

Study Review Chapters 11-12

By: Erin Grahn

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a long

way gone

Memoirs of a

Boy Soldier

Written By: Ishmael Beah

A Long Way Gone: chapters II-

12

Study Questions (pgs 89-113)

name _____

date _____

1. Why did the boys sit at the foot of the trees and wait? (pg 90)
A. They were hiding from the rebels B. They were hiding from a tiger
C. In hopes that a coconut would fall D. The rain became unbearable
2. What physical feature helped Ishmael to know that he knew Ngor Gasemu? (pg 91)
A. he was missing his right thumb B. He had an extra finger
C. he was missing a front tooth D. He was missing part of his left leg
3. Why did Ngor Gasemu think that Ishmael's forehead used to shine? (pg 92)
4. Why did Junior go looking for Ishmael? (pg 92)
5. Why did Ishmael run to the burning village? (pg 93-94)
6. Why did the boys all start fighting at the village? (pg 96)
7. What does *wahlee* mean? (pg 98)
8. How did Gasemu die? (pg 98-99)
9. What did the soldier do when Ishmael started to feel sick? (pg 100)
10. Ishmael says that he was part of the only thing that darkened the mood in the Village of Yele. What was he referring to? What does he mean by "darkened the mood"? (pg 101)

11. Why didn't Ishmael tell the "Sergeant Doctor" what was happening to him? (pg 103)

12. What did Lieutenant Jabati and Ishmael have in common? (pg 104)

13. Why did Ishmael say that he liked reciting speeches from *Macbeth* and *Julius Caesar*? (103-104)

14. How did the soldiers issue a curfew? (pg 105)

15. The lieutenant gave everyone an ultimatum. What were their choices? (pg 107)

1. _____ 2. _____

16. What happened to the man and child that decided not to fight? (pg 107)

17. What two things were the boys afraid of when they started training? (pg 109)

1. _____ 2. _____

18. Why did Ishmael cry when the soldier threw his pants in the fire? (pg 110)

19. How did the corporal get the boys to really stab the banana tree? (pg 112)

20. What did Lansana do that was distracting? (pg 113)

A Long Way Gone, chapters 11-12 vocabulary

agonizing garrison	consumption jubilation	delve perplexed	dilapidated Profusely
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Directions: Write the vocabulary word from above in the boxes below next to the correct sentence.	
1.	"I walked, _____, in my soaked clothes under the sun" (Beah 90).
2.	"In my mind's eye I would see sparks of flame, flashes of scenes I had witnessed, and the _____ voices of children and women would come alive in my head" (
3.	"He ignored me and seemed to _____ into his book" (Beah 104).
4.	"The soldiers set up their _____ in another unfinished brick house, and there they socialized separate from the civilians" (Beah 101).
5.	"Their _____ and clapping could be heard far down the river" (Beah 102).
6.	"The excitement caused my heart to beat faster and I was sweating _____" (Beah 102).
7.	"But by midday all the daily chores were done; the evening meal was prepared and only awaited _____" (Beah 102).
8.	"The building was roofless except for the tarpaulin that covered the boxes of ammunition and guns stacked against the wall; and in the only common space, a huge television screen sat on top of a _____ drum" (Beah 109).

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.	(adjective) reduced to or fallen into partial ruin or decay, as from age, wear or neglect
2.	(noun) a feeling of or the expression of joy or exultation; a joyful or festive celebration
3.	(adjective) bewildered; puzzled; complicated, involved
4.	(adjective) accompanied by, filled with, or resulting in agony or distress
5.	(noun) the act of consuming, as by use, decay or destruction
6.	(noun) the troops who maintain and guard a base or fortified place; the place itself
7.	(verb) to carry on intensive and thorough research for data, information, or the like; investigate
8.	(adjective) spending or giving freely and in large amount, often to excess; extravagant

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Synonyms

Directions: Use the words from above and their definitions to determine the best set of synonyms	
1.	Bewildered, troubled, uncertain
2.	happiness, joy, exultation
3.	drinking, expenditure, utilization, eating
4.	Battered, beat-up, decayed
5.	research, inquire, probe, examine, explore
6.	excruciating, intense, tortuous
7.	command post, encampment, fortress
8.	lavishly, abundantly, copiously

Antonyms

Directions: Use the words from above and their definitions to determine the best set of synonyms	
1.	In good repair, rebuilt
2.	pleasant, pleasing
3.	sadness, sorrow, unhappiness
4.	fill, find, ignore, neglect
5.	building, creation, expansion

A Long Way Gone: Chapters 11-12

Study Questions (pgs 89-113)

Answer Key

1. Why did the boys sit at the foot of the trees and wait? (pg 90)
- A. They were hiding from the rebels
 - B. They were hiding from a tiger
 - C. In hopes that a coconut would fall
 - D. **The rain became unbearable**

2. What physical feature helped Ishmael to know that he knew Ngor Gasemu? (pg 91)
- A. he was missing his right thumb
 - B. He had an extra finger
 - C. **he was missing a front tooth**
 - D. He was missing part of his left leg

3. Why did Ngor Gasemu think that Ishmael's forehead used to shine? (pg 92)

Ngor Gasemu believed that Ishmael's forehead used to shine because he was happy all of the time.

4. Why did Junior go looking for Ishmael? (pg 92)

Junior blamed himself for losing Ishmael.

5. Why did Ishmael run to the burning village? (pg 93-94)

Ishmael was looking for his family, and he was told they were at the village.

6. Why did the boys all start fighting at the village? (pg 96)

Answers will vary, but should be something like the boys needed someone to blame for not being able to see their families, and for the loss they felt due to the war.

7. What does *wahlee* mean? (pg 98)

A place outside villages where people processed coffee and other crops.

8. How did Gasemu die? (pg 98-99)

He was shot in the leg and in his side.

9. What did the soldier do when Ishmael started to feel sick? (pg 100)

The soldier threw water in Ishmael's face and said, "You will get used to it, everyone does eventually."

10. Ishmael says that he was part of the only thing that darkened the mood in the Village of Yele. What was he referring to? What does he mean by "darkened the mood"?

Answers will vary, but should be something like the sight of the orphaned children, over 30 boys between the ages of 7 and 16, darkened the mood in the Village of Yele. Seeing all of the boys without families reminded people of the war, and the seriousness of what was happening in their country.

11. Why didn't Ishmael tell the "Sergeant Doctor" what was happening to him? (pg 103)

The "Sergeant Doctor" never asked if anyone was having headaches or migraines.

12. What did Lieutenant Jabati and Ishmael have in common? (pg 104)

They both read Shakespear- Julius Caesar.

13. Why did Ishmael say that he liked reciting speeches from *Macbeth* and *Julius Caesar*? (103-104)

The plays made him feel that he was really good at English.

14. How did the soldiers issue a curfew? (pg 105)

The soldiers issued a curfew by shooting a few rounds into the air and ordering everyone to "get inside and stay low to the ground."

15. The lieutenant gave everyone an ultimatum. What were their choices? (pg 107)

1. Fight with the army
2. Leave

16. What happened to the man and child that decided not to fight? (pg 107)

They were shot in the clearing as they tried to leave.

17. What two things were the boys afraid of when they started training? (pg 109)

1. looking a man in the eye
2. holding a gun

18. Why did Ishmael cry when the soldier threw his pants in the fire? (pg 110)

Ishmael cried when the soldier threw his pants in the fire because his cassettes were in his pants; those cassettes were his last connection to his home and they saved his life twice.

19. How did the corporal get the boys to really stab the banana tree? (pg 112)

The corporal told them to visualize the enemy, the rebels who killed their parents, their family, and those responsible for everything that has happened to them.

20. What did Lansana do that was distracting? (pg 113)

He hummed songs that Ishmael had never heard.

A Long Way Gone, Chapters 11-12 vocabulary Answer Key

agonizing	consumption	delve	dilapidated
garrison	jubilation	perplexed	Profusely

Directions: Write the vocabulary word from above in the boxes below next to the correct sentence.	
1. perplexed	"I walked, _____, in my soaked clothes under the sun" (Beah 90).
2. agonizing	"In my mind's eye I would see sparks of flame, flashes of scenes I had witnessed, and the _____ voices of children and women would come alive in my head" (
3. delve	"He ignored me and seemed to _____ into his book" (Beah 104).
4. garrison	"The soldiers set up their _____ in another unfinished brick house, and there they socialized separate from the civilians" (Beah 101).
5. jubilation	"Their _____ and clapping could be heard far down the river" (Beah 102).
6. profusely	"The excitement caused my heart to beat faster and I was sweating _____" (Beah 102).
7. consumption	"But by midday all the daily chores were done; the evening meal was prepared and only awaited _____" (Beah 102).
8. dilapidated	"The building was roofless except for the tarpaulin that covered the boxes of ammunition and guns stacked against the wall; and in the only common space, a huge television screen sat on top of a _____ drum" (Beah 109).

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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.	
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2. jubilation	(noun) a feeling of or the expression of joy or exultation; a joyful or festive celebration
3. perplexed	(adjective) bewildered; puzzled; complicated, involved
4. agonizing	(adjective) accompanied by, filled with, or resulting in agony or distress
5. consumption	(noun) the act of consuming, as by use, decay or destruction
6. garrison	(noun) the troops who maintain and guard a base or fortified place; the place itself
7. delve	(verb) to carry on intensive and thorough research for data, information, or the like; investigate
8. profusely	(adjective) spending or giving freely and in large amount, often to excess; extravagant

Synonyms

Directions: Use the words from above and their definitions to determine the best set of synonyms	
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2. jubilation	happiness, joy, exultation
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4. dilapidated	Battered, beat-up, decayed
5. delve	research, inquire, probe, examine, explore
6. agonizing	excruciating, intense, tortuous
7. garrison	command post, encampment, fortress
8. profusely	lavishly, abundantly, copiously

Antonyms

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4. delve	fill, find, ignore, neglect
5. consumption	building, creation, expansion

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