

A Long Way Gone

Assessments

Unit Exam



You will have a unit exam that will focus on the following:

- characters' names and roles in Ishmael's life
- Plot questions – who, what, when, where and why
- Direct quote analysis
- Analysis of the ending of the memoir

Literary Analysis Response



1. Ishmael Beah titles his memoir *A Long Way Gone*. Analyze and discuss how the title reflects the ideas in the memoir. Use concrete details and commentary!
(suggested length **20 sentences**)

2. In a well-developed **paragraph** discuss how Beah uses one literary device to create meaning in the piece.
- Point of view
 - Narrative structure
 - Flashback
 - Imagery
 - Personification of nature
 - Motif

Fishbowl Discussion/ Socratic Seminar: A Long Way Gone



1. One of the themes of the memoir is the ongoing struggle between trust and survival. Describe how this is incorporated into the work. Use specific concrete details.
2. Another theme from the memoir is every human needing to experience a sense of belonging, even if it means belonging to something evil. How is this either true or untrue. You must use the book to further your argument. You can also use information from other moments in history.
3. Are people truly capable of change? Decide yes or no using the memoir as the basis of your argument.
4. Analyze the meaning behind the motifs of the moon and music throughout the memoir.
5. *** We hold teen gang members in the U.S. responsible for their crimes, even though they grow up in situations that make their choices almost as inevitable as Beah's. Is Beah responsible for any of his

actions and the commands he gave the soldiers in his charge as a junior lieutenant during the war? Support your answer. On the flip side, do you think that child/teen gang members should be penalized the way that they are penalized for their crimes?

RESEARCH COMPONENT:

FOR THIS PIECE, I AM REQUIRING THAT YOU HAVE NOTES FROM LEGITIMATE SOURCES ON LEARNING NOTE SHEETS: topics: child soldiers, teenage gang members, persecution of teen gang members, etc). Three learning note sheets will be handed in to me the day that the questions are due.

6. Reconsider the flash-forwards and flashbacks one last time. Why didn't Beah just tell the story straight through chronologically?

7. The ending is abrupt. Beah isn't out of danger yet, and he ends with a conundrum about a monkey? What's the significance of the monkey story? How does it relate to the themes present in Beah's story? Describe how you feel about the ending of the book?

PROCESS:

1. THE DAY BEFORE WE HAVE OUR DISCUSSION, YOU MUST HAND YOUR NOTES AND LEARNING NOTE SHEETS IN TO ME. I WILL PROVIDE A GRADE.

PLEASE work independently on this. You do not have to write out paragraph responses. Just prepare yourself to speak. Pretend you are going to be featured on a book talk. You have to be PREPARED.

Responses must have page #s and ideas.