

A LONG WALK TO WATER

BOOK CLUB

17 September 2025

Chapters 3&4

60-SECOND SUMMARIZER

FATEMEH

Not yet submitted

60-SECOND SUMMARIZER

YARIELA

Nya, an 11-year-old, walks long distances every day to bring water to the family. Her mother is at home breastfeeding her brother.

Salva stays with an old lady 3 or 4 days but as a winter is approaching and the pond is drying, she decides to move to another village and can't take him because it will be hard to be accepted with a kid.

Salva finds another group and a couple decides to take him with them. After several days of walking and hunger he and Buksa find a big Beehive.

VOCABULARY BUILDER

ANA

Gourd

Hazy = smoky, not clear

Frowned = frownd = unhappy face

Fur rowed = fur rowd = rut, groove, or trail in the ground (furrowed brow)

to glance = to look quickly = (verb) glance(s) = noun "I took a quick **glance** over my shoulder" vs. verb "I **glanced** over my shoulder."

to gaze = to look for a long time at something verb "I **could gaze** into his eyes forever." noun "Her **gaze** shifted when the smoke alarm went off."

VOCABULARY BUILDER

YARIELA

flinched (verb)- to quickly move because of surprise, fear, or pain. "Salva flinched when she looked at him."

glance (verb)- to quickly look. "The old woman glanced at Salva." glance (noun) - a quick look. "Salva wondered if the woman's glance was friendly."

gourds - (gourd) noun--fruit with a hard shell. Can be used for crafts / decorations or to transport food and drink. "Nya used the gourd to fill her container with water."

haunches - noun - buttocks (butt) and thighs. "The baseball pitcher squatted on his haunches."

smudge (noun)- a blurred or smeared mark on something. "She has a smudge of lipstick on her cheek."

smudge (verb)- to blur or smear. "She smudged her lipstick on her cheek."

VOCABULARY BUILDER

YARIELA

crept (verb)– past tense of creep – to move slowly with your body close to the ground. “Salva crept through the bush to escape from the rebel soldier.”

squat (verb) – to sit with your knees bent and your heels close to or touching your buttock and back of thighs. “The baseball catcher squats behind home plate.”

furrow (noun) – a crease, wrinkle, or narrow trench. “Lori has furrows on her forehead.”

(adj) creased, wrinkled, or marked with grooves. “Lori has a furrowed brow.”

(verb) to crease, wrinkle, or make a narrow trench. “Esmeralda furrowed the ground to plant seeds.”

SOUND SPOTTER

IRA

1. **smudge** – a blurred or smeared mark on the surface of something

The smudge on the horizon gained color as Nya drew nearer, changing from hazy gray to olive green.

2. **sludgy adj. / sludge noun** – thick, soft, wet mud (other fluids that are typically thin & clear)
(gooey = soft, wet)

The dirt under her feet turned to mud, then sludge, until at last she was ankle-deep in water.

3. **chew** – bite and work (food) in the mouth with the teeth, especially to make it easier to swallow
He chewed every nut into a paste before he swallowed.

4. **sorghum** – a widely cultivated cereal native to warm regions / sorghum syrup
She handed Nya a bowl of boiled sorghum meal and poured a little milk over it.

5. **terrain** – a stretch of land, especially with regard to its physical features
The terrain changed from scrub (not healthy looking bushes) to woodland.

SOUND SPOTTER

YARIELA

Nuer (pronounced “newer”) – Rival tribe of the Dinka

sluggishly – moving slowly. “My old car moved sluggishly because it had a problem with the engine.”

sorghum – (pronounced “sore gum” – type of grain (“sorghum meal”) that can be ground into meal or made into a syrup, similar to corn syrup.

“lay claim” – to assert your ownership to something, stating that it belongs to you or that you deserve it.

squatter – someone who illegal occupies a vacant or abandoned property.

claim jumper – someone how illegally seizes or occupies a piece of land that legally belongs to someone else. “The gold miners worried that a claim jumper might steal their gold mine.”

CONNECTION MAKER

FLAVIA

In chapter 3 of A Long Walk to Water, two families argue about where one piece of land ends and the other begins. This reflects a problem that has existed throughout the history. Land has always been a source of conflict, because it represents survival, power, and resources. For example, in the past, many communities and some nations fought over borders, just like these families. We also can see it happening between countries today in a big scale. Some countries fight to defend what they believe, fight to protect or expand their borders, fight for power, religion and/or natural resources. For example the war between Russia and Ukraine; Israel and Palestine; India and Pakistan.

These disputes can show us that the humanity is never satisfied with what they have, always wanting more power, more resources and more control.

CONNECTION MAKER

MONICA

In the morning of September 19th, 1985, an earthquake of a magnitude of 8.1 degrees stroke Mexico city, destroying many buildings and houses, and killing thousands of people.

In the beginning, the hysteria of no knowing where and how we were all of us as a family was our priority. We knew right after the earthquake that there was no electricity but public telephones and transportation were free. Unfortunately, in some areas like where we lived besides no electricity, the telephone was no working. I was in high school, and the teachers urged us to go home.

We are a family of seven, my siblings and myself were all in school, my mom at home and my father was out of town but, as soon as he found out about the earthquake, he came home. During the day, one by one we return home except for my brother Gustavo; whose High School was faraway and he had no public transportation options for his trip home, so he walk home and he was only one of us to see a devastated city. At last,he got home; my mother's body shook with sobs of relief when he arrived safe. We never were more happy of being all together and well.

In the aftermath, we realized we do not have water. We knew nearby was a gate valve that provides water to the neighborhood so my siblings, some friends and me walk to fetch water in buckets.

We did that for a few days, before order was establish.

"You never know what you have until is gone". In recent years, earthquakes have been more frequent. Now we are better prepared.

EMOTIONS EXPLORER

MARIA

I feel **frustration** and **compassion** when situations happen and you can't help, such as when Salva was starving and only ate two handfuls of raw peanuts.

EMOTIONS EXPLORER

CRISTY

Chapter 3

Nya:

- Tired: from the long daily walk
- Courage: she's tired, but she has the courage to walk for her family

Salva:

- Fear: he doesn't know if he'll find his family and if the others will accept him
- Hope: when the woman feeds and cares for him

Chapter 4

Nya:

- Worried: about her sister was too small

Salva:

- Worried: when the old lady told him about she need to leave
- Hope: when the other people arrive

In both chapters I felt **sad** and **worried** for Nya and Salva. For Nya, everything Nya has to do to get water for her family, and her sister is very small and weak, it makes me very **sad** for all the children who even if they are hungry have to work hard to get some water. For Salva I feel **very worried** because he can't find his family and he doesn't feel safe anywhere, only the few days he was with the old lady, He also didn't feel safe when he found the group of people, because some people didn't like him for being a child.

WORD ARTIST

LISA

After the old woman says that the young boy cannot stay with her any longer, Salva joins a group of strangers. He walks into the forest with very large trees and a fiery ball in the sky.

He doesn't know where he is going, but he keeps walking to nowhere. He can hear footsteps, the low voices of people, the buzz of insects, the rustling of dry leaves, and sometimes birds chirping.

He feels exhausted and starving, with a dry mouth, and his stomach growls like an angry bear.

Salva feels scared and alone without his family.

WORD ARTIST

ESMERALDA

Who is there?

The old woman and Salva

What's happening?

He found a woman sitting in the sun

Where is happening?

The house between the pond and the barn

It was a very quiet place, in the middle of nowhere, far from everything but full of tranquility and peace, dry, dry but with lots of animals and the smell of a characteristic barn full of animals

FACT FINDER

MARIANA

Interesting Fact:

I would like to share an interesting fact. South Sudan is the youngest country in the world. It became a country on July 9, 2011.

I chose this fact because the story happens before South Sudan became a country. There was War between the north and the south. Salva had to leave his home because of this war. This fact helps me understand why his life was so hard and challenging, but he fought bravely to survive.

In a more present time, in 2008, Nya is a girl who lives in South Sudan. Every day, she has to walk long distances to get water for her family. The water is not clean, but it is the only water they can use. Her story shows how difficult life is for children in South Sudan.

While Salva's story is in the past, Nya's story is in the present. Both stories show the struggle for water and survival.

FACT FINDER / PREDICTON MAKER

YULIANNA

In my opinion, it is hard to predict something that will be next in the story. We read how the kids found a beehive and how they are planning to eat the honey because they are very hungry. Probably the bees will sting people who bother them. But it will not be the end of their problem and they will walk for more and more weeks. Until then, the people will not find a safe place.