

# A Long Walk to Water

Study Guide



Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Class Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Teacher: \_\_\_\_\_

**Anticipation Guide Directions:** Read each statement and write Agree in the blank if you believe the statement and could support it or put Disagree in the blank if you do not believe the statement and could not support it. After you finish reading the selection, revisit the statements. Have you changed your thinking on any item? Now decide how a character in the story would react to each statement.

**Before Reading**

**After  
Reading**

- |       |  |       |
|-------|--|-------|
| _____ | 1. Man is basically good.  | _____ |
| _____ | 2. Government should solve its people's problems.                            | _____ |
| _____ | 3. Force may be needed to get things done.                                   | _____ |
| _____ | 4. Government's most important job is to protect its people.                 | _____ |
| _____ | 5. A leader is born, not made.   | _____ |
| _____ | 6. Man will behave badly without laws.                                       | _____ |
| _____ | 7. A government's job is to help its people when they can't help themselves. | _____ |
| _____ | 8. Man must care for himself first before he can help others.                | _____ |
| _____ | 9. When a government is corrupt, people must rebel.                          | _____ |
| _____ | 10. Government's job is to make laws, & make people obey them.               | _____ |
| _____ | 11. War is a necessary evil.   | _____ |
| _____ | 12. The differences between right and wrong are very clear.                  | _____ |
| _____ | 13. Character is born of adversity.  | _____ |
| _____ | 14. Without war there is no peace.   | _____ |
| _____ | 15. All is fair in war.  | _____ |
| _____ | 16. Water is our most precious resource.                                     | _____ |
| _____ | 17. Hope is our most precious resource.                                      | _____ |





What do you notice about the map and the route?

List in order the different environments that are on the route from Loun Ariik to Kakuma.

I notice

I wonder

# Chapter 1

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?
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

## 2008

1. How does Nya spend her time?

## 1985

2. What is happening around Salva as he runs from school?
3. What three questions occupy Salva's thoughts? Can you answer Salva's questions?
4. When they organize in the village, what does Salva discover? Find a quote from the text that proves this.
5. Using text details, describe the rebels and how their appearance and actions affect the people. Indicate page numbers where these details can be found.
6. Does Salva consider himself a man? How do we know? Do the rebels consider him a man? How do we know?
7. Why does the group leave the rebels? Why do they leave Salva in the barn the next morning?
8. Imagine how Salva is feeling at the end of the chapter. Where is he physically and emotionally?

# Chapter 3

## 2008

1. In each chapter 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?



## 1985

3. Using information from the text, what is the history between the Nuer and the Dinka tribes?
4. Why does the woman from the Jur-chol tribe help Salva? Why does she move one with him? Use text details to support your answer.
5. Find a quote in the book that states why Salva is insulted by being called an orphan.
6. Salva's hopes rise then fall. Do you think that finding other Dinkas will be the answer is he looking for? Why? Why not?





# Chapter 4

## 2008

1. List additional information you learned 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 the woman? Find at least two quotes from the book to support your answer.
3. What does it mean - they are "walking to nowhere"? How do they survive?
4. Why do the boys, Buksa and Salva, fall behind? What have they discovered?
5. Describe the consequences of this discovery, citing at 3 text details to support your answer.
6. Can the entire group exist on this? Why? Why not?
7. What questions would you like answered in the next chapter?



# Chapter 5

2008

1. Give details to show 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?

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. Find at least three text details to describe the Atuat people. Would you fear them?

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



# Chapter 6

2008

1. Nya and her mother think differently about the camp.

| How Nya feels about the camp | How Nya's mother feels about the camp |
|------------------------------|---------------------------------------|
|                              |                                       |

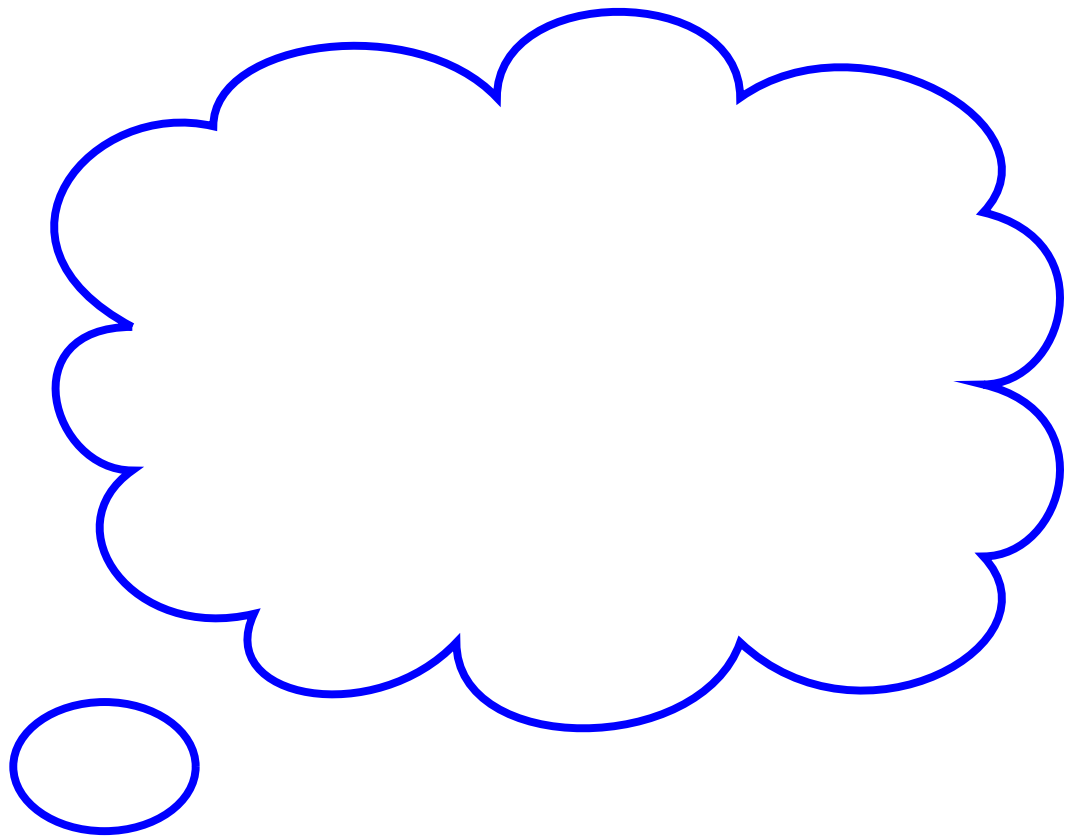
1985

2. Finally something good happens for Salva. How does it make a difference for him? For the group?

3. Using details from the text, lists the elements working against their survival.

| Detail | Page # |
|--------|--------|
|        |        |

4. What does it mean: "A cold fist seemed to grip Salva's heart?" What has happened?



Would Salva and Nya have been friends if they knew each other at the same time? Write your answer in the bubble, giving details to support your thinking.

**If you had to choose to be Nya or Salva, explain in whose footprints you would rather walk.**



# Chapter 7

## 2008

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

## 1985

2. How do they know a lion took Marial? How is it possible that no one heard anything?
3. How does the loss of his friend affect Salva? How does his 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? Find quotes from the text that show the details in construction of a boat that will safely take them across the river.



# Chapter 8

## 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 are found on the island? Find specific examples.
3. How do the villagers get food without money?
4. Why don't they become nauseous again with this food?
5. On page 48, Salva remembers life in Loun-Ariik. What does he remember and how is it different from his current experience?
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?



# Chapter 9

## 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?

3. How does Uncle encourage Salva to keep walking? What might have happened to Salve had Uncle not come along?

4. What do they find when they reach other people in the desert? What is the choice faced here? What do they do? What would you do?

| What they find | Possible choices | Your choice would be..... |
|----------------|------------------|---------------------------|
|                |                  |                           |

5. Uncle is a wise man in how he help Salva persevere. How can you apply Uncle's strategy in your own life?

# Chapter 10

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? What was right?

| Salva's choice | Others' choices | Results of choices | Who was right? |
|----------------|-----------------|--------------------|----------------|
|                |                 |                    |                |

3. What happened to the village of Loun-Ariik? Find a quote for the book that proves this.

4. What will happen to the group when it reaches Ethiopia? What are Uncle's plans?

| Groups' plans | Uncle's plans |
|---------------|---------------|
|               |               |

5. Where did the six men come from? Why did they single Uncle out?

6. Explain the quote - "There was something evil in their laughter."



# Chapter 11

2008

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

1985

2. What happened to Uncle? How does this affect Salva? How does the group's attitude change? Find a quote from the book to answer these questions.

| Uncle | Salva | Group's attitude |
|-------|-------|------------------|
|       |       |                  |

3. List positive and negative aspects of the refugee camp. Find quotes to show how Salva feels when he quit walking.

| Positive aspects of camp | Negative aspects of camp | Quote about Salva's feelings |
|--------------------------|--------------------------|------------------------------|
|                          |                          |                              |

4. What does the orange scarf mean to Salva.



# Chapter 12

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?

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

1991

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

Think about things you learned in this chapter and complete the chart below.

| Things I learned..... | Interesting things..... | Questions I still have..... |
|-----------------------|-------------------------|-----------------------------|
|                       |                         |                             |



# Chapter 13

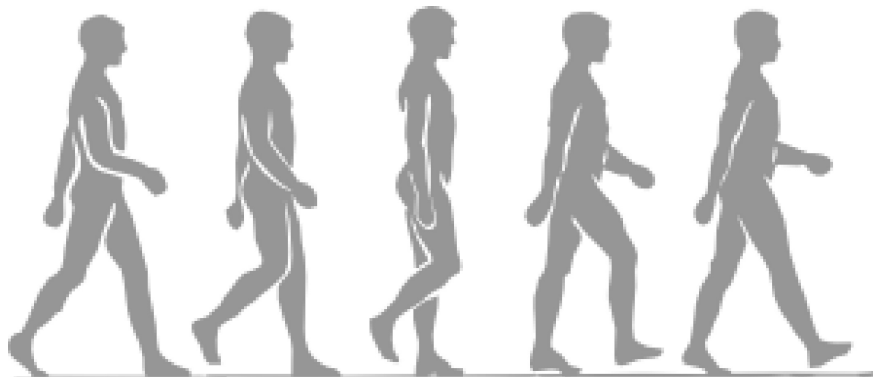
2008

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

1991-92

2. What is the government trying to do by driving people into the water?
3. Why are the soldiers shooting? Find text details to list 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. What do the boys hope to find in Kenya?

Would you follow Salva? Why did he become a leader?



# Chapter 14

2009

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

1992-97

2. Describe the misery at Kakuma.

3.

| Comparison           |                      |
|----------------------|----------------------|
| Population of Kakuma | Population of Victor |
|                      |                      |

4. Using text details, what are the restrictions to a boy "getting on the list" to go to America?

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

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



# Chapter 15

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?
4. Explain Salva's experiences with clothes, coca-cola, the plane, winter. Use text details to support your answer.
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

## 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?

3. What are the difficulties involved in Salva reconnecting with his father? Use text details to show what he had to do to get from Rochester to Juba.

| Before boarding the plane | After boarding the plane |
|---------------------------|--------------------------|
|                           |                          |

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?)





# Chapter 17

## 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? What did Salva learn from his father? What did his father learn from him?

| What Salva learned | What his father learned |
|--------------------|-------------------------|
|                    |                         |

- 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 Loun-Ariik? What could he lose by going? What could he win?
- 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



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?
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?

