

Name: _____

Use with the book:
A Long Walk to Water
by Linda Sue Park

A Long Walk to Water: Chapters 1–3



1. Why was the walk to the pond easier for Nya than the walk back home?
 - a. The container was light and empty on the way there, but heavy and full on the way home.
 - b. She could drink water on the way there, so she stayed hydrated.
 - c. The afternoon storms made the return trip more dangerous.
 - d. The heat was always worse in the afternoons, making it harder to walk back.
2. What does the setting of chapter 1 reveal about Salva's daily life?
 - a. His school is very close to his home.
 - b. He lives in a peaceful urban area.
 - c. His daily life has always been disrupted by violence.
 - d. He follows a normal routine until war interrupts his life.
3. Why does Salva learn Arabic in school?
 - a. It is his native language, spoken in his home and village.
 - b. It is a practical language for trading and traveling across Northern Africa.
 - c. It is the official language of the Sudanese government in the north.
 - d. He chose to study it because he enjoys learning new languages.
4. Why are the rebels fighting against the northern government, and how does this conflict affect characters like Salva?
 - a. They want freedom of religion, which leads to tensions that force boys like Salva to flee for safety.
 - b. The north is rich in diamonds and oil, creating wealth that helps Salva's family escape.
 - c. They oppose a dictatorship, which causes the government to support villages like Salva's.
 - d. They are fighting for girls' right to attend school, which leads to education reforms in Salva's village.

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5. Based on the description of Nya's injuries, what larger conclusion can you draw about the conditions she faces daily?
- a. Nya lacks basic resources like shoes and must endure long, harsh walks that leave her injured.
 - b. Nya's family prioritizes buying food over new shoes, causing her physical pain from ill-fitting footwear.
 - c. Nya deliberately chooses not to wear shoes to toughen her feet for survival in the desert.
 - d. Nya's village provides her with tools to protect herself, but she doesn't use them properly.
6. Why did Salva try to group himself with the men's group in chapter 2?
- a. In his culture, boys are considered men once they turn 10.
 - b. As the oldest brother, he believed it was his duty to act as the man of the family.
 - c. His mother had told him that if they were ever separated, he needed to act like a man.
 - d. His father had always encouraged him to act like a man to set a good example for Kuol.
7. Infer why Salva was left alone in the barn at the end of chapter 2.
- a. He overslept, and the group decided not to wake him.
 - b. The group believed he was just a child who would slow them down and be another mouth to feed.
 - c. They disliked his father and wanted nothing to do with anyone from Salva's village.
 - d. They feared Salva might be dangerous or bring trouble to the group.

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8. In chapter 2, the war in Sudan dramatically impacts Salva's life. Based on the events from this chapter, explain how Salva's experiences demonstrate the devastating effects of the war. Use a quote from the text to support your response.

9. In chapter 2, Salva makes the decision to join a group of strangers instead of staying behind. Based on the text, explain what this choice reveals about Salva's character. Use specific details from the text to support your response.

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Answers will vary. An example is: Salva's life changes drastically because one minute he is sitting in school listening to his teacher, and the next minute he is ducking down to avoid gunfire and fleeing into the bush, away from his family and home, to avoid being shot and killed. The text states, "Then he was running, too. Running as hard as he could, into the bush. Away from home." This quote shows how quickly his life changed and how suddenly the war forced him to leave everything behind, throwing him into fear and survival mode.

9. In chapter 2, Salva makes the decision to join a group of strangers instead of staying behind. Based on the text, explain what this choice reveals about Salva's character. Use specific details from the text to support your response.

Answers will vary. An example is: Salva's decision to join a group of strangers shows that he is responsible, brave, and mature. Even though it is a hard choice and he is desperate to find his family, he knows it is safer to stay with others rather than go back to his village. The text says, "Where are we going? Where is my family? When will I see them again?" This quote shows how much Salva misses his family, but by choosing to stick with the group, he makes a smart, mature decision that increases his chances of survival.

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10. In chapter 3, what is the old Dinka woman's reason for leaving Salva? Do you think her reasoning is valid? Explain why or why not using details from the text.

Answers will vary. An example is: The old Dinka woman decides to leave Salva because she tells him that the pond is drying up, winter is coming, and she must travel to another village where there is water. She says, "The soldiers will leave me alone, an old woman on her own. It would be more dangerous for me to travel with you." Her reasoning is valid because, even though she has cared for Salva as much as she can, she knows that during a time of war, survival often depends on traveling alone and avoiding attention. She understands that bringing Salva would put both of them in more danger.

11. In chapter 3, the old Dinka woman asks Salva, "Are you an orphan?" How does Salva feel when she asks him this question? What is the reasoning behind his answer?

Answers will vary. An example is: The text says, "...he felt almost angry." This shows that Salva is upset when the old woman asks if he is an orphan. He answers no because, even though he was forced to run away during the fighting and doesn't know where his family is, he still has a father and mother. Salva believes that just because they are separated, it does not mean his family is gone or that he is truly an orphan. His anger comes from the fear of losing hope and the strong belief that his family is still alive.