13

Vocabulary/Definition/Content

- **earnestly** adv. in a serious manner *“If that didn’t work, he would talk to them earnestly and try to persuade them.”*
- **prodding** v. to poke or jab with or as if with something pointed *“The soldiers were forcing some of them into the water, prodding them with their rifle butts...”*
- **stunned** n. a reference book for research *“Stunned, Salva realized that being forced under the water had probably saved his life.”*
- **welter** n. a confusing mass, a jumble *“The rain, the mad current, the bullets, the crocodiles, the welter of arms and legs, the screams, the blood...He had to get out somehow.”*
- **peril** n. danger *“Every group had stories of terrible peril...”*

Question/Predict/Evaluate

2008

1. What things make this drilling so difficult? What keeps people going in times of adversity?

1991-1992

2. What is the government trying to do by driving the people into the water?

CHAPTER 13 (continued)

3. Why are the soldiers shooting? What are all the obstacles to survival for these people?

4. Does Salva have a duty to the others, especially the boy clinging to him? Why was Salva one of the lucky ones and not one of the thousands who died?

5. Would you follow Salva? Why did he become a leader? What do the boys hope to find in Kenya?

6. How do they find the strength to go on? How do they last a year and a half?

7. What do you expect their life to be like in Kenya?

CHAPTER 14

Vocabulary/Definition/Content

- **misery** n. great suffering, wretchedness “*After two years of misery at Kakuma, Salva left the camp.*”
- **ration** n. a fixed amount “*There was nothing to do but wait - wait for the next ration of food...*”
- **rumor** n. gossip, hearsay “*A rumor was spreading throughout the camp.*”
- **administration** n. the management of any office, business, or organization “*One day a notice was posted at camp’s administration tent.*”

Question/Predict/Evaluate

2009

1. Why does the village celebrate? What could it mean that the new water is full of mud?

1992-1997

2. Describe the misery at Kakuma. How does the population of Kakuma compare to the population in your own community?

3. How were conditions different at the camp in Ifo?

CHAPTER 14 (continued)

4. What must it have been like with nothing to do day after day but wait?

5. Ideally what does Salva want?

6. What are the restrictions to a boy "getting on the list" to go to America?

7. What does the author mean "sometimes he felt he was being torn in two by the hoping and the not-hoping?"

8. What does it mean to Salva that he will go to America?

CHAPTER 15

Vocabulary/Definition/Content

- **siblings** n. brothers and sisters “*Salva would have siblings, just as he had before.*”
- **terminal** n. a station on the line of a public carrier, as in a city center or at an airport, where passengers embark or disembark and where freight is received or discharged “*The glass doors of the airport terminal slid open.*”
- **frigid** adj. extremely cold “*The frigid air hit Salva’s face like a slap.*”

Question/Predict/Evaluate

2009

1. Why can’t the boys drink the water spraying from the hole? When will Nya lose her job?

1997

2. What was involved in the Lost Boys coming to America? Do you think that is a good name for them?

3. Why would people from America want to help these boys? Can they replace the boy’s own family?

CHAPTER 15 (continued)

4. Explain Salva's experiences with clothes, Coca-Cola, the plane, winter.

5. Would this be easier if Salva really was a boy instead of an adult?

6. Will it ever be possible for Salva to reconnect with any of his birth family?

CHAPTER 16

Vocabulary/Definition/Content

- **aquifer** n. an underground bed or layer of earth, gravel, or porous stone that yields water *“After the excitement of seeing the first spray of water from the aquifer, the villagers went back to work.”*
- **vague** adj. unclear, uncertain *“He had a vague idea that he would like to return to Sudan someday, to help the people who lived there.”*
- **relief** agency n. an organization dedicated to delivering aid *“The cousin was working for a relief agency in Zimbabwe.”*
- **clinic** n. a facility, often associated with a hospital or medical school, that is devoted to the diagnosis and care of outpatients for little or no fee *“...United Nations clinic...your father...stomach surgery...”*
- **remote** adj. secluded *“The clinic where his father was covering was in a remote part of southern Sudan.”*
- **arrangements** n. plans, preparations *“With the war still raging, it was very difficult to make the arrangements.”*
- **frantic** adj. desperate, frantic *“At times Salva felt almost frantic at the delays and frustrations.”*

Question/Predict/Evaluate

2009

1. What is your best guess on what the men are going to build?

1997-2003

2. By opening his email, what does this show you about Salva’s development in America?

CHAPTER 16 (continued)

3. What are the difficulties involved in Salva reconnecting with his father?

4. What are the many risks Salva is taking in order to find his father?

5. Write as many “what if’s” as you can at the end of this chapter. (Example: What if Salva’s father has died? What if Salva is not allowed to return to the US?)

6. What would you like to see happen in the next chapter?

CHAPTER 17

Vocabulary/Definition/Content

- **sobs** n. uncontrollable crying “*He reached out up to hug Salva tightly, his body shaking with sobs of joy.*”
- **contaminated** adj. impure, unclean
- **digestive** adj. pertaining to the breaking down of food
- **guinea worms** n. a parasite found mostly in Africa infected through standing water “*Years of drinking contaminated water had left Mawien Dut’s entire digestive system riddled with guinea worms.*”
- **pronunciation** n. a way of speaking a word that is understood “*What if he made mistakes in pronunciation?*”
- **reality** n. an actual thing or fact “*Would he ever be able to turn his idea into reality?*”

Question/Predict/Evaluate

2009

1. How close were your predictions on what building would be put up first? Why does Nya ask if the girls can go to school too? How does having water change everything for her people?

2003-2007

2. Was the reunion of Salva and his father what you expected? Explain.

CHAPTER 17 (continued)

3. How is it possible that so much of his family is still alive? Why didn't they give up hope?

4. Should Salva take the risk and return to Lou Ariik? Would you?

5. What do you believe his idea is to help his people?

6. Why is Salva the best person to speak about his idea? Does his audience care about his speaking skills?

7. What would make people donate money to Salva?

CHAPTER 18

Vocabulary/Definition/Content

- **celebration** n. a joyous occasion for festivities *“It was a celebration.”*
- **disputes** n. disagreements, differences *“Other villagers, including Nya’s uncle, would resolve any disputes that arose.”*

Question/Predict/Evaluate

2009

1. Describe Nya’s experience of the water.

2. What does the well mean to the people of southern Sudan? How did it get its name?

3. In every chapter until now, the story structure included two time periods. Why is this last chapter set only in 2009? Why is the chapter printed only in regular print instead of starting with italics?

CHAPTER 18 (continued)

4. Why was the boss of the workers not identified as Dinka earlier?

5. “Why would a Dinka bring water to us?” How would you answer Nya’s question?

6. Do you expect any changes between the Nuer and Dinka because of this?
