

# Study Review Chapter 1

By: Erin Grahn

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a long

way gone

Memoirs of a

Boy Soldier

Written By: Ishmael Beah

# A Long Way Gone: Chapter 1

## Study Questions (pgs 5-17)

name \_\_\_\_\_

date \_\_\_\_\_

1. Why would the refugees refuse to stay with the families that offered them a place to stay? (pg 5).

2. How old was Ishmael when he was first touched by war? (pg 6).

A. 5      B. 10      C. 12      D. 18

3. Why do Ishmael, Junior and Talloi leave home and where are they going? (pgs 6-7).

4. What kind of music do the boys enjoy? Please cite evidence from the text (pg 6).

A. country      B. rap      C. reggae      D. blues

5. What did the boys decide to do to save money for their trip? (pg 7).

A. ride their bikes      B. pack lunches      C. take a bus      D. walk

6. Who lives in Kabati? Cite evidence from the text and explain it (analyze it)(pg 8).

7. How is the education system different in Sierra Leone, than it is in the United States?

8. On page 12, what was the woman in the bushes screaming and what does it mean?

9. Why does Ishmael think that it was a good thing that the man carrying his dead son kept telling him that he would get him to a hospital and everything would be fine? (pg 13).



## A Long Way Gone, Chapter 1 vocabulary

artillery rebels	conversed refugees	malnourishment verandah	mesmerized wharf
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<b>Directions:</b> Write the vocabulary word from above in the boxes below next to the correct sentence.	
1.	"It wasn't until _____ started passing through our town that we began to see that it was actually taking place in our country" (Beah 5).
2.	"The four of us sat there _____ by the songs, trying to understand what the black fellows were saying" (Beah 6).
3.	"According to the teachers, the _____ had attacked the mining areas in the afternoon" (Beah 9).
4.	"Junior, Talloi, and I took our backpacks and headed to the _____ with our friends" (Beah 9).
5.	"We stayed in the _____ room of Khalilou's house" (Beah 9).
6.	"The soldiers were convinced that if the rebels attacked, they would come from across the river, so they mounted heavy _____ there and announced a 7:00 p.m. curfew, which made the nights tense, as we couldn't sleep and had to be inside too early" (Beah 15).
7.	"Apart from their fatigue and _____, it was evidence they had seen something that plagued our minds, something that we would refuse to accept if they told us all of it" (Beah 5).
8.	"We bought boiled groundnut and ate it as we _____ about what we were going to do the next day, made plans to see the space for the talent show and practice" (Beah 9).

### Definitions

<b>Directions:</b> Use the words from above and context clues from the sentences to find the appropriate definition below and write the word in the appropriate box below.	
1.	(noun) a structure built on shore so that boats may be moored (park) alongside in order to load or unload, or rest
2.	(noun) mounted projectile-firing guns or missile launchers
3.	(noun) a person who rises against the government or ruler of his or her country.
4.	(noun) lack of proper nutrition
5.	(verb) to talk informally with another or others
6.	(noun) a large open porch, usually roofed and partly enclosed
7.	(noun) a person who flees where they live looking for safety
8.	(verb) to compel by fascination

### Synonyms

<b>Directions:</b> Use the words from above and their definitions to determine the best set of synonyms	
1.	enthral; hypnotize; captivate
2.	hunger; starvation
3.	chat; confer; discourse
4.	weaponry; battery
5.	guerrilla; insurgent; separatist
6.	berth; dock, jetty; pier
7.	alien; emigrant; evacuee

### Antonyms

<b>Directions:</b> Use the words from above and their definitions to determine the best set of synonyms	
1.	be quiet; be silent
2.	adherent; loyalist
3.	citizen; national
4.	bore; tire; disgust

# A Long Way Gone: Chapter 1

Study Questions (pgs 5-17)

# Answer key

1. Why would the refugees refuse to stay with the families that offered them a place to stay? (pg 5).

The refugees would refuse to stay with the families that offered them a place to stay because the war would eventually reach their town (Beah 5). They didn't want to settle down anywhere because they needed to keep moving.

2. How old was Ishmael when he was first touched by war? (pg 6).

A. 5      B. 10      **C. 12**      D. 18

3. Why do Ishmael, Junior and Talloi leave home, and where are they going? (pgs 6-7).

Ishmael, Junior and Talloi left home to participate in their friend's talent show in Mattru Jong.

4. What kind of music do the boys enjoy? (pg 6-7).

A. country      **B. rap**      C. reggae      D. blues

5. What did the boys decide to do to save money for their trip? (pg 7).

A. ride their bikes      B. pack lunches      C. take a bus      **D. walk**

6. Who lives in Kabati? Cite evidence from the text and explain it (analyze it)(pg 8).

In the text it states, "We arrived at Kabati, my grandmother's village, around two in the afternoon" (Beah 8). The narrator, who is Ishmael Beah, is the one telling the story, and he uses the word "my," so he is saying they at his grandmother's place, meaning that his grandmother is the one who lives in Kabati.

*\*Working on making inferences, and connections with who is telling/narrating the story.*

7. How is the education system different in Sierra Leone, than it is in the United States? Answers will vary.

On page 10 of A Long Way Gone, by Ishmael Beah, Ishmael recalls being angry with his father and talks about how he refused to pay for their schooling. He says that he used to only see his mother on holidays and over breaks, but when his father stopped paying for school, he started to see his mother 2 or 3 times a week. This implies that he was no longer going to school and that school is not free. In the United States all children are entitled to a free education until the age of 18.

8. On page 12, what was the woman in the bushes screaming and what does it mean?

On page 12, the woman in the bushes was screaming "Nguwor gbor mu ma oo," which means God help us. She also was screaming, "Yusufu, Jabu, Foday..." the names of her children because she was trying to find them.

9. Why does Ishmael think that it was a good thing that the man carrying his dead son kept telling him that he would get him to a hospital and everything would be fine? (pg 13). Answers will vary.

Ishmael says, "Perhaps it was necessary that he cling to false hopes, since they kept him running away from harm" (Beah 13). The father is more likely to run fast and to keep going, opposed to giving up or slowing down, if he is doing it for his child.

10. What scared Ishmael when he woke up? (pgs 14-15).

Ishmael was scared when he woke up because he had a dream that he had been shot, and it seemed so real that he was started to have a hard time figuring out what was reality and what he had dreamt. In the text it says, "I woke up and hesitantly touched my side." (Beah 15). By reaching for his side, it shows that Ishmeal was not sure if he was really shot or if he was just dreaming it.

11. How did music help Ishmael, Junior and Talloi? (pg 15). Please cite evidence from the text to support your answer.

In the text it states, "Junior, Talloi, and I listened to rap music, trying to memorize the lyrics so that we could avoid thinking about the situation at hand" (Beah 15). This means that the boys were trying to take their minds off the war and calm down.

12. What did the old man tell people that walked past his house and what does it mean? Do you agree or disagree with the advice? (pgs 16-17).

The old man tells the people that walk past his house, "We must strive to be like the moon." Ishmael's grandmother explains that this means that you should always be on your best behavior and be good to others (Beah 16). You should want to be like the moon because the moon makes people happy and nobody complains about the moon. Happy things, such as parties and dancing happen when the moon is out. People do not act this way when the sun is out; they will complain that it is too hot if the sun is out and they do not have shelter.

Then students should explain if they agree or disagree and should provide at least one reason. Answers will vary.

## A Long Way Gone, Chapter 1 vocabulary Answer Key

artillery	conversed	malnourishment	mesmerized
rebels	refugees	verandah	wharf

**Directions:** Write the vocabulary word from above in the boxes below next to the correct sentence.

1. refugees	"It wasn't until _____ started passing through our town that we began to see that it was actually taking place in our country" (Beah 5).
2. mesmerized	"The four of us sat there _____ by the songs, trying to understand what the black fellows were saying" (Beah 6).
3. rebels	"According to the teachers, the _____ had attacked the mining areas in the afternoon" (Beah 9).
4. wharf	"Junior, Talloi, and I took our backpacks and headed to the wharf with our friends" (Beah 9).
5. verandah	"We stayed in the _____ room of Khalilou's house" (Beah 9).
6. artillery	"The soldiers were convinced that if the rebels attacked, they would come from across the river, so they mounted heavy _____ there and announced a 7:00 p.m. curfew, which made the nights tense, as we couldn't sleep and had to be inside too early" (Beah 15).
7. malnourishment	"Apart from their fatigue and _____, it was evidence they had seen something that plagued our minds, something that we would refuse to accept if they told us all of it" (Beah 5).
8. conversed	"We bought boiled groundnut and ate it as we _____ about what we were going to do the next day, made plans to see the space for the talent show and practice" (Beah 9).

### Definitions

**Directions:** Use the words from above and context clues from the sentences to find the appropriate definition below and write the word in the appropriate box below.

1. wharf	(noun) a structure built on shore so that boats may be moored (park) alongside in order to load or unload, or rest
2. artillery	(noun) mounted projectile-firing guns or missile launchers
3. rebels	(noun) a person who rises against the government or ruler of his or her country.
4. malnourishment	(noun) lack of proper nutrition
5. conversed	(verb) to talk informally with another or others
6. verandah	(noun) a large open porch, usually roofed and partly enclosed
7. refugees	(noun) a person who flees where they live looking for safety
8. mesmerized	(verb) to compel by fascination

### Synonyms

**Directions:** Use the words from above and their definitions to determine the best set of synonyms

1. mesmerized	enthrall; hypnotize; captivate
2. malnourishment	hunger; starvation
3. conversed	chat; confer; discourse
4. artillery	weaponry; battery
5. rebel	guerrilla; insurgent; separatist
6. wharf	berth; dock, jetty; pier
7. refugees	alien; emigrant; evacuee

### Antonyms

**Directions:** Use the words from above and their definitions to determine the best set of synonyms

1. conversed	be quiet; be silent
2. rebel	adherent; loyalist
3. refugee	citizen; national
4. mesmerized	bore; tire; disgust

## Works Cited:

Beah, Ishmael. *A Long Way Gone: Memoirs of a Boy Soldier*. New York: Farrar, Straus and Giroux, 2007. Print.

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-Erin