

Critical Thinking Questions:

Chapter 7 & 8

A Long Walk to Water

As you read, please think about how you would answer these questions.

Scarification in Sudanese Culture

1. Why did many Sudanese tribes practice scarification?
2. How could scarification be both helpful and dangerous?

Chapter 7

1. What does the family's difficult choice – risk the long walk or stay in camp – tell us about the access to health care in Sudan and the challenges of survival?
2. How does this chapter show the connection between water, health, and life in Nya's village?
3. What does Marial's disappearance reveal about how fragile life is during the journey?
4. What does Uncle's care for Salva show about the strength of extended family ties and responsibility in South Sudanese culture?
5. Why might building the reed boats help Salva feel a little better, even while he is still sad and afraid?

Chapter 8

1. How does the nurse's warning about dirty water highlight the long-term struggles Nya's family faces?
2. Why does Nya worry about the future, even while she feels happy to see Akeer laughing again?
3. What does Salva's memory of mangoes show us about the power of food to connect people to home and family?
4. Why do you think Uncle shares his food with Salva, and what does this teach us about generosity in hard times?
5. How do the mosquitoes show that survival is not only about big dangers but also about small, constant challenges?