

Directions: All questions MUST be answered on a separate sheet of paper. You will not be answering every question in the guide, but I suggest you look at them as you read. These *may be* the questions on your reading checks.

### Chapter 1

1. How did the refugees act that walked through their town?
2. How old is the main character when he is first affected by the war?
3. What kind of music were the boys fascinated with?
4. Where were they going and why?
5. What did they bring on their trip? Describe what they were wearing.
6. What was the prank the narrator pulled when they were swimming in the river?
7. What impression do you get from the description of his grandparents?
8. When they arrived at Matru Jong, whose house did they stay at?
9. What did they hear was happening at home?
10. Where did they go to wait for news about the main character's family? What did they decide to do next?
11. Describe the living situation between the main characters family.
12. What was a warning they received?
13. What happened as they waited back at his grandmother's village?
14. Why did they decide to go back to Matru Jong instead of staying at the grandmother's village or going home?
15. What conclusions did the boys come up with about the war?

### Chapter 2

1. Describe the setting of the first two paragraphs. (Five sentences)
2. Describe the setting of the last two paragraphs (five sentences)
3. What are the three worlds he lives in now? What does he mean by this?

### Chapter 3

1. What was the letter about?
2. What was RUF? Where did they see the message?

3. Why didn't the rebels come by the time they said they would?
4. What does the Palampo mean?
5. Describe and give details, of how it was when the Rebels did come?
6. What was the carving mean? RUF?
7. Using one word how would you describe what was going on? Why?
8. Why do you think he was so determined to keep running? Why doesn't he get tired?
9. How does he escape death?
10. How did the rebels get their messages across?
11. Why did they chop all of the messenger's fingers off except the thumbs?
12. How was the tone of the village while the residents were hiding
13. Describe the chaos when the rebels finally arrived.
14. Why was staying in town a greater risk for boys
15. Describe the actions of the boys as they are running from the rebels. How long were they running for?

#### Chapter 4

1. Now that war has come to his town, what was his life like now?
2. Why did they sneak back to Mattru Jong?
3. Describe what they see, while they are traveling to towns
- 6.. Did they eat well? Why?
7. What decision do they make?

#### Chapter 5

1. What was happening to his body?
2. Why were they getting irritable?
3. How many of them are there running away?
6. Explain the incident with the Rebels?
7. Describe Rebels, what they look like, their age, and attitude.
8. What happened to the old man trying to escape?

10. How do the rebels do recruitment?
11. What did the new recruits have to do after they were chosen?
12. How does he escape death again?

#### Chapter 6

1. What are some advantages and disadvantages of being in a group of 6 boys?
2. Why were children feared
3. What was the consequence of the war?
4. Who saved the boys from being drowned?
5. What happened with the chief?
6. In this chapter he escaped death again, how? Describe his relationship with JR.?
7. What made him and his brother misfits of their community? What did they often do?
8. Why did Ishmael get into a lot of fights in school?
9. What happens at the end of this chapter?

#### Chapter 7

1. Describe the attack of Kamator?
2. Who is Mam? What did the rebels do to him?
3. How did he and his brother get separated?
4. Where is he trying to get to? Why?
5. How did the man and his family treat him in the river? Why?
6. Why was the attack so unexpected?
8. Did all of the boys stay together? Explain.
9. Describe the scene of the village Kamator when Ishmael and Kalo oko returned?
10. Describe how Ishmael is feeling now that he is alone in the forest?
11. Why is the family that he meets so skeptical of him?

#### Chapter 8

1. Why do you think he was feeling someone is always after him? Can you relate?
2. What was the most difficult part being in the forest?
3. What drove his spirit alive?
4. What does this mean, "Our innocence had been replaced by the fear and we had become monsters"?

- 5 .Does Ishmael seem afraid to be lost in the jungle?
- 6.How long does he stay in the forest? Ishmael spent more than a month in the forest.
- 7 .Who did he run into?
- 8 .How did one of the boys comfort him? One of the boys told Ishmael, " Circumstances will change and things will be fine, just hold on a little more" and he replied back with a smile.

#### Chapter 9

1. Who ambushed the boys? What did they do to the boys?
2. Why did they attack the young boys?
3. Why was it a bad punishment taking their shoes from the boys?
4. What did the strange man do for the boys?
5. Who is Musa? Describe him.
6. Describe Kanei.
7. Describe Alhaji.
8. Describe Jumah.
9. Describe Saidu and Moriba.
10. When 12 men ran after their group of 7 what happened? Did they get caught?

#### Chapter 10 69-88

1. What specific things did he miss about his family?
2. What does the description of the naming ceremony tell you about his village and the members of his community?
3. After hearing all the boys' stories about the rebels attacking, whose story do you think is the worst circumstance
4. What do you think made Saidu sick and ultimately killed him? I
- 5 . Describe Ishmael's mood in the beginning of the chapter. Ishmael happened to find some happiness in some villages where they were treated with food and water. They couldn't completely be happy, because he always expected for worse to come which didnt disappoint him at all.
6. What does he compare his journey with
7. What happened to Musa's family?
- 8 What was Alhaji doing during the attack
9. What is Kanei's story of attack?
10. What is Jumah and Moriba's story?

11. Why was Saidu's family unable to leave town during the attack family?
12. What happened to Saidu's sister? Saidu's sisters got raped over and over again.
13. Which boy in the group died? What did they do for him

#### Chapter 11 89-99

1. (33) What did the rebels do to the old man?
  2. How did the boys avoid death? (34-35)
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## Chapter Seven

1. Describe Ishmael's struggles being by himself.

2. page 48 *"I was glad to see other faces and at the same time disappointed that the war had destroyed the enjoyment of the very experience of meeting people. Even a twelve-year-old couldn't be trusted anymore."*

How had war changed people?

## Chapter Eight:

Motif: LONELINESS AND SORROW

1. *"Sometimes I closed my eyes hard to avoid thinking, but the eye of my mind refused to be closed and continued to plague me with images."* (49)

What does this mean?

2. What are Beah's conflicts in this chapter?

3. *"My father used to see, '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.'"*

4. Why is it dangerous to be traveling with a large group of boys?

5. How long is he alone in the wilderness before the boys arrive?

6. Why didn't the old man tell him his name? (56)

## Chapter 12

## *A Long Way Gone*

1. Although they felt safe in this village, why are they suddenly in danger?

2. What is the choice that the army gives the villagers?
3. What does the burning of his rap cassettes symbolize?
4. How does the army convince the boys to kill?

### Chapters 13

1. In the beginning of the chapter, what do the boys realize that they are going to do for the very first time?
2. What happened to Josiah?
3. On page 119, Ishmael killed a man for the first time. Why was he able to do this?
4. On page 119, what does Ishmael see the boys from the rebel army wearing?

### Chapter 14

1. What kinds of drugs is Ishmael using?

2. Why does the Sierra Leone army attack civilian villages? In what way is this no different than what the rebels were doing?
3. (page 122) What was the effect of the drugs?
4. How does Ishmael react to violence?
5. (125) What new rank did Ishmael earn?

### A Long Way Gone: Memoirs of a Boy Soldier

Read *A Long Way Gone: Memoirs of a Boy Soldier*, by Ishmael Beah, Ch. 16. Answer the following questions.

1. What drugs does Beah mention that he misses and feels he needs? Look up on the Internet the withdrawal symptoms of those drugs. List the symptoms and give the website(s) of the source(s) you used.
2. What behaviors did Beah and his friends display that suggests they may have been going through drug withdrawal?
3. Read the accompanying “just wondering”. Describe what is happening in the brain during withdrawal. How are the neurotransmitters impacted?



4. Is it possible to end a chemical dependency without withdrawal symptoms? How would this be done? You may use the "just wondering" as one source for this answer but include at least one additional source.