

# Study Review Chapters 7-8

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 7-8

Study Questions (pgs 44-57)

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Date \_\_\_\_\_

1. What did the rebels do to the imam when he wouldn't tell them where the people were hiding in the forest? (pg 44)
2. On page 46, why do the boys bring brooms with them to visit Kamator?
3. Why was Ishmael able to get coconuts one day and not the next? (pg 47)
4. How long did Ishmael go without coming in contact with people? (pg 47)  
A. 2 days      B. 4 days      C. 5 days      D. 6 days
5. How did war ruin the experience of meeting people? (pg 48)
6. Why does Ishmael feel that death didn't free the dead people that he saw? (pg 49)
7. Why did Ishmael draw lines in the dried leaves on the ground? (pg 50).  
A. to help from getting lost      C. leaving a message for his family  
B. because he was bored      D. a signal to warn that the rebels were coming
8. What helped Ishmael decide to eat the fruit that might kill him (pg 37-38).
9. What does Ishmael say helped him study for exams in school? (pg 51)

10. What did Ishmael use to wash his body when he didn't have soap? (pg 52)

11. What was the most difficult part of being in the forest? (pg 52)

- A. the hunger    B. the bugs    C. lions    D. the loneliness

12. According to grandma's story, why did the pigs chase Ishmael? (pgs 52-53)

13. According to Ishmael's father "If you are alive, there is hope for a better day and something good to happen. If there is nothing good left in the destiny of a person, he or she will die" (Beah 53). How did this keep Ishmael alive?

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14. On page 54, how does Ishmael say that he was able to tell the tribes the people were from?

15. Even though it might be dangerous, why did he join the group of 6 boys? (pg 55)

16. Why didn't the old man tell the boys his name? (Pgs 56-57)

## A Long Way Gone, Chapter 7-8 vocabulary

capacity	commence	flogged	imam
imprinted	thatched	vain	vicinity

<b>Directions:</b> Write the vocabulary word from above in the boxes below next to the correct sentence.	
1.	"I walked around to familiarize myself with my _____" (Beah 50).
2.	"The ____ was oblivious to what was going on until it was too late" (Beah 44).
3.	"It was as the books had been _____ inside my head" (Beah 45).
4.	"During each visit, Grandfather always gave us a special medicine that was supposed to enhance the brain's _____ to absorb and retain knowledge"(Beah 45).
5.	"After a while they finally gave up as a cricket started calling for night to _____" (Beah 53).
6.	"Once every three days we visited Kamator to see if people had returned, but each visit was in _____, as there wasn't a sight of a living thing" (Beah 45-46).
7.	"I was scared when the wind blew, shaking the _____ roofs, and I felt as if I were out of my body wandering somewhere" (Beah 46).
8.	"They weren't close friends, but the four of us had been _____ once for talking back to the senior prefect" (Beah 55).

### 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.	(verb) to beat with a whip, stick, etc.
2.	(noun) the area or region rear or about a place; surrounded district; neighborhood
3.	(noun) a material, such as straw, rushes, leaves, or the life, used to cover roofs, grain, cover roofs, used to cover, grain stocks, et.
4.	(adjective) excessively proud of or concerned about one's own appearance, qualities, achievements, etc.
5.	(noun) the officiating priest of a mosque; the title for a Muslim religious leader or chief
6.	(noun) the ability to receive or retain
7.	(verb) (used without object) to begin, start
8.	(noun) a mark made by pressure; a mark or figure impressed or printed on something

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### Synonyms

<b>Directions:</b> Use the words from above and their definitions to determine the best set of synonyms	
1.	to examine, grill, investigate, query
2.	detainee, hostage, prisoner, prisoner of war
3.	cross-examination, inquiry, investigation
4.	castrate, disable, disfigure, incapacitate
5.	exact, expose, levy, wreak
6.	bystander, fan, observer, onlooker

### Antonyms

<b>Directions:</b> Use the words from above and their definitions to determine the best set of synonyms	
1.	compliment
2.	humble
3.	limitation
4.	destroy, neglect, unsettled

## A Long Way Gone: Chapters 7-8

Study Questions (pgs 44-57)

## Answer Key

1. What did the rebels do to the imam when he wouldn't tell them where the people were hiding in the forest? (pg 44)

The rebels bound his hands and feet with wire, tied him to an iron post, and set his body on fire (Beah 44).

2. On page 46, why do the boys bring brooms with them to visit Kamator?

Ishmael and his friends brought brooms with them when they went to visit Kamator, so they would sweep away their footprints as they went back to their hiding place to avoid being followed (Beah 46).

3. Why was Ishmael able to get coconuts one day and not the next? (pg 47)

Answers will vary, but should say something like Ishmael was able to get coconuts when he was very hungry and thirsty; prior to this experience he had never been able to climb a coconut tree. After he gained some strength he tried to climb it again to get more, and was not able to. He was able to get the coconuts when his instincts were guiding him, out of the need to survive. When he was doing it to prepare he was over-thinking it.

4. How long did Ishmael go without coming in contact with people? (pg 47)

A. 2 days      B. 4 days      C. 5 days      **D. 6 days**

5. How did war ruin the experience of meeting people? (pg 48)

Answer will vary, but should say something like war ruined the experience of meeting people because you couldn't trust anybody anymore.

6. Why does Ishmael feel that death didn't free the dead people that he saw? (pg 49)

7.

According to the text, Ishmael feels that death didn't free the people from the war around them, and their eyes still made them appear to be scared (Beah 49).

8. Why did Ishmael draw lines in the dried leaves on the ground? (pg 50).

**A. to help from getting lost**  
B. because he was bored

C. leaving a message for his family  
D. a signal to warn that the rebels were coming

9. What helped Ishmael decide to eat the fruit that might kill him (pg 37-38).

Ishmael was starving and he noticed that the birds were eating the fruit and they didn't die. If the birds didn't die then the fruit must not be that bad, so he decided to try it.

10. What does Ishmael say helped him study for exams in school? (pg 51)

According to Ishmeal, his grandfather gave him a special medicine that enhanced the brain's capacity to absorb and retain knowledge.

11. What did Ishmael use to wash his body when he didn't have soap? (pg 52)

Ishmael washed his body with grasses that left his body with a fresh scent.

12. What was the most difficult part of being in the forest? (pg 52)

A. the hunger    B. the bugs    C. lions    **D. the loneliness**

13. According to grandma's story, why did the pigs chase Ishmael? (pgs 52-53)

According to his grandma's story, pigs distrust humans because of the hunter that transformed himself into a pig to trick the pigs.

14. According to Ishmael's father "If you are alive, there is hope for a better day and something good to happen. If there is nothing good left in the destiny of a person, he or she will die" (Beah 53). How did this keep Ishmael alive?

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15. On page 54, how does Ishmael say that he was able to tell the tribes the people were from?

According to the text, Ishmael states that he was able to tell the different tribes of people by the marks on their cheeks.

16. Even though it might be dangerous, why did he join the group of 6 boys? (pg 55)

He joined them because he didn't want to be by himself.

17. Why didn't the old man tell the boys his name? (Pgs 56-57)

According to the text, the old man didn't tell the boys his name because he wouldn't be alive to see the end of the war, so they should save a place in their memories for other things (Beah 56-57).

## A Long Way Gone, Chapter 7-8 vocabulary Answer Key

capacity	commence	flogged	imam
imprinted	thatched	vain	vicinity

<b>Directions:</b> Write the vocabulary word from above in the boxes below next to the correct sentence.	
1. vicinity	"I walked around to familiarize myself with my _____" (Beah 50).
2. imam	"The ____ was oblivious to what was going on until it was too late" (Beah 44).
3. imprinted	"It was as the books had been _____ inside my head" (Beah 45).
4. capacity	"During each visit, Grandfather always gave us a special medicine that was supposed to enhance the brain's _____ to absorb and retain knowledge" (Beah 45).
5. commence	"After a while they finally gave up as a cricket started calling for night to _____" (Beah 53).
6. vain	"Once every three days we visited Kamator to see if people had returned, but each visit was in _____, as there wasn't a sight of a living thing" (Beah 45-46).
7. thatched	"I was scared when the wind blew, shaking the _____ roofs, and I felt as if I were out of my body wandering somewhere" (Beah 46).
8. flogged	"They weren't close friends, but the four of us had been _____ once for talking back to the senior prefect" (Beah 55).

### 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. flogged	(verb) to beat with a whip, stick, etc.
2. vicinity	(noun) the area or region near or about a place; surrounded district; neighborhood
3. thatched	(noun) a material, such as straw, rushes, leaves, or the life, used to cover roofs, grain, cover roofs, used to cover, grain stocks, et.
4. vain	(adjective) excessively proud of or concerned about one's own appearance, qualities, achievements, etc.
5. imam	(noun) the officiating priest of a mosque; the title for a Muslim religious leader or chief
6. capacity	(noun) the ability to receive or retain
7. commence	(verb) (used without object) to begin, start
8. imprinted	(noun) a mark made by pressure; a mark or figure impressed or printed on something

### Synonyms

<b>Directions:</b> Use the words from above and their definitions to determine the best set of synonyms	
1. vain	arrogant, cocky,
2. commence	inaugurate, originate, take up, launch
3. capacity	quantity, scope, size, space
4. flogged	castigate, chastise, spank
5. imprinted	engrave, etch, inscribe
6. vicinity	environs, neighborhood, proximity

### Antonyms

<b>Directions:</b> Use the words from above and their definitions to determine the best set of synonyms	
1. flogged	compliment
2. vain	humble
3. capacity	limitation
4. imprinted	destroy, neglect, unsettle

## 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