

A LONG WALK TO WATER

BOOK CLUB

24 September 2025

Chapters 5 & 6

60-SECOND SUMMARIZER

MARIANA

Chapter 5 Summary: Nya's Story: Nya and her family move to a camp by a large lake during the dry season. Though the lake is far from home, it has more water than the small pond they usually use. Nya's work—digging holes in the clay to access water—remains difficult and time-consuming. She continues this daily task for five months until the rains return and they can go home.

Salva's Story: Salva continues his journey with a group of refugees. He meets Marial, a boy with his age who is also separated from his family, and they become friends. Their path leads them into a dangerous area filled with lions. At one point, Salva hears someone calling his name, though it is not Marial.

Chapter 6 Summary: Nya's Story: Nya has been fetching water from the lake for as long as she can remember. She notices her mother's fear when Nya's father and brother go hunting, worrying that they could be killed by Dinka tribesmen. Despite the danger, her family has been lucky until now.

Salva's Story: Salva wakes up and sees his Uncle Jewiir, who he hasn't seen in two years. Uncle Jewiir promises to look after Salva. He uses his army rifle to hunt an antelope, feeding the group a meal that makes Salva sick because he hasn't eaten well in a long time.

The group continues walking in search of water, traveling for ten hours without success. During rest, Salva wakes to find someone crying and his Uncle telling that his friend has died, showing the constant danger of their journey.

PRONUNCIATION PRACTICE:

FILLED VS. FIELD MINIMAL PAIRS

“THE FANS FILLED THE FIELD AFTER THEIR
TEAM WON THE FINAL GAME.”

60-SECOND SUMMARIZER

YULIANNA

Nya's family lived three days away from a lake. In the dry season, the lake was called the lake of peace because another enemy tribe lived near, and during that time both tribes tried not to fight. Nya enjoyed her time at the lake. Her job was still to bring water, but this time she didn't need to walk a long distance. She spent more time digging holes and waiting for the water to collect.

Her mother had the opposite feeling. She missed her home and worried about her husband and sons, afraid that one day they might not come back because they lived so close to another tribe.

After Salva and Buksa found the honey, they fed all the refugees. Most people, including Salva, got stung by bees, but not one stopped. Salva met new friend whose name was Mariel, and they were the same age and size. Also, they were in the same tribe but Mariel has little accent. In the chapter, we also get information about where all people are going. The idea made kids more worried (worry) about their lives and family. After a month, the travelers came to the land of Aruit, the land of lions where the lion people live. In that land, Salva's uncle found him, so the boys started to live with him. The Uncle just came from the army and had a gun. That gun helped to feed people. Even though there was little food, everyone had something to eat, but that food made them nauseous because they had been hungry for a long time. Unfortunately, Salva faced loss again, and this time it was his new best friend.

VOCABULARY BUILDER

FATEMEH

lumpy (adj)--texture that is uneven, not smooth

bumpy (adj)--

raw (adj)--not cooked, fresh, flesh underneath injured or irritated skin

gobble--to eat quickly, without chewing / sound that a turkey makes

nausea--to feel sick to your stomach, like you are going to throw up (vomit)

swollen (adj)--bigger than normal, enlarged,

swallow (verb)--something you do to food after chewing it

swell (verb)--to become bigger than normal

stinging (adj)--feeling of a sharp pain, hot pain; often caused by an insect bite.

sting (noun)--a bee sting

sting (verb)--a bee stings when it gets angry. past tense = stung. "A bee stung Salva"

bleary eyed (adj)--unable to see clearly, like when you first wake up. bleary = not clear.

trailed off (verb)--to become less audible / to gradually stop

clashed (verb)--to come into conflict / colors that don't match.

crashed (verb)--car accident

crouch / squat (verb)--to sit low to the ground on the back of your thighs.

SOUND SPOTTER

ANA

shrugged: “She shrugged when I asked her a question”

sighed: “He sighed with relief” / **side**

wisely: “He spoke wisely during the meeting”

wildebeest: “We saw hundreds of wildebeests crossing the river” (will-da-bee-st

bleary-eyed: “She came to class bleary-eyed after staying up all night”

butchered: “The farmer butchered a cow”

VOCABULARY BUILDER / SOUND SPOTTER

LILY S.

fetch (verb)--to go get something and bring it back

Dep--an African boy's name

luscious--very delicious / very pleasing to the sense

wailing--crying very hard and loud

trailed off--to gradually get softer and softer when speaking / used mostly to talk about sound

herds--multiple groups of grazing animals (eat grass), herd mentality--group think

filthy--very dirty

butchered--to cut apart a body. to perform or do something very poorly.

gobble--to eat very quickly, without chewing food first. Swallow quickly. / the sound a turkey makes

pose--to hold a body position / "the lion **poses a threat** to Salva's tribe." / pose a question, suggestion = to present your idea in a conversation.

poised to attack = ready to attack

CONNECTION MAKER

IRA

In the sixth chapter Salva met his Uncle Jewiir, and saw that his Uncle had a gun – rifle. Salva already realized that his uncle's owning of the weapon and military experience made him a kind of leader of the group, which can help to survive.

I think this echoes the right to keep and bear arms, protected by the Second Amendment to the United States Constitution. This allows Americans to protect their beliefs and the lives of their loved ones, which is critical in our challenging times.

In February 2022, in the Ukrainian border town Sumy, people with a home arsenal of hunting weapons were able to protect themselves and their families by teaming up with their neighbors and fighting off the russian occupiers, hunting them like on safari.

On October 7 2023, in Israel, in kibbutzim bordering Gaza, weapons in the homes of ordinary people saved the lives of their loved ones, and weapons in the hand of self-defense units saved residents of entire settlements from death and being taken hostage.

CONNECTION MAKER

YARIELA

I remember as a child when I didn't want to eat, my mother always told me the story of the child who had lost his parents in an accident. He had to look for food and a place to sleep every day. He was hungry on the streets. my mother always insisted on giving thanks for the food.

EMOTIONS EXPLORER

FLAVIA

I feel very sad when I read in this story, Nya walking many hours to get water, not always clean ,(drinking water) and Salva, separated from his parents, struggling to survive in search of food and water.

I think about many children in the world who are hungry and do not have the basic things to survive.

But, what makes me even angrier is knowing that many of these children suffer and fight every day just to survive because of corrupt politicians. They use public money for their own benefit instead of caring for the community.

I can see this reality in many impoverished (poverty) regions, especially in Northeast of Brazil, and it truly revolts me. These are children like or worse than Nya and Salva.

EMOTIONS EXPLORER

MONICA

The author creates, with details a closeness between the reader and the characters. The situation she portrays is beyond my imagination, I try to relate with the story but I am certain that there is not common ground.

Their daily conditions, to meet basic necessities is sad, how can they possibly would have time to distract or think something else, if they are trapped in the small world of survival and conflict.

I confess, I would be tired just to think the uncertainty of my existence, no knowing if there will be a tomorrow, if I would ever will see my family again, or if the civil war would ever end.

Surprisingly, the sole idea of striving, adjusting and keep going, forced to be creative by trying to find a solution with their limited resources, produce me admiration.

As idealistic as I am, always wanting a happy world, is hard to comprehend why if we have all the advances and resources why there are forgotten places like South Sudan.

WORD ARTIST

MARIA

Scene:

Salva and his friend Buksa were finally able to eat the honey until they were satisfied, along with the people who came in the group. Although their bodies were still swollen from the bee stings, it was worth it.

They made a fire and put it under the tree to wake the bees up and thus obtain the honey that was in the honeycomb.

Creative Visualization:

We heard buzzing bees around us. We felt scared because we didn't want bees to sting us.

Unfortunately, the bees stung us. We had pain on our skin. We felt burned. But at the same time we were excited because all the people in the tribe could eat. The honeycomb tasted sweet. Our hands got sticky because of the honey. We ate quickly. We hadn't eaten for many days so our stomachs started to groan and feel uncomfortable when we ate the honey, but at the same time we felt content.

WORD ARTIST

CRISTY

When Salva is walking with his friend Marial on the east side, I imagine everything brown, the sky and the soil as if it were infinite, only with the tents of the people who are with them. I feel that everything tastes like soil and smells like soil, their mouths feel dry not only from thirst, but from the taste of the earth that the air carries, but although they feel all that, they feel accompanied because they are together.



Fun fact: Torreon is known for being a city built in the desert and it often looks like it's going to rain but it's just clouds of dust, and if you're on the street everything smells and smells like dust.

FACT FINDER

LISA

The Nile River is the longest river in the world, flowing through 11 countries. The White Nile, part of the Nile River, passes through South Sudan.

This river is important because it provides resources people need for farming, fishing, and drinking.

In **A Long Walk to Water**, we see that water is the most important need in South Sudan. The characters spend most of the day walking to find water, and because of the war, it is very hard to find it.

FACT FINDER

ESMERALDA

A Land of Diverse Landscapes: From the Sahara Desert in the north to shrublands and mountains in the south, and a Red Sea coast in the east, Sudan's geography is vast and varied.

It is now when I understand why Nya had to go so far for water, and why people moved to other places some months later. I also understood why Salva and the group were so dehydrated and could not find any water and why he was so scared about his friend,